

# Raoul Lufbery

Pilot, French Air Service and U.S. Army Air Service

Raoul Lufbery was born in France in 1885. His mother was French and his father was American. When his mother died, his father left the children with their French relatives and moved to Wallingford, Connecticut. Raoul Lufbery left France as a teenager and traveled all over the world. He worked and lived in many places. In 1906 he traveled to Connecticut to see his father. He spent two years living in Wallingford and working at a factory.



After leaving Connecticut, Raoul Lufbery joined the United States Army. He served in the Philippines. He later traveled to Japan, China, and India. In India he met Marc Pourpe, a French pilot. Marc Pourpe taught Raoul Lufbery all about airplanes. Airplanes were still new at the time. Lufbery and Pourpe amazed people in India, China, and Egypt with their flying demonstrations. After that, Raoul Lufbery went to aviation (flying) school in France.

In 1916, Raoul Lufbery joined a group of American pilots who volunteered to fight with the French against the Germans in World War I. The airplanes then were not as sturdy as planes today. The work was very dangerous. Raoul Lufbery became one of the most famous pilots during the war. He shot down at least 17 German airplanes. He became an example and a teacher for other pilots. The United States joined the war in 1917. Raoul Lufbery became one of the army's first pilots.

Raoul Lufbery died in 1918, when his plane was shot down by a German pilot. He is buried in France near a monument to all of the American pilots who died during World War I. A public park and a street in Wallingford are both named after Connecticut's most famous "flying ace."