

**Alice Gertrude Toogood**

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**NEWPORT'S GOOD SAMARITAN**

**THE LATE MRS.W. TOOGOOD**

Many to whom she had brought comfort and practical sympathy will learn with regret of the death on Monday of Mrs. Alice Gertrude Toogood, of 20 Clarence Road, Newport, in her 88th year. Mrs. Toogood will be remembered with affection and gratitude by many families for her kindly skill as a member of the British Red Cross V.A.D., both in peace-time and during the last war. For 15 years she worked as an ambulance attendant, caring for hundreds of sick and injured persons on their way to and from hospital, including many injured during air raids on the Island. On numerous occasions she travelled with patients to Richmond Hospital, Surrey, and her courageous and selfless service at all times, in spite of her years, won her widespread respect and admiration. Upon her retirement in 1945, due not to her age but because she had undertaken to bring up her motherless grandchild, it was said that however distressing the circumstances she had never flinched in her splendid service, invariably performed with outstanding competence and sweet sympathy. Mrs. Toogood then received letters expressing appreciation of her noble work from Town Council and Miss C. M. Quinton, at that time V.A.D. commandant.

Born at Coppins Bridge, Miss Fuller was 22 when she married Mr. William Toogood. They set up house in Crocker Street on 18s. a week and raised a family of two sons and five daughters, all of whom are living. They later lived at 32 Chapel Street until it was badly damaged in an air raid in 1943, when they moved to Clarence Road. Until her marriage Mrs. Toogood was in service with the late Mr. W. T. Stratton, at Carisbrooke, after leaving school at 11. As her family grew up she went out to work again as a private nurse doing a 10-hour day for half-a-crown. She later became a voluntary worker for the Red Cross, and for many years visited patients at Whitecroft Hospital every week. Until within two years of her death Mrs. Toogood was a regular worshipper at St. Thomas's Parish Church, and she was also a popular former member of the women's section of the British Legion and the Victoria Methodist Sisterhood. A heart attack in January, 1955, confined her to bed after years of good health, and for the last two years of her life she was in poor health. Mr. and Mrs. Toogood would have celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary in July. A large party was given by the Darby and Joan Club, of which both were well-liked members, in honour of their diamond wedding anniversary, and the Parish Church bellringers paid the town's tribute with a peal of Grandsires.

Mr. Toogood, in his 92nd year, retired from his business in Union Street as a bricklayer about 20 years ago. Since Mrs. Toogood's illness in 1955 they have lived alone but have been visited regularly by their daughters, Mrs. F. H. Stay, Mrs. M. Hayton and Mrs. E. Woodmore, as well as many friends living locally. She is survived by five grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, including some in Queensland.

## **THE FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place on Thursday when a service at St. Thomas's Church was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev C. R. Farnsworth, R.D.). The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs A Toogood (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. W. Toogood (son), Mr. and Mrs. P. Stay (son-in-law and daughter), Mesdames E. Woodmore, M. Hayton, and I. Andrews (daughters), Mrs. Millward (grand-daughter), Mr. W. Fuller (nephew), Miss M. Dalton (niece), Mr. A. Williams, and Miss F. Leal. Mr. Toogood was unable to be present. The congregation included representatives of the British Red Cross, the W.V.S. Darby and Joan Club, and the Victoria Sisterhood. Among the many wreaths were those from the three organisations represented. The interment was in Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son.- Mr. Toogood and family wish to thank Dr. Jones for his unflinching attention, also friends and neighbours for words of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,  
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