

Isaac Edward FORD

Born: 1875, Porchfield

Parents: Benjamin Ford and Ellen Angel

Last known address: Worsley Road, Gurnard

Last known occupation: Grocery assistant (1891)

Service number: 286747 **Service:** Royal Navy

Service history summary:

- enlisted: c1897
- rank: Stoker 1st Class
- promoted: not known
- decorations: 15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Died: 31st May 1916

Age: 38

Commemorated: [Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#)

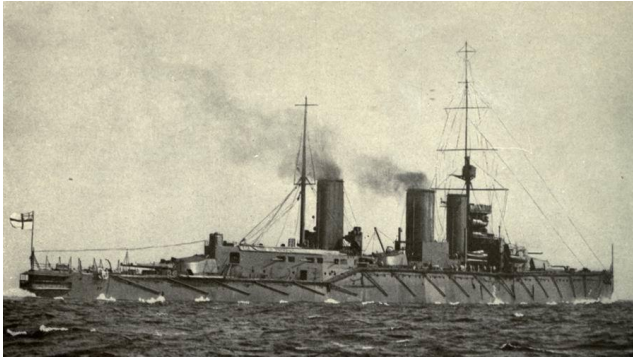
Family: Isaac was born in Porchfield in 1875. His parents were Benjamin Ford and Ellen Angel, who had married in the Independent Methodist Chapel in Sun Hill, Cowes, in 1868. He had four sisters and a younger brother although his sister Frances died in 1893. Benjamin died in 1921 and Ellen in 1926. Mary Jane married Philip Edwin Wakely in 1898 but there is no record of her death on the Island. Wemyss married Arthur Thomas Bennett in 1927, when in her 40s, and died in 1956. Nellie married Victor Alexander Hancock in 1907 and died in 1970. John died in 1963. There is no marriage or death record for Nelly on the Island.

Brothers: John (1883)

Sisters: Mary Jane (1873), Frances Emily (1877), Alice Wemyss Methven (1879) and Nelly (1888)

Northwood/Gurnard connection: at the time of the 1871 census Benjamin (a labourer) and Ellen were living near the *Sportsman's Rest* in Porchfield. The family moved to Gurnard at some point between the births of Isaac and Frances and lived in Worsley Road for some 20 years. In 1891 the family were at Auld Reekie Lodge where Benjamin was the gardener. Later the family moved to Belmont in Greenhill (Solent View Road) when Benjamin became a dairyman. In 1911 only Wemyss was still living at home.

War record: Isaac joined the Navy in about 1897 and served in various locations around the world. He was awarded the Messina Earthquake Medal in 1910 following the assistance given after the earthquake in Sicily in 1908. He also received a China Medal which may have been for the third China War in 1901. By 1916 he was serving on the battle cruiser *HMS Queen Mary* and was present at the Battle of Jutland on May 31st. He was killed when a shell from the German ship *Derfflinger* exploded in one of the forward magazines and caused the ship to break in half and sink. Only 20 of the crew of 1,266 were saved. Some good may have come out of it



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

though, as an investigation into the loss of both the *Queen Mary* and the *Indefatigable* led to changes in ammunition handling aboard British ships, as the report showed that cordite handling practices may have contributed to the loss of the two battlecruisers.

A news item in the *Isle of Wight County Press* on June 10th 1916 somewhat tactlessly reported Isaac's death:-

Happily only one loss in the naval fighting is reported from Gurnard, that of Leading Stoker Isaac Ford, single, age about 38. He is believed to have gone down in the *Queen Mary*. Stoker Ford had a record of 19 years' service, and held the China and Messina earthquake medals.