



Richard Henry Collumbell

6 Wheeldon Avenue

The Collumbell family moved to Wheeldon Avenue in about 1906. They moved from Ashbourne Road, where they had successfully run an Off-licence and General Shop allowing the father, Richard, to retire in his mid-50s.

Richard junior, born in 1896, was the younger of two children. In the 1911 census he was working as a Clerk for a Sanitary Engineer. When war broke out in 1914 Richard was just 18 years old. We don't know whether he volunteered or was conscripted in 1916, when he would have been nearly 20, as his full military record has not survived.

However, we know that he was a private with the 10th Highland Light Infantry, a regiment formed for the duration of the war. The Battalion served in France and Flanders from May 1915, seeing action in many of the major battles on the Western Front, including the Battle of Loos (September to October 1915) and the Battle of the Somme (July to September 1916). The battalion was reformed in June 1918 when due to heavy loss of life several battalions were merged. The 10th HLI returned to France in July 1918 and saw action at Ypres and in the final advance in Flanders.

We know nothing of the details of where Richard served – he seems to have be



Headdress badge of the Highland Light Infantry
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demobilised fairly quickly after the war as he was back home by spring 1919. His family must have been relieved to see him home safely - unlike his cousin who lived at 13 Canal Street, Derby. Also named Richard Henry Collumbell and 4 years younger he was serving with the Leicestershire Regiment when he was killed in action on 27 May 1918, aged just 19.

We know very little of Richard's life after the war – he doesn't seem to have married and continued to live at home. The family moved away from Wheeldon Avenue in about 1932. He continued his pre-war occupation as a Clerk. In 1930 when his father died he was working as a Bank Clerk and was promoted to a Bank Manager by the time he retired. He died, aged 81, in Worthing, Sussex in 1978.