

The following extracts from a Isle of Wight County Press 9 May 1942 report on the island air raids, reflect those buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery

SOUTH COAST AIR RAIDS.

DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES AT A PORT

A South Coast port [*Cowes*], which was subjected to an early morning low-flying raid by German fighter-bombers a few days previously, was twice attacked by bombers during the night of Monday-Tuesday [*4/5 May*], resulting in further serious damage to property and a considerable number of casualties.

With admirable promptitude the rest centre and billeting services were brought into operation, and proved a great comfort to the many who had been rendered homeless. The gallant helpers in these services did not escape casualties, as Mrs. Hann, who was going round the stricken area with a W.V.S. mobile canteen, was killed during the second raid,

... One of heavy calibre fell in the back gardens of villas residences on a main road [*Medina Avenue, Newport*], completely demolishing three residences, seriously damaging half a dozen more, and doing minor damage to many others. Thanks to what would appear to be providential protection several residents had wonderful escapes and there was only one fatal casualty, the victim being Mr. George Kirkup, well known as a teacher of music and ex-church organist. He happened to be in the kitchen of his house where he lived alone, the nearest part of the house to the bomb, and he was apparently instantly killed when the building collapsed. The rescue squad, who with their colleagues of other branches of the A.R.P. service worked splendidly, regardless of an ever-present danger they knew to be at hand, soon extricated Mr. Kirkup, but he was beyond human aid.

A most tragic result of the raid occurred when two cottages about a mile from the town [*Point Cottages, Race Course, Wootton*], at the junction of main roads, received a direct hit. The occupants of one of the cottages, Mr. and Mrs. W. Chiverton, and two children were rescued, but their other six children, whose ages ranged from 5 weeks to 7 years, including twins 2 years of age were killed. Mrs. Abrook was rescued from the other cottage after being buried under the ruins for six hours*. Here a party of soldiers gave much appreciated help in the rescues. ...

** Mrs. Evelyn Abrook subsequently died at Park Prewett Hospital, Sherborne St. John, Hampshire – her death was recorded in the IWCP the following week, 16th May.*

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