

Samuel Edwin Leigh

Isle of Wight County Press - 10 February 1940

**DEATH OF
MR. S. E. LEIGH, OF NEWPORT**

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BRITISH LEGION CHAIRMAN
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The members of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch of the British Legion mourn the loss of their chairman, and the news composing staff of the "County Press" a highly esteemed colleague by the death early on Saturday at his residence, 23 West-street, after only a week's illness, of Mr. Samuel Edwin Leigh, aged 62. Sincere sympathy is felt with his widow and the family of four sons and three daughters in their great bereavement. Mr. Leigh was a popular figure in the town, where he has been active in many ways. He was the eldest son of the late Mr. Samuel Leigh, a well known master mariner, and had been a member of the news composing staff of the "County Press" for 40 years, his skill at and devotion to his work and his unflinching cheerfulness winning him the warm regard of his colleagues. His service had been continuous except for three years of the Great War, when he was serving with the Essex Regiment and an Irish Brigade in France, and he had been the able local secretary of the Typographical Association since 1926. About 30 years ago he was the popular secretary and caretaker of the former St. Thomas's Club in Lugley-street, and his interest in sport and recreation was also evidenced by his hon. secretary-ship for a long period of the Newport and District Whist League which flourished before the Great War, and by his keen and active support of the Newport Football Club. His chief interest since the Great War had been in the work of the British Legion, particularly as a member of the committee which administers the benevolent funds of the organisation, and as branch delegate to the Island Council meetings. His enthusiastic work for the Legion was acknowledged recently when he was chosen as chairman of the branch in succession of Capt. J. S. Brown on the latter's promotion to the presidency. He was also a member of the Conservative Club. At the quarterly conference of the Island Council of the Legion on Saturday Major T. C. Cunningham, (D.S.O) chairman, said how sorry he was to inform the meeting that Mr. Leigh, one of the oldest and most esteemed Legionists in the Island, had passed away. For many years he had taken part in the Council, being very keen and helpful in all that he did, and they particularly remembered the valued work which he and the late Mr. Guy did as auditors of the accounts over a long period. Those present stood for a minute's silence as a tribute of respect and sympathy with his widow and family.

The funeral took place on Thursday, the service in Newport Parish Church being conducted by the Rev. H. Ewbank (vicar of Carisbrooke and chaplain of the Legion branch). Members of the women's section and the branch paraded with their standards and a goodly number of his colleagues from the County Press were present to pay their last respect. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack. The vicar paid a tribute to deceased's activities in connection with the Legion and described the service as a farewell to an old comrade who was held in respect, honour, and affection by all who knew him. One could not leave this earth with a better feeling than that. Mr. A. H. Griffiths (organist) accompanied the hymns "The King of love" and "Abide with me", the latter being deceased's favourite.

The chief mourners were the widow, Messrs. E. T., F. W., and C. G. Leigh (sons), Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cooper (son-in-law and daughter), the Misses N. and E. Leigh (daughters), Messrs. A., C., and T. Leigh (brothers), Mr. and Mrs. A. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. G. Corney, Mr. and Mrs. G. Axhorn, Mesdames Guy, Willis and Pitman, and Mr. E. J. Shepard (brother-in-law and sisters), Mrs. A Leigh (sister-in-law), Bomdr. B. Pitman, R. A., and Messrs. C. Shepard and F. Guy (nephews), Mrs F. Leigh (also representing her husband, a cousin), Mr. and Mrs. H. Hayward, and Mr. R. and Miss R. Sivier, Mr. S.H. Leigh (eldest son) was unable to attend owing to being on active service, and Mr. B. Leigh (cousin) was also prevented from attending.

Capt. H. A. Drudge (director and secretary) represented the directors of the County Press, and the staff attending were Messrs. G. R. Barrett (acting manager), W. H. Dann, J.P. (editor), the Misses J. Bartlett and B. Draper and Messrs. W. G. Lowe (office staff) and W. H. Baker (advertising representative), Messrs. W. G. Sibbick, L. F. Rodaway, A. W. Fry, and M. J. Conlan (editorial), E. Melhuish, P. Morgan, B. P. R. Smith, R. H. Allen, R. Hannam, and N. Newnham (composing staff), R. T. Lawn, C. Gifford, R. Montgomery, and K. Lawn (machine room), C. Young, P. Appel, and J. Edwards (jobbing department), and R. Dore and the Misses A. Wheeler and S. Harris (warehouse), and Messrs. C. Eldridge, W. P. Wickenden, and H. T. Smitch (former members of the staff). Mr. Lawn (president) also represented the Typographical Association, with Mr. V. F. Dyer and Mr. E. C. East (vice-president), who also attended on behalf of the proprietors and staff of the "I.W. Times."

The representatives of the men's section of the Legion were Messrs. S. W. Trowell (standard-bearer), E. F. Millgate (hon. secretary), J. Dixon Robinson, E. Bartlett, F. J. Frost, E. A. Gray, A. B. Shaw, M.B.E., M. Greenwood, A. White, W. H. Knight, C. Cole, W. H. Sheaf, H. Webb, W. Newnham, P. H. Oliver, H. Moody, J. Oliver, and E. Willis, and the women's section representatives were Miss A. D. Horan (president), Mesdames Read (chairman), Greenwood (secretary), J. S. Brown (vice-president), Pettit (hon-secretary), Crawford (deputy-chairman), Jardine (standard-bearer), Russell, Reynolds, E. Pointer, Bramham, Turner, W. Brown, and McComb, and Miss Pritchett. Mrs. Symmans represented the women's section of the Ryde branch of the Legion. The Oddfellows attending were Messrs. J. B. Alderslade, A. D. Callaway, T. H. Alexander, H. T. and L. H. Morgan, and C. V. Cheverton.

Messrs. H. and F. Damp were the undertakers.

T. S. writes: "A humble tribute to one who was a good friend and workmate, the late Edwin Leigh. A good workmate because he possessed that which is sorely needed in these troublous times – a sense of humour and sportsmanship, and so his passing is indeed a great loss. Faith in his sportsmanship led me to characterise him as 'My tame football fan' in 'County Press' cartoons. His reactions to the game were typically British. He belonged to the Newport Supporters' Club, but would always give credit to the other team where due. 'The game's the thing,' he would say with emphasis. 'Ned' played the game of life well and will surely receive the highest award."

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