

Coleorton WW1 Casualties not Recorded on the Coleorton War Memorial

I recently compiled a 'Roll of Honour' for the Parish Magazine and Coleorton Heritage Group which attempted to list all those men who enlisted for the WW1 service who were either born in Coleorton or resident in Coleorton at enlistment. Information was taken from the military records on the Find my Past website, family history sources, the Coleorton War Memorial and the Coleorton Methodist Church memorial. The list included those men who served and survived as well as those who became casualties. A number of individuals on this list are recorded as killed in action (KIA) or died of wounds (DOW), but are not on the Coleorton War Memorial. This has prompted me to examine their biographies in greater detail as set out below.

Harold Curtis

Sapper, Royal Engineers, 132076, KIA 29.06.1916.

Find my Past states he was born in Thringstone it gives his town of origin as Coleorton and states he was a miner at Coleorton Colliery and that he enlisted in Coalville. He is commemorated at St George's Church, Swannington and Coalville War Memorial.

I could not find any further information on the 1901 or 1911 census returns for Leicestershire.

George W. Else

Pioneer, Royal Engineers, 254404, KIA 21.03.1918.

He was born in Coleorton in 1893, to Joseph and Mary Else. By the 1901 census the family are recorded in Sinope and by 1911 in Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts. George enlisted in Hucknall, Notts. He is commemorated on the Coalville War Memorial.

Francis Frederick Martin

Private, Leics. Regt., 6613, DOW 11.06.1915.

He was born in Coleorton in 1887 to Frank and Jane Martin. In 1891 the family are resident in Church Town, Coleorton. By 1901 Francis was a blacksmith's striker resident in Belvoir Road, Coalville and in 1911 he was resident in Hermitage Road, Coalville. He died in Sheffield Infirmary and his funeral was extensively recorded in the Coalville Times. He is commemorated on the Coalville War Memorial.

John Martin

Corporal, Leics. Regt., 17361, KIA 16.03.1916.

He was born in Coleorton in 1896 to Frederick and Mary Martin. In 1901 the family are resident in Swannington Road, Ravenstone and in 1911 are living in Ravenstone Road, Heather. He is commemorated on the Ravenstone and Coalville War Memorials.

Albert Shakespeare

Private, Leics, Regt. 3rd Bn., 1895, KIA 22.08.1917.

He was born in 1895 in Coleorton to Joseph and Sarah Shakespeare. The 1901 census shows the family living in Peggs Green. In the 1911 census he is single and still living with his family in Peggs Green and is employed as a coal pit labourer above ground. He is commemorated on the Coalville War Memorial.