

Joseph Stanley Brown

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DEATH OF CAPTAIN J. S. BROWN, OF CARISBROOKE

THRICE MAYOR OF NEWPORT

The Island capital lost one of its most prominent citizens, who was mayor of the borough on three occasions, by the death at his residence, Clifton House, Carisbrooke, on Friday week of Captain Joseph Stanley Brown, who had been actively associated with the public life of Newport for over 25 years. His interests were many and he followed them with characteristic vigour, in spite of physical handicaps in recent years. Captain Brown brought to everything he undertook the admirable qualities of devotion to duty and unflinching courtesy, and he was universally esteemed. His chief interest, apart from his public work, was the British Legion, and one of his last engagements was to attend, a fortnight before his death, the monthly meeting of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch, of which he was the popular president. He was in his 82nd year.

A native of Leicester, Captain Brown joined the Army in 1885 and served in the Sudan campaign in 1898 and during the 1914-18 war, retiring with the rank of captain and quartermaster of the R.A.M.C. He was a corporal in the Medical Staff Corps (the former name of the R.A.M.C), when he married Miss Emma Jane Tosdevin, daughter of the village carpenter at Carisbrooke (Mr. Charles Tosdevin) at Carisbrooke Parish Church in November, 1891. In 1903 he acquired Clifton House, with a view to settling there, but he did not actually do so until he was demobilized in 1919. Soon afterwards he was elected a member of the Carisbrooke Parish Council and was appointed a representative on the Newport, Carisbrooke, and Gatcombe Burial Board. He served as chairman of both bodies. In 1925 he became a member of the Rural District Council and the Board of Guardians, and continued to serve as a representative of Carisbrooke until the amalgamation of the district under the Review Order in 1933. He was then returned unopposed as one of the three representatives for the Carisbrooke ward on the Newport Town Council. During the years which followed he performed much keen and useful work and when he was invited to become the mayor of the borough in November, 1935, it was an honour richly deserved. During his year of office the duty fell to him of proclaiming the accession of King Edward VIII, following the death of King George V. During that same year he opened the swimming pool at Seaclose Recreation Ground, and he commemorated his association with the commencement of this popular amenity by offering a swimming shield for annual competition by the school children of the borough. There was general satisfaction when Captain Brown was elected chief citizen of the borough for a second period in 1940, an invitation which he might well have entertained with some hesitancy in view of the fact that he was over 70 and the country was at war, but once more he performed the duties with admirable devotion and marked success and was unanimously re-elected for the second year in succession in 1941. It was during that year that he and Mrs. Brown celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The occasion, which was unique in the annals of the borough, was marked by a luncheon, at which Captain and Mrs. Brown received golden wedding gifts from the aldermen and councillors and magistrates as tokens of affection and esteem.

From the council they received a handsome silver-gilt Grecian vase, emblazoned with the borough arms, and an illuminated scroll, and from his fellow magistrates he received a chiming clock. The borough officials gave Captain Brown a gold pencil and Mrs. Brown a silver-gilt pot-pourri bowl. He was elected to the aldermanic bench in April, 1945, in succession to the late Ald. J. H. Deacon and retired from council in November of that year.

As an Army veteran he was enthusiastic in his advocacy of the cause of the ex-Service man. He was one of the original members of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch of the British Legion. For many years, he was a vice-president, and his choice for the presidency in 1939, in succession to Lieut-Col. Sir Vere Hobart, Bt., was a popular one. In recognition of his services he was presented with the branch certificate of appreciation and the Legion gold badge in 1941 and in 1943 the N.E.C. certificate. He was a vice-president and former vice-chairman of the I.W. Council of the Legion. When he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal last October it was an honour for which he had been recommended 39 years before, for services during the Sudan campaign and for 22 years' good general service and conduct in the Medical Corps. The decoration was presented to him at last year's British Legion parade at Newport on Remembrance Sunday.

Soon after he took up residence at Carisbrooke, Captain Brown opened and operated an omnibus service between Newport and the West Wight, which was amalgamated with the Southern Vectis Company in 1935.

Capt. Brown was president of the Carisbrooke Men's Club, a vice-president of the Newport St. Thomas's Bible Class, a member of the I.W. Horticultural Association, the Carisbrooke branch of the I.W. Conservative Association, and a regular attendant and supporter of Carisbrooke Parish Church. He had also served on the Cowes Harbour Commissioners, the I.W. Regional Water Board, the Island Council of the C.P.R.E., and the I.W. Publicity Council.

