

Jean KREBS and Georges GUYNEMER



1910: Jean receives his first bicycle for his 14th birthday



Jean on vacation in Brittany



Jean in the garden of the house in the Panhard factory



Jean near his plane



Georges Guynemer and Jean Krebs



1916 - Jean KREBS et Georges GUYNEMER

PARTIE À REMPLIR PAR LE CORPS.

Nom: Krebs
 Prénoms: Jean Charles Constantien
 Grade: sous-lieutenant observateur
 Corps: Escadille F. 52 2^e groupe Aviation
 N°: { 5237 au Corps. — Cl. 1916
 Matricule: { 1602 au Recrutement. Seine 3^e arr.
 Mort pour la France le: 28 août 1916
 à: Willers-Bretonneux (Somme)
 Genre de mort: Messures de guerre
 Né le: 16 février 1896
 à: Paris 16^e Département: Seine
 Arr. municip. à délég.

Sous-lieutenant Krebs (observateur).
Citation à l'ordre du corps d'armée
 Excellent officier observateur, possédant de remarquables qualités d'audace et d'esprit de décision. Au cours des dernières attaques, n'a pas hésité à survoler les lignes ennemies à très faible hauteur pour exécuter avec succès les missions de liaison d'infanterie qui lui ont été confiées. S'est également distingué, au cours de reconnaissances photographiques particulièrement difficiles et a rapporté des renseignements précieux et urgents.
 (Ordre du 19 août 1916.)

(Ordre du 15 septembre 1916.)
 Krebs (Jean), sous-lieutenant observateur à l'escadrille F. 52 : observateur en avion de la plus haute valeur. A fait preuve, au cours des attaques de juillet et d'août 1916, d'un courage et d'un sang-froid au-dessus de tout éloge. A rempli, de la façon la plus brillante, les missions qui lui étaient confiées, volant à très faible altitude, malgré le feu intense de l'artillerie et de l'infanterie ennemies. Mort glorieusement le 28 août 1916.
 (Ordre du 1^{er} septembre 1916.)



1915: Jean with his sister Marguerite



Jean is decorated with the order of the army

Second Lieutenant Krebs (observer)
Citation to the Order of the Army Corps
 Excellent observant officer, possessing remarkable qualities of daring and decisiveness. During recent attacks, did not hesitate to fly over enemy lines at very low height to successfully execute assigned infantry liaison missions. Also distinguished himself during particularly difficult photographic reconnaissance and brought back valuable and urgent information.
 (order of August 19, 1916)

1918 – “Georges Guynemer, knight of the air”

By Bordeaux, Henry

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924027834732/page/n47/mode/2up?q=krebs>

*“Somebody, however, was to exert over this impressionable, mobile, almost too ardent nature, an influence which was to determine its direction. His father had advised him to choose his friends with care, and not yield himself to the first comer. He was not only incapable of doing that, but equally incapable of yielding himself to anybody. Do we really choose our friends in early life? We only know our friends by finding them in our lives when we need them. They are there, but we have not sought them. A similarity of taste, of sensibility, of ambitions draw us to them, and they have been our friends a long time already before we perceive that they are not merely comrades. Thus, **Jean Krebs** became the constant companion of **Georges Guynemer**. The father of **Jean Krebs** is that **Colonel Krebs** whose name is connected with the first progress made in aerostation and aviation. He was then director of **the Panhard factories**, and his two sons were students at Stanislas. **Jean**, the elder, was Guynemer's classmate. He was a silent, self-centered, thoughtful student, calm in speech and facial expression, never speaking one word louder than another, and the farthest possible removed from anything noisy or agitated. **Georges** broke in upon his solitude and attached himself to him, while **Krebs** endured, smiled, and accepted, and they became allies. It was **Krebs**, for the time, who was the authority, the one who had prestige and wore the halo. Why, he knew what an automobile was, and one Sunday he took his friend **Georges** to Ivry and taught him how to drive. He taught him every technical thing he knew. **Georges** launched with all his energy into this new career, and soon became acquainted with every motor in existence.”*

“During the school promenades, if the column of pupils walked up or down the Champs Elysées, he told them the names of passing automobiles: "That's a Lorraine. There is a Panhard. This one has so many horsepower," etc. Woe to any who ventured to contradict him. He looked the insolent one up and down, and crushed him with a word.”

