

IN MEMORY OF FREDERICK OWEN YOUNG

DIED IN ACTION 19 NOVEMBER 1916

Lived at Western House, Station Road
PLAQUE No. 5

Frederick was one of four children born in Harbury to Thomas and Elizabeth Young. He was born in 1858, and by 1891 was living with his parents and three brothers in Church Terrace.

His father Thomas worked at the Great Western Railway as a signaller, the Harbury cutting providing a good source of employment to the villagers. The proximity of the railway must have brought with it a sense of boundless possibility, symbolizing as it did all the technological advances made by the previous century. Frederick may have looked at the place where his father worked and felt he could go anywhere - travel to London in less than a day, speed to the peaks and windblown land of Scotland, take a train to the edge of the country to stare at the brooding grey blue ocean.

The 1891 census shows Frederick's oldest brother, Thomas, working as a farm labourer aged 15, the other two brothers still at school. By 1901 these three boys had moved away from home, leaving Frederick and his parents at Pound Street - which later became part of Hall Lane.

By the time he was 23, the single Frederick was working as a grocer's assistant, still living with his parents. He was a member of the cricket club, and would have played alongside many of the men he would later join in France, trading bats for guns.

By 1912, Frederick had proposed to Gladys Taylor, whose family lived in the GWR

property of Western House. Gladys' father, like Thomas Young, was a signaller - perhaps this is how the couple met, brought together by their father's professions.

Frederick and Gladys married in September 1912, at Harbury Parish Church. Their time together did not last long.

At the outbreak of war, Frederick enlisted in the 7th Battalion of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, to train on Salisbury plain and be mobilised in 1915. Though they first landed in Boulogne, they left again for Macedonia due to a change in orders. His battalion fought against the Bulgarian army and in July 1916 captured an important Bulgarian outpost, Horseshoe Hill. They were the first British unit to fight their way into Serbia.

Lance Corporal Young died of wounds age 27 on 19 November 1916, in Salonika, Greece, and is buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece.



Harbury World War 1 Memorial Trail

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

