

## WORLD WAR I – DEATHS, ETC

### BOATING ACCIDENT TO VOLUNTEERS 1 DECEMBER 1914

#### BURIALS

Nov. 7. Robert Goodwin Age 44.  
Dec 5th. Charles Austin Newing. Age 21.  
„ 6th. Ernest Spencer. Age 31.  
„ „ Norman Aitkin. Age 38.  
„ „ Frederick James Biggs. Age 26.  
„ „ James W. „. Age 25.  
„ „ Walter Shires. Age 21.  
Dec. 11th Edwin Martell. Age 26. Stoker P.O.  
H. M. S. Glasgow.  
Dec 11th Stoker Young. H.M.S.Kent.  
„ „ Steward Duckett. „ „  
„ „ Pte Titheridge „ „ R.M.L.I.  
„ „ „ Woods. „ „ „  
„ „ „ Kind. „ „ „  
„ „ „ Kelly. „ „ „  
Dec. 15th Herbert Gaylard. Age 22.  
Dec 20th Edward Sonrsen. Age 54.  
„ 21st George Snow. Age 19.  
R. M. L. I. (H. M. S. Kent.)

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#### Boating Disaster.

On Tuesday December 1st a terrible accident occurred which had fatal results.

A party of eight of our Volunteers were employed on some of our defensive works on Engineer Point. Returning from there to the Wireless Station at noon for dinner it is supposed they all attempted to cross at once in the small boat. It was some hours before the boat was seen capsized. Everything was done to see if any of the unfortunate men had managed to struggle to the shore. It was a cold day with frequent storms and it was surmised that all quickly perished in the waters.

Needless to say the news received in Town with feeling of greatest sorrow and grief.

These men were all well-known to us, were all men highly respected, men of good reputation both for work and personal qualities.

Indirectly they are victims of the great War. Stanley has paid a terrible toll to the list of dead. Eight fine men alike at credit to the colony and the Empire. Two of these were married men our hearts are full of sympathy for their wives and so also for all the friends and relatives of the men. The deceased were buried with full Military honours and our Navy was represented at their funerals. The following are the names of the men - Corporal E. Spencer. Privates Norman Aitkin, William Blyth, Frederick Biggs, Charles Newing, James Allen, Walter Shires and Herbert Gaylard,

7. A very sad accident resulting in the drowning of eight men occurred on the afternoon of the 1st instant. We are building quarters for men off H.M.S. "Canopus" on the high land to the east of Engineer Point, volunteers from the

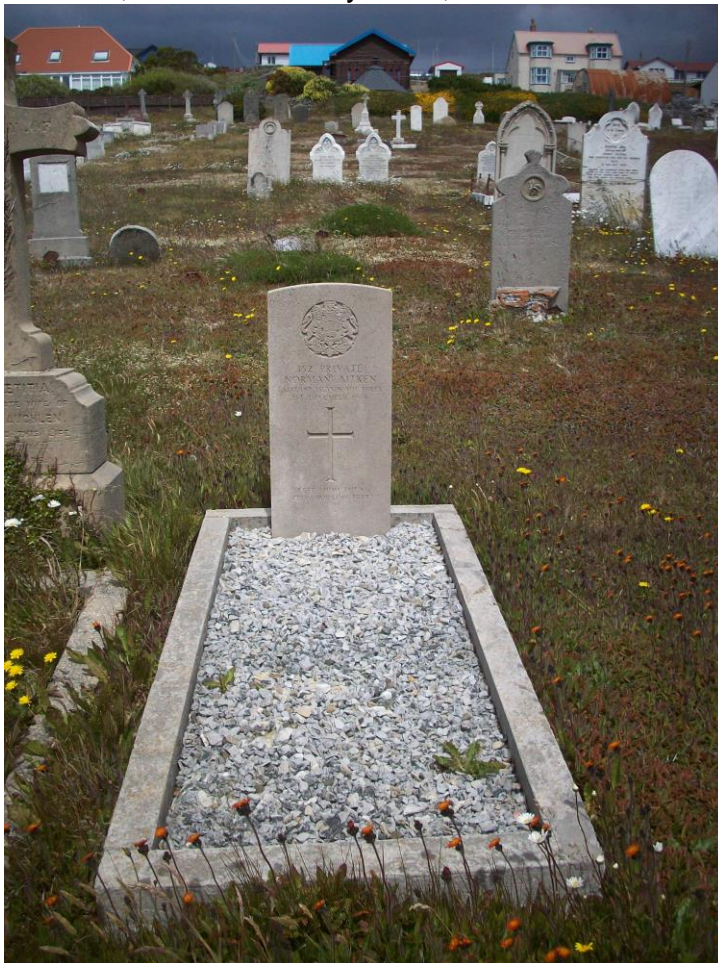
478 per "Crown of Galicia". 4.  
(4.13.14.)

