

Compton Chamberlayne

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



18245 PRIVATE

A. H. J. COOMBS

2ND BN WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

27th SEPTEMBER, 1915

Arthur Henry James COOMBS

Arthur Henry J Coombs was born in Savernake Forest, Wiltshire & his birth was registered in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1895.

The 1901 Census records Arthur H J Coombs as a 5 year old, living with his parents – James E Coombs, a 31 year old Prudential Assurance Agent & 27 year old Caroline E Coombs. Also listed were 2 other children - Albert (aged 4), Harold (aged 1) & a boarder at 1 Middleton Rd, Aldebury, Salisbury.

The 1911 Census records Arthur Henry James Coombs as a 15 year old Apprentice in the Grocer Industry, living with his parents – James Edward Coombs, a 40 year old Groom & Gardener & Caroline Ellen Coombs, a 39 year old Laundress. Also listed were 3 other children- Albert (aged 14), Harold (aged 10) & Edith (aged 9). The family were living at 1 Well Cottages, Compton Chamberlayne, in a 3 roomed dwelling.

Private Arthur Henry James Coombs, service number 18245, was enlisted with “C” Coy. 2nd Bn of the Wiltshire Regiment – Duke of Edinburgh’s. He enlisted at Devizes, Wiltshire

He was killed in action on 27th September, 1915, aged 20 years. Pte Coombs is remembered on Panel 102 of the Loos Memorial in France and his death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Pte Arthur Henry James Coombs as the son of Caroline Ellen Louisa Coombs of 1 Well Cottage, Compton Chamberlayne, Salisbury, Wiltshire and the late James Edward Coombs.

Pte A H J Coombes was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows he had entered a Theatre of War – France on 4/5/1915. On the back of the Medal Index Card is “fraudulently enlisted 25.12.14 Service reckons from 26.4.15”

2nd Battalion Wiltshire War Diary

Date – 27/9/1915

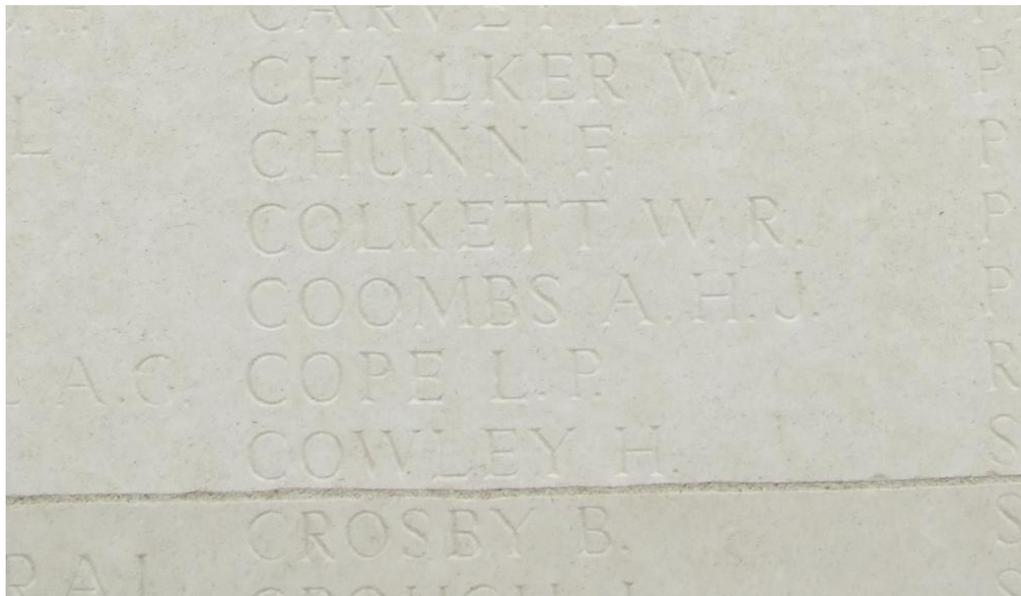
Location – France, Trenches

Early in the morning the Comdg Offr Major CD Forsyth was given to understand that the 1/4th Cameron Highrs needed immediate support, and at once ordered the Battn across the open to reinforce the 1/4th Cameron Highrs. This was done under heavy rifle & machine gun fire, and the Battn again suffered heavy

losses. Capt EC Mudge & Capt WM Geddes were killed, also 2/Lt E Schultz, who had got safely into the 1/4th Cameron Highrs trench got out again to give directions to some men coming on behind and was shot in the head. Major CG Forsyth was wounded in the thigh, but remained in command. The morning was misty, and several men of each Coy took the wrong direction. These Major CG Forsyth collected in the trench we had vacated. In these positions the Battn remained until dusk, when it was possible to reorganise. The men collected by Major CG Forsyth in the trench by HULLOCH ROAD were ordered to remain. The men who had succeeded in reaching the trench held by the 1/4th Cameron Highrs were collected together in companies and placed on the Camerons left.

(Source: The War Diaries of 2nd Bn Wiltshire Regiment – [The Wardrobe](#))

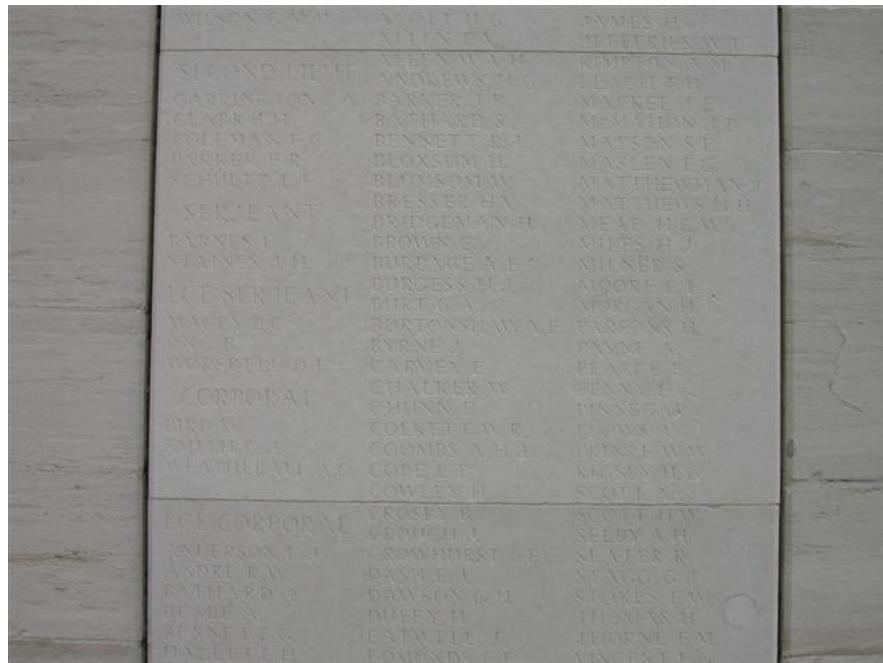
Photo of Pte Arthur Henry James Coombs' Memorial Panel on Loos Memorial, France.



(Photo supplied by [British War Graves](#))



Photographs of Panel 102 below used with kind permission of Gary Nelson from [International War Graves Photography Project](#)



The Loos Memorial - France

The Loos Memorial in France commemorates 20,633 soldiers who were killed in the Loos sector from 25th September 1915 until October 1918, and have no known graves.

The Loos Memorial is a 15 foot high wall which forms the back and sides of Dud Corner Cemetery at Loos-en-Gohelle.

The Loos Memorial Photographs



Photographs used with permission from [In Memory](#) by Pierre Vandervelden

