

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN OSBOURNE

DIED IN ACTION 11 NOVEMBER 1914

Lived at Harbury Hall

PLAQUE No. 3

Brian was from his childhood an 'out and out' soldier. He was born into an army family; his father Captain Frank Osbourne of the 13th Hussars. Like the typical child of a highly ranking military man, Brian had a privileged education at Harrow and Uppingham School, Rutland, where he excelled in sports, a member of the football and cricket teams. He went on to win the Sword of Honour at Sandhurst.

Prior to this traditional education, however, was his early life - spent on the other side of the world. Brian was born in Sydney, Australia in 1889, and by his school years had seen more of the world than most of the other people in the village ever would.

His family lived in Harbury Hall, a pleasant, spacious home, where his father could indulge in his passion for hunting. Like his father, Brian joined the Hussars (15th) and was revealed to be a keen and skilled polo player, shining in tournaments. He and his brother Gerald (of the 19th Hussars) were adventurous, sociable, and sporting.

Brian was a member of the Hussars from 1908, rising to become a Lieutenant and travelling to South Africa with them. At the outbreak of war, there would have been no question that he and his two brothers would fight, just as their father had fought.

On 11 December 1914, Brian was reported missing but it was not until 5 March 1915 that Brian was confirmed killed while on reconnaissance, stuck down by enemy gunfire in Ypres.

Brian's grave is in Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium. His father partly paid for the village war memorial, with his son's name inscribed on it, and was present at its unveiling ceremony.



Harbury World War 1 Memorial Trail

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

