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**ELM CITY FLYER BRINGS DOWN FIRST GERMAN AND GETS CROIX DE GUERRE**

**Lieut. Charles T. Buckley in Furious Air Battle Accounts for Enemy Craft and Promises Another Soon.**

**Local Airman Bags First Victim – Photo of Lieut. Charles T. Buckley -- (Page one article)**

 **In one of the most thrilling air battles fought over the area of France, Charles T. Buckley, of 1601 Chapel street, who is now a First Lieutenant in the French Escadrille No. 129, sent his first German aviator crashing to the grown, and as a result has been given the “Croix de Guerre with the Palm” which is the highest citation obtainable with the “Croix de Guerre.”**

 **Buckley, who was born and reared in New Haven, and who until recently was connected in business with his brother in the conducting of a druggist establishment at Congress avenue and Baldwin street, is known, especially in sporting circles as “Bud,” and has been across the sea in training and fighting for over a year.**

 **The battle high in the clouds, took place on July 15th , several days after the Germans started the latest drive, and according to Buckley was one of the worst conflicts which any of the French pilots have thus far engaged in.**

 **Early in the morning, with the battle below raging with savage intensity, seven French machines including the New Haven boy’s airplanes went across the German lines about twenty kilometers above the ground. Just before the leading machine reached the German trenches, the French aviators were discovered, and a terrific bombardment from the ground opened up. The seven planes stuck together and because of the violent efforts the Germans were making from the ground to stop the advances, it was necessary for them to skillfully maneuver their machines by resorting to “viraging,” as Buckley characterizes it, banking, zig-zagging, and then suddenly pushing the nose of the machines still further skyward. Despite all their efforts to dodge the shots from the aircraft guns, which were speaking vigorously and continuously from the ground below, several shots exploded in the middle of the attacking formations. Two of the planes, driven by Buckley’s companions, had their tails completely shot off, and were forced to head homeward, it later becoming known that they had reached their own lines safely. Every plane which anticipated in the attack was struck at least once, but the efforts of the Germans below in so far as stopping the attack were in vain, and soon, the remaining five machines were a number of mile past the German lines into German territory.**

 **A few minutes later, after they dropped all the bombs they had in machines onto their objectives, eight German airmen flew out of the clouds suddenly and pounced upon them. At this moment one of the worst cloud battles of the year began.**

 **Three German planes flew in different directions at Buckley, who suddenly turned his machine in such a way, that he made for one directly of his left side. Buckley immediately opened with his gun and after firing but a few shots noticed that his opponent “stalled” and went into a wing-slip. A bullet from Buckley’s gun must have killed his opponent instantly, for in another second, the German machine, appearing for a moment like a runaway in the clouds, crashed to the earth striking the ground in a mass of flames. In the meantime, several of Buckley’s companions engaged the other Germans who for a short time had made the battle a most uneven one, and after, seeing one of their machines shot from the sky, the Germans turned and fled.**

 **In a letter to Attorney John V. O’Brien of the probate court, his brother-in-law, Buckely wrote as follows:**

 **“Just now my happiness is marred. An awfully nice kid known to us as “Dick”, who was observing during the battle, was shot when the thing was at its height, but his pilot succeeded in landing the machine within our lines. Dick has been with us since February and I got to know him very well. A wire just received here, as I am writing this letter, stated that the Kid died from his wound – a shot in the stomach – a shot in fact that might have picked any one of us. Well its all a life from ?????, but I am happy now to know that I got my first German, and it won’t be long before I get another one.”**

**Buckley enlisted on the 22nd of June 1917, and was sent to Forggia, Italy, arriving there on September 25. He entered a training school at that place and on March 1, 1918, was assigned to work on the western front in France.**

 **Quentin Roosevelt the deceased son of ex-President Roosevelt, was also a member of the game escadrille to which Buckley was attached.**