

**Sheerness Cemetery,
Isle of Sheppey, Kent
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



S/30687 RIFLEMAN

G. N. B. BAYNES

6TH BN. RIFLE BRIGADE

BRITISH ARMY

6TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 20

George Nepean Beindge BAYNES

George Nepean Beindge Baynes was born at Mulgoa, in the registration district of Penrith, New South Wales, Australia on 22nd March, 1896 to parents Richard Beindge Baynes and Annie Augusta Baynes (nee Bell). He was baptised on 14th May, 1896 at St. Thomas' Church, Mulgoa, New South Wales.

George Nepean Beindge Baynes enlisted in London, England with the British Army.

George Nepean Beindge Baynes was attached to the Royal Flying Corps & made 2nd Lieutenant (on probation) on 1st August, 1916.

Supplement to the *London Gazette* – 10 August, 1916:

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lts. (on prob.)

1st Aug. 1916

.....

George Nepean Beindge Baynes

.....

2nd Lieutenant George Nepean Beindge Baynes had his probationary cancelled on 20th November, 1916 due to "cribbing at examination".

Rifleman George Nepean Beindge Baynes was attached to 6th Battalion, Rifle Brigade. His service number was S/30687.

Rifleman George Nepean Beindge Baynes died on 6th February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Sheerness, Kent, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. According to his headstone, Rifleman George Nepean Beindge Baynes suffered from spotted fever while serving with The Rifle Brigade at Queensborough.

A death for George Baynes, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Sheppey, Kent, England.

Rifleman George Nepean Beindge Baynes was buried in Sheerness Cemetery, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, England – Plot number PP. 76 and has a private Headstone. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

UK Register of Soldiers' Effects records that the War Gratuity & money owing to Rifleman George Nepean Beindge Baynes was authorised to be sent to The Mess Secretary, School of Military Aeronautics.

6th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade

6th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade was raised at Winchester in August, 1914. It was a depot/training reserve unit & it moved on mobilisation to Sheerness and Queensborough. The possibility of Invasion via the Thames Estuary was sufficiently seriously regarded by the authorities for sentry groups to be ordered out along the Sheppey cliffs, and these were provided by the two Battalions. In addition detachments were maintained at selected tactical points, and there was a scheme of defence under which the whole brigade (completed by the 5th & 6th Bns. of the 60th) would concentrate and dispute a landing.

In addition to the permanent battalion staff, special instructors were obtained from those officers and N.C.O.'s of the regular battalions who chanced to be in England recovering from wounds and had, therefore, recent and first hand experience of the conditions at the front. As the war progressed a Rifle Depot was opened at Havre, the fifth and sixth battalions became the home of all Riflemen in England whether from the regular or service battalions.

Generally, if a soldier/officer was returned home due to wounds they were signed of the strength of the battalion overseas and put on the books of the fifth battalion whilst recuperating and when ready to go overseas again they were placed on the sixth battalions books ready to go back to their battalion or where they were needed at that time.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2016

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Rifleman George Nepean Beindge Baynes – service number S/30687, aged 20, of Rifle Brigade, British Army. He was the son of Richard Beindge Baynes and Annie Augusta Baynes of “Fernhill”.

G. N. B. Baynes is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)



Connected to George Nepean Beindge Baynes:

Older brother - Lieutenant Richard Henry Beindge Baynes (born 1889), 1st Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, killed in action 14th July, 1916. Remembered on Thiepval Memorial, France.

Older brother - Frederick Charles Beindge Baynes (born 1891)

Older brother - Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes (born 3rd November, 1893) – trained as an aviator for the British during the war. Second Lieutenant, Royal North Lancashire 67th Regiment



Newspaper Notices

OUR HONOR LIST

The list below will show that a good number of young men have gone (and are preparing to go) from Penrith and district to the war – in the Light Horse, Infantry, and A.M.C.

Other Volunteers

.....

Lieut. R. H. B. Baynes, Penrith

Flight-Lieut. R. F. B. Baynes, Penrith

Lieut. G. N. B. Baynes, Penrith

.....

(*Nepean Times*, Penrith, NSW – 20 May, 1916)

FALL OF AN AUSTRALIAN HERO

Some three months ago it was our sad duty to refer to the death in action, in the early days of the Great Anglo-French Advance on the Somme Front, of Lieut. R. H. B. Baynes, eldest son of Mr R. B. Baynes, of 'Fernhill,' Mulgoa; and we have now the privilege of recounting, per medium of information forwarded Mr Baynes by the Colonel of the late Lieut. Baynes' battalion, the heroic manner in which the late gallant and resolute soldier fell, in leading his platoon against the enemy. The Colonel, in writing Mr Baynes, states that Lieut. Baynes was killed at the taking of the village Barontin-le-Petit, around which locality very severe fighting continued all day, the village being taken in the morning by the British Infantry, and afterwards captured by the Germans. The enemy was at once driven out again, and it was while the re-capture was in process that Lieut. Baynes was killed. He had led his men most heroically all day with great valor, and was leading a fierce charge when he received his fatal call. The Colonel, in writing Mr Baynes says, 'It might be some little consolation to you to know that the gallant conduct of your son was one of the causes of the success we obtained that day. Previous to the engagement mentioned Lieut. Baynes was in the first Big Advance on the Somme, and led his men through a veritable inferno of shot and shell on those ever memorable days of mid-July. The late Lieut. Baynes was gazetted to the 1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers on Sept 17th, 1914, after taking his B.A. Degree and Diploma of Military Science at Sydney University. While en voyage to the seat of war he was gazetted Lieutenant.

