

## George James Arthur Collins

Rifleman 14421518, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Rifles (Prince Consort's own)



George was born in Steyning on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1925, the only child of James Henry John Collins and Gladys Constance Collins. His father James died when George was just three years old. His mother Gladys married Frank Kirkham in 1936 and Frank's name appears on George's headstone along with that of his mother and father. George was registered at Shipley School in 1929 when the family address was Church Gate, Shipley and at the time of his death the family home was at Southwater.

George was 19 years old when he took part in the Normandy Landings in June 1944. He was listed as killed in action on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1944, and according to a family source he lost his life at Caen, officially known as the Western Europe Campaign 1944/45. A family comment on *Ancestry* is "Cousin George signed up for the Army during the Second World War and was the only child of James and Gladys. He was killed at age 19 in France after the landing at Normandy. It is said he was shot by a sniper but it was also possible he was blown up. His mother was devastated".

George's death was reported to the War Office Casualty Section on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1944 on Casualty list 1517. He is buried in Ranville War Cemetery in France and his headstone bears the names of his parents and step father. The inscription reads "Deep in in our hearts a memory is kept of a son we loved and will never forget". George was awarded The War Medal 1939 – 1945 and 1939 – 1945 Star.





*Left: War Medal 1939 – 1945*



*Right: 1939 – 1945 Star*

In Memory of  
Rifleman

## George James Arthur Collins

14421518, 1st Bn., Rifle Brigade who died on 19 July 1944 Age 19

Son of James Henry John Collins and of Gladys Constance Collins; stepson of Frank Kirkham, of Southwater. Sussex.

Remembered with Honour  
Ranville War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission