



We have no Service Record of Arthur William Houseman.

We know from the Commonwealth Graves Commission that he was a Private, his battalion, the date he died & where he is buried.

In France

The 1st bn Gordon Highlanders were part of the 153rd Infantry Brigade of the 51st (Highland) Division.

Battle of Normandy

The 51st Division landed in Normandy on 7 June, as part of I Corps. After spending a brief period supporting 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, it was sent across the Orne River, and spent two months supporting the 6th Airborne Division in its bridgehead. During this period it fought many difficult actions at places such as Breville (11-12 June) and **Colombelles (11 July)**. Its performance in Normandy was, overall, considered disappointing, particularly by General Montgomery, who stated in a telegram to Field Marshal Brooke that the division "had failed every mission it was given" [3]. This led to the replacement of its Normandy commander, Major-General D.C. Bullen-Smith, with Major-General Thomas Rennie, who had served with the division in France, North Africa and Sicily before being elevated to command of 3rd Infantry Division for the Normandy invasion [4].

On 1 August 1944 the division, along with the rest of I Corps, became part of the newly-activated First Canadian Army. The division fought alongside this army in Operation Totalize, before advancing to Lisieux. It then continued east over the river Seine and headed, on Montgomery's order[5] for Saint-Valéry-en-Caux, the scene of the division's surrender in June 1940. The division 's massed pipes and drums played in the streets of the town, and a parade included veterans of the 1940 campaign were with the 51st in 1944. A similar event occurred at Dieppe when it was liberated by the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division.

As we know that Arthur William died on the 12 July 1944 it could be possible that it was in action at Colombelles on the 11 July.

He is buried at La Delivrande War Cemetery, Douvres in France.