

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

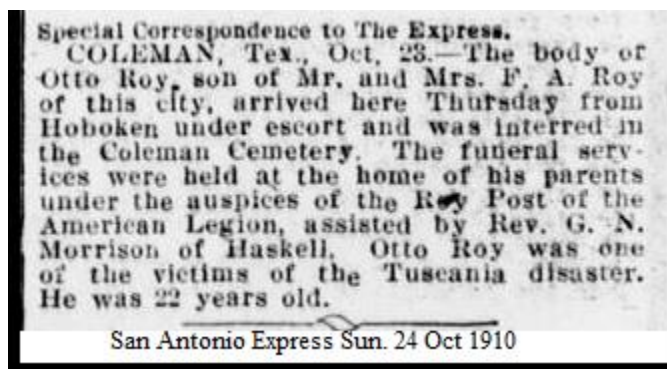
NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Tuscania casualty

Ray, Otto

1893 TX – 5 February 1918 Tuscania



Find A Grave 53220813

Remains of Otto Ray Will Be Buried Here; Lost Life on Tuscania

The remains of Otto Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Ray and the first Coleman boy to lose his life in the European war, will be interred in the Coleman cemetery. Young Ray lost his life when the Transport Tuscania was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Scotland, February 5, 1918. The date of arrival of the remains is not known at this hour.

Ex-Service Men to Attend.

The funeral services, to be conducted by Rev. Fred Ross, will be held at First Christian Church. Ex-service men are requested to assemble on court house lawn, in civilian clothes, march to church and escort the remains to cemetery. Business houses will be asked to close during the hour of service.

The services at the church will be marked by orchestra music, a solo by Miss Thompson and a vocal quartette of ex-service men.

Published in "Coleman (TX) Democrat Voice" – Find A Grave 53220813

44 In Third Place.

At a third place 44 victims are buried in three trenches, the largest holding 18 bodies, another 16 and a third 10. In the first named the bodies have been numbered from one to 18 in this order:

Harry Carpenter, two unidentified privates, John A. Laakko, Rocco Calarese, Ade McCoy, two unidentified privates, Stanley A. Anspurger, E. A. Houston, Stanley L. Collins, Joseph G. Maxstruck, Otto Ray Martin, Columbus Hill, Clare Metzencaumer, Wilbur Clark Jackson, John Eichhammer, Ben Barker.

Burial on isle of Islay, Scotland but this entry is confusing – "El Paso (TX) Herald"
Wednesday 13 Feb 1918 p 2

Ora L., Elmonte, Cal.; Augspurger, Stanley R., Dayton, O.; Houston, Elmer A., Held, Ore.; Collins, Stanley L., Knights Ferry, Cal.; Maystrick (not Maxstruck), J. G., Astoria, N. Y.; Hell, Martin C. (Columbus), Wimberly, Texas; Mowrey, Otto (not Otto Ray) Kenoshaka, Wis.; Metzenbauer, Claire, Chippewa Falls, Wis.; Clark, Wilbur W., Lansing, Mich.; Eichhammer, John A., East Grand Forks, Minn.; Barker, Ben, Fouldsburg, Texas; Smithpeter, William V., (Van Smithpeters), Fort Cobb, Okla.; Short, Nathan B., Stephens, Ark.; Bradley, Claude, Swaty, Ark.; Crow, Jennings B., Appleby, Texas.



Correction – but should not have been – see below – “Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram”
Wednesday 13 Feb 1918 p 4

**TUSCANIA DEATH
LIST NEAR COMPLETE**

**Authorities Going Slow for Fear of
Making Mistakes.**

**A. P. Total of 171 Dead Will Stand
Close to Complete List—Cole-
man, Texas, Man's Name
Mixed in First Reports.**

(Associated Press Report.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Cablegrams are going forward to the American embassy in London from the war department Thursday in an effort to complete the list of Tuscania survivors and untangle names which have been garbled in transmission.

Latest advices to the department continue to indicate that few more American soldiers were lost than the 164 already reported buried in Scotland. Reports place the American dead at not more than 170, although the list of saved is far from complete.

