

Albert Frederick BLOWERS

Born: 1871, Suffolk

Parents: John Blowers and Eliza Easthaugh

Last known address: 2 Cleveland Villas, Church Road, Gurnard

Last known occupation: Staff Petty Officer at the Royal Naval College, Osborne

Service number: 139028 **Service:** Royal Naval Reserve

Service history summary:

- enlisted: 1886
- promoted: Petty Officer 1st Class (date unknown)
- decorations: Good Conduct and Long Service medals, 15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Died: 29th February 1916 **Age:** 44

Commemorated: [Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#)

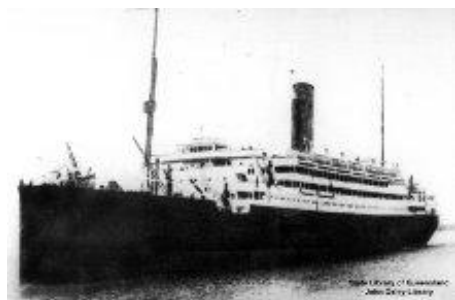
Family: Albert was born on April 30th, 1871 and registered in Wangford, Suffolk. His father, John Blowers, was an agricultural labourer and the family lived at North Cove, between Lowestoft and Beccles in Suffolk. At the time of the 1911 census Albert was a Staff Petty Officer at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, aged 39 and single. In the same year he married Ellen Howe (née Harris) in a non-Anglican ceremony. There is no Island record of any children born to them. Following his death, Ellen (or Helen) married Arthur James Murray.

Brothers: Herbert (c1864), George (c1869) and John (c1873)

Sister: Ellen (c1866)

Northwood/Gurnard connection: at the time of the 1911 census Albert was living at 2 Cleveland Villas, Church Road, Gurnard and his wife remained there after his death and following her re-marriage.

War record: Albert had been in the Navy before the war and was in receipt of a Naval pension but was still called up. He died on February 29th 1916 when his ship, *HMS Alcantara* (right) was lost. The *Alcantara* was an armed merchant cruiser that had been requisitioned by the Admiralty. She was sunk in action with the German auxiliary cruiser *Greif* in the North Sea. The *Greif* was disguised as a Norwegian merchantman called *Rena*. The *Greif* was ordered to stop to be boarded, but opened fire. The *Alcantara* was sunk with the loss of 68 of her crew. *Greif* was badly damaged in the exchange of fire and was sunk by the Royal Navy cruisers *Comus* and *Andes* with the loss of 230 crew.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Alcantara