



## Horace Henry Kesby (Q4 1898 – 26 September 1918)

Horace was the son of Albert Henry and Edith Alice Kesby (nee Newell) who married in 1896 in West Ham, Essex. Albert was born in Blackheath, Kent and his wife Edith in Hackney, London. They had 6 children and 5 boys survived infancy. They were Bertram Albert Newell born 1897, Horace Henry 1898, Frank Frederick 1900, Gordon Geoffrey 1907 and Clifford Clarence 1910. All were born in either east London or Essex.

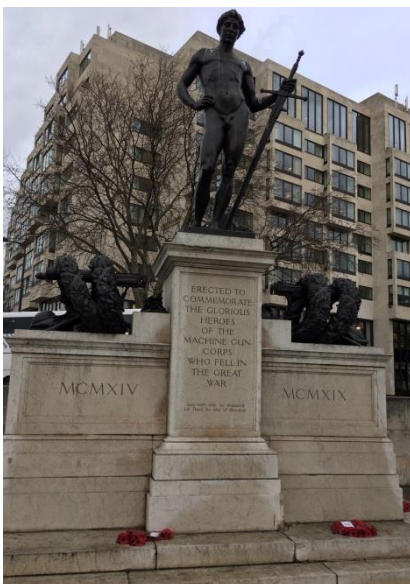
In 1901 the family were living in Durham Road, West Ham, Essex. Father Albert was working as a Waterproof Salesman. By 1911 they were living at 187 Aldborough Road, Ilford, Essex and Albert was a Buyer in Waterproof clothing. In 1918 and 1919 Albert and Edith were living at St Cyres, 315 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham. Two of their sons, Horace and Bertram, were recorded on the electoral register at this address while on military service.

Horace enlisted in the London Regiment but later transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). His older brother Bertram served in the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the London Regiment (Civil Service Rifles) from August 1914 until he was de-mobilised in February 1919. He served in France, Salonica and Egypt. Both brothers had the rank of Private.



St Cyres, 315 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham

In September 1918 Horace's Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps was near Maissemy in France. There was a major advance at 5am on 24 September in the face of heavy enemy shelling, which proved



Machine Gun Corps 1914-1919  
Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, London

successful. The Corps were firing around 50-60,000 rounds of ammunition a day. The next few days saw several counter attacks but these were all repelled and the machine guns inflicted many casualties. Eight hundred German prisoners were taken. On 25 and 26 September minor changes were made to the disposition of the gun to consolidate the objectives gained. Three casualties were reported on 26 September.

Horace was killed in action on 26 September 1918. He was aged just 19. He is buried at the Chapelle British Cemetery, Holnon in Picardy, France.