[...]

*“**Jean Krebs** crystallized **Georges Guynemer's** vocation. He developed and specialized his taste for mechanics, separating it from vague abstractions and guiding it towards material realities and the wider experiences these procure. He deserves to be mentioned in any biography of **Guynemer**, and before passing on, it is proper that his premature loss should be cited and deplored. Highly esteemed as an aviator during the war, he made the best use of his substantial and reliable faculties in the work of observation. Airplane chasing did not attract him, but he knew how to use his eyes. He was killed in a landing accident at a time almost coincident with the disappearance of **Guynemer**. One of his escadrille mates described him thus: “**With remarkable intelligence, and a perfectly even disposition, his chiefs valued him for his sang-froid, his quick eye, his exact knowledge of the services he was able to perform. Every time a mission was entrusted to him, everybody was sure that he would accomplish it, no matter what conditions he had to meet. He often had to face enemy airplanes better armed than his own, and in the course of a flight had been wounded in the thigh by an exploding shell. Nevertheless, he had continued to fly, only returning considerably later when his task was done. His death has left a great void in this escadrille. Men like him are difficult to replace...**”*

31 juillet

Vieux Teuton

Mein gott! Wie geht es dir? Grand
reviens tu mein Gott? Je
pense que tu passeras à Paris
en allant en Bretagne, à
l'heure du déjeuner ou du
dîner n'oublie pas à cette oc-
sion que j'habite 12 rue Clem.
Marot, la Gare du Nord-Alma

Georges Guynemer

champs de Mars te dépose devant. chambre, j'aurais peut être mieux fait
pas moyen de se débrouiller de ton de prendre l'autre.
relai: il garde l'aimantation de Guérand a passé son bac avec
sorte que pour qu'il ne colle pas il 189 pts cad. A.B. la 1^{re} fois
fait sauter beaucoup, la sensibilité je m'étais trompé de 8 jours et
est énormément diminuée et la date de son exam; je viens de
par dessus le marché si j'envoie voir le journal que Bergé était
3^e dedans dans un certain sens admissible. Pour Gosselin je sais
se neutralise une partie de l'aiman- qu'il était content mais j'ignore
tation et la lame s'écarte, ce qui le résultat. Si tu n'as pas
m'a plutôt servi la 1^{ère} fois trop la femme, écris moi
avant d'avoir trouvé pourquoi. la date de ton retour. Ne
Je vais essayer d'en faire un fais pas comme ce marin, passe
front je suis allé chez toi tout devant Bachmann, qui
le marin était sorti, j'ai laissé admissible a été fait démissionner
un mot sur une carte à Alain pour l'Alloch. severe mais juste!

Letter from Georges Guynemer to Jean Krebs

July 31 [1914]

Old Teuton

[How are you]? When are you coming back, mein gott [my God]? I think you will pass through Paris on your way to Brittany, at lunch or dinner time, don't forget on this occasion that I live at 12 rue Clément Marot. The "Gare du Nord-Alma" at the Champ de Mars drops you off in front.

No way to get by with your relay: it keeps the magnetization so that for it not to stick, you have to spread it a lot, the sensitivity is greatly reduced and on top of that if I send 3V into it in a certain sense, it neutralizes part of the magnetization and the blade deviates, which rather bewildered me the first time before finding out why. I will try to make one.

When I went to your place [to the Panhard factory] everyone was out. I left a note on a card for Alain [Jean's younger brother], I took the device [*] which was in your room. Maybe I should have taken the other one.

Guérand passed his baccalaureate with 189 points, i.e. A.B [quite well]. The first time I was wrong by 8 days in the date of his examination; I just saw in the newspaper that Bergé was admissible. For Gosselin I know he was happy but I don't know the result. If you're not too lazy, write me the date of your return. Don't do like that once-great sailor [Bachman], who eligible got kicked out for booze. Severe but fair! [...] I'm writing to you from the bank, it's time to trot so I'm closing my letter. Shaking your hand affectionately. See you soon

Georges Guynemer

[*] Probably a Scott magneto with automatic advance that Jean Krebs was testing for his father.