



Name: Reginald Alexander John Warneford

DOB: 15 October 1891

Country: England

Service: Royal Naval Air Service

Rank: Flight Sub-Lieutenant

Decorations: None

Current Unit: No.1 RNAS Squadron

Location: Verne Aerodrome, Belgium

Background:

Born in India, Warneford grew up in the foothills of the Himalayas. He was educated in England following the separation of his family at the age of 11. His family funds were soon exhausted, and he then returned to India to apprentice as a merchant marine for the British India Steam Navigation Company at age 13. He did this for 8 more years until he learned of the London's declaration of war in August 1914. In December he arrived in England and enlisted in the army's Royal Fusiliers before seeking a transfer to the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) as the monotony of army life bored him. His army superiors were glad to rid themselves of him as he was restless and ill-disciplined.

Gaining his pilot's licence inside two weeks in February 1915 with high marks, the RNAS ended his probationary period. His extraordinary natural gifts as a pilot, however, have earned him a reputation of both coolness and over-confidence. The CO of the training centre remarked "this youngster will either do great things or he'll kill himself." He also has difficulty with making friends and finds himself an isolated person due to his antics. Warneford reportedly once entered the officer's mess at the flying school twirling his service revolver on a finger and then discharged it at the ceiling. He announced in an American southern draw "Hi suckers. What about this?"

He completed further training at the military's Central Flying School at Upavon in South-eastern England where he was briefly assigned to squadrons in that locale. His qualities as a pilot are exceptional and though he is a disciplinary problem at home, it is hoped that by sending him to France, he will prove himself useful in combat duties.