

HARRIS, Frank – died following action – 28 October 1916 – aged 21

Frank Harris was born in Membury in 1896 His parents were William Harris, born 1863 in Axminster, and Amelia born in 1862 in Lyme Regis.

In 1891, the family lived at Waterloo Cottage, Turfmoor, Membury: William (26 an agricultural labourer), Amelia (28), Philip A (6), Beatrice A (4) and William R (2).

In 1901 the family lived at Lewis Cottage, Membury. There was William (working as a stone quarryman) and Amelia, with children Beatrice A, William R, Job and Frank aged 5.

In 1911 Frank aged 15 lived with his parents William (48 a farm labourer) and Amelia (49) at Groveland Membury.

Frank may well have enlisted in Devonshire Regiment as he is thought to be an early volunteer and he has no military records. But when he died he was in the 12th Battalion, South Wales Borderers. Army number: 25221. The 12th was a Bantam battalion formed of men under 5'2". They landed at Le Havre on 2 June 1916 and served on the Western Front.

Frank died in hospital in St Omer, France, on 28th October 1916, aged 21. He is buried in a double grave with Private Arthur Edgar Petty of the Northumberland Fusiliers, from Halifax, who died on 4 November 1916. The Longuenese Souvenir Cemetery is in the outskirts of St Omer, Northern France, where there was a big hospital complex.

His parents, William and Amelia Harris, then lived at Hope Cottage, Membury. Franks 3 brothers, Philip, William and Job also served in the war.