

William John Phillips

Isle of Wight County Press - 11 November 1944

NEWPORT

Veteran Fireman. – The Town Sergeant (Mr. W. Phillips) has received the following letter from the Divisional Officer of the N.F.S.: “I see that to-morrow (November 4th) is your last day as a member of the National Fire Service, and I cannot let the occasion pass without expressing to you, on behalf of the Service, due appreciation of your work, both before and after nationalisation. Your record of 38 years in the Service, in which you rose to the rank of second officer of the Newport Borough Brigade, speaks highly for your devotion to duty during those years.”

Isle of Wight County Press - 19 March 1955

NEWPORT

Death of Former Town Sergeant. – The death took place at St. Mary's Hospital on Tuesday of Mr. William John Phillips, of 29 Harvey Road, aged 72. Mr. Phillips, a native of the district, was well known locally after holding the position of town sergeant from 1925 to 1950. Previously he had fought in the Army in the first world war, seeing service in France. Mr. Phillips also served 11 years with the Territorials. He was also well known as a member of the Fire Brigade, and in 1941 he received a five years' bar to his fireman's 30 years' service medal while holding the position of second officer with the former Borough Fire Brigade, a position he held for five years until his retirement in 1944 with 38 years' service to his credit. He has been a member of the St. John's Men's Bible Class and also belonged to the Ancient Order of Foresters and the I. W. Rifles' Old Comrades' Association. His wife died in 1941. The funeral service, which took place at St. Paul's Church yesterday, was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley) and included the hymns “The day Thou gavest” and “Abide with me” and the 23rd Psalm to Crimond. Family mourners were Mr. and Mrs. R. Phillips (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. H. Phillips (son), Miss E. Phillips (daughter), Mrs. W. Phillips (daughter-in-law), Miss M. Phillips (grand-daughter), Mrs. A. Barton (sister), Mesdames B. Hamilton and J. Rochfort (nieces), and Mr. A. Lockyer (nephew). The congregation included the Mayor (Mr. E. C. Pearson) accompanied by aldermen, councillors, and the assistant town clerk (Miss D. M. Burnard) and other officials of the council, including the present town sergeant, and representatives of the Newport Fire Brigade, the Ancient Order of Foresters, and the I. W. Rifles' Comrades' Association. Among the floral tributes received were wreaths from the Fire Brigade and the National Association of Local Government Officials. The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were made by Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son.

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