

GROUP CAPTAIN WILLIAM LANCELOT JORDAN DSC AND BAR DFC (1909-11)

He was born on 3 December 1895 in Georgetown, South Africa.

During WW1 he served initially as an air mechanic in the Royal Navy Air Service and then as an observer. He later received pilot training and was posted to 8 (N) Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps to fly Sopwith Triplanes. In the summer of 1917 the unit received Camels to replace the former aircraft, and it was in one of these that he claimed his first victory on 13 July 1917.



He was first awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on 22 February 1918 "In recognition of the courage and initiative displayed by him in aerial combats. On the 13 July 1917, in company with another pilot, he attacked an enemy two-seater machine. After bursts of fire from both of our machines, the enemy observer was seen to collapse in the cockpit, and the enemy aircraft was last seen disappearing among some houses. On the 6 December 1917, whilst patrolling at 15,000 feet, he saw a two-seater enemy aircraft at 10,500 feet, and dived on him, firing about thirty rounds. After falling over to the left, enemy aircraft went down vertically. He has also been instrumental in bringing down other enemy machines."

He was awarded a Bar to his Distinguished Service Cross less than a month later on 16 March 1918 "For skill and determination when leading offensive patrols. On the 6 January 1918, when on offensive patrol he observed ten Albatross scouts. The enemy dived and spread out and Flt. Lieut. Jordan, in conjunction with another pilot, attacked one, into which he fired at close range, sending it down in a sideslipping dive. On numerous other occasions he has attacked enemy aircraft with great dash and gallantry, and has destroyed or sent them down out of control."

A few months later he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on 21 September 1918 "A brilliant and most gallant leader who has already been awarded the D.S.C. and Bar for distinguished services and devotion to duty. He has led numerous offensive patrols into action, displaying at all times marked ability, determination and dash. He is an ideal Squadron Commander who has personally accounted for twenty-five enemy machines."

On <http://www.theaerodrome.com/aces/england/horry.php> he is credited with downing 39 planes in total during WW1, which appears to be 8th highest by a British pilot. The site provides brief details of each.

He died in Guilford Hospital on 20 August 1925 at the age of only 28, as a result of injuries received in a motor accident on the Hog's Back the same day.