The Associated Press list of unreported stands at 171.

Further rechecking of the Tuscania's dead, missing and survivors lists Thursday disclosed that Private Otto Ray of Coleman, Texas, reported buried on the Scottish coast in a trench, previously had been reported to the war department as a survivor. When the name was received Wednesday it was thought to have been garbled in cable transmission and believed to refer to Private Otto Mowrey of Kenosha, Wis., whose name now is restored to the list of those not yet accounted for.



Otto Ray is indeed dead & buried on Islay – "Houston (TX) Post" Friday 15 Feb 1918 p 1

TEXANS KILLED ON TUSCANIA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The war department began receiving tonight the first official list of American soldiers who lost their lives on the Tuscania, sunk by a German submarine off the Irish coast.

Of the 82 names so far received, the Texans are:

BEN BARKER, Forestburg, Texas.
 ARTHUR COLLINS, Appleby, Texas.
 JENNINGS B. CROW, Appleby, Texas.
 WILLIAM A. DINTER, Cuero, Texas.
 ROY W. MAY, Lindale, Texas.
 GEORGE MORENO, Pearsall, Texas.
 HENRY OXFORD, Turnsville, Texas.
 ANGEL PEREZ, San Antonio, Texas.
 OTTO RAY, Coburn, Texas.
 IRVIN SIMS, Alto, Texas.
 OSCAR L. SMITH, Winters, Texas.
 JAMES F. SPARKMAN, Frisco, Texas.
 DANIEL W. TROWBRIDGE, Strawn, Texas.
 WALTER L. WHITTINGTON, Sherman, Texas.
 WM. R. WILSON, Canton, Texas.
 JAMES C. WOOD, Yantis, Texas.
 EDWARD F. YOUNG, Gilmer, Texas.

"Austin (TX) American" Saturday 16 Feb 1918 p 3

Ray Post No. 213 Clears Debt, Owns Lot

By hard work, good management and faithful service of officers and members during the past few years, the Ray Post, No. 213, Coleman, has cleared a debt of over \$8,000 and now



FLEMING

owns a building lot, on which it hopes to construct a home in the near future. The site is just across the street from the Coleman post office. One hundred members were enrolled when the charter was secured in the summer of 1920. W. D. Allen was the first commander and V. Rawlings Gilliland, the adjutant. Shortly afterward, the post sponsored a two-day political rally and barbecue, at which Pat Neff and Joseph W. Bailey met for the only time on the same platform, during their race for the governorship.

owns a building lot, on which it hopes to construct a home in the near future. The site is just across the street from the Coleman post office.

One hundred members were enrolled when the charter was

The current membership is 92 and the officials are Carl O. Fleming, commander, and W. C. (Bill) Ratjen, adjutant. A membership drive is to be started in the near future.



RATJEN

The unit was named to honor the memory of Otto Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Ray of Coleman, who was on the Tuscania when it was torpedoed near Isle of Islay, Scotland. His body was found and he is buried on the isle.

The body of Otto Ray is not on the isle of Islay in Scotland but in the Coleman (TX) City Cemetery – "Abilene (TX) Daily Reporter" Sunday 21 Jun 1936 p 17

Memorial Rites Set at Coleman

COLEMAN, May 29. (RNS) — War dead of Coleman will be honored on Memorial Day Friday, in a special symbolic service to be held over the grave of Otto Ray, who died in World War I, by the three veterans organizations of Coleman.

The public service will be held at the Coleman cemetery at 10 a.m.

The Ray Post, American Legion, Coleman's Legion chapter, is named for the World War I soldier who will be honored Friday. In a special ceremony three wreaths will be placed on his grave, one red, one white and a third, blue.

Dan Fogarty, Church of Christ minister, will read a graveside service for the ceremony.

The service will be directed by D. M. Robinson, Legion commander; Raymond Greaves, commander of the Disabled American Veterans, and Roy Barnett, Veterans of Foreign Wars commander.

Flags will be placed on all veterans graves in the Coleman cemetery after the grave ceremony.

