

## **ALBERT DICKS (?) Gunner 238348, RFA**

Albert Dicks was born in Curland in 1898, the son of Eli, a farmer on Britty Common, and his wife Emily. He was the sixth child in a family of eight, ranging in 1901 from 16 years to 3 months. In 1901 he was living at home in Staple Fitzpaine, a schoolboy of 12, with his brothers Charles, 24, Ernest, 8, and his sister Mary, 10. Father Eli and brother Charles were labourers.

He began school in Buckland St Mary in July 1904 (as did his brothers and sisters), but no leaving date is given. The next we hear of him is in the Army during the war. Unfortunately there's no clue as to which regiment he was in. The RFA listing given is just one possibility among a range of others. As he was born in 1898, 1916 must be the earliest date on which he would have served..

Albert died in the Taunton & Somerset Hospital in May 1922, aged just 23. He was living with his family at Lower Britty, and working as a Farm Labourer. His brother Ernest was with him when he died, of a cerebral haemorrhage which had occurred 10 hours earlier. Most unexpectedly, the primary cause of death is given as haemophilia. If this was so, how did he come to be serving in the Army? And working as a Farm Labourer? This information poses a lot of unanswered questions, although it seems that mild haemophilia may not cause symptoms until later in life.



*Ruins of Britty & Lower Britty Farm, 2020*

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
DICKS	R.F.A.	Env.	238348
Albert.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RFA/308B	41700	
BRITISH	— 10 —		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

R. 1380

Registration District TAUNTON.								
19122. DEATHS in the Sub-District of PITMINSTER in the County of SOMERSET.								
Columns:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	Taunton Easterns.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	Signature of Registrar.
211	Twenty ninth May 1922. Taunton and Somerset Hospital. Taunton. U.D.	Albert Dicks	Male	23 years	Lower Britty / Staple Fitzpaine R.D. Farm Labourer	Haemophilia 2. Cerebral Haemorrhage 10 hours Certified by C. E. Forsyth M.B.	E. Dicks. Brother. in attendance. Lower Britty Staple Fitzpaine	Twenty ninth May 1922 Registrar.

Administrative County of <u>Surrey</u>				The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 14			
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Division		Electoral Parish or District			
<u>St. Andrew's</u>		<u>St. Andrew's</u>		<u>St. Andrew's</u>		<u>St. Andrew's</u>		<u>St. Andrew's</u>		<u>St. Andrew's</u>		<u>St. Andrew's</u>		<u>St. Andrew's</u>			
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES No. of In the Schedule	Number of In the Schedule	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Male Female	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed or Unemployed	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf- and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or idiot						
49	<u>St. Andrew's Farm</u>	1		<u>Thomas Henderson</u>	Head	M	44	<u>Farmer</u>	+	<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>Anna</u>	Wife	M	46			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>Robert</u>	Son	M	23			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>William</u>	Do	M	22			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>James</u>	Do	M	18			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>John</u>	Son	M	16			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>Anna</u>	Daughter	M	14			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>Elizabeth</u>	Do	M	9			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>William</u>	Do	M	7			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>John</u>	Do	M	5			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>Robert</u>	Do	M	4			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>Thomas</u>	Do	M	3			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>James</u>	Do	M	2			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>John</u>	Do	M	1			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>William</u>	Do	M	0			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>Robert</u>	Do	M	0			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
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				<u>Thomas</u>	Do	M	0			<u>St. Andrew's</u>							
				<u>James</u>	Do	M											



Administrative County of Somerset

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the

Page 12

Civil Parish	Electoral Ward	County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District	Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District	Rural District	Parliamentary Constituency	Town or Village or Hamlet		
Stapleford	Stapleford	Stapleford	Stapleford	Stapleford	Stapleford	Stapleford		
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of HOUSE	Uninhabited	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Where BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Insane (5) Feeble-minded
39 Cottage	1 X	Charles Lunden	Head	46	Woodman		Bishop Lydard Somerset	
		Bonnie	Wife	48			Stapleford	
		Alma B.	Daughter	25			Stapleford	
39 Eastover	1 Y	Henry Hoare	Head	32	Farmer		Stapleford	
		Ann	Wife	31			Stapleford	
		Edith	Daughter	21			Stapleford	
		Ada	Daughter	13			Stapleford	
		William	Son	10			Stapleford	
40 Butley	1 X	George Cotton	Head	38	Farmer		Stapleford	
		Marjorie	Wife	15			Stapleford	
		Robert	Son	10			Stapleford	
		Edith	Daughter	8			Stapleford	
		Frederick	Son	5			Stapleford	
		Albert	Son	3			Stapleford	
		Samuel	Son	2			Stapleford	
41	1 X	John	Head	42	Farmer		Stapleford	
		Elizabeth	Wife	37			Stapleford	
		Christopher	Son	16			Stapleford	
		Charles	Son	13			Stapleford	
		Benjamin	Son	9			Stapleford	
		Edith	Daughter	8			Stapleford	
		Albert	Son	2			Stapleford	
42 Puttersleigh	1 X	John	Head	57	Farmer		Stapleford	
		Elizabeth	Wife	54			Stapleford	
		John	Son	22			Stapleford	
		William	Son	18			Stapleford	
		Edith	Daughter	15			Stapleford	
5	5							
Total of Males and Females...							18	12

