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..

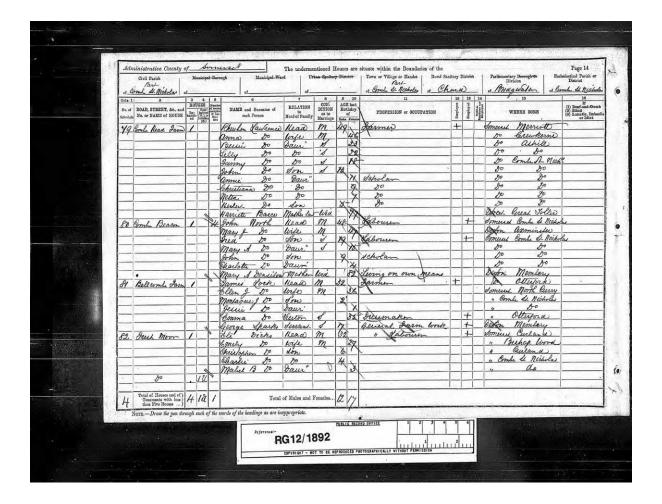
Albert died in the Taunton & Somerset Hospital in May 1922, aged just 23. He was living with his family at Lower Britty, and working as a Farm Labourer. His brother Ernest was with him when he died, of a cerebral haemorrhage which had occurred 10 hours earlier. Most unexpectedly, the primary cause of 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

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SCHOOL ABSENTEES. "AWFUL" STATE OF ROADS.

Charley Dicks, of Britty Farm, Staple Fitz-paine, 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 VET ATTENDED.



Britty Farm Ruins 2020