

Robert Alexander IRISH

Born: 1897, Dorset

Parents: Robert Irish and Florence Stevens

Last known address: Foresters House, Horsebridge Hill, Parkhurst

Last known occupation: Naval rating

Service number: J29558

Service: Royal Navy

Service history summary:

- enlisted: not known
- rank: Ordinary Seaman
- decorations: British War Medal

Died: 22nd December 1916

Age: 19

Buried: Northwood Cemetery

Family: Robert was the eldest son of Robert Irish and Florence Stevens, who were married in Portland in 1896. Robert senior was born in Norfolk and Florence was from Portland. Robert junior was born in November 1897.

Brothers: George (1900) and William (c1902)
Sister: Ena (c1905)

Northwood/Gurnard connection: in 1901, Robert senior was an engineering smith and living in Portland, Dorset. All the children were born in Portland but at some point after the birth of Ena the family moved to Parkhurst as Robert senior had joined the Prison Service. In 1911 he was an Assistant Warder and the family were living in Foresters House on Horsebridge Hill.

War record: Robert junior joined the Royal Navy and was sent to the boys' training establishment, *HMS Ganges*. From August 17th 1915 until September 25th 1915 he was at Victory 1, which was an administrative establishment and he also spent time at *HMS Cormorant*, another training establishment. He signed up for 12 years on November 20th 1915, presumably his 18th birthday, and he became a signaller but his naval career was short-lived as he was invalided out of the service with pulmonary tuberculosis and died on December 22nd 1916. He is buried in Northwood Cemetery.



Picture courtesy of Mr Barry Sowerby