

Ernest Alfred Ayres

1911 census, Northwood House, Northwood Park, Cowes, I.W.

William Ayres	Head	57	Police Pensioner, Caretaker and Probation Officer	Elvetham, Hampshire
Annie Ayres	Wife	55		Northwood, Isle of Wight
Ernest Alfred Ayres	Son	21	Engineer	Sandown, Isle of Wight
Archibald Edward Ayres	Son	17	School	Sandown, Isle of Wight
Maud Mary Ayres	Daughter	14	School	Newport, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press – 29 September 1917

KILLED IN ACTION

AYRES. - Sept. 18, lost at sea, Eng.-Sub.-Lieut. E. A. Ayes, R.N.R., husband of Mrs. Ayres and elder son of ex-supt. and Mrs. W. Ayres, of Northwood House, Cowes, aged 27.

THE ISLAND AND THE WAR

COWES

The distressing news has been received by ex-Supt. and Mrs. W. Ayres, of Northwood House, that their elder son, Engineer-Sub-Lieut. Ernest Alfred Ayres, R.N.R., has been lost on one of H.M. ships [*HMS "Stonecrop" **] at sea on the 18th last (sic). Deep sympathy is felt for the young widow and child and the parents and other relatives in the loss of one who had done splendid service and made such marked progress, both in the mercantile marine and since the war in the Navy, that his future seemed full of promise. The deceased, who was 27, was born in Sandown and educated at the Newport National and Grammar Schools. He passed the Cambridge local examinations with distinction whilst a pupil at the latter school. He served his apprenticeship as a marine engineer at Messrs. J. S. White and Co.'s, Cowes, and then proceeded to the Vicker's works at Barrow-in-Furness. He afterwards obtained an appointment with the P. and O. Company, serving about three years in the mail liners "China" and "Khiva," and, passing the Board of Trade examination, he obtained his engineer's certificate. On the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Naval Reserve, and was posted to H.M.S. Newmarket, minesweeper, as engineer-sub-lieutenant, and was minesweeping in the battle of Heligoland Bight. He afterwards went on similar service in the Dardanelles, and assisted in some of the most difficult landings at Gallipoli. There he contracted blood poisoning owing to an injury, and returned home for treatment. On recovery he was posted to H.M.S. Otway, armed merchant cruiser, of which he was a survivor when that vessel was torpedoed in the North Sea on July 22nd. Whilst serving on that ship he and another engineer were commended for patching up an abandoned drifter and taking her into port. About a month ago he was appointed third engineer on another ship for special service, and it was whilst on this vessel that he, with others, was lost through enemy action. He was home as recently as the 2nd last. His younger and only surviving brother is serving in Mesopotamia. Deceased will be pleasantly remembered at Newport as a chorister at St. Thomas's Church. His old friends, whilst deploring his death, are proud of his gallant record.

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** HMS "Stonecrop" was one of the disguised identities of the Q-ship Glenfoyle, a former collier built in 1913 and sunk in 1917. (Wikipedia)*