

Whitewater Region's WWII Casualties

Guardsman William Thomas BLACKMORE

Guardsman William Thomas Blackmore, son of **Lewis Charles Mercer Blackmore** and **Annie Emma Rhymer**, was born on 30 Apr 1918 in Westmeath Twp., Renfrew, Ontario, Canada. His parents were born in England and came to Canada abt. 1913. His father died in 1922 and his mother married a second time to Harry Warman. To her first marriage were eight children, William being the 5th oldest. His oldest two siblings were also born in England. His older brother Percy and younger brother Herbert both served in WWII. To his mother's second marriage, there one brother Arthur, however her second husband had three children to his first marriage, one of which (Harry Warman Jr.) also served.¹

William enlisted on July 30, 1940 at Ottawa, Ontario. On his Attestation Papers, he listed his mother, Annie Warman, as next of kin. His education level was documented as passing grade eight and his religion was United Church. His occupation was farmer, working as a hired hand for Edward Cotnam. He was described as 5'8" tall, weighing



Image 1: William T. Blackmore²

151 lbs. He had a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair.³

On Oct 2, 1940 Guardsman Blackmore was transferred to the Governor General's Foot Guards, RCAC #C58731 (note a Trooper is in The Royal Canadian Armored Corps and a Guardsman is Royal Canadian Infantry Corps. There are notations of both in his service file). He served in the UK Sep 24, 1942-Jul 20, 1944 and became a Gnr Oper on Jan 20, 1944. On May 6, 1942 he was granted permission to marry Marjorie Guyea of Renfrew, however there is no notation of marriage nor is she mentioned in the settlement of earnings nor so the marriage must not have occurred.³

Gdsm. Blackmore served in Northwest Europe from Jul 21, 1944-Aug 14, 1944 (less than a month). At the time of his death, he was with the 21years old. He was initially listed as missing and three months later on Nov 27, 1944 his record was updated to "died of his wounds". There are no details of the cause of death or location in France, only the words "died of his wounds".³ What a painstaking wait it must have been for family to await the new of their loved one's fate.

**MEATH MAN IS
REPORTED KILLED**

**Tpr. W. T. Blackmore Was
Reported Missing on
August 14th**

Reported missing on August 14th last, Tpr. William T. Blackmore, son of Mrs. Annie Warman of Meath, has now been officially reported killed in action, according to word received by his mother.

Tpr. Blackmore, who was serving with the Governor General's Foot Guards, was one of three brothers who enlisted in the Canadian army. He was 26 and enlisted in 1940. An older brother, Percy, is also with the G.G.F.G., while a third brother, Herbert is with the artillery.

Image 2: Meath Man Reported⁴

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William Thomas Blackmore was buried in Bretteville-Sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery at Bretteville-sur-Laize, Calvados, Normandy, France.^{3,5,6,7}

In addition to the grave marker at the Canadian War Cemetery, Gdsm. Blackmore is also commemorated on the Blackmore family gravestone, Greenwood Cemetery⁸; the Beachburg⁹, Westmeath Twp.,¹⁰ and Pembroke¹¹ War Memorials; Greenwood United Church Tablet dedicated to casualties of WWII soldiers, Greenwood United Church¹² and the Greenwood United Church WWII Honour Roll¹³; and the Governor General's Foot Guards Memorial Plaque¹⁴, Ottawa.

