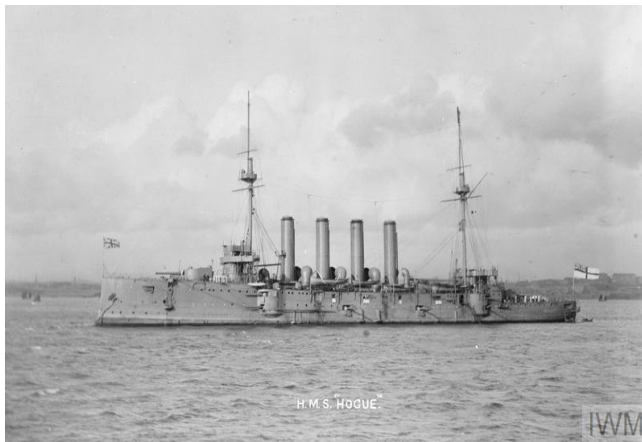




Albert Humphreys (14 February 1875 -22 September 1914)

Albert was born in Ditton Kent, the son of Henry and Catherine (Kate) Humphreys (nee Terry) who married in 1867 in Maidstone. Henry was a Publican who was born in East Malling, Kent. Albert's mother Kate was born in Wrotham in Kent.

Henry and Kate had 12 children so Albert had 9 brothers and 2 sisters. He was the sixth child born in the family. His brothers and sisters were Henry (born 1867), Kate (born 1868), Alfred (born 1870), Charles (born 1871), John (born 1872), Thomas (1875), Amos (born 1877), William (born 1878), Walter (born 1880), Edward (born 1882) and Rose born in 1883. Albert spent his childhood in Kent.



HMS Hogue 1914

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Albert enlisted in the Royal Navy at Chatham on 5 April 1894 when he was aged 19. Before joining up he had been a Cement Labourer. Initially he held the rank of Stoker 2nd Class but was later promoted to Stoker 1st Class. He served on a range of ships including HMS Wildfire, HMS Hibernia and HMS Cambrian.

In February 1898 he married Florence Pankhurst. He joined the Royal Fleet Reserve at Chatham when it was created after 1900.

This meant that he was released from the regular Naval service but agreed that he could be called upon to serve again in a time of national emergency. In 1901 he and his wife Florence were living in Malling in Kent but sadly she died in 1909 aged only 34.

In autumn 1909 Albert married Harriet Dobson. They had a child Albert William who was born in 1909. In 1911 they were living in Barming Heath, near Maidstone and Albert was age 36. He was working as a Stationary Engine Driver at Kent County Asylum. In 1912 Harriet and Albert had a second child, Henry, who was born in Brentford.



20 Haliburton Road, Twickenham

By 1914 Albert was acting as Relief Stoker at Warkworth House (formerly Brentford Union Infirmary-now West Middlesex University Hospital) and he and Harriet were living at 20 Haliburton Road, Isleworth. He was recalled to serve in the Royal Navy on 2 August 1914. He joined the crew of HMS Hogue which was a Cressy-class armoured cruiser built around 1900.

Albert was killed in action about 7 weeks later on 22 September 1914 when HMS Hogue was attacked by a U boat in the North Sea, along with her two sister ships HMS Aboukir and HMS Cressy. She sank when hit by a torpedo and 48 of her crew were killed. Albert was aged 39. He is remembered on Panel 5 of the Chatham Naval War Memorial as well as on the All Souls Church Memorial.