

Lieutenant George Richard Kitchener Coleman

George Richard Kitchener COLEMAN, son of William Stephen COLEMAN and Isabella Beatrice HOLT, was born on 6 Jan 1915 in Forester's Falls, Ontario, and was christened on 7 Mar 1915. He was the 4th of 6 children and the only son. His parents were both born in Forester's Falls.¹ On his attestation papers, he lists his education as 2 years of high school. His occupation was a store clerk and department store manager for 5 years.²

George married Patricia Irene GALLAHER in 1937 in Camrose, Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada. Patricia was born in 1914 in Coutis, Alberta, Canada, died on 3 May 1990 in Calgary, Alberta, and was buried in Lloydminster Cemetery, Lloydminster, Saskatchewan.¹

The child from this marriage was: Calvin Kay COLEMAN born in Camrose, Alberta, and died on 17 Nov 1997 in Calgary, Alberta. Following her husband's death, Patricia was remarried to John Albert Lafreniere.¹

Richard Coleman enlisted into the Edmonton Regiment, A Company on Sep 13, 1939 at Wetaskiwan, Alberta. He was described as 5' 1/4" weighing 146 pounds, with dark complexion, brown eyes and black hair. Pte. Coleman proceeded overseas on Dec 22, 1939 & disembarked in Glasgow. He received training as Regimental Clerk & qualified as Clerk "C" on Nov 17, 1941. He made his way up the ranks from L/Sgt to A/Sgt to Lieutenant by May 22, 1943. He returned to Canada and qualified as "ride motorcycle, drive & maintain any vehicle of his unit" on Jun 11, 1943 and shortly returned overseas. He transferred to the Canadian Special Service Battalion of the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps on Apr 1, 1944², serving as a paratrooper in The Devil's Brigade, officially the 1st Special Service Force which was an elite, joint World War II American-Canadian commando unit.⁴ Lieutenant Coleman was killed in action 2 months later on 30 May 1944 in Italy. He was buried in Beach Head War Cemetery, at Anzio, Città Metropolitana di Roma Capitale, Lazio, Italy.^{2,5,6,7}

Lt. Coleman was awarded the following service medals: 1939-45 Star; Italy Star; Defense Medal; War Medal; C.V.S.M & Clasp.²

Word has been received that a former boy from this village, Lt. D. Coleman, has been killed in action in Italy. - Forest Falls Can.