“Abilene (TX) Reporter-News” Friday 30 May 1952 p 13

Coleman Memorial Day Services Set

COLEMAN, May 29. (RNS)—A Memorial Day program to honor Coleman area war dead will be

held in two parts by Ray Post 213, American Legion, on Saturday and Sunday, it is announced.

Legion members will decorate graves of all service dead in the Coleman cemetery with United States flags on Saturday morning at 6 o'clock. All members are urged to be present, said Post Commander George Epperson.

All county veterans organizations will share in a Sunday afternoon program at the Coleman Cemetery, when the grave of Otto Ray, for whom Ray Post is named, will be decorated.

Ray, the first Coleman County man killed in World War I, died in the sinking of a troop ship in an Atlantic crossing. He was the son of Mrs. F. A. Ray who resides in Coleman.

A principal address in the Sunday afternoon service will be by Rev. L. L. Hatfield, pastor of the North Coleman Baptist Church.

"Abilene (TX) Reporter-News" Saturday 30 May 1953 p 3

RAY OTTO		XC 7 031
Pvt Co C Det #2, 165 D B		K
Coleman Tex		A 4 393 675
Na	Died 2/6/18	T 836 622
Born 2-18-93		R
Enl	Dia	Cl.
		I 7 731

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202-Rev. Sept., 1936

INDEX CARD

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MS-D38R-N?mode=g&cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AW95T-JM3Z>

Ray	Otto		* White * Colored
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	
Residence: Coleman		Coleman	TEXAS
(Street and house number)		(Town or city)	(County) (State)
* Enlisted * R. A. * N. G. * E. P. G. * Inducted at		Coleman, Tex	on Sept 19 1917
Place of birth: Holland, Tex		Age or date of birth: 24 7/12 yrs	
Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:		Co C 15 Bn 165 Dep Brig	
to death		Camp Travis Det 2	
Grades, with date of appointment:		Pvt	
Engagements:		Sinking of Tuscania	
Served overseas from † Jan 24/18 † death		from † to †	
Killed in action		Feb 5, 1918	
Other wounds or injuries received in action:		none	
Person notified of death: F A Ray		(If none, so state) Father	
(Name)		Coleman	(Degree of relationship) Texas
(No. and street or rural route)		(City, town, or post office)	(State or country)
Remarks:			

Form No. 724-G, A. G. O. Nov. 22, 1919. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV18-V723>

Otto Ray

Military • United States, World War I American Expeditionary Forces Deaths, 1917-1919

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TEXAS WHITE: INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ARMY OR ASSIGNED THERETO UPON ENLISTMENT

NAME	SERIAL NO	RANK	ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH
Ray, Otto		Pvt	165 Depot Brig Co C Camp Travis Det 2	Feb 5/18

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPH7-36WL>

Father:

Rites at Coleman For F. A. Ray, 89

COLEMAN, Jan. 3.—Funeral for Francis Anderson Ray, 89, retired contractor, was held Tuesday afternoon in the J. E. Stevens Funeral Home Chapel.

The Rev. Harlie Woolard, pastor of the First Christian Church, Abilene, officiated. Burial was in the Coleman Cemetery under direction of Stevens Funeral Home.

Survivors include the widow, Mollie C. Ray; a son, Roy Ray; and a daughter, Borgia Ray, all of Coleman.

Mr. Ray was born March 17, 1861, in Fayetteville, Ark., and came to Coleman County in 1900.

He was a member of the First Christian Church, Coleman.

Retired Contractor Buried at Coleman

COLEMAN, Jan. 2. (RNS)—Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon at the J. E. Stevens Funeral Home chapel for Francis Anderson Ray, 89, who died Monday at his home here.

The Rev. Harlie Woolard of Abilene conducted final rites. Burial was in Coleman Cemetery under direction of J. E. Stevens Funeral Home.

Mr. Ray, a retired contractor, was born March 17, 1861, in Fayetteville, Ark., and came to Coleman County in 1900. He was a member of the First Christian Church.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Mollie C. Ray; one son, Roy Ray, and a daughter, Borgia Ray, all of Coleman.

