



## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### F.H.Coldicott and his Brothers – Ian Robinson

Looking at this picture one day I got to thinking who was F.H.Coldicott?



The Evesham Journal and Four Shires Advertiser, Saturday, September 18, 1915, ran the story of the family as it was at that time

*“Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coldicott, of Mickleton Wood, are the proud parents of five soldier sons, and we are very glad to be able to give the photographs of these gallant lads, all of whom are well known in this district. The eldest son, S.Q.-M. Sergt. C. A. Coldicott, of the Warwickshire Yeomanry, has been a member of this regiment for twelve years, and is a very keen and capable soldier”*





## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### F.H.Coldicott and his Brothers – Ian Robinson

We do know from the Gloucester police archives that at the age of 22 he gave up being a railway porter and he joined the police force

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Occp'n</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
15/05/1906	COLDICOTT Charles	22	5ft 9	Rly porter	Low Honeybourne, Constable Glos		5-5-1915

From the archive account we see that Charles had some very near misses, however he was not to survive the war

#### Charles Arkell Coldicott

- Born 21 October 1884 - Mickleton, Gloucestershire
- Deceased 19 September 1915 - Alexandria, Egypt , age at death: 30 years old
- Farmer

From the Archives of the Warwickshire Yeomanry we learn how Mr. G. Shear, of Honeybourne, received a graphic letter from his son George, who was in the Warwickshire Yeomanry referring to the Coldicott brothers:-

*"We landed here in Gallipoli on the 14th, and we had not been on shore many minutes before they dropped a few shells amongst us. They happened to be bad ones and did not burst, and nobody was hurt. It came rather as a surprise to us, as we did not know the landing was within their range. We made a dug-out camp behind a hill where they could not reach us, and were here for about a week. They were always shelling round the landing, and there were sometimes a few casualties when the troops had to go down for water or rations; that was when young Arthur King from Broadway got wounded. There were several battleships lying a few hundred yards out to sea; they often make it warm in the Turkish positions up there in the hills. There were two enemy aeroplanes came almost to our camp the night after we landed, but the ships' guns made it too interesting for them and they went back; one of them was damaged and dropped in the Australian lines.*

*We made our first appearance in action on Saturday, August 21st, and they gave us rather a hot time. We had to advance over about a mile and half of open country in the daylight. We made the first half mile without seeming to be noticed, and then they let go at us with shrapnel fire; it seemed as thick as hail, and it is almost miraculous so few of us were hit. We lost a considerable number killed, wounded and missing, out of our regiment as it was, but our first line took three rows of otherwise almost impregnable trenches while their fire was directed at us. **Poor Wally (Coldicott)** stopped one with his leg, but I do not think it is at all serious. **Arkell (Coldicott)** had a piece of shell go through his pants without touching his skin. Nothing hit me but dirt and dust that the shells were kicking up. We were all pretty well beat when we got into the shelter of a hill where they could not reach us. For one thing we had not had a chance to get used to our infantry equipment, and some of us had picks and shovels to carry besides our little entrenching tools. I had one. We also had our rifles, ammunition, two days' hard rations, and our water bottles. We rested in our shelter hill till it was getting dark, and then the division was split up to reinforce our front line positions. We spent a hell of a night tearing about all over the place without much apparent object -- bullets were whirling continuously, but we could not*



## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

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*fire a shot as our first line trenches were in front of us, and anyhow we had a very foggy idea of the enemy's whereabouts, though they seemed to have a very fair idea of where we were. We lost a squadron leader and a lieutenant that day, both wounded. In the small hours of the morning we were ordered to retire. At the time we were huddled up in a seven foot trench trying to keep our heads out of the way of an enfilading fire from out left, and the fire from out front and expecting to get the order either to make or receive a bayonet attack any minute. It never bothered me very much when we were under the shrapnel fire, but I am quite willing to admit I had the wind up then, and so had everyone else, as we did not know why we had to retire. We could hear from the rattle of the maxims not more than 60 yards away that the Turks were making a terrific counter attack, and wounded came back to our trench with the news that our first line were losing heavily, and we thought that our order was really to retreat, and we had no idea of course of the lay of the land. We found, however, that the whole division had the same order, and we all went back together to our starting place. By the time we got there we were absolutely played out, having had nothing to eat since dinner time the day before, and it was then about four in the morning. We had had no sleep the previous night either, as we had been marching from the landing place to the position. We started our advance from \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.*

