

WW1 Burials at Christ Church Swindon

1 [SAMUEL JOHN BAKER WW1](#)

Lance Corporal Military Foot Police/ Military Police Corps Service no. P/8992

Killed 26 February 1919

41 years old

Son of John Baker. Born Bournemouth. Husband of Ada Maud Baker

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 537.

2 [WALTER WARD BERRY WW1](#)

Private 51st Bn. Hampshire Regiment Service no. TR/8/30566

Killed 12 November 1918

18 years old

38 Union Street Swindon

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 473.

3 [E C HUMPHRIES WW1](#)

Private

Service Number: 18212

2nd Bn.

Wiltshire Regiment

Killed 08 June 1915

30 years old

Son of Mr and Mrs Humphries

Husband of L C Humphries 20 Ripley Road Old Town Swindon

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 454.

4 [E J LEONARD WW1](#)

Private 52nd Bn. Devonshire Regiment Service no. 8/10220

Killed 01 March 1918

18 years old

Son of Mr and Mrs Pewsey 2 Ladds Mill Swindon (Mill on the River Ray nr Runner Pub Wootton Bassett Road)

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 491.

5 [C MARKS WW1](#)

Second Lieutenant

Royal Air Force

Killed 06 January 1919

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 560.

6 [JOSEPH PACKER WW1](#)

Second Lieutenant Royal Air Force Service no.

Killed 20 August 1918

21 years old

Son of Joseph Frederick and Anne Packer 37 North Street Old Town Swindon

Enlisted in RAMC June 1914 transferred to RE 1915. Served France and Flanders.

Gazetted April 1918. He was flying in a training exercise over Oxfordshire when his plane collided with another. Both pilots were killed.

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 535.

7 **E F PIKE WW1**

Private Royal Warwickshire Regiment Service no. TR/7/25910

Killed 18 February 1919

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 562.

8 **STANLEY WILLIAM SCHOFIELD WW1**

Private Royal Army Medical Corps Service no. 89492

Killed 23 December 1918

24 years old

Son of Stanley and Emily Schofield 25 Crombey Street, Swindon

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 213.

9 **GEORGE WILLIAM STRATFORD WW1**

Private 10th Prince of Wales's Own Royal Hussars Service no. 32097

Killed 02 October 1918

40 years old

Son of William and Sarah Stratford. Husband of Ada Louisa Stratford 45 Union Street, Old Town Swindon

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 504.

10 **WALTER WHEELER WW1**

Bandsman 2nd Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry Service no. 320003

Killed 13 December 1917

53 years old

Son of William and Dinah Wheeler. Born Figheldean, Salisbury

Husband of Jane Wheeler 24 Lansdown Road Old Town Swindon

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 553

11 **C E WOODWARD WW1**

Sapper

Service Number: 42411

Royal Engineers

Killed 26 June 1919

SWINDON (CHRIST CHURCH) BURIAL GROUND 565.

Also

12 **WILLIAM OAKES fought in WW1**

Australian Imperial Force (requested CWGC headstone)

Died 21st October 1960 (visiting Swindon from Australia)

It is unusual to find a CWGC gravestone marking the burial of someone who survived the conflict of WW1.

The inscription reads

'Australian Imperial Force'

6092 Private W Oakes

13th Battalion

Died 16th October 1960 Aged 73

Research has revealed a detailed war record. William Oakes was born in Devizes in on September 29th 1887.

He moved with his parents into Springfield Road and then into 24 Lethbridge Road, Swindon. In the 1901

census he is listed as 13 years old and working as a 'Book Finisher' (this ties in with his enlistment document

as he states he had completed an apprenticeship in the book trade with Reynolds & Co). William changed

professions – he is listed in the 1905 GWR record of employment as working at Swindon Station. However,

by the time WW1 broke out he was resident in Marrickville, NSW, Australia, working there as an engine driver. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 6th March 1916 aged 28. He came to England first on board troop ship 'Wiltshire'. After training in Dorset - from there was shipped to France to fight at Etaples. It is recorded in November 1917 he spent time in a field hospital with scabies. After re-joining his unit to fight, he was badly wounded with gunshot wounds to his chest and arm. The latter causing a badly fractured humerus. He was brought to London War Hospital at Epsom. Eventually he returned, discharged from the Army to Australia in 1918. What we don't know is what happened in the rest of his life before he was buried at Christ Church in 1960. By the time William's father, George Oakes died- the family were living at 172 Marlborough Road. William's mother, Louisa is recorded purchasing a burial plot for George in Christ Church burial ground.