Mrs. Brown, who has fully shared in her husband's public life, has also rendered good service to the British Legion. She succeeded the late Miss A. Dawson Horan as president of the women's section of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch last year and also holds the gold badge of the Legion, presented to her in recognition of her services as a golden wedding anniversary gift in 1941. The sincere sympathy of all who knew and admired Captain Brown's many estimable qualities and splendid service to the community goes out to Mrs. Brown and her two sons in their bereavement.

Military Honours at Burial

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the service at Carisbrooke Parish Church being largely attended. The Mayor of Newport (Mr. A. E. King, C.C.) and members of the Corporation and Magistrates attended in procession, headed by the draped borough maces, the aldermen and councillors wearing their robes. Representatives of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch of the British Legion, the women's section of the Island branch of the South African War Veterans' Association with the crepe standards, and the Old Contemptibles' Association and the St. John Ambulance Brigade formed a guard of honour from the lych-gate to the church entrance, and the coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was borne by Messrs C. Westmore, J. Britten, and A. Doel (British Legion), H. J. Harvey and H. E. Gash (St. John Ambulance Brigade), and J. Watts, M.S.M. (S.A. War Veterans). The service was conducted by the Rev. D. S. McKenzie (vicar of Carisbrooke), who was assisted by Canon W. B. Hogg (vicar of Newport), and the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley (vicar of St. Paul's Barton) was also present. The choir, with Mr. E. H. Abraham at the organ, led the singing of the soldiers' hymns "O God our help" and "Fight the good fight" and the chanting of Psalm 33. Canon Hogg said they were gathered to pay tribute to a great person, whose epitaph, to his mind, could be found in the words of St. Paul. He had "fought the good fight", never sparing himself in fulfilling his duties as a true citizen and Christian gentleman. He had always valued Captain Brown's friendship and had been struck by the manner in which he and Mrs. Brown had identified themselves with the life of Newport. He had never come across a person who had been so sincere in his work as Captain Brown, and it had been their joy to see him live a rich and full life. In all his work he had had the loving and faithful help of his wife. Captain Brown had been a righteous man, in whom the Canon had seen the embodiment of all that true Christianity should be. Mr. Abraham played

“O rest in the Lord” as the cortege left the church. At the cemetery the ex-Service members formed a guard of honour near the chapel. At the graveside a firing party of Royal Artillery-men from Albany Barracks, Parkhurst, fired three volleys, and Mr. R. E. Daltry, of the British Legion, sounded the “Last Post” and “Revellis”. A verse of the hymn “Abide with me” was sung, and at the end of the service the members filed past the grave and dropped Flanders poppies on the coffin.

The mourners were Mrs. Brown (widow), Mr. and Mrs. W. C. S. Brown and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. J. Brown (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. F. Brown (brother and sister-in-law), the Misses Jacqueline and Jill Brown (grand-daughters), Mr. and Mrs. W. Jolliffe (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr. F. Sibbeck (cousin), Mrs. H. Curling (niece), Mr. Harrison Webb and Mr. W. Charlton (representing members of the old 1st Northumbrian Field Ambulance and friends from Newcastle-on-Tyne). Messrs. H. and D. Brown (grandsons) were unable to attend as they are respectively serving in the Merchant Navy and the R.A.F. overseas.

The Mayor was accompanied in the procession by the Deputy Mayor (Mr. A. B. Shaw, M.B.E., M.S.M.), Alderman J. C. Millgate, J.P., W. Blake, J.P., H. Whitehead, and Lt.-Col. F. J. T. Mew, Councillors W. H. Downer, J. Salter, A. O. Purdy, H. W. Lincoln, J. F. Launder, J. W. Blackman, J. R. Powell, H. E. Harvey (also representing Newport Cricket Club), G. Snow, J.P., C.A., G. C. Russell, J.P., C.C., and M. Wilson, Mesdames K. Lockhart, J.P., and C. Abraham, J.P., Mr. W. G. Sibbeck, J.P., the Town Clerk (Mr. F. H. W. Buxton), Mr. H. R. Palmer (magistrate’s clerk), and Messrs. W. Phillips (town serjeant) and W. R. Clark (mace bearer).

