

## **ROBERT BISHOP SLADE**

Robert Bishop Slade is on the Combrook War Memorial and the Roll of Honour in Combrook Church.

He was born in June 1892 in Wallingford in Berkshire to Leonard Gillot and Maria Slade. He was educated at Abingdon Grammar School and Shoreham Grammar School. He is listed in the 1901 census in Blewbury in Berkshire.

In February 1911 he went to Canada where he settled in Saskatchewan as a farmer. He sailed aboard the SS Megantic from Liverpool to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

He enlisted in the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force in September 1914. He came to England with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Contingent the following February and served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from September 1915.

He was gazetted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps, January 1917, promoted Lieutenant 1918 and served with the 20<sup>th</sup> Squadron in France. He was attacked by nine enemy aeroplanes in October 1917 whilst flying. He and his observer accounted for two. He crashed and spent 17 weeks in hospital. On recovery, after a course of instruction, he was appointed instructor at Shawbury in Shropshire.

He was accidentally killed whilst flying at the aerodrome there on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1918, aged 26 years.

He is buried in All Saints churchyard at Aston Upthorpe in Berkshire. He was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War medal.

His next of kin are recorded as Leonard and Maria Slade of Park Gate Farm, Donhead St. Andrew, Shaftesbury.

Most of this information comes from his entry in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour.

Why he is listed on the Combrook Memorials is a mystery. He appears to have had no connection with the village in his own lifetime. The fact that his father farmed at Lodge Farm, just outside the village, in the early 1920's is on the De Ruvigny Roll but cannot yet be verified with census information.

Perhaps his parents wished him to be commemorated somewhere and the Combrook Memorial was erected at the appropriate time!

In Memory of

Lieutenant

## Robert Bishop Slade

Royal Air Force who died on 23 July 1918 Age 26

Son of Leonard Gillott Slade and Maria his wife, of Park Gate Farm, Donhead St. Andrew, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Remembered with Honour

Aston Upthorpe (All Saints) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission