

**Upton Lovell Men
That Served Their Country
& Returned Home**



World War I



915

WILLIAM FRED HARDING

TERRITORIAL FORCE

4TH BATTALION

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

William Fred HARDING

William Fred Harding was born at Upton Lovell in 1889 to parents Frank & Rhoda Ann Harding (nee Wise). His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1889 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire. Frank & Rhoda had married in 1876 at St. Nicholas's Church, North Bradley.

The 1891 England Census recorded William F. Harding as a 1 year old living with his family at No. 21 Upton Lovell, Wiltshire in a four roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Frank R. Harding (Wool Millman, aged 33, born North Bradley) & Rhoda A. Harding (aged 35, born Frome, Somerset). William was the youngest of 6 children listed on this Census – Arthur E. (aged 14, Wool Gig Runner, born North Bradley), James W. (aged 12, Agricultural Labourer, born Telsford, Somerset), Frank H. (Scholar, aged 10, born Upton Lovell), then Ernest J. (Scholar, aged 6, born Upton Lovell), Ellen L. (Scholar, aged 3, born Upton Lovell) & lastly William F. (aged 1, born Upton Lovell). Also living with the family was Frank Harding's widower father – William Harding (aged 66, born North Bradley).

The 1901 England Census recorded William F. Harding as an 11 year old, living with his family at 11 Albany Terrace, Wilton, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as Frank R. Harding (Felt Worker, aged 43) & Rhoda A. Harding (aged 45). William was one of 9 children listed on this Census – Arthur E. (aged 24, Felt Worker), James W. (aged 22, Engine Cleaner Railway), Frank H. (aged 20, Assistant __ shop), Alice E. (aged 17, Kitchen Maid), Ernest J. (aged 15, Grocer's Apprentice), Ellen L. (aged 13, Dressmaker) then William F., Sidney N. (aged 6, born Wilton) & Charles N. (aged 3, born Wilton).

The 1911 England Census recorded William Fred Harding as a 21 year old Gardener (Domestic), living with his family at 11 Albany Terrace, Wilton, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as Frank Harding (Felt Worker, aged 54) & Rhoda Ann Harding (Nurse - Maternity, aged 55). Frank & Rhoda Harding had been married for 35 years, having had 10 children, one deceased. William Fred was the eldest of 3 sons still living at home – Sidney Herbert (aged 16, Clerk, junior for a Carpet Manufacturer) & Charles Howard Victor (aged 13, School, Errand Boy). Also listed was a Boarder – Harry Mitchell (aged 23, Whitesmith – General Ironmonger).

William Fred Harding had enlisted with the 4th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment – Territorial Force at Wilton on 8th March, 1909, with a service number of 915. He was aged 19 years & 8 months. His occupation was Gardener, employed by Lord Pembroke. He was residing at Wilton at the time of enlistment. His next of kin were listed as Frank Harding (Father), Roda Ann Harding (mother) & Brothers – Arthur Edward, Frank Henry, Herbert, Charles (Page torn – not all names legible) & Sisters – Alice Emily....

William Frederick Harding was appointed L/C on 4th August, 1911. His annual training occurred at:

- Salisbury Plain – 24/7/1909 – 7/8/1909
- Salisbury Plain – 23/7/1910 – 6/8/1910
- Wool. – 29/7/1911 – 5/8/1911
- Parkhouse – 6/7/1912 – 20/7/1912

Service with the Territorial Force was At Home from 8th March, 1909 to 7th March, 1913 – a period of 4 years. Discharged due to Termination of Engagement.

William Fred Harding signed an agreement to serve outside of the United Kingdom – date stamped Exeter – 30 April, 1917.