

## **David John Muff**

**Isle of Wight County Press 17 February 1951**

### **Died in Air Crash**

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### **Carisbrooke Family Bereaved**

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The death occurred in an air crash near Midhurst Sussex, on Thursday last week of Flying Officer David John Muff, aged 23, of 237 Unit, R.A.F. Station, Benson, Oxford, husband of Mrs. M. Muff, of Fern Bank, Gunville Road, Carisbrooke. Flying Officer Muff was well known and popular in the district, and was a member of the Newport St. Thomas's Bible Class, where on Sunday tribute was paid to him by the Leader (Mr. F. Cheverton) and the hymn "For all the saints" was sung.

At an inquest at Midhurst on Monday a verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.—William George Bradshaw, of Lynch Farm, Bepton, said that at about 11.45 a.m. on Thursday week he saw a fighter aircraft flying fairly low towards Linch Ball Hill. The plane came out of cloud and mist and disappeared into mist again near the top of the hill. He heard the engine stop, but there were no sounds of a crash, and it did not strike him that the plane was low enough to hit the hill.—Flight-Lieut. Douglas Ivan Slade, flight commander 237 Unit, said he had instructed Muff to fly from Benson to Arundel via Newbury. Flying Officer Muff had signed the usual form regarding the satisfactory condition of the aircraft. They had received a weather forecast, but the weather proved worse than the report suggested. Police evidence showed that the top of the hill, which was 818 ft. high, was obscured by cloud and mist.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, a service at Carisbrooke Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. D. S. McKenzie) preceding interment at the cemetery. The Vicar paid tribute to Flying Officer Muff and conveyed the sympathy of the Vicar and congregation of Newport Parish Church to his widow and relatives. The large attendance included Squadron Leader Coulson (C.O. Tangmere) and Flight-Lieut. Turner (representing the R.A.F.), and Messrs. D. B. White (vice-president) and F. Chiverton (leader) representing the St. Thomas's Bible Class. The family mourners were Mrs. M. Muff (widow), Mrs. E. W. Muff (mother), Mr. and Mrs. G. Muff (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. J. Burn (sister), Mr. and Mrs. W. Read (father-in-law and mother-in-law), Mr. D. Read (brother-in-law), and Mr. and Mrs. C. Whiteley (uncle and aunt). There were many floral tributes. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.—Mrs. Muff (widow) and the family of Flying Officer Muff thank their friends for letters of sympathy, offers of help, and the many beautiful flowers, too numerous to acknowledge individually.

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