

Thomas Frederick PHILPOT

Born: 1892, Northwood

Parents: Alexander James Philpot and Lucy Clara Rich

Last known address: Rose Cottage, Dodnor, Northwood

Last known occupation: Gardener

Service number: 779

Regiment: 1st/5th Hants Battery, Royal
Field Artillery

Service history summary:

- enlisted: Ryde
- rank: Gunner
- decorations: British War Medal

Died: 18th February 1915

Age: 22

Buried/commemorated: [Jhansi Cantonment Cemetery/Madras Memorial, India](#)

Family: Frederick Thomas was the third son of Alexander James Philpot and Lucy Clara Rich. Alexander and Lucy married at St John's, Northwood in 1883 but Lucy died in 1899. The last known family member was Donald Francis Philpot, a son of George, who died on the Island in 2003.

Brothers: Ralph James (1885), George Attwood (1889), Richard John (1891), Robert Rich (1895-1897) and Alexander Joseph (1897)
Sister: Elizabeth Jane (1887)

Northwood/Gurnard connection: from the 1881 census before his marriage to Lucy Clara, Alexander was living at home with his parents, James and Jane Philpot at Werrar Cottages, Northwood. Alexander was a clerk in the Cement Mills, and his father was a cooper. All the family were born in Northwood. In 1891 the family were living on Horsebridge Hill including a nurse, possibly following the birth of Richard John a few days before. Frederick attended Hunnyhill School in Newport and was admitted to the school in 1897. From the 1901 census it would appear that Alexander had to employ a housekeeper to look after the younger of the Philpot children after their mother died in 1899. The family were then living at No.1 Creach Cottage, Horsebridge Hill. By 1911, most of the family were living at Rose Cottage, Dodnor. Alexander was still a clerk and cashier at the Cement Mills, Elizabeth (21), was doing housework, Richard (20) a farm labourer, Thomas Frederick (18) a gardener and Alexander (13) a schoolboy. Thomas's eldest brother Ralph was living as a boarder in Newport and was an iron founder's clerk.

At Alexander James' funeral in 1928, conducted by Bernard Molliett, Rector of St John the Baptist, Northwood, he was described as a retired cement mills clerk, who worked at Medina Commercial Mill.

War record: Thomas Frederick was a gunner with the 1st/5th Hampshire Battery, Royal Field Artillery who died on the February 18th 1915, aged only 22. The 1/5th Hampshire Battery formed part of 2nd Wessex Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and was mobilised on the Isle of Wight on August 4th 1914. After two months' training on Salisbury Plain, the Brigade embarked at Southampton for India on October 9th, arriving at Bombay on November 9th and then Lucknow on November 13th. An article appeared in the *Isle of Wight County Press* on March 20th 1915 in the form of a letter from his commanding officer, Major H. G. Thomson, to Thomas's father, explaining how Gunner Philpot had lost his leg in an accident during training and subsequently died of his injuries. The letter mentioned that one of his brothers was also in the Battery but does not say which one.

There was also a notice in the Deaths column in the same issue:-

Philpot.—Feb. 18. as the result of an accident whilst on foreign service with the 5th Hants Battery of the 2nd Wessex (Howitzer) Brigade R.F.A. at Lucknow, India.—Thomas Frederick (Fred) fourth son of A.J. Philpot, of the Cement Mills, Dodnor, I.W., aged 22.

Shortly after Thomas died his Battery returned to fight in Mesopotamia. He is buried in Jhansi Cantonment cemetery and his name appears on the Madras Memorial in India.