

Henry (Harry) Nelson Biggs

Henry or Harry Biggs was the youngest of 11 children. He was born in Isleworth, the son of George and Phyllis Elizabeth Biggs, and baptised at All Saints Church. His father George was Isleworth born and bred, and worked for many years at the flour mill; in the 1901 Census he is described as a steam flour miller. By then most of the children had left home, and just Harry age 11 and his 16-year-old sister Alice were with their parents at 11 Algar Road. Harry was a pupil at the Blue School.

In 1909 Harry married Florence Joynes, from Brize Norton, and in 1911 they were lodging in Slough, while his parents were now living at 156 Linkfield Road, Isleworth. Harry was van man for an oil and colour merchant. His father died in 1912.

By the time Harry enlisted in June 1916, he was working as a warder at Feltham Borstal (a prison for boys age 16-21). He was a Corporal in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and was sent to France in September 1916. He was killed in action at Arras on 13 Aug 1917, age 29, and was buried in Monchy British Cemetery. His service record has not survived, but some details were published in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour (see below). The Middlesex Chronicle also reported his death on 20th October 1917.

Harry's widow Florence lived at Pretoria Villa, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex, with their three young children, Donald Nelson Biggs (b.1911), Muriel Gladys Biggs (b.1914) and Phyllis Kathleen Biggs (b.1916).





Certificate included with CWGC permission

In Memory of
Corporal
H N Biggs

G/18823, 6th Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who died on 13 August 1917 Age 29

Son of George and Elizabeth Biggs, of Isleworth, Middx.; husband of Florence Biggs, of Pretoria Villa, Woodthorpe Rd., Ashford, Middx.

Remembered with Honour
Monchy British Cemetery, Monchy-Le-Preux



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

KILLED IN ACTION.

BIGGS: Killed in action on August 13th, 1917, Corpl. Harry Nelson Biggs, beloved husband of Florence Biggs, Ashford, and the youngest son of the late George and Mrs. Biggs, of Isleworth. Aged 29 years. Gone from our sight like a beautiful dream.

BIGGS, HENRY NELSON, Corpl., No. 18823, 6th (Service) Battn. The Buffs (East Kent Regt.), s. of the late George Biggs, by his wife, Phyllis (Goring); b. Isleworth, co. Middlesex, 30 June, 1888; educ. The Blue School there, was a Warder at Borstal Institution; enlisted 26 June, 1916; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 27 Sept. 1916, and was killed in action 13 Aug. 1917, by a trench mortar, while sheltering in a dug-out in the Arras sector. Buried on the Cambrai Road. His Commanding Officer wrote: "He was loved by all in the company, and he was one of the best N.C.O.'s, and I feel his loss greatly." He m. at Brize-Norton, co. Oxon, 4 Nov. 1909, Florence (Pretoria Villa, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, co. Middlesex), dau. of Edmund Joynes, and had three children: Donald Nelson, b. 1 Sept. 1911; Muriel Gladys, b. 6 Nov. 1914, and Phyllis Kathleen, b. 10 April, 1916.