Pallbearers were Simon Horne, Harrison Seals, Roger Harboud, Howard Walker, John Grammer and Macon Freeman.

Obituary of Francis Anderson Ray – Left: “Abilene (TX) Reporter-News” Wednesday 3 Jan 1951 p 5 – Right: “Abilene (TX) Reporter-News” Wednesday 3 Jan 1951 p 19

Mother:

Mrs. Mollie C. Ray
COLEMAN, Feb. 10 (SC) — Services for Mrs. Mollie C. Ray, 97, of Coleman, who died Friday, were held Sunday at the J. E. Stevens Funeral Chapel. She had been a resident of Coleman County since 1900.
Survivors include one son, Roy Ray; and one daughter, Miss Borgia Ray, both of Coleman.

Obituary of mother Mollie Campbell Ray – “San Angelo (TX) Standard-Times” Thursday 11 Feb 1954 p 2

Siblings:

STATE OF TEXAS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE FILE NO. 93975

1. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) (a) First (b) Middle (c) Last Borgia Ethel Ray
 2. SEX Female
 3. DATE OF DEATH December 17, 1980

4. RACE White 5a. WAS THE DECEDENT OF SPANISH ORIGIN? No 5b. IF YES, SPECIFY MEXICAN, CUBAN, PUERTO RICAN, ETC.
 6. DATE OF BIRTH 3-4-1891 7. AGE (in years last birthday) 89
 8. NAME OF (If not in hospital, give name and address) Hospital or Institution Overall-Morris Memorial Hospital 8b. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? Yes

9a. PLACE OF DEATH — COUNTY Coleman 9b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, give precinct no.) Coleman
 9. MARRIED NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify) Never Married 10. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Texas 11. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U. S. A.
 12. WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? No 13. SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name) None

14. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 451-09-5316A 15a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Retired 15b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Saleslady

16a. RESIDENCE — STATE Texas 16b. COUNTY Coleman 16c. CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, show rural) Coleman 16d. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) 301 N. Nueces St. 16e. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? Yes

17. FATHER'S NAME France A. Ray 18. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Mollie Campbell 19. SIGNATURE OF INFORMANT Anna Vedrine

20. PART I IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Enter only one cause per line for 20a, 20b, 20c)
 (a) ACUTE C.V.A.
 (b) DUE TO: OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF OLD CEREBRAL THROMBOSIS & L. HEMIPLEGIA
 (c) DUE TO: OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A.S.C.V.D.
 20b. Interval between onset and death 10 MIN
 20c. Interval between onset and death 2 MO

21. PART II OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS — CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO CAUSE GIVEN IN PART I (a) U.R.T. & U.T.I. 21. AUTOPSY? no

22a. ACC. SUICIDE, HOMICIDE, OR PENDING INVEST. (Specify) 22b. DATE OF INJURY (Mo., Day, Year) 22c. HOUR OF INJURY 22d. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED

23a. INJURY AT WORK (Specify yes or no) 23b. PLACE OF INJURY — At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc. (Specify) 23c. LOCATION — STREET OR R.F.D. No. CITY OR TOWN STATE

23a. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date, and place and due to the cause(s) stated (Signature and Title) M.D. Mann M.D.
 23b. DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Year) 12-19-80 23c. HOUR OF DEATH 7:00 A. M.
 23d. NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN (Type or print) M. D. Mann M. D.

