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> **James Ross Binkley**

CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL

In memory of:

Lance Corporal James Ross Binkley

April 23, 1915

Military Service

Service Number:	10205
Age:	32
Force:	Army
Unit:	Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment)
Division:	3rd Bn.

Additional Information

Son of Mrs. Jemima Binkley, of 295, King St. West, Dundas, Ontario.

Commemorated on [Page 5](#) of the *First World War Book of Remembrance*.
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Burial Information

Cemetery:

[MENIN GATE \(YPRES\) MEMORIAL](#)

Belgium

Grave Reference:

Panel 18 - 24 - 26 - 30

Location:

The Menin Gate Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town of Ypres (now Ieper) in the Province of West Flanders, on the road to Menin and Courtrai. It bears the names of 55,000 men who were lost without trace during the defence of the Ypres Salient in the First World War. Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and erected by the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission, it consists of a Hall of Memory", 36.6 metres long by 20.1 metres wide. In the centre are broad staircases leading to the ramparts which overlook the moat, and to pillared loggias which run the whole length of the structure. On the inner walls of the Hall, on the side of the staircases and on the walls of the loggias, panels of Portland stone bear the names of the dead, inscribed by regiment and corps. Carved in stone above the central arch are the words:

TO THE ARMIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WHO STOOD HERE FROM 1914 TO

1918 AND TO THOSE OF THEIR DEAD WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE.

Over the two staircases leading from the main Hall is the inscription:

**HERE ARE RECORDED NAMES OF OFFICERS AND MEN WHO FELL IN
YPRES SALIENT BUT TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED THE
KNOWN AND HONOURED BURIAL GIVEN TO THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH.**

The dead are remembered to this day in a simple ceremony that takes place every evening at 8:00 p.m. All traffic through the gateway in either direction is halted, and two buglers (on special occasions four) move to the centre of the Hall and sound the Last Post. Two silver trumpets for use in the ceremony are a gift to the Ypres Last Post Committee by an officer of the Royal Canadian Artillery, who served with the 10th Battery, of St. Catharines, Ontario, in Ypres in April 1915."

i Information courtesy of the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#).

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ROSS BINKLEY'S NAME NOT ON OFFICIAL LIST

Unofficially Reported Killed,
But No Word Yet
at Ottawa.

CABLE SENT TO WAR
OFFICE AT LONDON

Asking for Confirmation—One
of the Best Rugby Play-
ers in Canada.

The report of the death in action at Langemarck of Ross Binkley, the former Argonaut captain and half-back, has not yet been officially confirmed, but is believed to be true because of the source from whence it came.

Lieut. George Smith, of Rosedale, who is in hospital in England, stated that Binkley was killed at the same time as Lieut. M. S. Macdonald, his commander, and in charge of the machine-gun section of the Queen's Own. Binkley and Smith were chums and great friends.



CORPORAL ROSS BINKLEY,

of the machine gun section of the Queen's own, who is unofficially reported killed at Langemarck. No official confirmation has been received from Ottawa or London. Binkley is one of Canada's best known football players. He enlisted in the infantry, but was transferred to the machine gun section to be with his friends, Lieut. M. D. MacDonald, killed, and Lieut. Smith, wounded.



CORPORAL ROSS BINKLEY,
of the Q.O.R. machine-gun section,
"killed in action" at Langemarck.
The report of his death was officially
confirmed to-day.

ROSS BINKLEY REPORTED DEAD

Noted Argonaut Footballer
Said to Have Been Killed
by a Shell.

TORONTO, May 4.—The first intimation of the death of Ross Binkley at the front was conveyed in a cable which arrived here yesterday from England. Binkley was a Dundas boy but had lived in Toronto for several years. He learned football with the Dundas team and was afterwards with the Hamilton Tigers and latterly captained the Argonauts of this city. Football enthusiasts throughout Canada will learn with regret of the death of this splendid backfield player and sterling sportsman.

Binkley was in command of a machine gun in the section commanded by the late Lieut. M. S. MacDonald. The cable is in part as follows:

"The courage of our men was simply magnificent," said Lieut. George Smith, of Rosedale, of the Third Battalion, who is lying wounded in an English hospital. "They just laughed and joked under as terrible a storm of bullets and shells as ever soldiers faced. They never faltered or hesitated a moment. We started to move up to the trenches on Thursday night from four miles back and the last half mile were under fire. It was then that Ross Binkley and Lieut. M. S. MacDonald of the machine gun section were killed by the bursting of a big shell."

Ross Binkley is well remembered by Ottawa football followers for his splendid play here as a member of the Argonaut team of Toronto in 1912-13. He was one of the best drop-goal kickers in the game.

Promoted to be Corporal.

Binkley enlisted with the infantry, but, to be with his friends, Lieut. Macdonald (killed) and Lieut. Smith (wounded), was transferred to the machine gun section of the Queen's Own, where he was made corporal and given charge of a gun. In the latest letter received by his sister, Binkley says:

"We arrived in France on February 11th, since which no time has been lost by the Canadian division. Within a week after landing we were in the front line of trenches with the enemy's line distant from 75 to 600 yards, and after our first trip in have held a line all by ourselves. The weather lately has been grand. Last night I was walking to our billet from a town about two miles distant, where I had been for a bath. The sun was sinking and the sunset was the most gorgeous I have ever seen. Everything was still, and the one thing almost impossible to conceive of was that on every side a short distance away men were watchful and alert, looking for chances to take other men's lives.

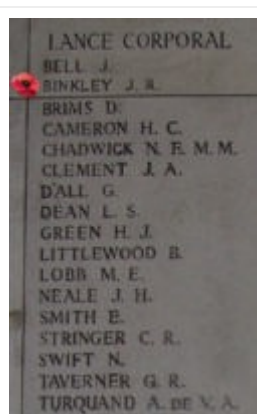
"You cannot imagine nor can I give you any adequate idea of the atmosphere which surrounds the immediate vicinity of the firing line and the conditions under which the constant trench warfare is going on. The whole of this part of the country is full of troops, British regulars, Indians, and Canadians are everywhere. Every barn or building suitable for the purpose for miles around is crammed with soldiers. One never has a chance to even dream of anything that does not pertain to things military. We eat it, drink it, and most all sleep it. Our beds, since coming from England, have either been in the loft of a barn or the hard floor of a school or church or such other building that could offer any kind of accommodation, no matter how mean.

Tom Binkley, brother of Ross, and member of the firm of Klein and Binkley, jewelers, Hamilton, wired Ottawa last night and received word that "the complete official list of dead, wounded, and missing is in, and Binkley's name is not on it."

Binkley's home is in Dundas, where his mother lives. She has had no word of the fate of her son. A married sister, wife of Dr. W. A. Burr, 479 Roncesvalles avenue, Toronto, cabled to London to the War Office last night, but has not yet received a reply.

A Great Rugby Player.

"Bink," as he was known among his friends, was one of the cleverest and headiest football players Canada ever produced. He learned the game in Dundas, and captained the team of that town to the intermediate championship of the Canadian Rugby Union, easily beating the crack R.M.C. team in the final. Billy Mallett and Ross Craig, two other star players, were members of this team. "Bink" then moved to Toronto, where he did splendid work for the Argonauts, which team he successfully managed one season. "Bink" was also a soccer player of note, a good curler, and member of the Granite indoor baseball team, besides being one of the most popular young men in the city.



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