

Bertram Seymour Baker

Private 24125, 8th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment

Bertram Seymour Baker was born in Ridge, Chilmark in 1895, his birth registered in the September Quarter of that year in the Tisbury Registration District. He was baptised on the 21st May 1905 the son of Henry Keeping and Matilda Jane Baker (Nee Jackson) in St. James Church, Ansty. His brother Frederick Howard Baker was baptised at the same time. Their father is recorded as a labourer of Ansty.

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Bertram's father Henry died aged 34 in 1898

The 1901 census records the family at 2 Tucking Mill Square, West Tisbury: Matilda Baker, Head, Widow, aged 33, Living on own means, born in Southampton; George, son, aged 8, scholar, born in Langford; Fred, son, aged 6, scholar, born in Langford; Bertram, son, aged 4, scholar, born in Chilmark; Dorothy, daughter, aged 3 born in Chilmark; Stella, infant daughter, born in Tisbury

Matilda Jane Baker remarried in the September Quarter of 1903 to James Henry Cull a blacksmith living in Ansty.

Matilda Jane Cull died in Ansty in January 1911 and was buried in St. James Churchyard on 23rd January.

In 1911 Bertram and his siblings have moved to Pond Head, Ansty and are living with their step-father and half siblings.

James Cull, Head, Widower, Aged 35, Cowman on Farm, born in Donhead St. Mary; Denis, son, aged 5, born in Ansty; Reita, daughter, aged 7, born in Ansty; Brenda, daughter, aged 3, born in ©Wiltshire OPC Project/2018/Teresa Lewis

Ansty; George Baker, son, aged 18, cowman and general farmer, born in Langford; Fred Baker, son, aged 16, cowman and general farmer, born in Langford; Bertram Baker, son, aged 14, born in Ridge; Dorothy Baker, daughter, aged 13, born in Ridge; Stella Baker, daughter, aged 10, Scholar, born in West Tisbury.

Bertram Seymour Baker enlisted into the army at Salisbury. His residence at the time is recorded as Ansty.

Bertram's brother George also enlisted and served with the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, he was killed in action on the 11th November 1916, aged 23.

Bertram Seymour Baker's death is recorded as 23rd March 1918. A record of soldiers effects record that this was a presumed date and that he died in France. He has no know grave and no cause of death is known. He was aged 21.

Bertram Seymour Baker is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, his name is carved in stone in Bay 6. He also named on the Ansty Memorial in St. James Church with his brother. He is also named in the Ansty Section of Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book displayed in Salisbury Cathedral



In March 1920 Bertram's sister Stella Edwina Baker was paid £22 12s 6d. which included a £14 War Gratuity as sole legatee.

