

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM LANCASTER

DIED IN ACTION 7 JUNE 1917

Lived at Westfield Farm
PLAQUE No. 15

William was born in 1897 in Fillongley, near Coventry.

His father, also called William, was a baker and provision merchant. More importantly, as a 'Licensed Victualler', he ran the pub The Weavers Arms, where William and his siblings grew up, surrounded by the sickly sweet smell of beer and the warm smell of cooking foods. However, by 1911 William Sr had moved from beer and bread to soil, and become a farmer.

William (Jr) by this point worked with his father, and now had five siblings in total - perhaps explaining his father's change in profession. It could well have been that farming was a more reliable way to feed that many mouths than being a 'Victualler'.

Some time later the family moved to Harbury, living at Westfield Farm, owned by Thomas Metters.

During the war, William served in the 155th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery, known as the 'Coal Owner's Own', as it was originally formed by the west Yorkshire Coal Division before being renamed in the war.

William was killed on 7 June 1917 in the Ypres sector, during the first day of the battle of Messines, in a push to recapture lost ground. In a few days, losses numbered 24,562.

He is buried in the Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery in Belgium.



Harbury World War 1 Memorial Trail

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

