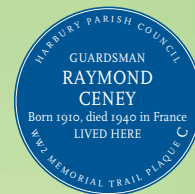




# IN MEMORY OF GUARDSMAN RAYMOND CENEY

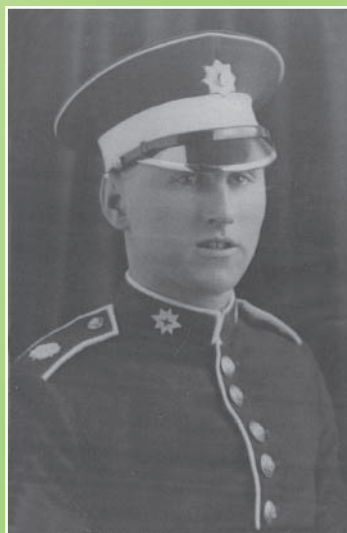
2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards  
Killed in Action on 23rd/24th May 1940

## BLUE PLAQUE C



Raymond Ceney was born in Bishops Itchington in 1910, the third of four sons of William and Sarah Ceney. William worked in the quarry. The family moved to Harbury and Raymond attended Harbury School. William died in 1926. Raymond joined the Coldstream Guards and served for 8 years. He left the army and returned to Harbury and in April 1939 he married Elsie Coles of Brackley. On September 1st 1939 Raymond was recalled to the army leaving his pregnant wife living with his mother in Temple End. Soon he was in France with the British Expeditionary Force.

After several months of the so called 'Phoney War' the German Army launched a massive invasion of Holland, Belgium and France.



*Guardsman Raymond Ceney  
when serving in the 1930s*

The BEF were driven towards the coast and desperate plans were made to evacuate as many men as possible from the beach at Dunkirk. Some units had to be sacrificed to defend the perimeter for as long as possible. Raymond and five comrades were ordered to set up a defensive position in the small town of Leers which is a few kilometres northeast of Lille. They were all killed by enemy air attack on the 23rd/24th May. They are buried together in Leers Communal Cemetery. Raymond never saw his son Tony who grew up in Harbury and became a very well known and respected member of the community.



*Raymond and Elsie*



*Raymond and Elsie on  
their wedding day*

