

Albert Henry & Kathleen Rose Kentfield

**Isle of Wight County Press
19 November 1938**

NEWPORT FAMILY'S DOUBLE BEREAVEMENT

Profound sympathy has been aroused with Mr. and Mrs. H. Kentfield, of 11 Upper Field-place, Newport, who have suffered the bereavement of two of their family of six children this week.

Their first loss came on Tuesday afternoon, when their second son, Albert Henry, aged 17, a butcher's assistant, who had been in good health and at work until the previous Saturday night, succumbed to an attack of infantile paralysis, after five doctors and his uncle (Mr. H. P. Grimes) had fought desperately for his life by maintaining artificial respiration for over four hours. Their second bereavement occurred early on Thursday morning, when their youngest child, Kathleen Rose, aged 3, passed away at the Fairlee Isolation Hospital. It was at first feared that the little one had contacted the disease which caused the death of her brother, but this was not the case, as she died from an attack of bronchial pneumonia. She was found by the doctors attending her brother to be suffering with a heavy cold, a preliminary symptom of infantile paralysis, and was taken to the Isolation Hospital for treatment in case paralysis appeared.

Her brother was a healthy and popular lad, who had been employed by the I.W. Meat Co. in Pyle-street since February. He was formerly a scholar at the National Schools. On Sunday he developed what appeared to be nothing worse than a bad cold, but his condition became worse on the next day, and Dr. A. A. Heathcote was called in. Early on Tuesday morning paralysis became evident by his difficulty in moving his legs, and the borough medical officer (Dr. W. S. Wallace) was called in. He confirmed Dr. Heathcote's suspicion that it was a case of infantile paralysis, and the disease developed so rapidly that the respiratory muscles soon became affected, necessitating continuous artificial respiration. This was carried on by the two doctors named, Dr. J. J. Dowdall, Dr. G. L. Peskett, and Dr. Hayward Carpenter (assistant county medical officer), and Mr. Grimes, from 11 a.m. until about 3 p.m., when the patient's heart failed and he died. Just as he passes away two members of the borough police, P.C.s Rossner and Baverstock, who had volunteered to assist with the artificial respiration, arrived. In the meantime Dr. Wallace had made efforts to secure an iron lung from Croydon and Southampton, but as the apparatus was not available he ordered another form of automatic artificial respirator, a "Tor-tilter," from London, but this did not arrive until the evening. All the doctors are agreed, however, that the lad's life could not have been saved even had the apparatus been immediately available.

The lad and his little sister will be buried together at Carisbrooke Cemetery this (Saturday) afternoon at 2.30.

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The Funeral - of Albert Henry and Kathleen Rose Kentfield, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Kentfield of 11 Field Place, whose tragic deaths within 48 hours of each other, we reported last week, took place on Saturday at Carisbrooke cemetery. The Vicar of Carisbrooke (the Rev. H. Ewbank) officiated. The mourners were Messrs. H. P., G., C., and W. Grimes and G. and P. Kentfield (uncles). There were about 40 beautiful floral tributes, including wreaths from Mr. A. G. Bull and Messrs. Westmore, Ltd., R. Mockford, and neighbours and friends in Field Place and Caesars-road. Mr. H. W. Parnell made the arrangements.

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