

# Birlinging



The Great War  
1914 - 1919

**BAKER, CHARLES.** No clear trace. It was noted that two casualties named Charles Baker who enlisted at Maidstone, Kent died in the Great War, one of whom is possibly the casualty commemorated at Birling, West Malling, Kent.

**BISHOP, SYDNEY.** Private, 439872.

52nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment).

Died 11 January 1917. Aged 34.

Born Birling, West Malling, Kent 21 December 1882. Enlisted Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada 14 October 1915.

Buried Hastings Cemetery, Sussex. Grave Ref: L. D. P27.

Commemorated on page 202 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

At the time of the 1901 census, Sydney was a 19 year old boarder at 17, Orchard Street, Dartford, Kent, and was at that time employed as a Bricklayer. When Sydney enlisted at Port Arthur he stated that he had previously served in the Imperial Yeomanry including a six month period of service in South Africa. He also gave his trade or calling as a Grain Sampler. Mrs. E.E. Bishop who was Sydney's next of kin, at the time of his enlistment resided at 1516, Rankin Street, Fort William, which was probably indicative of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Trying to ascertain the whereabouts of Sydney and his parents on the 1891 census ultimately resulted in locating them and seven of Sydney's siblings all residing at Bishops Row, Born Birling, West Malling, Kent. Also a native of Birling Sydney's 41 year old father was a Builder employing men, and recorded as being the Head of the house, his wife Marianne was aged 44 and a native of London, Middlesex.

**CALDER, THOMAS.** Private, 72160.

27th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment).

Died 6 April 1916. Aged 26.

Born Cuckfield, Sussex 22 December 1890.

Enlisted Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 13 March 1915.

Son of James and Jane Calder, of Lodge Farm, Birling, West Malling, Kent.

Husband of Ada Annie Calder of 5, Reginald Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 24, and on page 62 of the Canadian, First World War Book of Remembrance.

Prior to going to Canada where he was employed as a Locomotive Fireman, Thomas had served for two years as a Territorial Force member of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

**DAY, ARTHUR C.** As commemorated on the Birling, Kent civic war memorial appears to be the following casualty:-

**DAY, ARTHUR CLIFFORD.** Private, 443232.

2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment).

Died 9 April 1917. Aged 21.

Born Clapham, London 17 December 1895. Enlisted Vernon, British Columbia, Canada 15 July 1915.

Son of Alfred H. Day of 13, Endlesham Road, Balham, London.

Buried Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St Eloi, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: V. D. 6.

Also commemorated on page 226 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

At the time of the 1901 census, Arthur was residing as a boarder at the home of Harry and Ellen Dyke, Bank Cottages, Birling, West Malling, Kent.

**GLADDISH, EDWARD.** Stoker 1st Class, 290188.

Royal Navy, (RFR/PO/IC/3826). H.M.S. Good Hope.

Died 1 November 1914. Aged 34.

Born Birling, West Malling, Kent 28 September 1880.

Son of George and Eliza Gladdish of West Malling, Kent.

Husband of Cecilia Gladdish of 8, Aylesbury Road, Copnor, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 4.

Edward was a brother of the following casualty briefly commemorated below.

**GLADDISH, WILLIAM LOUIS.** Private, 1520.

23rd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died 3 May 1917. Aged 29.

Born Chalk Cottage, Birling, West Malling, Kent. Resided 'Swan Hotel,' Church Street, Richmond, Victoria, Australia. Enlisted Richmond, Victoria, Australia 29 March 1915.

Son of George and Eliza Gladdish of West Malling, Kent.

Buried Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. D. 12.

Prior to going to Australia, William had served for three years as a British Merchant Seaman (Stoker), but was sent home due to illness.

**LANE, PERCIVAL FREDERICK.** Private, TF/4790.

4th Battalion (Territorial Force), Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 1 September 1916. Aged 18.

Son of Frederick and Elizabeth Lane of Birling, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Birling, West Malling, Kent (All Saints) Churchyard).

**LANGRIDGE**, ROBERT NEIL ALFRED. Rifleman,  
11th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.  
Died 9 April 1916.

Born Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Folkestone,  
Kent.

Buried Essex Farm Cemetery, Boezinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref:  
II. E. 2.

On the Birling, West Malling, Kent, civic war memorial, Robert has the initials N  
and A set out in reverse order, but all data sources checked show either his  
Christian names or initials as set out in the order as above.

**LODGE**, WILLIAM. Air Mechanic 1st Class, 28233.  
34th Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 23 June 1918. Aged 34.

