

Albert Edward FORD

Born: 1892, Porchfield

Parents: James Herbert Ford and Martha Louisa Harley

Last known address: 2 Parkhurst View, Furzyhurst

Last known occupation: worked in the local mineral works

Service number: 4372 **Regiment:** 1st/5th Hampshire Howitzer Battery
Royal Field Artillery

Service history summary:

- enlisted: Newport – date unknown
- rank: Gunner
- decorations: 15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Died: 8th December 1915 **Age:** 23

Buried: Parkhurst Military Cemetery

Family: Albert was born in Porchfield in 1892, the youngest of the six children of James Herbert Ford and Martha Louisa Harley. James Herbert (known as Herbert) and Martha married in Lymington in 1876 but by the time of the 1881 census they were living in a cottage in Porchfield. Herbert was a labourer and probably lived in Porchfield most of his married life. Martha died in 1901 and Herbert in 1932. William James, the eldest son, may have married Rosina Emma Button in 1901 and had four children, one of whom died at birth. William died in 1963. Agnes (known as Kate) married William Rackett in 1898 and died in 1965. There is no record of any children born on the Island. Herbert Sidney married Beatrice Amelia Maud Barton in 1910. There is no record of any children and he died in 1928. Emma married George Mark James Moucher in 1904, had three children and died in 1942. Frances (known as Ethel) married Charles Henry Reed in 1910. She had four children and died in 1938.



Brothers: William James (c 1877) and Herbert Sidney (1884)

Sisters: Agnes Kate (1880), Emma Jane (1885) and Frances Ethel Louisa (1888)

Northwood/Gurnard connection: both Agnes and Ethel were married in St John the Baptist Church, Northwood. In 1911, Albert was living at 2 Parkhurst View, Furzyhurst with his sister Emma, her husband and two young children.

War record: Albert was a gunner serving with the 1st/5th Hampshire Howitzer Battery, Royal Field Artillery. In the issue of December 25th 1915, the *Isle of Wight County Press* listed the officers and men of the Battery who left India in March 1915 for service in Mesopotamia. Albert is noted as being “transferred to India – time expired.” It would appear that Albert landed in Mesopotamia and was subsequently repatriated. He is buried in Parkhurst Military Cemetery and the cemetery records note that he died of malaria on December 8th 1915.

An *In Memoriam* in the *Isle of Wight County Press* read:

Ford. - In ever-loving memory of our dear brother, Albert Ford,
1/5th Battery Hants Howitzer R.F.A., who died at Parkhurst
Hospital on Dec. 8th, 1915, aged 23 years.

*His loving ways and smiling face
Are happy to recall
He had a kindly word for each
And died beloved by all.*

Kate and Ethel. “He did his duty”.