

William Ambrose Goalen

**Isle of Wight County Press
3 February 1945**

DEATH of “Happy Harry.”

The death occurred at St. Mary’s Hospital, Newport, on Tuesday, at the age of 78, of Mr. William Ambrose Thomas Goalen, better known to almost everybody in Newport and Ryde as “Happy Harry”, an eccentric old gentleman, who, scantily and peculiarly dressed, but always cheerfully whistling, was a familiar figure in the streets, at sporting events, and at church services.

Mr. Goalen was the son of an Oxford clergyman, and was for some years a cricket coach at Oxford University. He came to live at Ryde about 18 years ago, and resided at Webberia, Park-road, but four or five years ago moved to Newport, where he lived at 30 Sea-street. At one time he had two sisters living in the Ryde district, but they are both dead, one being killed in a bus accident at Oxford. He was removed to St. Mary’s Hospital about a month ago,, suffering from gangrene in one of his feet. He owned property at both Newport and Ryde, and was known to be comfortably off, but his appearance and habits belied this. His dress, both in winter and summer, generally consisted of a thin sports blazer, white duck trousers, and rubber shoes. He never wore socks, and only occasionally a hat. His last choice of head-wear was what appeared to be a “Wren’s” service cap. He never wore an overcoat, and always seemed proud of being able to withstand all weathers in his scanty attire. While at Ryde he bathed in the sea daily throughout the year. He was a regular attendant at football and cricket matches, where his amusing critical comments often entertained the crowds. He attended most of the churches at different times, and was obviously an earnest worshipper, although his presence was somewhat disconcerting to the congregation, as he would insist in singing out of time in a loud voice. Recently he had been a regular attendant at the meetings of the Newport St. John’s Men’s Bible-class.

**Isle of Wight County Press
10 February 1945**

NEWPORT

Funeral of “Happy Harry.”—The funeral of Mr. W. A. T. Goalen (“Happy Harry”), whose death took place in St. Mary’s Hospital in the previous week, was on Monday, a service being held in the Victoria Methodist Church, Pyle-street, where he used to worship regularly, and the interment being at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The Rev. G. J. Chamberlain officiated and Mr. E. J. H. Quarrier (organist) accompanied the hymn “Jesu, Lover of my soul”, and played “O rest in the Lord” at the close. The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. F. Morris, with whom Mr. Goalen used to live at 30 Sea-street, and Mrs. S. G. Kemp (representing Mr. F. C. G. Gurney-Champion, solicitor), and those also attending were Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Goddard and Messrs. W. M. Spanner and H. F. Payn (representing the congregation of the church), Mr. W. G. Sibbick, J.P., (representing St. John’s Men’s Bible Class), and Messrs. C. J. Cooper and J. Puckett (representing the P.S.A. Brotherhood). Mr. W. W. Wells made the arrangements.

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