Image 1: Lt. Richard Coleman³



Image 2: Lt. Richard Coleman, his wife Patricia & son Calvin⁸

Image 3: Death notice⁹

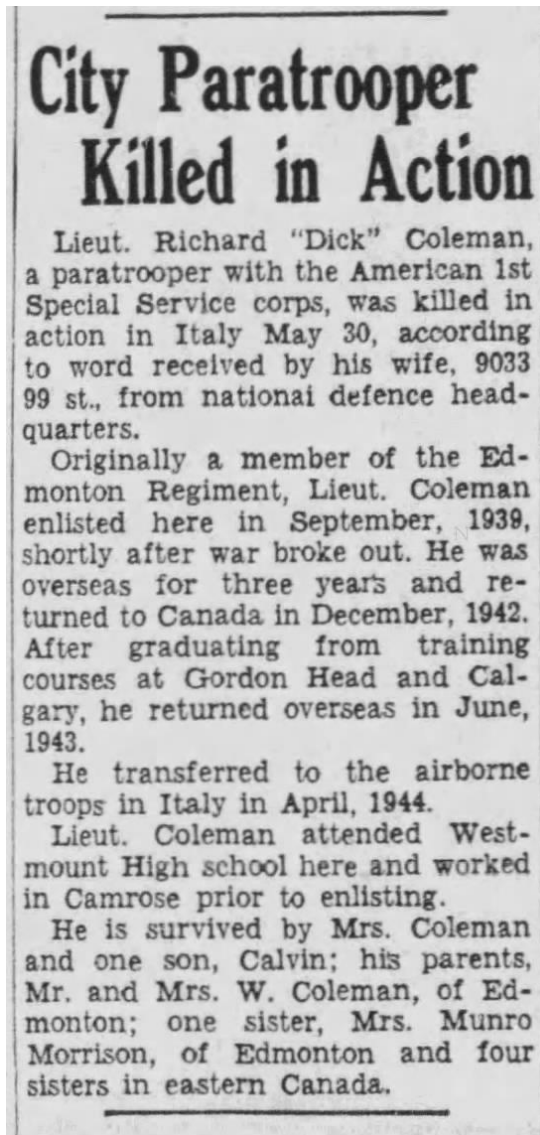


Image 3: Newspaper clipping #1¹⁰

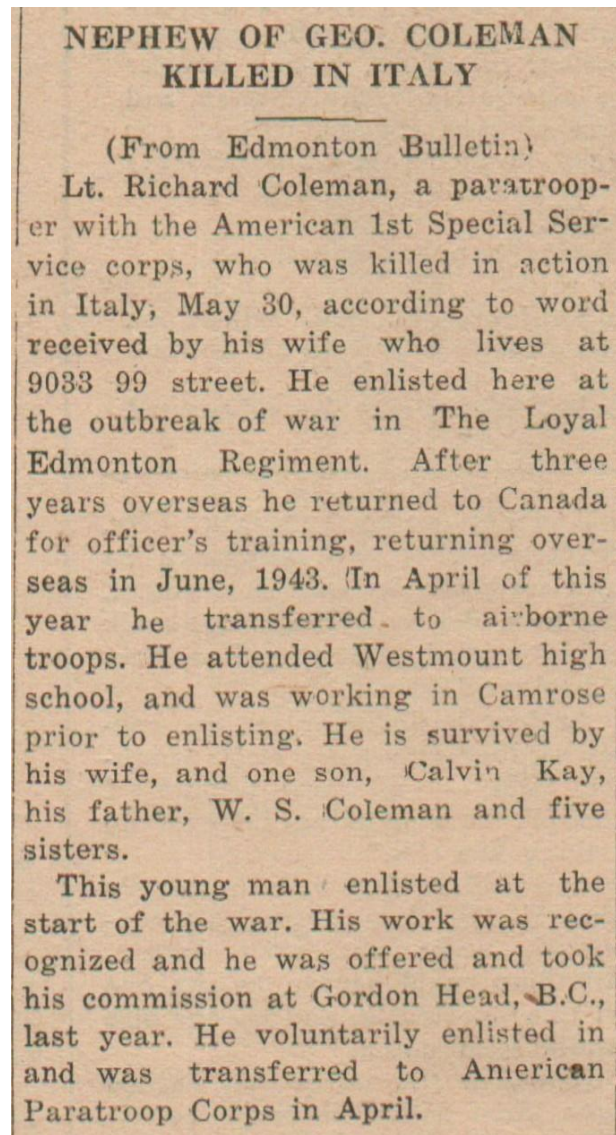


Image 4: Newspaper clipping #2¹¹

Sources:

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3. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial, *Photograph of Lt. George Richard Kitchener Coleman & Photograph of Gravestone*, <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2372703?George%20Richard%20Kitchener%20Coleman>

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4. Leblanc, Tom. *Email re: Lt. George Richard Kitchener Coleman*. Received by Fay Bennett, May 22, 2017.
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6. CWGC. "Lt. George Richard Kitchener Coleman, *War Casualty Details* 2331443, CWGC. [https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2372703/george-richard-kitchener-coleman/](http://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2372703/george-richard-kitchener-coleman/)
7. Lt. George Richard Kitchener Coleman (1915-1944) - Find A Grave Memorial, [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56100616/george-richard_kitchener-coleman](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56100616/george-richard_kitchener-coleman)
8. Ragsdale, Robert, *Photograph of Lt Coleman, his wife & son*, Wardman Family Tree, Ancestry.ca; permission granted Oct 2022.
9. "Foresters Falls Column, newspaper article, *The Cobden Sun*, Jun 22, 1944 p. 1
10. "City Paratrooper Killed in Action", Newspaper article, *The Edmonton Journal*, Jun 10, 1944 p.3
11. "Nephew of Geo. Coleman Killed in Italy", newspaper article, *The Cobden Sun*, Jun 29, 1944 p. 1
12. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
[https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=276&book=2&sort=pageAsc](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=276&book=2&sort=pageAsc)
13. *First Special Service Force* - Wikipedia. (2022, January 19). *First Special Service Force* - Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Special_Service_Force#Anzio,_1944
14. First Special Force Association. <http://www.firstspecialserviceforce.net/>