

Sylvester John Dibben

Isle of Wight County Press – 30 September 1983

NEWPORT

Mr. S. J. Dibben – Mr. Sylvester John Dibben, formerly of Newport, died at Fairlee Hospital, Newport, aged 69. He was born in Otterbourne, Hampshire. At the age of 15 he went to sea-school and then joined the merchant navy as a deck boy. In his earlier years he sailed on such ships as the Kenilworth Castle and the Windsor Castle, with the Union Castle Line. One of his proudest moments was when he served as quartermaster on the Empress of Australia, carrying the King and Queen to Canada. During the war years he remained with the merchant navy and served in the Mediterranean and Far East and took part in the landings of the Allied troops. In 1949 he joined the prison service, spending four years at Wandsworth Prison, London, and the remainder of his time at Parkhurst. His wife died in 1962. He retired from the prison service in 1972 and visited his three sons, living in Canada. Following a car accident he suffered poor health and his last four years were spent at St. Mary's Hospital, and the Fairlee Hospital, Newport. He had been an active crib team member at the Forester's Arms and Stag Inn, Newport. The service at St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke, was conducted by the Rev. M. Cooper. Mourners included, Mr. R. Dibben, Mr. P. Dibben, and Mr. and Mrs. P. Dibben (sons and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. R. Williams (son-in-law and daughter), Miss B. Dibben, Mrs. E. Staniford, Mrs. D. Taylor (sisters), Mr. and Mrs. D. Dibben, Mr. and Mrs. M. Staniford (nephews and nieces), Mr. M. Ing, Miss J. Onderwater, Mr. and Mrs. H. Ing, Mr. P. Crabb, Miss Esme Childs and Miss Margaret Childs. Also represented were the prison service and nursing staff from both St. Mary's and Fairlee Hospitals.

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