

Gerald Towers

Gerald was born in Tenter Lane, Finedon on May 3rd, 1892. He was the only surviving son of Jonathan Alfred Towers from Lower Heyford and his wife Alice Towers (nee Young) from Finedon. The couple were married in 1885 and had 5 children; only 2 of which survived childhood. In the 1901 Census the family were living in St Marys Avenue, Finedon. Jonathan, 40, was a Boot Rivetter, Alice was 42. Their children were Ada Maria, 12, Gerald, 8 and Frederick Joseph James, 3. Frederick died in 1909 aged 12.

By 1911 they had moved to Tenter Lane, Finedon. Jonathan, 50, was now working as a Labourer in a Limestone Quarry, Alice was 52. Gerald was the only child at home; he was 18 years old and working as a Compositor. Ada, 22, was working as a Housemaid at the Manor House, Mears Ashby for Dudley Julius Medley and his family. Dudley was a Professor of Modern History at the University of Glasgow.

On December 28th, 1915 Gerald married Mabel Maria Baish at St. Mary's Parish Church, Burton Latimer. We don't know when he enlisted in the Army, but it appears that he first joined the Northamptonshire Regiment as Private No. 5353. He later joined the 4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment as Private No. 6146 before his number changed to 202265. He was killed in action at the Battle of Arras on April 23rd, 1917. His body was never recovered, and his name is recorded on the Arras Memorial which commemorates nearly 35,000 soldiers of the British, South African and New Zealand forces with no known grave. Most of those commemorated were killed in the Battle of Arras, fought between 9 April and 16 May 1917. He was 24 years old and was awarded the British War and Victory Medals.

At the dedication of the War Memorial in 1922 wreaths were laid in his memory from 'Mr & Mrs Baish and family' and 'Thornloe and Clarkson'. His name also appears on the Finedon War Memorial. After Gerald's death Mabel married Herbert T Harvey at Burton Latimer in 1918.