

Patricia Georgina Willisford

**Isle of Wight County Press
6 August 1960**

NEWPORTY TEACHER'S DEATH IN FRANCE

SEQUEL TO ROAD ACCIDENT

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Willisford, of 213 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, were notified by the police on Saturday that their only daughter, Miss Patricia Georgina Willisford, aged 24, had died as a result of injuries received in an accident on the route nationale 137 between Pont d'Yores and Le Dauphin, 110 miles north of Bordeaux. Miss Willisford was a passenger in a car driven by her fiance, Capt. John Purves (25), of the 10th (Basic Trade) Training Battalion, R.E.M.E. Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Mennie, of Leamington Spa, were also passengers. The car came into collision with another car driven by a Frenchman, who had with him his wife and three children, The Frenchman and his one-year-old daughter were killed.

Miss Willisford and Capt. Purves were taken to hospital at Rochefort-sur-la-mer and Mrs. Mennie to hospital at La Rochelle. Mrs. Mennie was suffering from shock. Mr. Mennie and Capt. Purves were not seriously injured. The party had taken a caravan with them on their holiday but were not towing it when the accident occurred, having left it on a camping site from which they were making sight-seeing excursions. They were on their way to visit friends at Royan whom they met when the Ocean Club of Royan visited Gosport and Fareham to play rugby. Capt. Purves, whose home was in Bedford, where his parents are doctors, captained the Gosport and Fareham team, his battalion team, and has played in the United Services XV.

Miss Willisford, who was educated at the Newport County Secondary Grammar School (now Carisbrooke Grammar), won a scholarship for Bedford Teacher Training College. She was a physical training instructress at Portsmouth Southern Grammar School for girls and at Gosport County Grammar School. She was a member of the Newport Victoria Sports Club and Quay Street Methodist Church choir. The body is being brought home for burial and the funeral is expected to take place at the Quay Street Church, Newport, on Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Isle of Wight County Press - 13 August 1960

THE LATE MISS PATRICIA WILLISFORD

LARGE ATTENDANCE AT NEWPORT FUNERAL

The funeral of Miss Patricia Georgina Willisford, 24-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Willisford, of 213 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, who died following a motoring accident in France, where she was spending a holiday on a farm, took place at the Quay Street Methodist Church, Newport, on Tuesday. Many members of the Quay Street Church were included in the large attendance, with members of other churches in the town and the West Wight Methodist Circuit. The Rev. Dr. W. H. Mildon (superintendent minister) officiated,

assisted by the Rev. C. J. Christian , of Cowes. The hymns "The King of Love" and "Just as I am" were accompanied by Mr. W. G. Bartlett (organist).

In a tribute, Dr. Mildon said that they had come to pay homage to a fine and glorious young life. Patricia was the very flower of English youth, and had made the best of her life. Her intellectual ability was such that she had no difficulty in obtaining her place at the former Newport Grammar School, where she was esteemed by pupils and teachers alike. On leaving school she proceeded to Bedford College for physical education. While there she joined the college Christian Union, and was an active member in its fellowship and witness. On completing the college course she went to her first teaching appointment at Portsmouth Southern Grammar School for Girls, later transferring to Gosport County Grammar School. She enjoyed her work, and was popular with all. Patricia was a talented singer, a member of the Quay Street Church choir, and a leading soloist. She accepted a place on the local preachers' plan, and her services were greeted everywhere with cordial satisfaction. She was a fine Christian, and her zest for life was an inspiration. Patricia was fortunate in her home and parents, from whom she received abundant love, care, discipline, and encouragement.

As the cortege left the church Mr. Bartlett played "Solemn melody," by Walford Davies.

The family mourners were Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Willisford (father and mother), Captain J. Purves (fiance), Mrs. H. Purves and Dr. M. Purves, Mr. and Mrs. C. Caplehorn and Mr. and Mrs. W. Ash (uncles and aunts), Mr. and Mrs. M. Ash, Mesdames C. and P. Woodford, and H. Barnet, and Messrs. D. Caplehorn and K. Ash (cousins), and Mr. S. Porter and Mrs. W. Scott. Mrs M. Willisford and Mrs. A. Ash (grandmothers) and Mrs. S. Porter were unable to attend. Those present included representatives of the staffs of Carisbrooke Grammar School and Gosport County Grammar School and Carisbrooke Grammar School Old Students' Association. Among the 62 floral tributes were those from the schools, churches, and organisations with which Miss Willisford had been associated and the internment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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

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