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 coleman, has been killed in action in Italy. - Frist Falls CMA.



Lt. Richard Coleman Was with Loyal Edmontons for three years, transferred to Americans as a paratrooper. Killed in Italy, May 30. His wife lives at 9083 99 st. Edmonton.

Image 1: Lt. Richard Coleman³



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

Image 3: Death notice⁹

City Paratrooper Killed in Action

Lieut. Richard "Dick" Coleman, a paratrooper with the American 1st Special Service corps, was killed in action in Italy May 30, according to word received by his wife, 9033 99 st., from national defence headquarters.

Originally a member of the Edmonton Regiment, Lieut. Coleman enlisted here in September, 1939, shortly after war broke out. He was overseas for three years and returned to Canada in December, 1942. After graduating from training courses at Gordon Head and Calgary, he returned overseas in June, 1943.

He transferred to the airborne troops in Italy in April, 1944.

Lieut. Coleman attended Westmount High school here and worked in Camrose prior to enlisting.

He is survived by Mrs. Coleman and one son, Calvin; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Coleman, of Edmonton; one sister, Mrs. Munro Morrison, of Edmonton and four sisters in eastern Canada.

Image 3: Newspaper clipping #1¹⁰

NEPHEW OF GEO. COLEMAN KILLED IN ITALY

(From Edmonton Bulletin) Lt. Richard Coleman, a paratrooper with the American 1st Special Service corps, who was killed in action in Italy, May 30, according to word received by his wife who lives at 9033 99 street. He enlisted here at the outbreak of war in The Loyal Edmonton Regiment. After three years overseas he returned to Canada for officer's training, returning overseas in June, 1943. (In April of this year he transferred to airborne troops. He attended Westmount high school, and was working in Camrose prior to enlisting. He is survived by his wife, and one son, Calvin Kay, his father, W. S. Coleman and five sisters.

This young man enlisted at the start of the war. His work was recognized and he was offered and took his commission at Gordon Head, B.C., last year. He voluntarily enlisted in and was transferred to American Paratroop Corps in April.

Image 4: Newspaper clipping #2¹¹

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