

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Private Duncan Archibald Coleman

Pte. Duncan Archibald McKillop COLEMAN, son of **William Stephen COLEMAN** and **Margaret McKILLOP**, was born on Aug 11, 1897 in Ross Township. He was the 7th of 9 children and had 4 brothers and 4 sisters. His brother Pte. George Harvey Kay Coleman also served in WWI and lived to 91 years in Forester's Falls. A nephew Lt. George Richard Kitchener Coleman served in WWII and died in Italy in 1944.¹



Image 1: Pte. Archie Coleman⁴

On April 24th he joined the 21st Battalion in the frontline trenches just beyond Vimy Ridge. The 21st Battalion, as part of the 2nd Division of the Canadian Corps attacked the high ground near Lens, France known as Hill 70³. The Battle of Hill 70 took place on the outskirts of Lens, France between Aug 15-25, 1917. Lens lay inside German-occupied territory near Vimy and it was tactically planned to take the higher elevation just outside Lens to draw troops away from the 3rd battle at Ypres and to make the hold on Lens untenable. The capture of Hill 70 was an important victory for Canadian Troops.⁵

On August 15, 1917, Pte. Archie Coleman was wounded and removed to a nearby field ambulance for first aid before being evacuated to the No. 6 Casualty Clearing Station where he died of his wounds.^{3,6} On that first day that Pte. Coleman died, 1,055 other Canadians⁵ also died including Pte. Donald Francis Coffey of the 10th Battalion, another Foresters Falls native. Pte. Coleman was buried in the Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension at Barlin, Pas-de-Calais, France.^{7,8,9}

His name is listed on the Honor Roll for WWI at Trinity United Church, Foresters Falls, ON as well as the family gravestone at Howard Cemetery, Foresters Falls, and the Pembroke War Memorial.



Image 2: Pte Archie Coleman⁴

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Image 4: Gravestone³



Image 5: Family Gravestone¹²

Sources:

1. Bennett, Fay E., Faysgenealogy.com. www.faysgenealogy.com: family history database & images; 2001-present. Cobden, ON. (Original sources noted in database)
2. "Personnel Records of the First World War." Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. Digital images. Library and Archives Canada. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=109164>
3. Tributes to the Men of the 21st Battalion CEF, https://21stbattalion.ca/tributeac/coleman_da.html
4. Photograph of Pte. Archie Coleman from the collection of Ross Museum
5. Greenhous, Brereton & Jon Tattre, *Battle for Hill 70*, The Canadian Encyclopedia, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/hill-70>, Feb 7, 2006
6. Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War; Library & Archives Canada, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/circumstances-death-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageID=42155> Go to 745/1384
7. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial: Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)." Database. Veterans Affairs Canada. <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/469796>
8. Commonwealth War Graves Commission. "Commonwealth War Graves Commission." Database. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/469796/DUNCAN%20ARCHIBALD%20COLEMAN/>
9. Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56513912/duncan-archibald-coleman>
10. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=218&book=1&sort=pageAsc>
11. Honor Roll of WWI, Ross Twp., at Trinity United Church, Foresters Falls, ON. Photographed by Fay Bennett
12. Coleman Gravestone, Howard Cemetery, Foresters Falls, ON. Photographed by Fay Bennett.