As William's CWGC gravestone states he was 'beloved husband, father and brother' - it is likely there are still descendants living somewhere who could shed light on this part of his story.

William Oakes left Sydney in April 1960 on board ship returning to England -he came alone, the record hints he was a widower by now. The address given for his visit is that in Marlborough Road as mentioned above. He states his intended future residence as Australia and the embarkation list states his intention to 'visit for 4 months'. Sadly, this was not to be - he died on 16 October 1960 and he was interred in Christ Church Burial Ground, Swindon.

William's younger brother Leonard is remembered on the War Memorial in Christ Church. As he was killed in the Battle of the Somme August 1916 his name is engraved on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Interestingly Private Oakes has a CWGC headstone despite having survived the war and living to the age of 73. It was a special request by the Australian Government and the family.

Other Servicemen remembered on family graves in Christ Church Burial Ground, Swindon

George Ball WW1

Lance Corporal 2ND Batt. Wiltshire Regiment Service no. 5065

Killed 24th October 1914

Commemorated on the Menin Gate Ypres Belgium- Panel 53

Son of William and Emily Ball, of Badbury Wick, Chiseldon, Swindon

Husband of Agnes Ellen Ball, of 15, Bradford Rd., Swindon. Served in the South African Campaign.

CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND - REMEMBERED ON GRAVE EX/00395

John Bertie Blackford WW1

Private 8th Batt. Gloucester Regiment Service no. 21993

Killed 28th July 1917 Aged 41

Commemorated on the Menin Gate Ypres Belgium-Panel 22.

Son of the late Joseph and Roshanna Blackford, of 41, Rolleston St., Swindon

Husband of Sarah Annie Blackford, of 140, Beatrice St., Swindon, Wilts

CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND - REMEMBERED ON GRAVE EX/01839

Frederick E. Cullingford

Able Seaman Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Hood Bn. R.N. Div. Service no. R/5413

Killed 15th March 1918 Aged 38

Buried Ribecourt British Cemetery France. Grave inscription 'There is a link death cannot sever Love & Remembrance live forever'

Son of F. T. M. Cullingford, of 95, Victoria Rd., Swindon

Husband of M. M. A. Cullingford, of 79, Victoria Rd., Swindon.

CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND - REMEMBERED ON GRAVE EX/00134

Leslie Arthur Jefford

Acting Bombadier Canadian Field Artillery 40th Bty. 10th Bde. Service Number 302398

Killed 27th May 1917 Aged 27

Buried Lapugnoy Military Cemetery IV. B. 13. France Grave inscription 'He Hath Done What He Could'.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Frederick Jefford, of Bath Rd., Swindon, Wilts, England

Husband of Hannah Hedley Jefford, of 20, Fisher St., Toronto, Canada.

CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND - REMEMBERED ON GRAVE S/00182

John Hopkins Kirby

Australian Infantry, A.I.F.1st Bn. Service no. 904

Killed 2nd May 1915 aged 35

Commemorated Lone Pine Memorial 12.Turkey (including Gallipoli)

Son of John Peter and Annie Susanna Kirby

CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND - REMEMBERED ON GRAVE S190

Charles Parker Kirby

Second Lieutenant Australian Infantry, A.I.F.33rd Bn. Service no.

Killed 18th February 1917 aged 27

Commemorated Boulogne Eastern Cemetery VII. B. 13. France

CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND - REMEMBERED ON GRAVE S190

Sidney Morris

Private Royal Army Medical Corps 18th Field Ambulance Service no.90696

Killed 21st March 1918 aged 21

Commemorated Arras Memorial Bay 10.France

Son of Edwin James and Elizabeth Morris, of 34, Avenue Rd, Swindon.

CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND - REMEMBERED ON GRAVE S 00173

Hubert Harry Reynolds

Rifle Brigade posted to London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) Service no. 50295

Killed 9th September 1918 aged 19

Buried Epehy Wood Farm Cemetery, Epehy II. A. 2. France grave inscription 'Forget me not'

Son of Ernest James and Sarah Alice Reynolds, of 73, Winifred St, Swindon.

Born at Siddington, Cirencester, Glos.

CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND - REMEMBERED ON GRAVE N 00746