

## **John Victor Wadham**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
19 October 1940**

### **NEWPORT Local Airman Killed in Action**

The sad news was received by his father, Mr. Victor Wadham, of Salween, Watergate-road, during the weekend, that his eldest son, Pilot-Sergt. John Victor Wadham, R.A.F., had been killed while defending London as a pilot of one of our fighters. John Wadham, who was 21, was a charming and exceedingly promising young fellow, extremely popular with his schoolfellows at the Newport Grammar School and Ryde School. He joined the Volunteer Reserve of the R.A.F. during the crisis in September 1938, and was called up at the outbreak of the war. He quickly gained promotion and his pilot's certificate, and three months ago was married to Miss Gwendoline Mason, of Southampton. Prior to the war he had for nearly five years been a pupil at Messrs. Shepherd and Hedger's furniture store at Southampton, and it was intended that he should join his father in the business of Wadham and Sons, Ltd., at about the time he was called up. The body was brought home and the funeral took place yesterday (Friday).

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) at Castlehold Baptist Church. The Rev. E. G. Keed officiated, and the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley (head master of Newport Grammar School) gave an address. "O valiant hearts" was sung, and Mrs. W. R. Pilcher (organist) played "O rest in the Lord" as the coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was borne from the church. The mourners were Mr. V. Wadham (father), Mr. F. Mason (representing the widow), Mrs. Maybee (mother), Mrs. M. E. Coombes and Mrs. L. Macan (aunts), Mrs. W. L. Bright (great-aunt), Messrs. A., P., and S. Wadham (great-uncles), Mr. D. Coombs (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. Simpson Wadham, Mr. W. Wadham, and Mr. F. Bright (second cousins), Mr. Jones (representing Shepherd and Hedger, Southampton), Miss. M. Batt, and Miss M. Frampton.

Among others present were: The Mayoress (Mrs. G. C. Russell), A. B. Cowley, G. S. Spencer, and S. G. Hall (prefects, Newport Grammar School), Miss Long (Newport Red Cross), Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Holmes, Mr. Stanley Wadham, the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon, Mr. F. Chiverton, T.C. (also representing Mr. H. Chiverton), Mr. A. B. Shaw, M.B.E., (also representing Sergt. H. Shaw, R.A.F.), Bombdr. H. Snellgrove, Messrs. E. J. Bartlett, G. Wyatt, H. W. Dore, G. Webb, F. A. Piper, F. W. Bright, J. Arthur, W. M. Alderslade, F. Damp, and W. H. Croucher, Mesdames Cooper, Nettleton, Keed, Snellgrove, Wheatley, and Arthur, and the Misses Cooper, Webb, Way, and L. Abraham. Choice flowers were placed on the grave in Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Among the 30 floral tributes were those from the partners and staff of Shepherd and Hedger, Southampton; Wadham and Sons, Ltd.; the wardens at Parkhurst A.R.P. post; Castlehold Sunday-school and Church; and the headmaster of Newport Grammar School.

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