Mr Baynes' next son, Second-Lieut. R. F. Baynes, is an officer of the Royal North Lancashire 67th Regiment, and is serving in the trenches in France as bombing officer in his battalion.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2016

Mr Baynes' youngest son is Second Lieut. G. N. B. Baynes of the Royal Flying Corps, training at Christ Church College, Oxford.

It will thus be seen that the Baynes' family has very fully and loyally contributed to the utmost of its personnel to the army of Britain and the Empire.

(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – 4 November, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BAYNES – George Nepean Beindge, 2nd Lieutenant, Royal Flying Corps, died in hospital, February 6th inst., youngest son Richard B. Baynes and Annie A. Baynes, of Fernhill, Penrith, aged 20. (By cable. No particulars).

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 February, 1917)

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Probate Jurisdiction – In the Estate of ANNIE AUGUSTA BAYNES, formerly of Mulgoa, in the State of New South Wales, but lately residing abroad, widow, deceased, intestate. Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that administration of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to JOHN MALBON MAUGHAN, the duly constituted Attorney of Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, a son of the said deceased, for the use and benefit of the said Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, until he shall apply and obtain a grant of administration; and all notices may be served at the undermentioned address. All creditors in the estate of the said deceased are hereby required to send in particulars of their claims to the undersigned, BRADLY, SON and MAUGHAN, Proctors for the Administrator, 27 Hunter Street, Sydney.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Probate Jurisdiction – In the Estate of RICHARD BEINDGE BAYNES, formerly of Mulgoa, in the State of New South Wales, but lately residing abroad, Gentleman, deceased, intestate. Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that administration of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to JOHN MALBON MAUGHAN, the duly constituted Attorney of Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, a son of the said deceased, for the use and benefit of the said Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, until he shall apply and obtain a grant of administration; and all notices may be served at the undermentioned address. All creditors in the estate of the said deceased are hereby required to send in particulars of their claims to the undersigned, BRADLY, SON and MAUGHAN, Proctors for the Administrator, 27 Hunter Street, Sydney.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Probate Jurisdiction – In the Estate of FREDERICK CHARLES BEINDGE BAYNES, late of Mulgoa, in the State of New South Wales, station employee, deceased, intestate. Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that administration of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to JOHN MALBON MAUGHAN, the duly constituted Attorney of Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, a brother of the said deceased, for the use and benefit of the said Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, until he shall apply and obtain a grant of administration; and all notices may be served at the undermentioned address. All creditors in the estate of the said deceased are hereby required to send in particulars of their claims to the undersigned, BRADLY, SON and MAUGHAN, Proctors for the Administrator, 27 Hunter Street, Sydney.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Probate Jurisdiction – In the Estate of RICHARD HENRY BEINDGE BAYNES, late of Mulgoa, in the State of New South Wales, officer in the English Army, deceased, intestate. Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that administration of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to JOHN MALBON MAUGHAN, the duly constituted Attorney of Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, a brother of the said deceased, for the use and benefit of the said Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, until he shall apply and obtain a grant of administration; and all notices may be served at the undermentioned address. All creditors in the estate of the said deceased are hereby required to send in particulars of

their claims to the undersigned, BRADLY, SON and MAUGHAN, Proctors for the Administrator, 27 Hunter Street, Sydney.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Probate Jurisdiction – In the Estate of **GEORGE NEPEAN BEINDGE BAYNES**, late of Mulgoa, in the State of New South Wales, officer in the English Army, deceased, intestate. Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that administration of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to JOHN MALBON MAUGHAN, the duly constituted Attorney of Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, a brother of the said deceased, for the use and benefit of the said Reginald Frank Beindge Baynes, until he shall apply and obtain a grant of administration; and all notices may be served at the undermentioned address. All creditors in the estate of the said deceased are hereby required to send in particulars of their claims to the undersigned, BRADLY, SON and MAUGHAN, Proctors for the Administrator, 27 Hunter Street, Sydney.

(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – 12 May, 1938)

Sheerness Cemetery, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, England

Sheerness (Isle of Sheppey) Cemetery is situated on the road from Sheerness to Queenborough, and the main entrance to the Cemetery is in Halfway Road.

Historical Information

During the First World War the Central Air Office R.N.A.S. and H.M.S. 'Hermes' (H.Q. Naval Wing) were at Sheerness. The Second World War saw Sheerness one of the ports controlling the initial despatch of volunteer vessels to Dunkirk for the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force in 1940. After Dunkirk, when invasion seemed imminent, the port was one of four bases at which were stationed a striking force to deal with an approaching enemy fleet. There was also a Royal Air Force station at Sheerness.

Sheerness (Isle of Sheppey) Cemetery contains 128 scattered First World War graves. Of the 38 Second World War burials, 18, all of them Merchant Seamen, are unidentified.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice at Sheppey Cemetery *(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Rifleman George Nepean Beindge Baynes has a Private Headstone.

Photo of Rifleman George Nepean Beindge Baynes' Private Headstone in Sheerness Cemetery, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, England.



(Photos courtesy of Kyle Tallett)



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

GEORGE NEPEAN

BEINDGE BAYNES

YOUNGEST SON OF RICHARD & ANNIE BAYNES,

OF "FERNHILL" PENRITH, N.S.W. AUSTRALIA.

WHO PASSED AWAY ON FEBRUARY 6TH 1917.

AGED 20 YEARS.

*AFTER A FEW HOURS ILLNESS OF SPOTTED FEVER
INCURRED WHILE SERVING WITH THE RIFLE BRIGADE
AT QUEENSBOROUGH, DURING THE GREAT WAR.*

*"HE ASKED LIFE OF THEE AND THOU GAVEST HIM A LONG
LIFE EVER FOR EVER AND EVER"*