

**Evan Harry Williams**

**Isle of Wight County Press – 18th October 1952**

**NEWPORT EX-POSTMASTER**

**THE LATE MR. E. H. WILLIAMS**

We regret to record the death, at St. Mary's Hospital on Friday week, of Mr. Evan Harry Williams, of Shide Villa, Newport, aged 68. Mr. Williams was head postmaster at Newport from 1937 until his retirement in 1945, and will be remembered for the courteous and efficient discharge of his duties.

During an interesting and unusual career in the postal service extending over 44 years, Mr. Williams was in 1913 selected as a young postal officer in the West London district for the office of assistant to the postmaster at Tangier, where the British Postal Agency extended over a wide radius in the international zone. Mr. Williams succeeded his chief, and held the post for 18 years, covering the development of mail carrying from the primitive foot courier to mule and motor transport, and finally the railway. He had many adventures, such as when he became involved in the Riff disturbances, and made an escape, with other British officials, in a car which was so distressingly overcrowded that the journey left him with a legacy of sciatica. On one occasion, when the mails were seriously held up, he arranged for their transport in a Spanish warship. After his return from Tangier he spent six years at Sleaford, Lincs, before coming to the Island. His widow, with whom much sympathy is felt, shared many of his experiences in North Africa.

Mr. Williams had taken little part in local affairs, but spent a happy retirement pursuing his cultural interests — music and the drama — with gardening as a further congenial occupation.

The funeral service, at the Newport Parish Church on Tuesday, was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth), and Miss K. Lower (organist) played "O rest in the Lord." The mourners were Mrs. Williams (widow), Mr. A. Williams (brother), and Miss F. Bean, a close friend. The large attendance included Mr. W. Blatchford (head postmaster, Newport), and the following representatives of the postal staff; Mr. and Mrs. G. Randall, the Misses L. and K. Wheeler, and A. L. Jackson, and Messrs. A. E. Punch, G. H. Odell, E. E. Carpenter, V. A. G. Allen, and A. R. Piper. Former associates present were Mr. and Mrs. U. J. Guy, Mr. and Mrs. W. Reynolds, and Messrs. E. Jordan, J. Clark, F. W. Hitchman, P. Hayles, W. H. Buckett, F. J. Dinnage, A. Brown, H. E. Croucher, C. King, W. Gawn, F. W. Martin, and H. I. Digby. The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery, and the floral tributes included one from the head postmaster, Newport, and staff, past and present. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

*Transcription by Roger O'Nions for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries*

© 2020

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>