Note—Draw your pen through each word of the headings as are inappropriate.

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CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of this Census. The entries should be written in ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

Number of Schedules 26 (To be filled up by the Head of Family or other person in charge of the household)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	RESIDENCE	NATIONALITY	INFIRMITY
John Lee House	Head	40	M	Married	Farmer	100	English	
Elizabeth House	Wife	43	F	Married			English	
Christopher Lee House	Son	10	M	Single	School	390	English	
William Lee House	Son	7	M	Single	School	120	English	
Edith Lee House	Daughter	21	F	Single	Teacher	120	English	
Albert Lee House	Son	5	M	Single			English	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by the Head of Family or other person in charge of the household)

Signature: John Lee House

Printed Address: Smithy Farm, Somerset



**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION		BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATURALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
			For Males	For Females	Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which connected			
1. <i>Edie Dicks</i>	Head	53	Married 27		Labourer	Quarry Worker	Wales	British	
2. <i>Emily Dicks</i>	Wife	47	Married				Wales	British	
3. <i>Charles Dicks</i>	Son	24	Single		Labourer		Wales	British	
4. <i>Alfred Dicks</i>	Son	12			School		Wales	British	
5. <i>Mary Dicks</i>	Daughter	10					Wales	British	
6. <i>Carrie Dicks</i>	Son	8					Wales	British	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Male	Female	Total
4	2	6

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Edie Dicks*

Postal Address: *Staple Telford, Shropshire*

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
<i>DICKS</i>	<i>R.F.A</i>	<i>Qm.</i>	<i>238348</i>
<i>Albert.</i>			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
<i>VICTORY</i>	<i>RFA/308B</i>	<i>41700</i>	
<i>BRITISH</i>	<i>do</i>		
<i>STAR</i>			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380



(To be rendered in duplicate.)

**REGIMENT OR CORPS.**

266 and 301 of 1914 No. 41700. (72).

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Corps and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regt. No. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, awarded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless awarded for subsequently being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inserted on the medal.	Theatre of war in which served	Clasp awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations	REMARKS
Regt. No.	Rank						
238348	Gnr.	DICKS, Albert.	R.F.A. 238348. Gnr.				
238349	Gnr.	WILDING, Ernest James.	R.F.A. 238349. Gnr.				
238350	Gnr.	TUCKER, Harold.	R.F.A. 238350. Gnr.				
238351	Dvr.	HOLE, Thomas.	R.F.A. 238351. Dvr.				
238352	Dvr.	AUSTIN, Thomas John.	R.F.A. 238352. Dvr.				

WOOLWICH. I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place 8/5/1926 Date 5.19

Signature and rank of Officer certifying. *W. H. H. & R.F.A. RECORDS.*

## SCHOOL ABSENTEES.

### "AWFUL" STATE OF ROADS.

Charley Dicks, of Britty Farm, Staple Fitzpaine, was summoned by Alfred Trimby, school attendance officer, for failing to send his children, Albert, Frank, and Thomas, to Buckland St. Mary School contrary to an order made on August 13th, 1925.

Mr. Trimby gave particulars of the children's non-attendance, but defendant asked if any of the School Managers would like to send their children over such rough roads as his had to go. They lived three miles from school.

Defendant called P.C. Powis to support his statement, and the officer told the Bench that the way to the school was often much worse the day after rain than during the actual storm. The road was in an awful state even now, and the water remained there practically all the winter. The road to Staple Fitzpaine, where the children might go, was worse.

The Chairman pointed out that it was necessary for the children to be educated, but they realised that defendant had had some difficulty in sending his children in the last month or two. They hoped the weather would improve, and would adjourn the cases for four months.

NOT YET ATTENDED.





Britty Farm Ruins 2020