

Durrington

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



29252 PRIVATE

C. BATCHELOR

GRENADIER GUARDS

27th SEPTEMBER, 1918 AGE 20

Cyril BATCHELOR

Cyril Batchelor was born at Preshute, Wiltshire to parents Alfred & Maria Batchelor (nee Farr). His birth was registered in the September quarter of 1898 in the district of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

The 1901 Census records "Ciril" as a 2 year old, born Fyfield, living with his parents in a 3 roomed cottage at Figheldean, Wiltshire. His parents were recorded as Alfred Batchelor (Foreman on W. Office Works, aged 27, born Durrington) & Marie Batchelor (aged 34, born Manningfield Bruce, Wiltshire). Also included were Cyril's 2 siblings – Harold Batchelor (aged 4, born Chisenbury, Wilts) & an unnamed 3 day old male. Also listed was Alice Sophia Farr (Visitor, aged 24, born Manningfield Bruce) – most probably Marie's younger sister.

The 1911 Census records Cyril as a 12 year old, attending school, living with his family at Knighton, Figheldean, Amesbury, Wiltshire. His parents were recorded as Alfred Batchelor (Bricklayer, aged 36) & Maria Batchelor (aged 44). Children were recorded on the census, with Cyril being the second eldest – Harold Batchelor (Stable Boy, aged 14), then Cyril, Leslie Alfred (aged 10, born Knighton), Gladys Christina (aged 6, born Knighton) & Oliver (aged 5, born Knighton).

Cyril Batchelor enlisted with the Grenadier Guards at Salisbury. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 29252. Records show that service number 29003 joined on 5th February, 1917 & service number 29578 joined on 15th March, 1917. Private Batchelor's records show that he was attached to 2nd Battalion of Grenadier Guards.

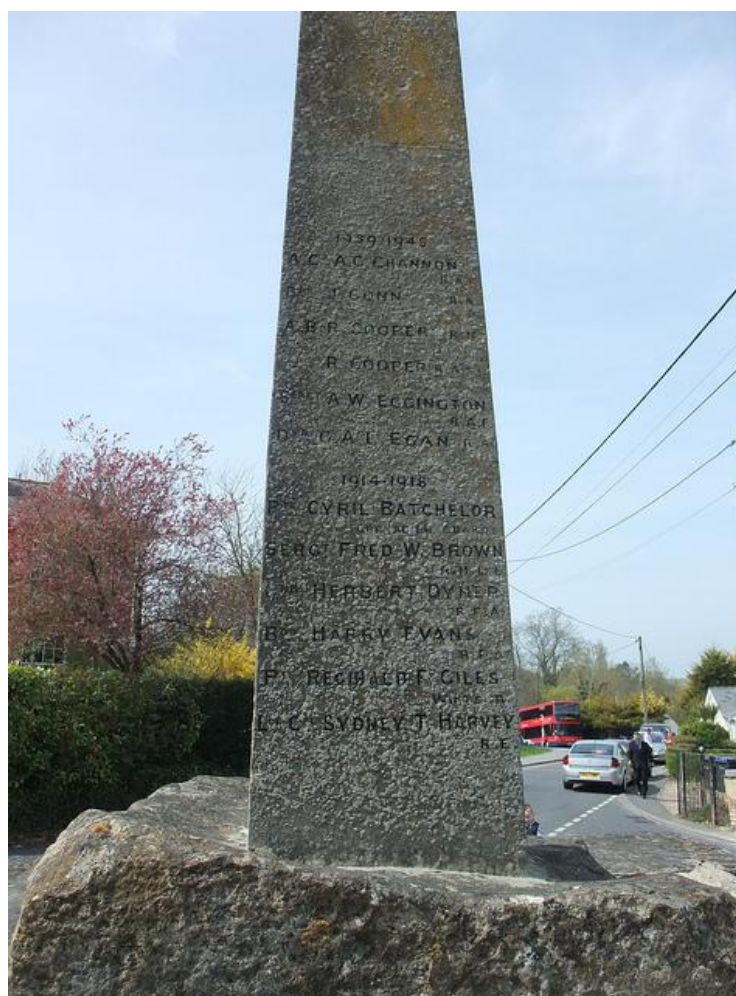
Pte Cyril Batchelor was killed in action on 27th September, 1918, aged 20 years.

Pte Cyril Batchelor is buried at Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquires, France in Grave/Plot I. B. 27. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such, he has a CWGC headstone. He does not have an inscription on his headstone. The CWGC does not have any further information regarding Cyril Batchelor. Cyril Batchelor's parents both died in 1920 (Maria Batchelor, aged 52 - death registered at Amesbury in March quarter, 1920 & Alfred Batchelor, aged 47 – death registered at Amesbury in September quarter, 1920)

Pte Cyril Batchelor was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show when he had entered a Theatre of War.

C. Batchelor is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Durrington.

Pte Cyril Batchelor is also remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



Durrington War Memorial – Panel 1 (photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)

Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquieres

Flesquieres is a village located approximately 5 kms south-west of Cambrai & about 5 kms south of the main road from Cambrai to Bapaume.

Flesquieres was attacked by the 51st (Highland) Division, with tanks, on 20th November, 1917, in the battle of Cambrai, but held for a time by a German Officer with a few men; it was captured on the 21st. It was lost in the late stages of the battle and retaken on the 27th September, 1918, by the 3rd Division.

The Bois d'Orival is a small wood on the road from Flesquieres to Fontaine-Notre Dame, cleared by the 2nd Grenadier Guards on the 27th September, 1918. The Cemetery was begun in November, 1917, during the Battle of Cambrai; used again in September-October 1918; and enlarged in 1930 by the transfer of graves from 51st Division Cemetery, Flesquieres & Flesquieres Chateau Cemetery.

There are nearly 300 World War 1 casualties commemorated at this site. Of these, then are unidentified and others identified collectively but not individually & are marked by headstones

bearing “Buried near this spot”. Special memorial record the names of 2 United Kingdom soldiers that had been buried in Flesquieres Chateau Cemetery, whose graves could not be found. There are also 20 German burials at this cemetery.

Orival Wood Cemetery Photographs



(Photo courtesy of [Inmemories](#) – Pierre Vandervelden)



(Photo from CWGC)

Pte C. Batchelor's headstone at Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquieres, France



(Photograph courtesy of International Wargraves Photography Project - 2010)

