



KEARNEY Thomas E.

1st Lieutenant Signal Corps

KIA 14 August 1918

Plot A – Row 01 – Grave 06



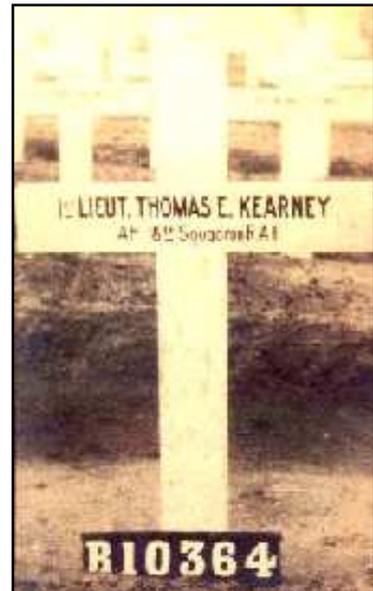
Thomas Emmett Kearney was the son of Thomas Kearney Sr. and Anastasia Dwyer who lived in Memphis, TN. He was born on 1 July 1895 in Paducah, KY. He had 2 brothers (Joseph Hugh and Arthur Raymond) and 2 sisters (Helen Mildred and Mary Katherine). He was an exemplary student and after receiving a higher education he worked in a company specialized in the cotton trade.

In May 1917 he volunteered, but was rejected on physical grounds. However he was determined to become a pilot and so went into Canada to join the Canadian Forces. He was accepted and on 16 December he received his wings. He returned to the States and joined the Air Service on 13 January 1918 – no questions asked. He was sent to Europe and joined the British 22nd Aero Squadron, where he remained until 12 August. He was then assigned to the 18th Squadron. He was shot down 2 days later. On the evening of 14 August, Thomas and his “observer” Sergeant John Harvey Hammond (Royal Air Force) were on a “bombing raid”. On the way back their DH4 A7856 was hit by Archies (Anti-Aircraft shells) above enemy territory. The plane took a vertical dive towards the ground. Thomas was buried along the road of Estevelles near Meurchin in Pont



à Vendin, department Pas de Calais, France (regio La Bassée). The remains of his “observer” : Sergeant John Harvey Hammond (RAF) were never found

and his name is memorialized on the “Arras Flying Services Memorial”



His brother Raymond was also in the “Air Service” but never went to Europe.

Thomas’ mother visited his grave in 1930 with the Gold Star Mother Pilgrimage. His great nephew Michael Kearney came from Dallas, TX to attend the Memorial Day ceremony at Waregem.