

Frank Rolland Edgar MERWOOD

Born: 13th September 1881, Wootton

Parents: William Merwood and Annie Downer

Last known address: Evelyn Cottage, Wyatts Lane, Northwood

Last known occupation: not known

Service number: 294442

Service: Royal Navy

Service history summary:

- enlisted: not known
- rank: Mechanician
- decorations: 14 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Died: 26th November 1914

Age: 33

Commemorated: [Portsmouth Naval Memorial](#)

Family: Edgar Roland Frank Merwood (known as Frank) was born in Arreton on September 13th 1881, the third son of William Merwood and Annie Dower. They had married at St George's Church, Arreton in 1873. William was a gamekeeper. Annie died in 1906 but there is no record of William's death. Frank married Edith Blanche Peers in 1914 at St John the Baptist, Northwood but there were no children from the marriage. Edith subsequently married James Prickett in Portsmouth in 1919.

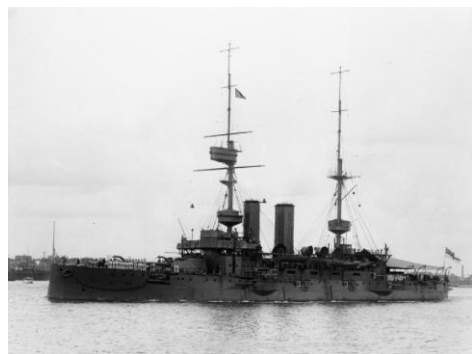
Brothers: Charles Frank William (1878), Sydney Downer (1880) and Henry Willfred (1880)

Sister: Hilda Blanche (1885)

Wife: Edith Blanche Peers

Northwood/Gurnard connection: the family moved to Evelyn Cottage, Wyatts Lane between 1891 and 1901, by which time only Harry and Hilda were still at home. William was now a general labourer, as he still was in 1911. Frank does not appear anywhere in the 1901 or the 1911 records so there is no evidence that he ever lived in the parish.

War record: if Frank was not already in the Royal Navy he must have joined up soon after war broke out. He was a mechanician (engine room rating) on *HMS Bulwark* when she blew up unexpectedly whilst at her mooring on the Medway on November 26th 1914. On the evidence from officers of other ships moored nearby, a Board of Enquiry concluded that cordite charges stored dangerously close to a boiler room were the likely cause of the explosion, with a shell that may have become live through mishandling or vibration and detonated when dropped being another suggested cause.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Bulwark_\(1899\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Bulwark_(1899))