

Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier:  
**Henry 'Harry' Wright**  
**Lance Corporal**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Btn Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derbys Regt) formerly with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion**  
 Service no. **11162**



Date of birth	Date died	Age
Jan 1889 <sup>1</sup>	4 November 1918 Pneumonia	29

### Background: Henry (Harry) Wright

Harry was born in Collingham to John Thomas Wright<sup>2</sup> b. 1865 N. Collingham and Eliza Ann Pesane<sup>3</sup>. They married in St John the Baptist Church on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 1887<sup>4</sup>. However, Eliza already had 2 children by then, James and Fred<sup>5</sup>. John Thomas Wright seems to have disappeared or died by the time Harry is 2 (he's not on the 1891 census.) **1891 Census** Low Street, North Collingham:

Eliza Wright 26 yrs Head of Household  
 James 7 yrs b. Claypole  
 Frederick 5 yrs b. Newark  
**Henry 2 yrs b. Collingham**  
 Alice Fryer 22 yrs Sister to Eliza b. Newark m. William Fryer 1886  
 William Fryer 4yrs b. Collingham  
 John Fryer 1month b. Collingham.

There was another son born in 1887 (Joseph) who died in 1888<sup>6</sup>. In 1901 Eliza, Fred (15) and Harry (12) are living near the Cross in North Collingham, next to Walter Davies cycle agent (now c. 156 High St). Harry's mother's address was given as Queen Street, Collingham, when he died. (source: T Frecknall p 113 2015). She was still there in 1925 (source: electoral roll).

<sup>1</sup> Ref 7B page 420 births Newark (HP)

<sup>2</sup> This contradicts T Frecknall's research (p. 113) who could not locate a father for Harry (HP)

<sup>3</sup> Also spelled Pesani & Pisinea on records (HP)

<sup>4</sup> Ancestry.co.uk 7b p 455 Newark (Jan -March) & St John the Baptist Church Registers (HP)

<sup>5</sup> Frederick Harold Barnsden Pesani was baptised St John Baptist April 1886 with Eliza 'a single woman' (HP)

<sup>6</sup> East Trent Genealogy database. Alice's sister had her son, William, baptised in December 1886, also as 'a single woman'.

## Military History: Lance Corporal Harry Wright

**The 1911 Census** shows 21-year old Private Harry Wright with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters at Plympton St Mary (Crownhill) Barracks, indicating he was a soldier in the regular army.

When war was declared, The Sherwood Foresters consisted of eight Battalions. Increasing to a maximum of 33 battalions during WW1, of which 20 served overseas. Altogether, some 140,000 men, nearly all from Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, served in the Regiment - 11,409 of whom did not return.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby)

L/Corp Wright's medal index card shows his disembarkation date to France was 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1914 with the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, landing in Le Havre on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Here they came under orders of the 24<sup>th</sup> Brigade/ 8<sup>th</sup> Division. The 8<sup>th</sup> participated in:

#### 1915

The Battle of Neuve Chapelle

The Battle of Aubers

The action of Bois Grenier (a diversionary attack coinciding with the Battle of Loos)

#### 1916

The Battle of Albert (the first phase of the Battles of the Somme 1916)

### 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby)

It is not known when Wright transferred across to the 9<sup>th</sup> but is likely to be after they returned from the ill-fated Gallipoli Campaign. The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion (part of the 33<sup>rd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Northern Division alongside, among others, the 6<sup>th</sup> Lincolns) arrived in France, via Egypt, in August 1916 and fought through the remaining Somme offensive and the bitter drawn-out battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

The Battalion was in action right up to the end of the war. They were engaged at the **Battle of the Sambre** on November 4<sup>th</sup> 1918. Fierce fighting took place around the flooded area of the Sambre Canal and there were heavy losses. However, as Harry was in hospital with the Spanish Flu that was prevalent, it was unlikely he took part in this final offensive.

Harry died on 4 November 1918 'exactly four years after arriving in France after spending time at one of the Rouen hospitals. It is likely he died of illness (Influenza?)'<sup>7</sup>

What a cruel twist of fate – to survive some of the worse battles ever waged only to succumb to pneumonia less than a week before the Armistice.

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<sup>7</sup> From Notts County Council Roll of Honour. The CWGC website attributes his death to pneumonia. However, this and flu were interchangeable at the time on medical reports.

**Lance Corporal Harry Wright is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Saint-Maritime, France. S II P 24**

*Left : Harry Wright's grave at St Sever. The inscription reads 'Gone but not Forgotten' Photo by G Cogswell courtesy of Notts County Council Roll of Honour website.*



**Remembered on:**

**North Collingham - All Saints' Church - Cross War Memorial as Harry WRIGHT L/Cpl Sherwood Foresters**

**North Collingham - All Saints' Church - Parishioners War Memorial Plaque as Henry WRIGHT**

## Sources

With thanks to Jeremy Lodge for his initial research on the military history of the 9<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters (2014)

Jeremy Lodge's Sources:

- 🔴 <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/People/Details/2309>
- 🔴 <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/522139/WRIGHT,%20HARRY>
- 🔴 [http://www.army.mod.uk/documents/general/Sherwood\\_Foresters\\_World\\_War\\_I.pdf](http://www.army.mod.uk/documents/general/Sherwood_Foresters_World_War_I.pdf)
- 🔴 <http://www.1914-1918.net/notts.htm>
- 🔴 <http://www.ypressalient.co.uk/9th%20Bn%20SF%20Roll%20of%20Honour.htm>
- 🔴 *A month in the life of 9<sup>th</sup> Bn Sherwood Foresters October 1917*
- 🔴 <http://www.ypressalient.co.uk/9th%20Bn%20SF%20Roll%20of%20Honour.htm>

**Other Sources 2018:**

- 🔴 East Trent Genealogy database
- 🔴 T Frecknall 'Collingham and District in The Great War' (published 2015)

- ◉ Ancestry.co.uk (for medal index roll info)
- ◉ Nottinghamshire County Council Great War Roll of Honour database
- ◉ With special thanks to Malcolm Barnard for permission to use his image of the Sherwood Forester's cap badge insignia