Wireless Station being detailed to carry the material from the beach to the site. A party of eight were returning for dinner, crossing the narrow neck at the Careenage in a punt capable of carrying 3 or 4 men safely. It seems fairly certain that they must have attempted to cross all together and that the punt capsized. Nothing was known until 3 p.m. when the punt was observed bottom up. Out of the eight four were volunteers from our Camp (three of whom were South Petherton men), one from Port Howard, one from Chartres and the remaining two from Stanley. Bodies are being recovered by divers from H.M.S. "Canopus".



1. **AITKEN: Norman McKinnon**

Born 11 October 1878 on Speedwell Island to Richard and Christina AITKEN and baptised 13 February 1880 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd. Norman worked for the Falkland Islands Company Limited 4 January to 19 May 1899 in the Lafonia area on a monthly wage of £5-0-0. He recommenced employment in the Lafonia area 14 October 1899 and worked until 12 March 1909. Norman departed 19 May 1909 on board the *Orcoma* which was bound for Liverpool. Norman arrived back in Stanley 21 February 1911 on board the *Oravia*. He departed for Punta Arenas on the *Oravia* 3 May 1911, returning 21 February 1912. Norman recommenced employment in the Lafonia area 1 March 1912 and was still working at the end of 1913. Norman, age 37 and a private in the FI Volunteer Corps, was buried Sunday 6 December 1914 in Grave A777. His brother, John "Jack" AITKEN, who died 9 May 1954, was buried next to him in Grave A1533.



Norman's father, Richard AITKEN, was one on the first of the FI Volunteers, taking the oath as an original member 21 June 1892 at Government House and was awarded the long service medal in 1913 when he retired.

Mr. & Mrs. Aitken wish to express their deepest thanks to the many friends who sent wreaths or messages of condolence, in their sad bereavement.

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2. **ALLEN: James William**

Probably arrived 12 November 1912 on the *Oravia* from Liverpool which was wrecked on the Billy Rock. Started work for the Falkland Islands Company Limited in the Lafonia area 13 November 1912 on a monthly salary of £5-0-0. He was charged £14 for his passage from England plus for an advance in London of £6-1-9. He was still working for the FIC at Darwin at the end of 1913. James, age 25 and a private in the FI Volunteer Force, drowned 1 December 1914 and was buried Sunday 6 December 1914 in Grave I782.





3. **BIGGS: Frederick James**

Born 14 July 1888 at Roy Cove to James and Rose Biggs and baptised 4 November 1888 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as carter. Frederick, age 26 and a private in the FI Volunteer Force, drowned 1 December 1914 and was buried Sunday 6 December 1914 in Grave A776.



## Notice.

All persons claiming debts against the estate of the late Mr Frederick J. Biggs are requested to communicate before March 31st. with Mr J. F. Summers, Port Stanley, after which date no claim will be entertained. Any money owing to the deceased must be paid also to Mr Summers before March 31st.

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4. **BLYTH: William "Bill"**

Was born circa 1885 in Scotland, UK to John and Agnes BLYTH. William, age 11, departed London 19 April 1898 on board the *Tanis* with his parents and his siblings Alexander 9, Agnes 7 and John 0. The family arrived in Stanley 19 May 1898. William, a labourer, was married to Ellen Mary Grace "Nell" LEE 27 May 1913 in the Nonconformist Church (Tabernacle) by Special Licence by Robert Johnson, Nonconformist Minister. The witnesses were Alfred James Lee and Catherine Harriet Lee. William, age 26 and a private in the FI Volunteer Corps, drowned 1 December 1914 and was buried in Grave F779.



William and Ellen had one son, Alfred John William BLYTH, who was born 14 March 1915 in Stanley.



