

Frank Carter

Frank Carter was born in Wimborne, on May 4th 1895, to Alice Gurd, daughter of John and Elizabeth Gurd. She seems to have been a single mother, with a son, Albert, six years Frank's senior. He was baptised on 7th July of that year. By the time of the 1901 census, Alice was married to Robert Carter, dairyman, and the family was living at Bickham, Pamphill, near Wimborne. Robert is given as Frank's father on the Commonwealth war grave record, so maybe he was the boy's natural father, although the 1901 census lists three children as living with the family – Albert Gurd, Frank Gurd and Montague Carter, so if this hypothesis is true, Frank hadn't taken the Carter name at that point.

In 1911, Alice and Frank were living at Bishops Down Farm, Salisbury, where Frank was engaged in dairy work, but Robert Carter was dead by this point and Alice was remarried, to John Waters. On Frank's records, his parents are given as Alice Martha Waters (formerly Carter), of 46 New Zealand, Codford, Wilts, and the late Robert Carter. Frank is listed as living at Nursling at the time of his death.

Private Frank Carter served with the 10th battalion Hampshire regiment, having enlisted in Southampton. He travelled in the troopship Transylvania from Liverpool to the Mediterranean and seems to have been hit by a bullet and left on board during the night landing of the 5th August 1915 at Gallipoli. He died at sea, of wounds, aged only 21, on 6th August, the next day. Too often we think of this campaign as being fought by Anzac troops, forgetting the role our own lads played. (For further reading about WWI, with a different slant to many books, I'd thoroughly recommend [The Final Whistle](#) by Stephen Cooper.) Frank Carter's grave is unknown, (perhaps he was even buried at sea): he's commemorated at the Helles Memorial, Part XIII.

Ann Laird - Rownhams April 2014