

Able Seaman 202829 Herbert Frederick HOSKINS. HMS “Royal Arthur”. Royal Fleet Reserve (R.F.R). Died 20th January 1915 aged 31 years. Died at 23 Christchurch Road, Ashford, Kent. The given cause of death was heart disease. Brother of Caroline May Wilkins of 23, Christchurch Road, Ashford, Kent. Herbert normally resided at 66, Lower Denmark Road, Ashford, Kent. Buried locally 23rd January 1915 in the Ashford Cemetery, Canterbury Road, Ashford. Grave reference - 7004. There is a Mabel Harriet Pilbeam buried in the same burial plot. Mabel was buried here on 2nd February 1966 aged 79 years. She is probably Herbert’s sister (or a wife).

Death Certificate reference – West Ashford/ASH28/171.

Before the outbreak of war Herbert was the Licensee of the Wheatsheaf Public House, Lower Denmark Road, Ashford. Herbert’s death certificate states that he was a Railway Carriage Cleaner and a sailor.

The Ashford Absentee Voters List for 1918 gives –

51, Beaver Road, Ashford

Driver 234110 Frank HOSKINS. Royal Field Artillery (RFA).

The 1901 census gives –
23, Christchurch Road, Ashford

Charles HOSKINS	57	Labourer	Baddeley, Hampshire
Mary	54		Bungay, Suffolk
Arthur	23	Carpenter Joiner	Stepney, London
Catherine	21		Stepney, London
George	19	Hawker	Stepney, London
Frank	12		Stepney, London

Herbert joined the Royal Navy in 1899 for 12 years service. He served on the following ships during this period – St Vincent (1899), Argincourt (1900), Galatea (1900), Empress of India (1900/01), Caesar (1901/02), Wildfire (1903/04), Northampton (1904), Hawke (1904/05). Herbert left the navy on expiry of his service engagement. On the outbreak of war Herbert answered the call of his country and rejoined the navy. He was posted to HMS Royal Arthur on the 2nd August 1914 and remained with this ship until 26th November 1914. On the 27th November 1914 he returned to HMS Pembroke in Chatham and was subsequently invalided on 21st December 1914.

Herbert died only 1 month later of heart disease. His death was therefore attributable.

7% of men who were awarded war disablement pensions were as a consequence of heart problems. The case for Herbert is extremely strong taking into account he died only 1 month after being invalided.



Herbert's Grave is now a disgrace