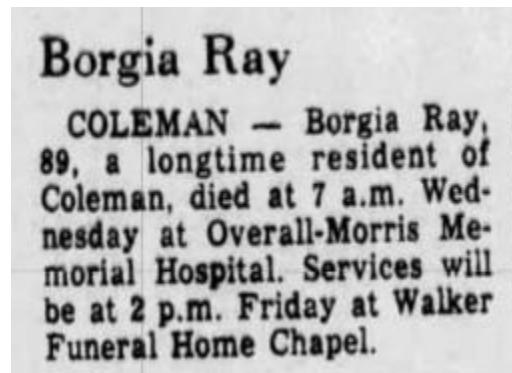
24a. On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time, date, and place and due to the cause(s) stated (Signature and Title) M.D. Mann M.D.
 24b. DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Year) 12-19-80 24c. HOUR OF DEATH 7:00 A. M.
 24d. PRONOUNCED DEAD (Mo., Day, Year) ON 24e. PRONOUNCED DEAD (Hour) A1

25a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial 25b. DATE Dec. 19, 1980 25c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Coleman City Cemetery
 25d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) Coleman (Coleman Co.), Texas 25e. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR OR PERSON ARRANGING AS SUCH Walker Funeral Home
 25f. SIGNATURE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR GLENN THOMAS

27a. REGISTRAR'S FILE NO. 145 27b. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REGISTRAR Dec. 19, 1980

VS-112 REV 1/80

TX death record of **sister Borgia Ethel Ray (1891-1980)**
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2272/images/33154_b063089-01623?pld=61464833 –

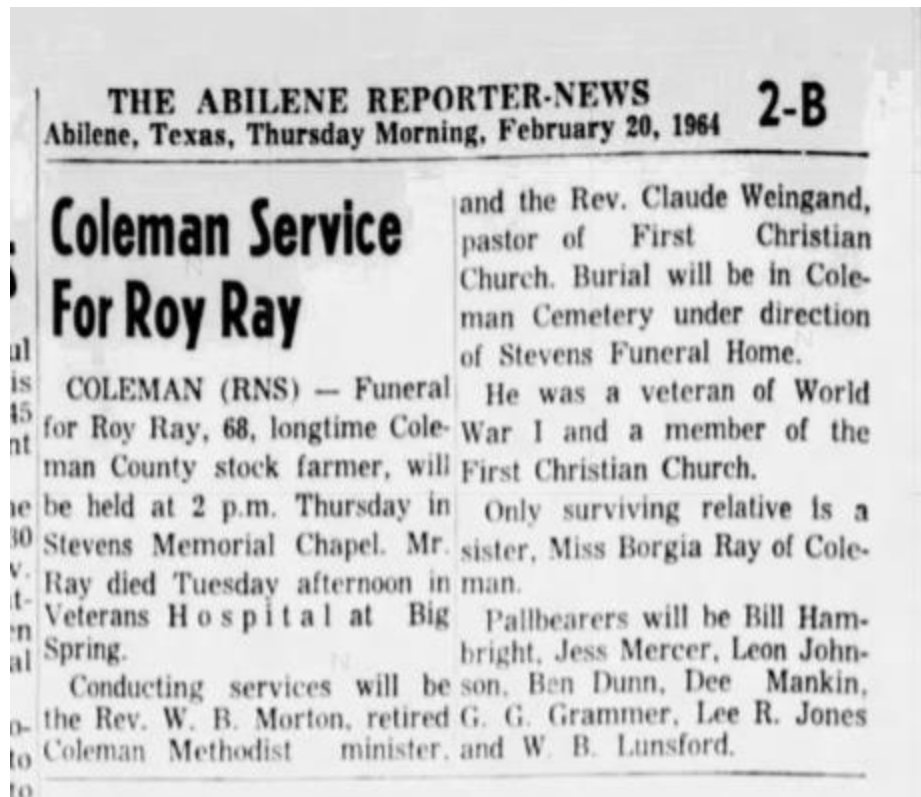


Obituary of Borgia Ethel Ray – “Abilene (TX) Reporter-News” Friday 19 Dec 1980 p 43

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2272/images/40394_b062682-02850?pid=81605096

RAY, ROY, 68, of Coleman. Died Tuesday Big Spring hospital. Survived by sister, Miss Borgia Ray of Coleman. Services 2 p. m. Thursday Stevens Chapel at Coleman.