The British Legion representatives included Messrs. W. H. Baker, E. A. Gray, and S. W. Trowell (vice-presidents), A. B. White (chairman), E. F. Millgate, M.S.M. (hon. secretary, and corps officer of the St. John Ambulance Brigade), and W. G. Rodway (chairman of the service committee), and Mesdames C. E. Read, J.P., (chairman), W. Abraham (hon. secretary), and G. Gilbert (hon. treasurer) of the women’s section. Lt.-Col. F. H. Fernie, D.S.O. (president), led the Old Contemptibles with Chum E. J. Fairweather (hon. secretary), and the other representatives included Mr. H. Godwin (president of the S.A. War Veteran Association) and Mr. W. Ferguson (hon. secretary), Captain W. W. Sturgess (Royal Hampshire Regiment Old Comrades Association), and Mr. E. J. Webberley (R.A.M.C. Association).

Those also attending included Mr. and Mrs. F. Chiverton (Sheat), Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Brackey, Mr. F. E. Witcher, J.P., and Mrs. Witcher, Mr. and Mrs. T. Ross Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Welham, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. White, and Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Philpott, the Mayoress of Newport (Mrs. King), Mesdames Shaw, Whitehead, Perkins, Russell, Dearsley, W. Blake (representing Carisbrooke W.I. and the Newport District Nursing Association), H. Phillips, G. A. Brannon, F. E. Welsh (representing Mr. F. E. Welsh, J.P.), Fry, Kirby, Marchmont, and Kemp (Red Cross collectors), T. Denham (representing Mr. Denham and Newport Dr. Barnardo’s committee), Wilson, Brett, M. Morris, A. M. Bessant, D. Greenwood, V. Chiverton, C. Earley, D. L. Lewin, Westmore, E. Kelly, F. C. G. Gurney-Champion (representing her husband), F. M. Curtis (representing Mr. W. J. Whittington, J.P.), L. Wells, Watts, J. G. Munro, Lymington, K. Power, Stowers, Appleton, and Sparrow, and Oliver and Hookey and Miss J. Cawley Way (Carisbrooke and District Fanciers’ Club), the Misses E. Attrill, P. Brannon, J. Harris, S. Beaven (representing the Red Cross Society), E. Eldridge, and F. Smith, Lt.-Col. S. Chatfield Clarke, V.D., C.A. (president of the I.W. Council of the British Legion), Major T. C. Cunningham, D.S.O. (representing Mr. S. F. Burehell, M.B.E., county chairman), Lt.-Col. Sir Vere Hobart, Bt., D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. The Rev. J. M. O’Connor, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. A. W. Drew, O.B.E. (O.C. at Albany Barracks), Dr. F. R. B. H. Kennedy, M.B.E., J.P. (county commissioner, St. John Ambulance Brigade), Major F. H. J. Damp, M.C., and Captain W. E. Farmer (also representing Mr. E. C. Pearson, M.S.M., T.C., chairman of the Old Contemptibles), and Messrs. J. W. Lockhart, chairman, A. Cooper, and A. C. Hayward (Carisbrooke Men’s Club), H. Phillips (Carisbrooke Conservative Association), L. T. Duncan (representing Mr. W. A. Budd, general manager, and the Southern Vectis Omnibus Co.), A. J. Taylor, H. J. Knapp, H. B. Lower, F. Attrill (churchwarden), R. J. Taylor (also

representing Mr. P. W. Harman), J. A. Hayles (United Nations Association), F. Chiverton (Newport St. Thomas's Bible Class), T. A. and B. Cooper, T. C. Hartnell, C.C., L. Beiben, C. H. Cowdrey, A. Barnes, R. B. Chevron, jun., E. C. Neat, J. H. Knighton, F. Matthews (representing Messrs. W. Shotter and W. Grace and Shotters' depot, Shanklin), F. J. Wray, H. E. Waterson, A. H. Cooke (Newport Bowling Club), R. G. F. Ball (representing Miss. M. O'Connor, C.C., and Mr. A. L. Hutchinson), R. Jolliffe (representing Miss K. Jolliffe), H. A. Wills, G. H. Arthur, C. Bennett (hon. secretary Brighstone branch British Legion), T. E. W. Phillips, A. Grist, F. Witts, J. Beard, G. Brown, Palmer, and F. R. Parkinson, and B. Morris, S. Scott, J. Nelson, A. Pardy, W. Hall, and F. Barham (former omnibus employees), and Sgt. K. Collins and Pte. J. Beaumont, R.A.M.C. (representing the C.R.S. Parkhurst).

Messrs. H. and F. Damp, of Newport made the arrangements.

Those unable to attend included Ald. J. J. Simmonds, C.C., Mrs. E. Kemp, J.P., and Mr. W. T. Collins, J.P. (hon. secretary of the I.W. County Bowling Association).

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