

**Admiral Sir Algernon Frederick Rous de Horsey**

**The Evening News - 23rd October 1922**

**“FATHER OF THE FLEET.”**

**Adml. Sir Algernon de Horsey Dies at Cowes.**

Intense regret in Naval circles and throughout the Isle of Wight will be felt at the death, which took place at his residence, Melcombe House, Cowes, on Sunday morning, of Admiral Sir Algernon de Horsey, K.C.B., who was the oldest British Admiral. He was in his 96th year, and had to his credit 52 years active service.

Joining the Navy in 1840, the late Admiral saw considerable active service, and held many responsible positions. Soon after his entry he worked on the coast of Syria in Captain Sir David Green's 80-gun ship the Vanguard. In 1851, as a lieutenant, he received his first independent command, that of the steam tender Rose, protecting the St Lawrence fisheries. He was promoted Commander in 1853 and Captain in 1857. He was senior Naval officer during the Jamaican insurrection in 1865 and the Fenian raids on the Canadian Lakes in the following year. He was Commodore in the West Indies from 1872 to 1875, and two years later was appointed Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific, during which he took part in the historic duel with the Peruvian rebel ship Hunscar. Among his other commands was that of the Channel Squadron in 1884. He was an A.D.C. to the late Queen Victoria.

Sir Algernon retired from the Royal Navy in 1892, and on taking up his residence at Cowes took an active interest in yachting and public work. He was a J.P. for the county of Hants, and for many years filled with great ability and tact the post of Chairman of the Isle of Wight County Magistrates. He also did valued work on the Isle of Wight County Council, being a former Chairman of the Finance Committee, and he took the keenest interest in Cowes and its welfare generally.

A staunch Unionist, he was an intensely patriotic man, and he frequently demonstrated by his public utterances and letters to the Press. He was the oldest-Naval honorary member of the Royal Yacht Squadron. He married a daughter of Admiral Andrew Drew, and it was only in April of last year that the veteran Admiral and his esteemed wife celebrated their golden wedding.

Admiral de Horsey was a son of the late Mr. Spencer de Horsey, M.P. and Lady Louisa de Horsey, of Great Glemham, Suffolk, and his sister was the late Countess of Cardigan and Lancaster. He is succeeded, by his son, Admiral Spencer de Horsey, J.P., who has also a distinguished Naval record. He served with the Naval Brigade in the South African War, and was severely wounded, and volunteered for service in the Great War, Having charge of the yacht Shemara on patrol service.

The funeral will take place at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Our Cowes correspondent wires to-day as follows;— Princess Beatrice, the Royal Governor of the Isle of Wight, has telegraphed her sympathy to Lady de Horsey, on the death of her husband, Admiral Sir Algernon de Horsey.

The funeral service will be held at the Holy Trinity, Cowes, at two on Wednesday afternoon, and the interment will take place privately at the Carisbrooke cemetery, I.W.

## **The Evening News - 18th December 1922**

### **Latest Wills.**

Admiral Sir Algernon Fred Rous de Horsey, of Melcombe House, Cowes, who died October 22, left £30,576.

*Transcribed by Ben Marden (Pseudonym) for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries 2017*

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