

IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND RAINBOW

DIED IN ACTION 30 AUGUST 1917

Lived at Orchard House, Pump Street - now The Homestead, Crown Street
NO PLAQUE

The Rainbow family lost two sons to the war.

Raymond was born in 1899, in Marathon, Ledbury, six years after his older brother Frank. The age difference might have been too much for the brothers to be close friends, but Frank would, in the way all older brothers are, have been an inspiration to his brother - perhaps even a little hero worshipped by Raymond.

Raymond did not, however, follow his older brother's example in joining a field ambulance. Rather he joined the 150th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, enlisting in Southam.

The War Diary of this unit in 1918 shows a long catalogue of marches, attacks, and the transportation of guns. The words are hastily written, nearly illegible, and the details sparse and functional. There are no comments on the weather, or on the feeling of the men. The words drag across the page, exhausted.

Raymond arrived in France on or after 1 January 1916, arriving a year after his older brother. Perhaps the two crossed paths, one holding a rifle, the other a stretcher. Or perhaps they never saw one another. By 30 August 1917, Raymond had been killed in action. Almost exactly a year later, Frank was dead too. Their brother Reginald also fought in the war - he alone survived.

Raymond is buried at Potijze Chateau Cemetery, one of the many cemeteries of neatly lined, identical gravestones, remembering the thousands who fell.

Raymond and Frank are further remembered through the naming of Rainbow Crescent off Bush Heath Lane.



Harbury World War 1 Memorial Trail

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

