

Research Information: PRIVATE WALTER H. COOMBS, R.I.P. – 8th Wiltshires

12th September 1894 Source: Birth Certificate	Walter Henry Coombs, born Dean, Hampshire, the son of Henry and Martha Coombs (Family living in Lockerley)
26th December 1896 Source: Birth Certificate	Richard Herbert Coombs, born Lockerley, Hampshire, the son of Henry and Martha Coombs (Henry is a Groom)
1901 Source: Census – Lockerley, Hants	The Coombs family is listed as Henry, aged 41, born Fovant, Groom ; Martha, aged 41, born Fovant; Walter aged 6 born, W.Dean; Herbert aged 4, born Lockerley, Hampshire (Henry is a Domestic Groom)
Qtr 1 1903 Source: Death Certificate	Martha Coombs, wife of Henry Coombs (Henry is a Groom) died at Bowerchalke, Wiltshire
Qtr 4 1903 Wilton 5a 471 Source: Marriage Certificate	Henry Coombs marries Ann at Bowerchalk
Qtr 2 1905 Wilton 5a 189 Source: R.G.I. Births	Florence Nellie Coombs born, at Bowerchalk, the daughter of Henry and Ann Coombs
Qtr 1 1908 Wilton 5a 187 Source: R.G.I. Births	Thomas George Coombs born, at Bowerchalk, the son of Henry and Ann Coombs
1911 Source: Census - Bowerchalke	The Coombs family is listed as Henry William, aged 51, born Fovant, Farm Labourer; Ann, aged 40, born Bowerchalke; Herbert Richard aged 14, born Lockerley; Florence Nellie aged 6, born Bowerchalke and Thomas George Coombs aged 3, born in Bowerchalke all living at Bingham's Farm, Bowerchalke (No Walter here at this time)
1911 Source: Census - Worthing	Henry Walter Coombs, aged 16, born Dean, Hants. Occupation: Errand Boy
5th September 1914 Source: National Archives records	Henry Walter Coombs, born in the parish of Lockerley, Hants aged 20 years and 11 months occupation Pantryman joins the Dorset Regiment with Reg. No 10894. His Next of Kin: Father Henry Coombs of Britford, Salisbury, Wilts
12th November 1914 Source: National Archives records	Henry Walter Coombs discharged from Dorset Regiment under 392(iii) (Not likely to become an efficient soldier.)
22nd February 1915 Source: National Archives records	Richard Herbert Coombs aged 19 years and 1 month, occupation Baker, joins the Hants Regiment with Reg. No.15632. On 8th November 1918 he was transferred to Royal Middlesex Regiment with Reg. No. 43941. He survived the war and returned home 27th March 1919. His service records show his Next of Kin as Henry Coombs, The Green, Britford, Salisbury. This is crossed through and above it is written WEST GRIMSTEAD
1916 Source: UK Army Registers of Soldiers Effects 1901-1929	Number 331735 lists Coombs, Henry William Pte 7243 Machine Gun Corp <u>Alias Walter Henry</u> . Died 4 July 1916. It shows his father as Henry and that the soldiers effects were given to his Stepmother, Ann Coombs
1918 Source: Register of Electors West Grimstead	Division i. Number 603 Coombs, Henry William O (occupation) Number 604 Coombs, Ann HO (husband's occupation) Division ii. Number 678 a Coombs, Herbert Richard NM(naval/military)
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Database	Private Henry William Coombs, 7243 89 th Coy Machine Gun Corp (Infantry) who died 4 July 1916 Remembered with Honour on the Thiepval Memorial
National Archives: Medals Index	Coombs, Henry Wm, Pte M.G.C 7243, Wilts R 22186 Kin A 4-7-16
Conclusion:	Walter Henry joined up with the Wiltshire Regiment under the names 'Henry William'. Later became part of the Machine Gun Corps

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