

Harry Coleman (Oct-Dec 1880-5 March 1917)

Harry was the son of William Thomas and Eliza Ellen Coleman (nee Logsdale) who married on 2 April 1866. Harry's father was a Bricklayer who was born in Isleworth. His mother Eliza was born in Stanstead Abbey, Hertfordshire. William Coleman died in 1896 at the age of 56, leaving Eliza a widow. Harry was aged 16 at the time. The 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 Censuses all record Eliza working as a General Shopkeeper from her home in Isleworth.

William and Eliza had 9 children so Harry had 3 brothers and 5 sisters. They were Alice (born 1867), Bertha (born 1868), Eliza Ellen (born 1871), Ada (born 1873), William Thomas (born 1875), Grace (born 1878), Reginald (born 1883) and Edward Albert (born 1886). The family were living at 1 Wiltshire Cottages, Linkfield Lane, Isleworth in 1881, 1891 and 1901. Harry was aged 20 and his occupation was a plumber's labourer by 1901.



30 Haliburton Road, St Margarets

In July 1909 Harry married Edith Euden in Brentford when he was aged 28. By 1911 Harry was working as a plumber and he and Edith were living at 30 Haliburton Road, St Margarets. Edith and Harry had a son, Reginald Henry Coleman, who was born in Brentford in April 1912.

In 1915 Harry and his family emigrated to Australia. The family settled in Victoria and their address was "Linkfield", Thompson Street, South Oakleigh. However, in February 1916 Harry enlisted as a Private in the Australian infantry and came back to Europe to fight in the war. After training on Salisbury Plain he went with the 23rd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force (AIF) to the Somme in France in December 1916. In early 1917, between 9 February and 20 March, the Germans shortened their lines and withdrew to the Hindenberg Line (Operation Alberich). They adopted a "scorched earth" policy of polluting wells, digging up roads and laying mines as they moved. The

Australian troops were ordered to advance to follow their retreat. Harry died on 5 March 1917 when he was shot by a German sniper. The Middlesex Chronicle reported that he had been buried in No Man's Land. His service record describes his burial place as an isolated grave $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north west of Ligny Thillooy and 2 miles west south west of Baupaume. He is commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial at Villiers-Bretonneux, near Amiens in France.

Harry's younger brother Edward joined the Royal Flying Corp in November 1915. He was in Squadron 5 which was equipped to carry out reconnaissance for the British Expeditionary Force. They specialised in acting as observers of artillery and taking aerial photographs in 2 seater biplanes over the battlefields of France. Edward died after a short illness in October 1918.

Both Harry and his brother Edward are remembered on the Isleworth War Memorial.

