

William Scott

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VETERAN SALVATIONIST'S DEATH

COMMANDANT W. SCOTT, OF CARISBROOKE

The Island has lost the distinction of having amongst its residents the oldest field officer of the Salvation Army by the death on Friday week of Commandant William Scott, of 3 Kensington Place, High Street, Carisbrooke. Mr. Scott, who was in his 90th year, was a native of Bristol and joined the Salvation Army at Addercliff, near Sheffield, following a meeting addressed by the founder, Gen. William Booth. The general was quick to notice Mr. Scott's enthusiasm for the cause, and he was appointed captain at Rotherham on February 16th, 1879. Gen. Booth's confidence in the capabilities of the young man he had chosen as one of his officers was fully justified, as his long life of service and devotion was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army. Mr. Scott became a close personal friend of Gen. Booth and his wife, had stayed at their home, and was a pall bearer at the funeral of Mrs. Booth. He was also closely associated with the founder's son, Gen. Bramwell Booth, and was held in the highest respect and regard by many of the army's senior officers. He was also proud of the letters he had received from the founder, and they were still in his possession. During his career as an active officer Mr. Scott held appointments in all parts of the country. He was adjutant of the Newport Corps from 1905-6 and after further service, mainly in Kent, he retired in 1910 and returned to the Island.

The reasons for his retirement were twofold: the illness of his wife, who died shortly afterwards, and his own ill-health. He had endured much opposition to the cause in its early days, when its supporters were subjected to a good deal of rough treatment, and often physical violence. Mr. Scott had retained a close and active interest in the local corps, and he became familiar to many who regularly saw his upright silver-haired figure on his way to and from the services on Sundays. He had been an officer for 68 years and held the long service ribbons of the Army. He was a great lover of the countryside and spent many happy hours on the downs with his dog, collecting spring flowers and firewood. He had a kindly word and a smile for everybody, and his well known figure will be greatly missed. He had been ill for only about three weeks and he died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. P. Fry, of Virginia, Castle Street, Carisbrooke. He leaves three sons (two of whom are in New Zealand) and three daughters.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the service being held in the Salvation Army Citadel, Pyle Street, Newport. The coffin was draped with the Salvation Army flag and on it rested the commandant's hat and Bible, and the corps flag was carried in procession by Recruiting Sergt. J. R. Toogood. The service was conducted by Col. W. D. Wellman (divisional commander), assisted by Major and Mrs. Eldridge (corps officers), Major P. J. Long, of Southampton (regional secretary, representing the international headquarters, and a former officer of the Newport Corps), and Major W. Young, of Southsea. Miss D. Toogood accompanied the singing of the founder's hymn "O boundless salvation," and the other

hymns were “When peace like a river” and “How sweet the name of Jesus sounds.” The mourners were Mr. J. S. Scott (son), Mesdames T. Smith, P. Fry, and G. Radford (daughters), Mr. T. Smith (son-in-law), Mr. E. Smith, the Misses Myrtle and Margaret Fry, Mrs. H. A. Pearse, Sergt. R. Fry, R.A.F., and Mr. N. Fry (grandchildren) and Messrs. F. H. J. Damp, F. Attrill, and C. Copus. There were also present a number of comrades of the Army and other friends. The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery, the committal being conducted by Major Eldridge, with the other officers assisting. The hymn “There is a better world they say” was sung. The floral tributes included a wreath from the officers and soldiers of the Newport Corps. Messrs. H. and F. Damp, of Newport, made the arrangements.

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