

Percy James Sheath

Isle of Wight County Press 16 January 1943

NEWPORT

Fireman's Funeral.—The funeral of Mr. Percy J. Sheath, of the N.F.S., son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Sheath, of Caesars-road, who lost his life by enemy action on Sunday week, took place on Saturday, a service attended by a large party of his N.F.S. comrades and many friends being held in the Quay-street Methodist Church and the interment being at Carisbrooke Cemetery. About 80 members of the N.F.S., including a party of women, under the command of Divisional Officer H. Pearson, M.B.E., and led by Senior Company Officer Brunner, formed a guard of honour, the coffin was draped in the Union Jack, and four of the deceased's firemen comrades acted as bearers. The Rev. W. E. Perry, who officiated, expressed sympathy with the relatives in their unexpected loss and referred to the deceased's keen interest in the church since boyhood. As most of those present knew, he was a skilful floriculturist and he loved to adorn that church with his flowers. He was also a valued worker among the young people of the church before joining the N.F.S. Mr. W. G. Bartlett (organist) accompanied the hymns "In Heavenly love abiding" and "Peace, perfect peace," and played "O rest in the Lord." The chief mourners were Messrs. W. H. and A. T. Sheath (brothers), Miss E. Sheath (sister), Mrs. A. T. Sheath (sister-in-law) and Mrs. Wilson-Chalon, Mr. K. Hosking, Miss N. Sheath, and Mrs. E. Rice (cousins), Mrs. H. Sibbeck, and Mrs. L. W. Downer. Those also at the church included the Mayor (Ald. W. Blake, J.P.), the Deputy-Mayor (Capt. J. S. Brown), Mr. G. H. Arthur (president) and Mrs. E. Bruce Drayton (hon. secretary of the Newport Victoria Sports Club), Messrs. W. H. Downer, T.C., and E. J. Green (Independent Order of Rechabites), Mr. W. Freeman (Quay-street Methodist Athletic Club), the Rev. Ezra Ramm, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Heal, Mr. and Mrs. P. Scott, Mesdames Cooper, Ashby, Downer, Bricknell, Willisford, Hess, Thorne, Curtis, Kerley, B. Gilbert, L Blackman, A. Kemp, and C. H. New, the Misses Cheverton, Morris, Crews, Wale, Young, Cotton, and Kennedy, Messrs. G. Norman (circuit secretary), W. G. Cooper (church steward), P. Croucher, A. A. Russell, E. Hurry, E. H. Drudge, W. G. B. Weeks, H. J. Heal, P. C. Morgan, W. F. Spanner, S. Gibbs, P. Sullivan, H. Morris, H. and S. Midlane, C. Cole, W. S. North, M. Cheek, and Police Inspector T. Willmott. The numerous floral tributes included those from all ranks N.F.S., 14 Area; officers and men of the 1Z. Newport N.F.S.; Part-time Section, Newport N.F.S.; the Quay-street Methodist Church; the Victoria Sports Club; Messrs. Wray and Sons and staff; and neighbours of Caesars-road. Mr. W. W. Wells made the arrangements.

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