

**Lieutenant Moseley Taylor. United States Naval Reserve Flying Corps.**

**Attached to 214 Squadron Royal Air Force.**

**Awarded the United States Navy Cross.**



30<sup>th</sup> January 1895. Moseley Taylor was born in Boston.

1915. Moseley Taylor went to Harvard as an undergraduate. He entered Harvard from Phillips Academy in Andover

1916. Moseley was an all-round athlete. He was in the Harvard Varsity team playing American football against other universities.

19<sup>th</sup> April 1917. He enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve Flying Corps in Washington. This was two weeks after America had declared war on Germany.

He trained at Newport News Virginia and at the Naval Base at Jamestown Virginia.

26<sup>th</sup> October 1917. Commissioned with rank of Ensign.

26<sup>th</sup> November 1917. Departed USA for France.

November 1917 – February 1918. Trained to fly seaplanes at Bordeaux.

February 24<sup>th</sup> 1918 – May 10<sup>th</sup> 1918. Attached to Dunkerque sea plane base flying patrols over the North Sea and the English Channel.

March 28<sup>th</sup> 1918. Commissioned Lieutenant, Junior Grade.

*'He transferred from the U.S. Navy where he flew a pontoon plane. Because of an oil leak he had to land in the Channel. Eventually he was picked up by a British destroyer. The whole time they were on the water there was a 50lb bomb dangling above the pontoons.'* His brother, Davis Taylor, in an extract from a letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 1990.



*'When volunteers were sought to go to England to learn the new science of night bombing he volunteered and transferred to the British forces.'* He probably transferred to be a member of the American Northern Bombing Group.

He trained to fly Handley Page twin engined bombers at the No. 1 School of Navigation and Aerial Bombing based at Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain. He was at Stonehenge for a number of weeks. There at the same time was Lieutenant Maury Stocker, another American pilot, who would also go to 214 Squadron on attachment.



Moseley Taylor and Maury Stocker at Stonehenge

19<sup>th</sup> June 1918-3rd July 1918. Moseley Taylor was photographed twice at Stonehenge by Lieutenant Leslie Semple (who would become a Handley Page pilot with 207 Squadron).

Moseley Taylor was 12 weeks at Stonehenge.

After completing training at Stonehenge, Moseley Taylor is transferred to 214 Squadron RAF at St. Inglevert Aerodrome a few miles west of Calais.

21<sup>st</sup> August 1918. Lieutenant Moseley Taylor flies on his first mission over the lines to attack Ghistelles Aerodrome, south of Ostend. Captain Rusell is the pilot of H.P. D4579, the observer is Sergeant Dell. Moseley Taylor flew as the rear gunner to gain mission experience.

22<sup>nd</sup> August 1918. Moseley Taylor's second mission with the same crew as the 21<sup>st</sup> August. They attack Maria Aalter Aerodrome and machine gun three German Navy destroyers shelling the French coastline.

28<sup>th</sup> August 1918. Moseley Taylor flew his first mission as a pilot. He was flying H.P. D4511 with Sergeant Dell as his observer and another American, Electrician 1 Huey, as the rear gunner. They attack Thourout and Bruges.

It appears that, rather than be on temporary attachment to 214 Squadron, like other American pilots, Moseley Taylor became a permanent member of the squadron in the last three months of the war. He was photographed with the squadron in his American uniform.

10<sup>th</sup> November 1918. Moseley Taylor flies his last mission of the war. He pilots H.P. D4570 and an all American crew. The observer is E1 Huey and E1 Crowley is rear gunner. They attack Louvain Rail Junction and Station.



Officers of 214 Squadron RAF. Autumn 1918

Lieutenant Moseley Taylor USNRFC 1<sup>st</sup> left back row.

January 1919. Lieutenant Moseley Taylor put on United States Navy Reserve List at the Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia.

1919. Returned to Harvard to complete his degree. Awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree.

1919 Awarded the Navy Cross

***Navy Cross Citation.***

*'The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Moseley Taylor, United States (Reserve Force), for distinguished and heroic service as an Aviator operating in the war Zone with the United States and British Air Forces. Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Taylor took part in many raids over the enemy's lines.'*

Moseley Taylor married Edith Lutyens after the war. They had two children, a daughter and a son, Duncan Read Taylor.

After the war he spent his life in newspaper publishing. His family were owners or publishers of the Boston Globe Newspaper. Moseley Taylor was the New York City representative (journalist?) of the Boston Globe

26<sup>th</sup> February 1952. Moseley Taylor died of Pneumonia. Aged 57.