

COLE FAMILY



Leslie Cole with his brother Harry
Courtesy National Archives of Australia

COLE

Leslie Charles

Service No: 1634A



Basic Information

Name: Leslie Charles Cole

Service Number: 1634a

Date of Enlistment: 14/2/1916

Age at Enlistment: 19 years 1 month

Civil Occupation: Printer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal,
Victory Medal,

Height: 5 Ft 7 inches

Weight: 135 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 33 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Fair

Father: Harry Cole

Mother: Sarah Lillicrap

Siblings: Eliza Lily born Devon (1881), William Thomas born Devon (1883), Ernest Edgar Richard born Fremantle (1886), Alma Elsie born Fremantle (1887), Albert Leonard born Fremantle (1889), Sarah born York (1892), Amelia Hilda born York (1895), Bessie born York (1899-1899), Harry Trevor born York (1891), Ethel Maude Annie born Fremantle (1884).



Courtesy National Archives of
Australia

Life story:

Leslie Charles was born to Henry Harry Cole (1855-1900) and Sarah Lillicrap (1855-1931) in December 1896. The couple had married in the U.K. in 1880 and arrived in Western Australia with two children around 1884. Unlike most of his Australian-born siblings, Leslie was born in Beverley rather than Fremantle or York.

Leslie enlisted on the 14th February 1916 and was Taken on Strength with the 11th Training Battalion. He embarked at Fremantle on the 6th June to sail to Plymouth on the HMAT *Suevic*, which arrived at Plymouth on the 21st July 1916.

From Plymouth, Leslie proceeded to Larkhill for training. On the 7th September, Leslie was charged with being Absent Without Leave from the Camp for two days from the 4th to the 5th September and had to forfeit two days' pay.

The 11th Battalion proceeded overseas to France on the 9th September 1916. They joined the 28th Battalion at Etaples at the end of the month.

On the 10th November, it was reported that Leslie Cole had been Killed in Action between the 3rd and 6th November 1916. A chilling notation on his record states he was:

Buried in No Man's Land scattered at intervals, of 20 yards or so, about 1 mile east of Le Sars, 4 ½ miles NW of Crombles.

A letter to his family was more circumspect, naming his place of rest as:

...one of an isolated group of graves in No Man's Land.

Leslie Charles Cole's body was later exhumed and reinterred at the Warlencourt British Cemetery in France, Plot 6, row A, grave 20.

COLE

Harry Trevor

Service No: 5794



Courtesy National Archives of Australia

Basic Information

Name: Harry Trevor Cole

Service Number: 5794

Date of Enlistment: 6/3/1916

Age at Enlistment: 25 years

Civil Occupation: Postal Assistant

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal,

Height: 5 Ft 6 inches

Weight: 136 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 32 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Harry Cole

Siblings: Eliza Lily born Devon (1881), William Thomas born Devon (1883), Ernest Edgar Richard born Fremantle (1886), Alma Elsie born Fremantle (1887), Albert Leonard born Fremantle (1889), Sarah born York (1892), Amelia Hilda born York (1895), Bessie York (1899-1899), Leslie Charles born Beverley (1896), Ethel Maude Annie born Fremantle (1884)

Married: Dorothy Pearl Dilley

Life Story

Harry was born to Henry (Harry) Cole (1855-1900) and Sarah Lillicrap (1855-1931) in 1891. He was the first of the family to be born in York, where his father worked as a painter.

Educated in Perth, Harry married Pearl Dorothy Dilley of Capel in 1916, shortly before enlisting in the A.I.F. They had one son, Stanley Trevor, who was born on the 31st July 1916, in the Perth District.

Harry joined up on the 6th March 1916. He completed seven week's training at Signalling School before sailing for England on the ship A48 *Siang Choon* in July.

On the 10th September, Harry was marched in to the 4th Training Battalion at Rolleston before proceeding overseas to join the British Expeditionary Forces in France.

On the 16th September, Harry was Taken on Strength with the 16th Battalion at Etaples. He went straight to the front line and, just over four months later, on the 6th February 1917, he was Killed in Action.

Harry is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

Stanley Trevor never met his father and, in 1919, Dorothy married Mervyn T. Trigwell of Donnybrook.

Acknowledgements

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References

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