Obituary of brother Roy Ray - "Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram" Wednesday 19 Feb 1964 p 34



Obituary of brother Roy Ray – “Abilene (TX) Reporter-News” Thursday 20 Feb 1964 p 20 (on Newspapers.com)

Name: Otto Ray

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: Camp Travis Det. 2, Casuals - private

Serial number: US Army enlisted men were not assigned serial numbers until after the sinking of the Tuscania showed their value, so Otto died without a number.

Entered service from: Coleman, Coleman TX

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: Otto Ray

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: father F.A. Ray, Coleman TX

First buried on isle of Islay, Scotland: in Kinnabus, Islay, Scotland - grave 13, as Otto Ray

Body returned from war on: Antigone" arriving Hoboken 29 Sep 1920

Body listed on return ship as: Otto Ray

Rank & unit on return ship: pvt, Casual Co. #2

World War I draft registration (1917): as Otto Ray - b. 18 Feb 1893 Holland TX; res: Coleman, Coleman TX. Single. Tailor for E.W. Whitaker, Coleman TX. Tall & slender.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): Coleman TX (posthumously)

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlistment & discharge dates not given.

Born: 18 Feb 1893

Died: 6 Feb 1918

Address: Coleman TX

Rank/unit: private, Co. C, Detachment #2, 165th Depot Brigade

Birth & death:

Born: 18 Feb 1893 Holland, Bell TX

Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania

Find A Grave record: 53220813 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Coleman, Coleman TX

Cemetery: Coleman City

Tombstone:

Father: Francis Anderson Ray, 17 Mar 1861 Fayetteville, Washington Co. AR – 1 Jan 1951
Coleman, Coleman TX. Buried in Coleman City Cemetery, Coleman, Coleman TX.

Find A Grave: 65975238

Mother: Mollie C. [Mary] Campbell Ray, 23 Sep 1856 Washington Co. AR – 5 Feb 1954
Coleman, Coleman TX. Daughter of William Hugh Campbell & Julia Rutherford. Died 36
years to the day since her son Otto died in the sinking of the Tuscania. Buried in Coleman
City Cemetery, Coleman, Coleman TX.

Find A Grave: 65975305

Parents' marriage: 31 Jul 1889 Washington Co. AR

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings: Otto was the middle of 3 children.

- Borgie Ethel Ray, 4 Mar 1891 TX – 17 Dec 1980 Coleman, Coleman TX. SSN 451-09-5316.
Never married. Retired saleslady. Buried in Coleman City Cemetery, Coleman, Coleman
TX. F: 65975583
- Roy Ray, 29 May 1895 Holland, Bell TX – 18 Feb 1964 Big Springs, Howard TX (Veterans
Administration Hospital). Never married. WWI veteran. Buried in Coleman City Cemetery,
Coleman, Coleman TX. F: 65975804

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram" Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 8 – among those on board Tuscania: Otto Ray of Coleman TX.

"Houston (TX) Post" 15 Feb 1918 p1 - When the news came 13 Feb from the War Department that Otto Ray was buried in Scotland, it was thought his name was confused with that of Otto Mowrey (Kenosha WI) because Otto Ray was believed to be alive. Upon further checking, Otto Ray was dead.

Post-war:

Namesake of the Otto Ray American Legion Post No. 213 in Coleman, Coleman TX.

Obituary:

Censuses:

1900 Bartlett, Bell TX

Franklin Ray, 35 AR, Mar 1865, parents b. AR, married 11 years, farmer

Mollie, 33 AR, Sep 1866, father b. VA, mother b. TN, gave birth to 3 children, 3 are living [wife]

Borgia, 9 TX, May 1891 [daughter]

Otto, 7 TX, Feb 1893 [son]

Roy, 5 TX, May 1895 [misread & misindexed as Ross]

1910 Justice Precinct 1, Coleman City, Coleman Co. TX

F.A. Ray, 47 AR, father b. AL, mother b. US, in 1st marriage, married 20 years, carpenter, house

Mollie, 40 AR, father b. TN, mother b. VA, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 3 children, 3 are living [wife]

Borgie, 18 TX, book keeper, tailor shop [daughter]

Otto, 16 TX [son]

Roy, 14 TX [son]