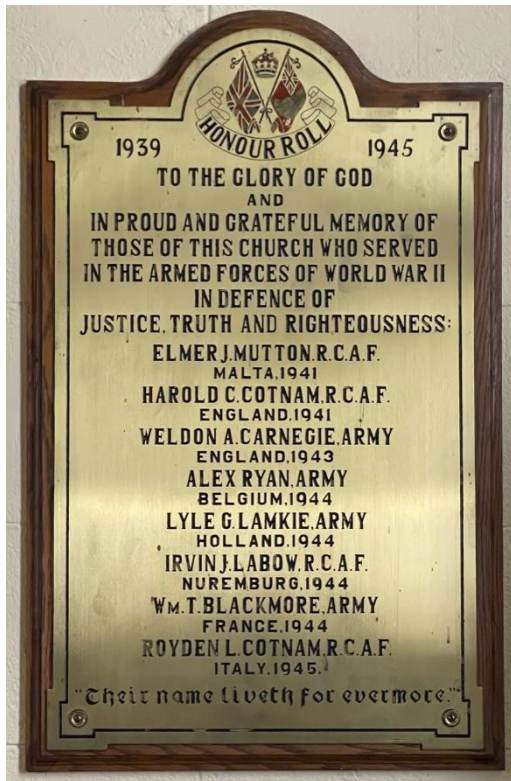


Image 3: Greenwood Community Honor Roll¹²



Image 4: Westmeath Twp. War Memorial¹⁰

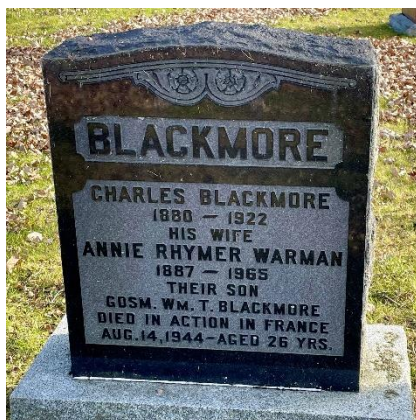


Image 6: Blackmore family gravestone⁸



Image 7: Governor General's Foot Guards Memorial Plaque¹⁴

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Gdsm. William Thomas Blackmore was eligible for the 1939-45 Star; France Germany Star; Defence Medal; War Medal; Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp which were provided to his mother as well as the Memorial Cross³.

Of approximately 60 young men connected to Whitewater Region who lost their lives, at least 6 are buried in Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian Military Cemetery. Two of these men died on the same day - Aug 14, 1944 –Gunner Warrington Thomas Foy and Rifleman Kenneth George Thompson. Pte. Wesley Clayton Davidson died one week later; and Pte. Gerald Garnnar Bromley and Pte. Ivan Henry Anderson died approximately three weeks earlier.¹

Guardsman Renaud Gerald Gervais from Lapasse also served with the Governor General's Foot Guards. He was killed later that year in October and is buried in the Netherlands.¹

Sources:

1. Bennett, F. (2024). *Faysgenealogy.com*. www.faysgenealogy.com. family history database & images; 2001-present. Cobden, ON. (Original sources noted in database)
2. *Photograph of William Thomas Blackmore*. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial. <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2331612>
3. "Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947." . Digital images. Library and Archives Canada, Government of Canada. *Library and Archives Canada*. https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Home/Record?app=kia&IdNumber=2930&ecopy=sw-25468-blackmore-william_thomas-c58731
4. "Meath Man is Reported Killed", Newspaper article, *The Cobden Sun*, date unknown. From the scrapbook of Viola Price, provided by Nancy England.
5. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial: Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)." Database. Veterans Affairs Canada. www.veterans.gc.ca/eng. <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2331612>
6. CWGC. *Guardsman William Thomas Blackmore | War Casualty Details C/58731* | CWGC. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2331612/william-thomas-blackmore/> Accessed Nov 2024.
7. *Grdsm. William Thomas Blackmore (unknown-1944)* - . . (n.d.). <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56155535/william-thomas-blackmore>
8. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of Gravestone of Guardsman William T. Blackmore*, Greenwood Cemetery, Greenwood, Ontario, Nov 19, 2024..
9. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Beachburg War Memorial*. Beachburg, Ontario. November 2022.
10. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Westmeath War Memorial*. Westmeath, Ontario. November 2022.
11. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Pembroke War Memorial*. Pembroke, Ontario. November 2022.
12. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Greenwood Community WWII Honor Roll*. Greenwood United Church, Greenwood, Ontario. November 2022.

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13. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The WWII Honor Roll*. Greenwood United Church, Greenwood, Ontario. November 2022.
14. Governor General's Foot Guards Second World War Plaque
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials/details/8453> 2 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Ottawa, ON.
15. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=251&book=2&sort=pageAsc>

Additional information and photographs would be appreciated.