

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT VICTOR WYATT

DIED IN ACTION 23 JANUARY 1916

Lived in a house (no longer standing) where 9 South Parade stands today

PLAQUE No. 9

Neither Albert's father, Edward Wyatt, who was originally from Finstock, Oxfordshire, nor his mother, born in Brailes in 1862, had any early connection to Harbury. When they married in 1879 he was a labourer at Chesterton, she a servant in Dunchurch. However, following their marriage they set up home in Farm Street, Harbury.

In 1879 their first child was born, also called Edward, and he was soon followed by Ellen, Harry, Emily, Albert (in 1897) and finally William, in 1901. Albert, as with all his siblings, was born in Harbury, though his birth was registered in Southam.

By the time of his youngest sibling's birth, the family were living in Temple End, Harbury. By 1911 the family had moved to South Parade, and the male members of the household were working as farm labourers.

Edward's family at this time lived only three houses away from one Edward Cooper, a man who appears to have enlisted with Albert when war broke out on 28 July 1914. Albert joined the 1st Coldstream Guards as a Private. Like many young men of the time, he was probably taken with the idea of charging into battle against the enemy, his head filled with a sense of patriotism and duty, and the glory and honour to be found in battle.

On 23 January 1916 Albert was killed in action. He fell in Flanders and was buried in Pas-de-Calais.

His mother and his siblings published a notice in the Leamington Courier on Friday, 2 February 1917 marking the first anniversary of his death.

Like many others on the battlefields of bodies, heat, pain and blood, he is 'gone but not forgotten.'



Harbury World War 1 Memorial Trail

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