5. **GAYLARD: Herbert W**

Probably arrived 11 November 1913 on the *Orcoma* from Liverpool. Started work for the Falkland Islands Company Limited in the Lafonia area 11 November 1913 on a monthly salary of £5-0-0. He was charged £14 for his passage from England plus for an advance in London of £5-15-0. He was still working for the FIC at Darwin at the end of 1913. Herbert, age 22 and a private in the FI Volunteer Corps, drowned 1 December 1914 and was buried Tuesday 15 December 1914 in Grave I780.





6. **NEWING: Charles Austen**

Born 24 September 1893 in Stanley to Lawrence, a blacksmith, and Bessie Ellen NEWING. Charles, age 21 and a private in the FI Volunteer Corps, drowned 1 December 1914 and was buried in Stanley Cemetery Saturday 5 December 1914 beside other NEWING family members in Section E, Grave 775.



Mr.&Mrs. L. Newing and family wish to express their deepest thanks to the many kind friends both in Stanley, and the Camp, who so kindly sent flowers, or messages of sympathy, in their very sad bereavement.

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7. **SHIRE: Walter S**

Probably arrived 11 November 1913 on the *Orcoma* from Liverpool. Started work for the Falkland Islands Company Limited in the Lafonia area 11 November 1913 on a monthly salary of £5-0-0. He was charged £14 for his passage from England plus for an advance in London of £6-5-0. He was still working for the FIC at Darwin at the end of 1913. Walter, age 21 and a private in the FI Volunteer Corps, drowned 1 December 1914 and was buried Sunday 6 December 1914 in Grave I781.





8. **SPENCER: Ernest Henry**

Was born 9 February 1883 in England and came to the Falkland Islands with his parents, Henry and Georgina SPENCER. Ernest was married to Henrietta Jane HUTCHINSON 6 June 1904 in St James' Church, Punta Arenas, Chile. Their daughter, Cecilia Winifred SPENCER was born in Punta Arenas 23 November 1904. Mr and Mrs E Spencer and child arrived from Valparaiso per *Ortega* 15 September 1906. Their son, William Ernest SPENCER, was born in Stanley 26 March 1907. Ernest joined the Royal Falkland Islands Police Force 12 May 1908. Ernest, age 31 and a corporal in the FI Volunteer Corps, drowned 1 December 1914 was buried Sunday 6 December 1914 in Grave I778.



Mrs E SPENCER and family departed 12 June 1919 for Punta Arenas per *Antartico*.



## ERNEST SPENCER.

Communicant, Churchman,  
and Volunteer.

"Every inch a man", -such has he been described, and as such will his memory ever live in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. And not only a man, but a man with principle: the secret of his great personality, his intense loyalty, his spirit of affection to young and old alike was that he endeavoured to always walk with God and to be Christ-like. The writer recalls a long conversation he had with him on the subject of Prayer, and knows full well how that in all things, he made it his standpoint in life. How real too, and regular, were his Communion! One could feel the glow of faith in the man: one could see the Holy Spirit working in him, that was the great secret of his popularity with young and old. Ernest was also a man who knew what discipline is: keen and eager upon everything he undertook, whether during the many years he held the honoured position on the Select Vestry of the Cathedral, or whether in the Volunteers: whether in the Sports, or upon the Football Ground, -he was just always the same. It is men like this we miss, -aye, sadly miss! It is men like this who's places are so hard to fill. It is men with *principle* that the world admires! How many were his temptations to give up his church! - The petty persecutions he endured for the Faith! - He didn't say much but we knew, and God knows. And so we mourn his passing over to the God he loved so well. Yet, we must not mourn, for the Master had need of him, - and God took him to continue his work in His Service in the realms of Paradise. We often look at that empty seat in the Cathedral, but we know and feel he is still with us in our Services as of yore.

We cannot see him, but in that great Communion of Saints we still feel his presence, and know that his prayers are ever continued for those he loved so dearly, and his many other friends in the Falklands. May God in His Mercy grant to him Eternal Rest, and that the Perpetual Light of His own Presence may ever shine upon him. For us

who still linger awhile this side of the Veil, when we say the great Ter Sanctus, let us think of the one who has passed over, and pray with him - "Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and *with all the company of Heaven*, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, evermore praising Thee, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy. Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and Earth are full of Thy Glory; Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most high. Amen.

Mrs E. Spencer wishes to thank all those kind friends who sent wreaths and flowers and for their letters of sympathy in her sad bereavement.