

COLPUS	Ernest Harry
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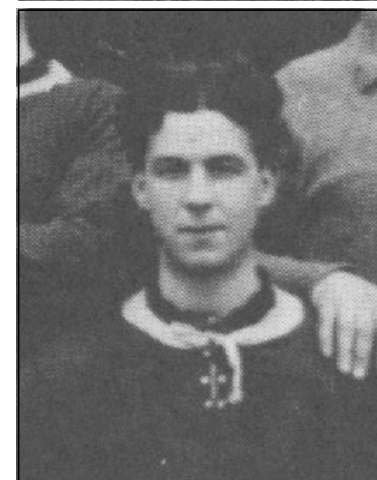
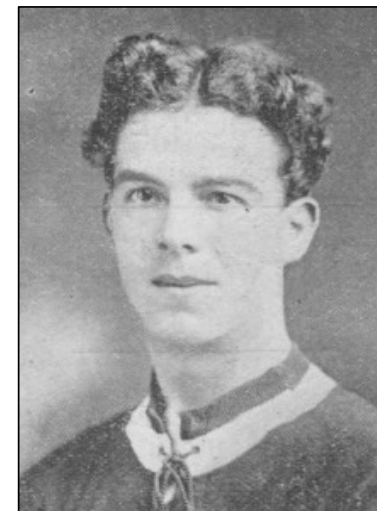
<i>Date of Birth</i>	20.5.1885	<i>Place of Birth</i>	Godalming
<i>Date of Death</i>	Q1 1969	<i>Place of Death</i>	Croydon
<i>Height</i>	5ft 6in to 5ft 9in (depending upon source)		
<i>Weight</i>	11st	<i>Position</i>	Various

<i>Club</i>	<i>Joined</i>	<i>Season</i>	F A		S L		U L		S E		W L		L L		S F		TOTALS		
			A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	
Godalming																			
Croydon F.C.																			
Thornton Heath Wed.																			
Croydon Common	9.1907	1907-08			9	2	4	2	14	7								27	11
		1908-09	9	11	4	6	3	1	10	4	2	1						28	23
		1909-10	3	2	22	3												25	5
		1910-11			6	0			22	2			8	0				36	2
West Ham United	7.1911																		
Croydon Common	9.1912	1912-13	1	0	8	0									10	0		19	0
		TOTALS	13	13	49	11	7	3	46	13	2	1	8	0	10	0		135	41

<i>Internationals</i>	None	<i>F.A. Cup Finals</i>	None	<i>Cigarette/Trade Cards</i>	None
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<i>Jottings</i>

Was the sixth of eight children
Played for Thornton Heath Wednesday against the amateur Croydon Common club in a friendly on 3.4.1907; a 1-1 draw
The 1911 Census records him as a professional footballer living at 27 Laud Street, Croydon with his wife Susie Lilian (married 14 June 1909), their son Ernest Ivor (b. 1910) and daughter Gabrielle Molley Huggett (b. 1911)
His first wife Susie died in 1917 at the age of just 30 and he married Helen Gertrude Cheasley in 1923 in Croydon
Played for the professional Croydon Common club many times as an amateur and also represented Surrey
Held the Croydon Common record for career F.A. Cup goals (13)
Began his Croydon Common career as a centre forward but converted to half back in the 1910-11 season
Appeared for the London League against the Great Western Suburban League in a 3-2 defeat on 27.03.1909
Appeared for Croydon Common in 7 minor cup matches, scoring 2 goals
Although he didn't play again for the first team, he re-registered with Croydon Common in 1913-14 and 1914-15
No first team appearances for West Ham United
He enlisted in the RASC on 27 March 1917, where his attestation papers referred to him as sober, reliable and intelligent, but he was later declared 50% disabled as a result of a ruptured muscle and was transferred to the reserve ranks in 1920
His recorded height varied greatly, but his RASC record states that he was 5 ft 7.5 in
At the outbreak of World War 2, he was a school caretaker living at 6 Bynes Road, Croydon
<i>As good a dashing centre forward as any club could desire</i>



COLPUS

Ernest Harry



At Croydon Common

On Saturday 7 January 1922, the Surrey Advertiser reported the following:

Added interest was given to the Godalming Federation and Farncombe game on Saturday by the appearance in the former team of E. Colpus, who had not played before a local crowd since he assisted the old Godalming club. At that time "Ernie" was in the service of the then Vicar of Godalming, the Rev. L. H. Burrows, now Bishop of Sheffield, and when the latter left for Croydon Colpus went with him, and played as a professional for Croydon Common. Subsequently the old 'Ming player spent a short time with West Ham United, afterwards returning to Croydon Common. Not having played as a pro. for nine seasons. Colpus has now regained his amateur status. and although he is still residing at Croydon, he has offered to assist the Godalming Federation team.

However, on Wednesday 18 January 1922, the same newspaper reported the following under the headline of "A Godalming Predicament":

Godalming Federation Football Club recently found themselves in an awkward predicament. A fortnight or so ago Ernie Colpus, an old Godalming player, who on leaving the town played as a pro. for Croydon Common, assisted the Federation in a friendly match. Early last week the Federation received a communication from Mr. W. J. Wilson, of the S.C.F.A., which came as a bombshell. It was an intimation to the effect that the Federation must regard themselves as a professional club through having played Colpus, and that they had better apply at once for reinstatement as an amateur organisation if they wished to continue participating in the association's competitions.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that no reinstated amateur could play for a club affiliated to the S.C.F.A. unless his reinstatement took place before January 1st, 1907, and that, as far as could be ascertained, Colpus had never been reinstated. Mr. Wilson, who desired a full explanation from the Federation, was informed that prior to selecting him to play Colpus assured them he had been reinstated, but the secretary promised to obtain fuller information on this point from Colpus, who is still residing at Croydon.

The club, however, were in a quandary as to proceeding with their Surrey Intermediate League fixtures, but, in response to a telegram from the secretary, Mr. Wilson notified them that they could "carry on." Accordingly, the Federation on Saturday visited Cranleigh, whom they were lucky to defeat by one goal to nil. With regard to the Federation's contention that they played Colpus on the strength of his word that he had regained his amateur status, after the match in question when interviewed Colpus said that when, a short time ago, he applied to the Football Association for reinstatement he was informed that he had automatically become reinstated as he had not played as a professional for seven or eight seasons.

There were no further reports, so it would appear that the Surrey County F.A. had been placated, but it would also seem that Colpus did not play for the club again.