IN MEMORY OF
RAYMOND JOHN BROOKS

DIED IN ACTION 30 NOVEMBER 1917

Lived in Springfield Terrace (no longer standing). 25 Vicarage Lane is now at the location

PLAQUE No. 8

Raymond Brooks was born in Harbury in 1896. In 1891, his parents, John and Eliza, were living in Station Road, Harbury, with John employed as a signalman by the Great Western Railway. Ten years later they moved to Highfield cottages. By the age of fifteen, Raymond, like his father, was working for the Great Western Railway, as a porter.

But at eighteen, Raymond left this career behind, and enlisted at the Regent Grove Labour Exchange. Unlike the other men he did not have a wife or children to leave behind, only his parents. But whilst this meant he did not have to abandon his child to fight for his country, there's a disturbing quality in his youth. As with other young men, who enlisted in a flush of patriotic courage, he volunteered his life for his country before he'd even had a chance to really live it.

In 1917 he was awarded the Military Medal for 'Gallantry and good works during the operations of 9 October'. This was at the battle of Poelcappelle, when the Guards divisions advanced over the Broembeek and captured the Vee Bend blockhouses. This was towards the end of the Third Battle of Ypres, and Raymond would have fought through ground churned and deep with mud, beaten down by torrential rains, nearly blinded by the confusion of a battle.

On 30 November 1917, age 22, at the end of the battle of Cambrai, Raymond joined the list of the 237 killed, wounded or missing following the attack to recapture Gouzeacourt village.

The Harbury Cricket club remembered him, alongside their other four members who died, via an inscribed parchment. He is also remembered on the GWR memorial at Leamington Station.

Raymond is further remembered through the naming of Brooks Drive 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.

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL
HARBURY WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL TRAIL
2017 BLUE PLAQUE PROJECT

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