

Private Harry Arthur Morley
Regimental Number: 46495
3rd Rifle Brigade

born: about 1899 - died: 26 May 1918

Harry Arthur Morley was born in the spring of 1899,¹ the son of George Morley (born about 1849) and Emma Anna Tomblin (born about 1868).² George had married his first wife, Henrietta Pelham (born about 1854)³ in 1873. In 1881, they were living in Halnaker, Sussex, where George was a gardener.⁴ Sadly Henrietta died in 1886⁵ and they do not appear to have had any children. In 1891, George was a widower living with his niece and nephew, Gertrude and Robert Elbro, ages 12 and 10, in Dell Hole, East Walls, Chichester, Sussex.⁶

In 1893, George remarried, marrying Emma Anna Tomblin on 14 September 1893. The couple subsequently had two daughters:⁷ Gertrude Minnie Wilhelmina, born about 1895,⁸ and Bertha Louisa, born in the spring of 1897 and baptised on 6 June.⁹ Then Harry was born in 1899. Five more children followed: three sons (William, born about 1903, Charles, born about 1905 and Allen born about 1909) and two daughters (Alice, born about 1901, and a baby daughter, born in 1911).¹⁰ Bertha Louisa died in 1906¹¹ so, in 1911, the couple had seven living children. George was a market gardener¹² but, by 1911, at 62 years of age, he was on his own, so possibly at least partially retired. The family was living at The Hollies, Chalcraft Road, North Bersted, Westhampnett, Sussex.

Harry enlisted in Chichester, Sussex, as a Private in the Rifle Brigade. The Rifle Brigade was first formed in 1800 as the "Experimental Corps of Riflemen," but was renamed The Rifle Brigade in 1816. The unit was the first to use green uniforms, as opposed to the traditional red, as standard issue.¹³ The Rifle Brigade fielded 28 battalions during the First World War.¹⁴

On 24 May 1918, Harry was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his right leg and side. He died two days later and was buried the following day in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row C, Grave 43), with the chaplain, J. K. Tibbits presiding. Harry was a member of the Church of England.

On 24 May, 200 soldiers were admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, bringing the total number of patients to 418.¹⁵ In the whole month of May, there were 115 deaths at this CCCS – more than in any of the other three and a half months that the 1st CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.¹⁶

His mother was his next-of-kin and was notified of his death. His father received the monies that the army owed him on his death.

Harry was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁷

¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 January 2015), entry for Harry Arthur Morley, Registration district: Westhampnett, Inferred County: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 363

² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2015), entry for Harry Morley, Registration district: Westhampnett, Registration District Number: 85, Sub-registration district: Bognor, ED, institution, or vessel: 7, Household schedule number: 56, Piece: 5381

³ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2015), entry for George Morley, Registration district: Westhampnett, Sub-registration district: Boxgrove, ED, institution, or vessel: 3, Piece: 1126, Folio: 38, Page Number: 15

⁴ "1881 England Census," entry for George Morley

⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2015), entry for Henrietta Morley, Registration district: Chichester, Inferred County: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 307

⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2015), entry for Rosina Byrch, Registration district: Chichester, Sub-registration district: Chichester, ED, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 846, Folio: 105, Page Number: 10

⁷ It appears that Emma Anna Tomblin had a daughter, Elizabeth Hester Tomlin, in the spring of 1893. She was baptised as "Elizabeth Hester Morley nee Tornblin" just days after her mother's wedding in September in South Bersted, Sussex. In 1901, Elizabeth E Tomlin are living with her uncle, William Almy, brother-in-law of George Morley. References: "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2014), entry for Elizabeth Esther Tomblin, Registration district: Westhampnett, Inferred County: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 372. "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 January 2015), entry for Elizabeth Hester Morley Nee Tornblin, FHL Film Number: 2147012, Reference ID: item 13-15 P-21-164. "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 January 2015), entry for Elizabeth E. Tomlin, Registration district: Lewes, Sub-registration district: Newhaven, ED, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 920, Folio: 23, Page Number: 371, Household schedule number: 244

⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 December 2015), entry for Gertrude Minnie W. Morley, Registration district: Chichester, Inferred County: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 398

⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 January 2015), entry for Bertha Louisa Morley, Registration district: Westhampnett, Inferred County: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 355. "England Births and Christenings." *Family Search* (www.familysearch.org: accessed 23 January 2015), entry for Bertha Louisa Morley, Indexing Project (Batch) Number: I03579-1, System Origin: England-EASy, GS Film number: 1041595, Reference ID: 46.

¹⁰ "1911 England Census," entry for Harry Morley,

¹¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 January 2015), entry for Bertha Louisa Morley, Registration district: Westhampnett, Inferred County: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 230

¹² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2015), entry for Henry Morley, Registration district: Westhampnett, Sub-registration district: Bognor, ED, institution, or vessel: 7, Piece: 966, Folio: 7, Page Number: 5, Household schedule number: 22

¹³ "Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)"

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rifle_Brigade_\(Prince_Consort's_Own\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rifle_Brigade_(Prince_Consort's_Own)): accessed 3 September 2014)

¹⁴ "Forces War Records: Unit History: Rifle Brigade" (<http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/297/rifle-brigade/>: accessed 3 September 2014)

¹⁵ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)

¹⁶ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

¹⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 23 January 2015), entry for Harry Morley