

Edward James Bartlett
Isle of Wight County Press
4 July 1959

BOER WAR VETERAN AND FORMER PRISON OFFICER

DEATH OF MR. E. J. BARTLETT, OF NEWPORT

The death, at his home, 6 Mill Street, Newport, a few days after his 76 birthday, of Mr. Edward James Bartlett, removes one who had been a familiar figure in the town for half-a-century, since, as a young man he joined the Civil Guard, and was posted to Parkhurst Prison. He was exceptionally well-known for his ready assistance for many worthy objects, and his friendly manner.

A native of Ramsgate, where his family owned a fishing fleet, Mr. Bartlett had an inborn love of the sea and adventure, and his frequent "unofficial" absences from school led to such trouble that he ran away from home at 16, advanced his age, and enlisted in the East Kent Regiment, (The Buffs). After training he was drafted to South Africa during the 1899-1901 war and he served until peace was signed. On demobilisation he joined the Civil Guard, who in those days, were on duty at all penal establishments, and was posted to Parkhurst Prison, beginning a long association with the prison service which lasted, with a break during the 1914-18 war, until his retirement with the rank of principal officer in 1938.

As a reservist, Mr. Bartlett was recalled to the colours in August 1914, and served in France, but the rigours of trench warfare during the first battle of the Marne left him with a leg affection which for years defied the best treatment then available in military hospitals in many parts of the country, and he was finally invalided out in 1917, with a partial disability, only narrowly escaping amputation. Later, mainly due to his own perseverance, his leg improved sufficiently to allow him to rejoin the prison service.

Mr. Bartlett took a keen interest in ex-service associations, being a member of the I.W. Branch of the South African War Veterans' Association and of the Newport and Carisbrooke Branch of the British Legion in which he was particularly active. He was a vice president at the time of his death, had been a committee member for many years, and at various times branch standard bearer and secretary of the entertainments committee. He will be remembered with particular gratitude as a regular helper in the annual poppy day effort. Another activity which had appealed to him was the annual carnival. He was a member of the carnival committee and an assiduous worker not only on carnival day, but also in the long and arduous preparations and subsequent "clearing up" operations. He also helped local amateur theatrical productions in their backstage work, his assistance having been given in this way to entertainments ranging from the productions of the Wight Strollers of the 1920's, to the recent plays performed by the Newport Repertory Club. A staunch Conservative, he worked untiringly for the cause at election times and was a popular member of the Newport Conservative Club. Almost his only hobby was bowls, at which game he was a tolerable performer, earlier for Newport Bowling Club, and latterly for the Saunders-Roe Club. All his life he had been interested in football. He was in earlier life well-known as a referee and was a keen member of the Newport F.C. Supporters' Club.

Mr. Bartlett's death follows an illness which confined him to his bed since March, but about a month ago took a more serious turn. He leaves a widow and one daughter (the assistant secretary of the I.W. Publicity Council). The funeral will take place today: service at the Newport Parish Church at 2 p.m., interment at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Isle of Wight County Press - 11 July 1959

**THE LATE MR. E. J. BARTLETT
FUNERAL AT NEWPORT**

The funeral service was held at Newport Parish Church on Saturday for Mr. Edward James Bartlett, of 6 Mill Street, whose death was reported last week. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. P. Lumley) and included the 23rd Psalm. Miss K. Lower, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., L.T.C.L., was the organist. The coffin was draped with a Union Jack. The family mourners were Mrs. Bartlett (widow), Mr. and Mrs. H. Sweatman (son-in-law and daughter) and Christopher and Miss A. Sweatman (grandchildren). Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Russell (cousins) were unable to attend.

Among those represented were the branch and women's section of the British Legion, the South African War Veterans' Association, I.W. Grocers' Association, Newport Aid to Lepers' Society, I.W. Publicity Council, Conservative Club, and the Chelsea Pensioners. The beautiful floral tributes included those from the British Legion, Newport Amateur Dramatic Society, Conservative Club, Newport Repertory Club, Newport Aid to Lepers' Society, I.W. Grocers' Association, and friends and neighbours. Interment was in Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and son.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
© 2021 <https://www.foncc.org.uk>