*The next day we came back there again, but it was dark, and we received no opposition, and we are now in dug-outs in a very safe place, getting good grub, and altogether enjoying ourselves. We make all sorts of messes with our army rations, bully beef, biscuits, stew, biscuits pounded fine make real good porridge. I tried to make some pancakes with pounded biscuits, but I own they were a failure--they didn't cake--they would persist in boiling, so I bunched the whole lot together and mixed in a tin of bully beef and boiled it. It was fine. We get desiccated vegetables, which are very good, only they take such a lot of boiling. I should like some oxo tubes if you could send them; they make good soup without much trouble; also a lighter, as there is a match famine here. I don't think many of our wounded got bad wounds, and there were not more than three or four killed, though the 2nd Brigade lost heavily. Now be sure and not worry about us. We are about as safe as we were in Egypt and certainly contented, and I don't think we shall see any action again for a deuce of a time, and perhaps never. They talk about sending our horses out to us, but I would rather not be plagued with them. We are living in dug-outs, our of reach of stray bullets. Our worst trouble here is shortage of water, as you will see by the colour of this paper. We get all we want for drinking purposes--not for washing. I managed to get a shave last night--the first for a week. Plenty have older growth than that. We are a dirty rough looking lot, but are hoping for a chance to clear up pretty soon"*

*"The second son, Trooper H.J. Coldicott, was in Australia at the outbreak of war, but he could not resist the call of the Motherland, and enlisted in the 4th Australian Light Horse."*





## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### **F.H.Coldicott and his Brothers – Ian Robinson**

Having been born in Campden and emigrating to Australia Harry Coldicott took on the occupation of an Orchardist between at the age of 26 on the 24 August 1914 having previously served in the Australian Light Horse he enlisted into the 4<sup>th</sup> light horse B squadron and embarked on transport A18 “Wiltshire” on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1914 for Europe.

There his unit became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anzac Light Horse and at on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917 he died from his wounds following the action around Messines He was 30 years old when he died & is Buried at Westhof Farm Cemetery, Belgium, *Plot I Row C Grave 1*

[Sources: Commonwealth War Graves Commission - Roll of Honour – CWGC,<http://www.cwgc.org> ]

*“The third son, Corpl. J. W. Coldicott, has had five years' experience in the Warwickshire Yeomanry, and was with his elder brother in Gallipoli. He was wounded on August 21, as reported last week”* [See the account above From the Warwickshire Yeomanry Archives]



He rose to the Rank of Lance corporal and as we read in the article above he was wounded at Gallipoli, and was [discharged in 1916](#). He went on to marry Ivy Slatter in 1922 and lived to the age of 92



## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### F.H.Coldicott and his Brothers – Ian Robinson

Report		Re-engaged		Qualification (b)	
Date	From whom received	Place	Date	Reasons	Remarks
23.8.15	S.B.M. Wounded, 1st.M.B. AUTH: List of casualties from Brigade Major, 1st.S. M. Mounted Brigade dated 23.8.15.	Gallipoli,	21.8.15.		
7.9.15	A.A.G. Adm: to No. 15 G.H. Svd. Ech: AUTH: Extract of admans. 15 G.H. d/d 7.9.15.	Alexandria,	30.8.15.	OSW thigh, elt.	
11.9.15	O i/c Rejoined Details. AUTH: B.213 Dtl. d/d 11.9.15.	Chatby	11.9.15.	ex Must: Con: Sp:	
16/9/16	OGC To Base Depot AUTH: 2/213 of 16/9/16	Abbassia	9/9/16	Pending Discharge	5HB
22/2/16	Base Depot Proceeded to embark on S.M.D. AUTH: 2/213 of 22/2/16.	Alexandria	16/2/16	For Discharge	5HB

“The fourth son, Trooper F. H. Coldicott, joined the Warwickshire Yeomanry at the outbreak of war, and is also with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.”



