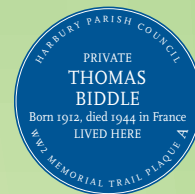




IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE THOMAS HENRY GRIFFIN BIDDLE



2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Killed in Action on August 6th 1944

BLUE PLAQUE A

Although the name Thomas Biddle is on the Harbury War Memorial, his name on his army record and his grave is Thomas Henry Griffin which is the name on his birth certificate. In the village he was always known as Tommy Biddle.

Tommy was born in Harbury on April 3rd 1912 to Emily Gertrude Griffin. She married Thomas Biddle who was a labourer at the cement works and he became Tommy's stepfather. Emily and Thomas had five more children and sadly three of them died young. At the outbreak of war Tommy was still living at home and was working as a cement packer. When he was called up, Tommy



Thomas Biddle

joined the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and spent many months training for the invasion of France.

On the 6th of June 1944 Tommy and his unit landed on Sword Beach in Normandy. The landing was extremely hazardous and they lost a lot of men and equipment. Nevertheless, they made it off the beach and over the next few weeks fought their way through Normandy. Tommy was killed on August 6th and is buried in the St Charles de Percy War cemetery which is the southernmost of the Normandy cemeteries.

