

Arthur Ernest Conlan

Isle of Wight County Press

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NEWPORT

Former I.W. Rifles Bandmaster's Death. - The death occurred very suddenly at his residence, 17 Caesar's-road, on Sunday of Mr. Arthur Ernest Conlan, aged 68, who had a fine record of Army service and was bandmaster of the I.W. Rifles prior to the Great War. Mr. Conlan had for some time been employed as a policeman by Messrs. Saunders-Roe, of East Cowes, and carried out his duties as usual on Saturday. Early on Sunday morning he complained of having had a sleepless night and of pains in the back, and his sister took him a cup of tea in bed. Shortly afterwards she heard a bump and found that he had fallen while getting out of bed. With the assistance of neighbours he was put to bed again and a doctor summoned, but death had taken place before the medical man arrived. A post-mortem examination disclosed that death was due to natural causes and no inquest was held. Mr. Conlan leaves a widow, two daughters and one son, with whom much sympathy is felt in their unexpected bereavement. He joined the Lancashire Fusiliers as a drummer boy in 1889, when he was 14, and served in that regiment for 22 ½ years, retiring with the rank of sergt.-drummer in 1911. He saw active service in the Egyptian War of 1898, for which he received the Sudan and Khartoum Medals, and then in the South African War, gaining two medals with clasps for Langs-Nek, Transvaal, relief of Ladysmith, Orange Free State, and Tugela Heights, and afterwards spent about 12 years in India. He was a good musician, playing the clarinet, flute, and piccolo, and soon after his retirement on pension he joined the I.W. Rifles band. On the outbreak of the Great War he rejoined his old regiment and served as an instructor in this country and in France until he was invalided out in 1917. After the war he rejoined the Territorials and became the conductor of the band on its reformation, a position he held for several years until he had to retire on reaching the age limit. In addition to the decorations mentioned above he held the two Great War Medals and the Territorial Medal for voluntary service overseas. Mr. Conlan was a member of the Conservative Club. The funeral was on Wednesday, a service being held in St. Thomas's Church, Canon W. B. Hogg officiating, and the interment at Carisbrooke. The chief mourners were Mr. M. J. Conlan (son), Mrs. K. Caplehorn and Mrs. N. L. Adams (daughters), Miss M. Conlan (sister), Mr. N. L. Adams (son-in-law), and Mr. E. Caplehorn (son-in-law). Others attending were Mr. C. Eldridge and Mr. H. Long (representing the Conservative Club), Sergts. H. B. Westcomb and C. Tewkesbury, Corpl. B. E. Brownhill, and Constables A. W. Budden, C. Ratcliff, W. H. Dyer, W. Lindsay, and G. Arnold (Saro Police), Mr. W. Ferguson (representing the South African War Veteran's Association), Mr. F. Chiverton (St. Thomas's Bible Class), Miss Cogger, Mrs. P. Morgan, Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Brading, Miss Caplehorn, and Mr. C. Caplehorn. The wreaths included those from his comrades in the Saro Police and the South African Veteran's Association.- The family tender grateful thanks to friends for kindly assistance and messages of sympathy and for the beautiful floral tributes. Will all please accept this acknowledgment.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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