Joining as a private he soon rose to be a corporal and went through the war to be demobbed on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1919

Name	Regiment	Rank	Height, etc.
COLDICOTT	Warwick Yeomanry	Cpl	5'6"
F.H.	Wounded in Cpl		310623
Match	Height	Pages	Remarks
15/11/15	472	2	Return 25.3.19
	472	113	
Theatre of War Detached in Date of entry therein 20.11.15			





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ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 260 & 261 of 1919, Sects IV, 47a, b.										
REGIMENT		RANK	First period of service with Regt No. and Rank in case of any one State of war			Second period of service with Regt No. and Rank in case of any one State of war			Remarks	
Regt No.	Rank		From	To	From	To	From	To		
45847	Pte.	COLDICOTT, Arthur G.	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45848	Pte.	COLDICOTT, Henry A.	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45849	Pte.	COLDICOTT, Charles	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45850	Pte.	COLDICOTT, J. H.	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45851	Pte.	COLDICOTT, James E.	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45852	Pte.	COLDICOTT, Gerald	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45853	Pte.	COLDICOTT, George E.	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45854	Pte.	COLDICOTT, Alfred	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45855	Pte.	COLDICOTT, John	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45856	Pte.	COLDICOTT, William	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45857	Pte.	COLDICOTT, Charles	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45858	Pte.	COLDICOTT, Harry	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45859	Pte.	COLDICOTT, James	Northfield Div						Decorated	
45860	Pte.	COLDICOTT, Arthur	Northfield Div						Decorated	



“The youngest and last son is Pte. J. G. Coldicott, who up to last week was a clerk in the Capital and Counties Bank at Malvern. He has for months evinced a desire to emulate the example of his gallant brothers, and as soon as he reached military age, which he did last week, he enlisted in the R.A.M.C. This is a grand record and must make some of those who still hang back ponder a little. Our readers will unite in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Coldicott upon having such patriotic sons, and in the hope that when the longed-for peace comes they may all be spared to come home.

Being the youngest he did not join until 1915 and 26 June 1917. He then became an officer, changing units and finishing the war as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Gloucester Regiment

### F.H.Coldicott

#### Of his life

We do know that the witness to his father & mothers marriage was William Henry Garfield Hiorns who owned the Manor at Cleeve Prior

Married 24 January 1884, Quinton, Gloucestershire, to Mary Kingzett 1856-1944 (witness : William Henry Garfield Hiorns 1853-1933 ) with

- ♂ Charles Arkell Coldicott 1884-1915
- ♂ Harry Izod Coldicott 1887-1917



## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### F.H.Coldicott and his Brothers – Ian Robinson

- ♂ James Walford Coldicott 1888-1981
- ♂ Francis Holt Coldicott 1890-1936
- ♀ Mary Natalie Coldicott 1894-1981
- ♂ Jack Garfield Coldicott 1897-

And In 1901 he is 10 living at home in Mickleton [1901 census](#)

On the 1911 Census he is boarding in Finchley, he is 20 and lists bank clerk as is his occupation, which is the occupation shown on his death certificate ,why not Haulier or corn merchant

We know from above his war service. He never married & had no dependents. Somehow he has moved into the Haulage business in Cleeve Prior.

[1928 Kelly's directory lists FH Coldicott as a corn Merchant](#)

[1932 also corn merchant](#)

We also know from a [family website](#) that he died from a muscle wasting disease such as MS.

We have from The Chroniclers Picture Archives of the Haulage business the following photograph: is this him?



*Questions still to answer*

*Where was he living all this time was it in Mill House for the whole period?*

*Was he sharing it with Julia Hiorns who died there in the 40's*

*How did he get in to the Haulage business? Did he buy it from Hiorns, Julia's Husband on his death?*



## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### F.H.Coldicott and his Brothers – Ian Robinson



Do we know who these ladies are? Are they family?

#### The Death of FH Coldicott

More always we know more about someone's death than their life. We see from the [Smithin family website](#) that Joseph Smithin was one of the executors

*"Re Francis Holt Coldicott, Deceased. Pursuant to the Trustee Act, 1925. Notice is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of Francis Holt Coldicott late of The Mill House, Cleeve Prior, in the county of Worcester, deceased, Haulier (who died on the 1st day of January, 1936, and Page 16 of 18 whose Will was proved in the Birmingham Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 20th day of February, 1936, by Joseph Arthur Smithin and Henry John Dodds the executors therein named), are hereby required to send in the particulars of their debts, claims or demands to us, the undersigned, on or before the 4th day of May, 1936"*

We know there are documents in the [Shakespeare archive](#)

*Coldicott, Francis Holt, of Cleeve Prior, haulier. Deeds and papers relating to the affairs of **Francis Holt Coldicott** ...*

He died at Cheltenham

Died at 45 **Coldicott. Francis H.** 45 **Cheltenham** 6 a 599