

Bertie Ablitt Lamb

Isle of Wight County Press - July 17th 1965

FORMER PRISON GOVERNOR

DEATH OF MR. B. A. LAMB

Mr. Bertie Ablitt Lamb, (71) a Newportonian and former governor of Dorchester prison, die on Tuesday week in a London hospital. Mr. Lamb retired from governorship of the prison in March, 1955, after 34 years in the prison service. He was the son of Mr. John Lamb, of the John Lamb Inn in Upper St. James's Street, and he married the daughter of a former licensee of the Rose and Crown Inn, St. Thomas's Square.

In his early days, as a member of the St. John's Men's Bible Class and Athletic Club at Newport, Mr. Lamb was a prominent runner and gymnast. He served with the I.W. Rifles at Gallipoli, transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, and was for a time engaged in flying supplies to Lawrence of Arabia. He survived two crashes with minor injuries.

After the war Mr. Lamb joined the prison service and at Dartmoor, where he served for 11 years, was commended for gallantry during the 1932 mutiny. He was later physical training instructor at Camp Hill and at Wakefield Training School for Prison Officers. He was promoted to second class chief officer at Winchester Prison in 1945, and soon afterwards was raise to the rank of first class chief officer at Wandsworth prison. He was appointed governor of Dorchester Prison in 1948.

Mr. Lamb's work was regarded with respect and admiration by all who came in touch with him, whether they were magistrates, staff, or prisoners. Many tributes were paid to him on his retirement and presentations were made to him by the prison visitors of Dorchester Prison and by the prison staff. Among those who paid tribute was Mr. Pat Somerville, welfare officer for the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, in Dorchester, who was an old comrade of Mr. Lamb in the I.W. Rifles, and a former Newport schoolteacher and well-known cricketer.

On retirement, Mr. Lamb moved to Ham near Richmond, Surrey. He leaves a widow, a son (a serving officer in the R.A.F. stationed at Singapore), and a married daughter. Cremation took place at Mortlake on Monday.

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