

Desmond Alec Payne

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NEWPORT

PARATROOPER'S TRAGIC DEATH

MILITARY FUNERAL AT CARISBROOKE

A Newport paratrooper, who was acting as dispatch rider in an Army convoy bound for the R.A.F. station at Abingdon, Berkshire, died in the Racdcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, on Friday week, after his motorcycle was involved in a collision with a lorry on the Didcot to Wallingford road earlier in the day. He was Private Desmond Alec Payne, 23-year-old younger son of Capt. and Mrs. F. A. Payne, of The Lodge, Carisbrooke Castle, who have two other sons and a daughter.

Pte. Payne made the Army his career from the age of 15, when he joined the 3rd Bn. Grenadier Guards and served in Egypt, Malta and Cyprus during the period of the Suez Crisis and the terrorist regime in Cyprus. After a short period in civilian employment he re-enlisted and served first with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, where he was a physical training and weapons instructor, later transferring to the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade, stationed at Farnborough, Hampshire. He completed his initial training as a paratrooper at the beginning of March and was due for a further period of service in Cyprus.

Born in Egypt, Pte. lived in Palestine and South Africa before coming to Britain with his parents. His father was also in the Grenadier Guards and was later commissioned in the Royal Corps of Military Police until his retirement from the Army 13 years ago. Pte. Payne was educated at Newport Church of England and Barton County Boys' Schools. A keen sportsman, he followed his elder brother John (now serving with the Army in Singapore) to the title of All-Island schoolboy swimming champion, and represented the Island at many contests.

An inquest was opened at Oxford on Monday and adjourned after formal evidence of identification.

The funeral service at the chapel of St. Nicholas-in-Castro on Wednesday was conducted by the Rev. J. Souttar (vicar), assisted by the senior chaplain to the forces. Mr. J. D. Jones (curator of Carisbrooke Castle Museum) was the organist. The mourners were Capt. and Mrs. F. A. Payne (father and mother), Mr. B. A. Payne (brother), Miss S. Payne (sister), Mr. and Mrs. W. Bradley (uncle and aunt), Mr. F. Kirkpatrick (uncle), Mrs. A. Lacey (aunt), Mr. B. Kirkpatrick (cousin), and Mr. and Mrs. A. Brett, Mrs. Johanna Jones, Mr. E. Johnson, and Mrs. E. Painter. The staff of the castle and officers, N.C.O. s and men of the 16th Parachute Brigade also attended.

After the service police escorted the cortege to Carisbrooke Cemetery, where the chaplain officiated at the interment. A bearer party and a firing party was in attendance, under the

command of Pte. Payne's commanding officer (Capt. Patterson). As the coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was lowered into the grave the bugler sounded the Reveille and Last Post.

Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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