

IN MEMORY OF CLEMENT GASCOIGNE

DIED IN ACTION 9 APRIL 1917

Lived at 8 Church Terrace

PLAQUE No. 4

Clement was born on 23 January 1894 and baptized in All Saints on 4 March. His father was the sailor turned village tailor, and the family were living at 8 Church Terrace by 1900.

Clement appears to have had a happy childhood - he certainly had enough food to grow into a tall (for the time) young man, standing 5'7" in adulthood (the average height was around 5'5"). Athletic and friendly, he was a member of the cricket club, popular and well liked.

In 1911 he saw his oldest sister emigrate to Canada - and in 1913 he followed her, leaving behind everything he'd ever known for an entirely alien land. He became a labourer in Quebec, but his life in Canada ceased when he attended a church service in 1915, where the priest criticised the young Englishmen in Canada who should be 'fighting for their country.'

These words must have struck a chord with Clement, as on 17 January 1916 he enlisted in the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Quebec Regiment, 3rd Canadian Division.

Clement was killed on 9 April 1917, in the first day of the battle of Vimy Ridge. He was one of the 3,500 Canadian troops to die, killed on Easter morning by the explosion of a nearby shell.

He is buried at Thelus Military Cemetery, in one of 300 graves.



Harbury World War 1 Memorial Trail

Remembering the men of Harbury parish who fell during the first world war in service of their country.

