

In Memory of  
Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class

# Norman Firth

272126, H.M.S. Arrogant, Royal Navy who died on 01 July 1915 Age 24

Remembered with Honour  
Dover (St. James's) Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# Engine Room Artificer Norman Firth

## H.M.S. Arrogant, Royal Navy

Died: 01/07/15    Age: 24

How Died: Accidental

Country of burial: U.K.

Cemetery or Memorial: St. James's Cemetery, Copt Hill, Dover

Town Memorial: Not Listed

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### Extra Information:

Born on the 12th October 1890 during the December quarter 1890 in the Ashton under Lyne R.D. - ref: 8d/455, the son of George Henry & Jessie Firth (nee Hallitt).

1891 Census - 93 North Road, Droylsden, Manchester.    Son - aged: 5 months - born: Manchester.    Head of household - George H. Firth - Married - aged: 35 - occ: Mechanical Engineer - born: Halifax, Yorkshire.    Also Jessie Firth - Wife - aged: 28 - born: Huddersfield, Yorkshire.    Plus 2 elder siblings, a maternal Gr. Grandmother and 1 domestic servant.

1901 Census - 35 Carlyle Terrace, Bradford, Yorkshire.    Son - aged: 10 - born: Manchester.    Head of household - George H. Firth - Married - aged: 45 - occ: Consulting Mechanical Engineer (self employed from home) - born: Halifax, Yorkshire.    Also Jessie Firth - Wife - aged: 38 - born: Huddersfield, Yorkshire.    Plus 2 siblings and 1 domestic servant.

On the 12th October 1908, Norman signed on at Portsmouth for 12 years service in the Royal Navy. He was 5 feet 4 inches in height - had dark brown hair - blue eyes and a fresh complexion. He had a scar on his left forefinger. His naval career commenced at HMS Fisgard, a RN Shore Base used to train Artificers and Engineers. He qualified as an E.R.A on 01/01/1910 and remained there until the 18th January 1910. His ship service comprised:-

HMS King Edward VII (Dreadnought Battleship) - from 19/01/1910 to 25/11/1910.

HMS Victory (105 gun wooden Battleship - In 1910 the Society for Nautical Research was created to try and preserve her for future generations) Norman served for only 3 days on her - 26 to 28/11/1910

HMS Crescent (Portsmouth Division of Home Fleet 4th Cruiser Squadron 1909-13) - from 29/11/1910 to 30/12/1910.

HMS Victory - from 31/12/1910 to 03/04/1911 (The 1911 Census was held on the night of the 2nd and 3rd April 1911).

1911 Census - 94 Kings Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire. Head of household - aged: 20 - occ: Engine Room Artificer in Royal Navy - born: Clayton, Manchester. Also resident was a Helen Hanbridge - Boarder - aged: 20 - born: Lofthouse, Yorkshire. Also her daughter - Olive Hanbridge - aged: 5 months - born: Eccles, Lancashire. I think it reasonable to assume that Helen was his common law wife as I have been unable to find any Hanbridge marriages that fit, nor even a birth record for Olive.

HMS Hampshire (Devon Class Armoured Cruiser - Lord Kitcher was killed on her when she was sunk in 1916) - from 04/04/1911 to 08/08/1911.

HMS Fisgard (RN Shore Base at Portsmouth) - from 09/08/1911 to 04/09/1911.

HMS Sappho (Apollo Class Cruiser, converted to a Minelayer) - from 05/09/1911 to 04/10/1911.

HMS Philomel (Pearl Class Cruiser) - from 05/10/1911 to 22/10/1913. During the early stages of the First World War she performed convoy escort duties and then carried out operations in the Mediterranean against the Turks. She later conducted patrols in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf]

HMS Victory - from 23/10/1913 to 31/12/1913.

HMS Hazard (Dryad Class Torpedo Gun Boat) - from 01/01/1914 to 07/04/1915.

HMS Dolphin (Shore Base - RN Submarine Training School at Gosport) - from 08/04/1915 to 18/04/1915.

HMS Arrogant (Arrogant Class Cruiser serving as the Fourth Submarine Flotilla Depot Ship) - from 19/04/1915 to 01/07/1915 when he was killed.

For 2½ years he was stationed on H.M.S. Philomel and took part in the gun running expedition to the Persian Gulf. During that time he was the only person on board to escape the fever, peculiar to that area. An enthusiastic sportsman and captain of the cricket, football and polo teams.

Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class. Attached to a British Submarine (actually a depot ship).

Accidentally killed at Dover when he fell over the Dover Dockyard wall. Cause of Death - "Misadventure". Buried at Dover on 06/07/1915, his funeral was attended by 200 men from the various battleships stationed in the locality.

Death reported in the 09/07/1915 edition of the Altrincham Guardian.

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**Memorials found on:**

Broadheath Congregational Church



**Norman's Grave at Dover (St. James') Cemetery**