Husband of C. Lodge of Birling, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Staglieno Cemetery, Genoa, Italy. Grave Ref: I. B. 17.

**LOVE**, REGINALD. Private, 37073.

203rd Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died 28 May 1917.

Born and resided Birling, West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Vlamertinge Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: VII. C. 11.

Formerly Gunner, 48970, Royal Field Artillery.

**WATERS**, JOHN WILLIAM JAMES. Serjeant, 33239.

65th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 25 February 1919. Aged 26.

Son of James and Jane Waters of Chalk Bungalow, Birling, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Birling, West Malling, Kent (All Saints) Churchyard).

**OGILVY**, Sir GILCHRIST NEVILL. Bt. Lieutenant.

1st Battalion, Scots Guards.

Died 29 October 1914. Aged 22.

Son of the late Major Ogilvy (13th Hussars) and of Mrs. Ogilvy of Baldovan,  
Forfarshire.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 11,  
and on the Mains and Strathmartine, Forfarshire, Scotland, civic war memorial.

Sir Gilchrist Ogilvy was the 11th Baronet of Inverquhar.

# Second World War

## 1939 - 1945

**BLACKMAN**, HERBERT RUSSELL. Lance Corporal, 7881847.  
4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, Royal Armoured Corps.  
Died 8 January 1940.  
Born Kent. Resided Canterbury.  
Son of Sydney G. and Jessie S. Blackman of Birling, West Malling, Kent.  
Buried Douai Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: Row L. Grave 1.  
Pre war member of the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, Royal Armoured Corps.

**EVANS**, KENNETH CHRISTOPHER. Stoker, LT/KX141913.  
Royal Naval Patrol Service, H.M.S. Glen Avon.  
Died 2 September 1944. Aged 21.  
Son of George and Edith I. Evans of Birling, West Malling, Kent.  
Buried Bayeux War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: I. B. 26.

**HOLMEWOOD**, RAYMOND HARRY. Private, 14400523.  
1/7th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.  
Died 11 May 1945. Aged 19.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Frank G. and Hettie L. Holmewood of Birling, West Malling, Kent.  
Buried Celle War Cemetery, Germany. Grave Ref: 1. D. 7.

**NEVILL**, MICHAEL GEORGE RALPH. Lieutenant, 132233.  
1st Battalion, Scots Guards.  
Died 28 April 1943. Aged 26.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Percy Llewellyn and Marjorie Nevill.  
Husband of Maureen Ethne David Nevill of West Malling, Kent.  
Buried Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave Ref: V. N. 19.

**RABJOHN**, ERIC. Sergeant, 1255721.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 58 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died 9 May 1943. Aged 19.  
Son of Arthur and Isabella Jane Rabjohn of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Husband of Joan Rabjohn.  
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 162.

# Lost Men

**HERRINGTON, MELBOURNE.** Private, G/6138.

1st Battalion, (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 4 October 1917. Aged 41.

Born Birling, West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Snodland, Kent.

Husband of E. M. G. Herrington of 17, Birling Road, Snodland, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 106 to 108.

**HODGES, WILLIAM JOHN.** Private, L/9590.

"B" Company, 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 20 October 1914. Aged 20.

Born Birling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hodges of Stonebridge, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2.

**MARTIN, JOHN.** Private, L/8878

2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 20 June 1916.

Born Birling, West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Iraq. Panel 2.





IN MEMORY OF  
THE MEN OF BIRLING  
WHO MADE THE GREAT SACRIFICE  
DURING THE WAR 1914-1919  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND  
IN THE MORNING WE'LL REMEMBER THEM

IN MEMORY ALSO OF  
RUSSELL BLACKMAN - KENNETH EVANS  
RAYMOND HOLMEWOOD - MICHAEL NEVILL  
ERIC RAE JOHN  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE  
WAR OF 1939-1945



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CHARLES BAKER  
SYDNEY BISHOP  
THOMAS CALDER  
ARTHUR C. DAY  
EDWARD GLADDISH  
WILLIAM L. GLADDISH

PERCIVAL F. LANE  
ROBERT A. N. LANCRIDGE  
WILLIAM LODGE  
RECINALD LOVE  
JOHN W J WATERS  
SIR GILCHRIST OGILVY BART

IN MEMORY ALSO OF  
RUSSELL BLACKMAN KENNETH EVANS  
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ERIC RAB JOHN  
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33239 SERJEANT  
J. W. J. WATERS  
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY  
25TH FEBRUARY 1918 AGE 26





TF/4790 PRIVATE  
P. F. LANE  
ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT  
1ST SEPTEMBER 1916 AGE 18

