



Harry Edward Burnham

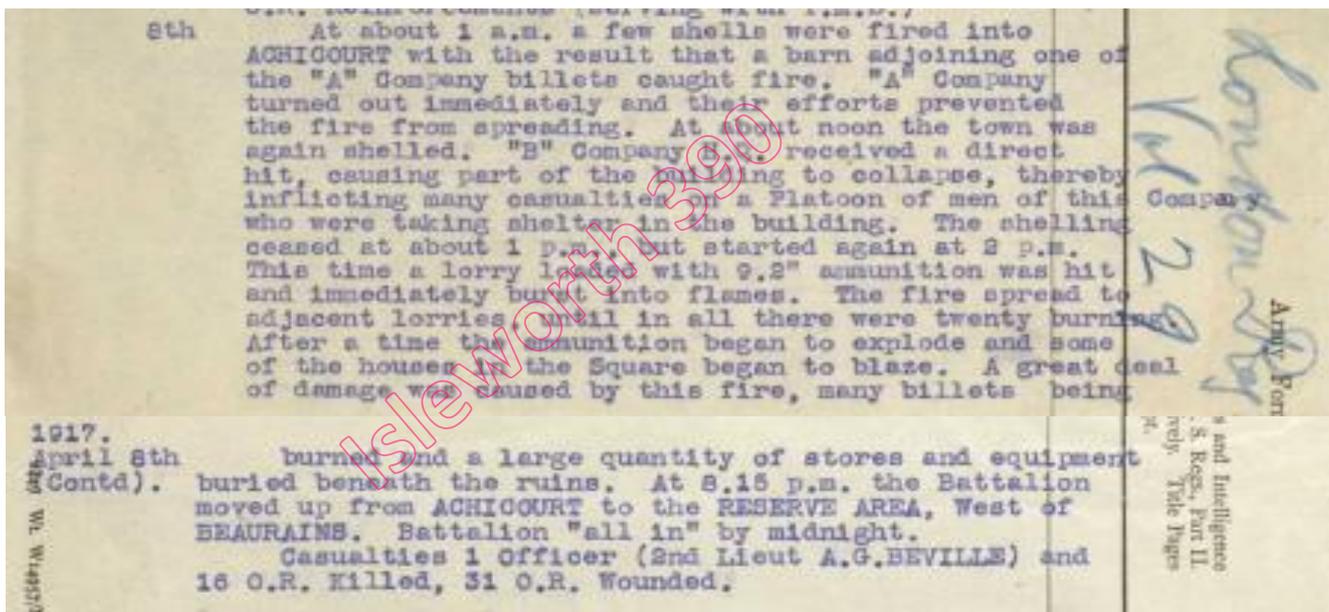
Harry was born in about 1882 in Fulmer, a village in Buckinghamshire. He was the only son of William & Elizabeth Burnham. His father, William, was a domestic servant, probably a gardener. He had a younger sister, Laura May. In 1905 Harry married Alice Emma Ball at the Holy Trinity Church in Hounslow and they had two children. Before the war Harry worked as a Newspaper Advertising Manager.

The marriage register records that he was living in Staines Road but later The National Probate Calendar records the same information as the War Graves Photographic project inasmuch as the address of his marital home was 47 Gordon Avenue, St Margaret's on Thames, Middlesex. Further. His estate was valued at £77 16s 10d.

Harry had arrived in France in early 1916 and lost his life on Easter Sunday 8th April 1917 - the day before the Battle of Arras began. His battalion was in the village of Achicourt, which was a major logistics hub for storage and distribution of artillery ammunition. Thus the scene was set for a significant event that would cost many lives. The Battalion war diaries recorded the event:-



Presented by his wife, Mrs. Burnham,
47, Gordon Avenue,
St. Margarets.



'The centre of the village was absolutely unrecognisable: in some places not a vestige remained of buildings we knew well. The square looked as though the earth had completely swallowed it up and no corner of Ypres could be more forlorn and devastated. All that remained of the lorries was a piece of mangled axle here or a section of distorted framework there.' Ref: 'A Holocaust of Flame and Death' The Explosions at Achicourt - 8 April 1917 by Colin Taylor

Harry is buried at Agny Military Cemetery in France. A Roll of Honour is displayed in a case in the nave of Westminster Abbey "In memory of the officers, non-commissioned officers and private riflemen of the Queen's Westminster Rifles who gave their lives for their country in the 1914-1918 war".

