

## **William Edward Farmer**

**Isle of Wight County Press 29 April 1950**

### **THE LATE CAPT. W. E. FARMER, OF NEWPORT.**

His many friends will learn with regret of the death, at his home at Farholme, Forest Road, Newport, on Wednesday week, of Captain William Edward Farmer, aged 71. A native of Reading and an old boy of the Bluecoat School, he joined the Army in 1895, serving in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincolnshire Regt., and during the South African War in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mounted Infantry. In 1903 he joined the Berkshire Constabulary as a drill instructor, and in 1905 entered the Prison Service at Dartmoor, becoming clerk and schoolmaster at Liverpool Prison in 1914. During the first world war he joined the King's (Liverpool) Regt. and attained the rank of captain in 1917. He was a former vice-chairman of the Island branch of the South African Wars Veterans' Association, and a member of the British Legion. Returning to the Prison Service, he was transferred to Parkhurst, where he served until 1939. During the recent war he was a Civil Defence worker, and was also a popular manager of the Grand Cinema, Newport, from 1941 to 1946. He leaves a widow, two sons, and a daughter.

The funeral service at St. Thomas's Church, Newport, on Monday, was conducted by the Rev. E. A. B. Royds (vicar of St. John's), and was attended by many former and present members of the Prison Service and representatives of the two ex-Service organisations to which the deceased belonged. The hymn "Lead, kindly Light," was accompanied at the organ by Mr. H. A. Lower. The coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, was borne by Chief Officer J. Hunt and Prison Officers Dover, Way, Andrews, Griffin, and Bawden.

The family mourners were Mrs. A. L. Farmer (widow), Mr. E. Farmer (son), Mr. and Mrs. F. Farmer (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Drudge (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Groundsell (nephew and niece), and Mr. J. Dennis (nephew, also representing Mr. J. Dennis and Mrs. H. Dennis, sister-in-law).

The I.W. branch of the South African Wars Veterans' Association was represented by Messrs. H. Godwin (president), J. E. Watts (chairman), W. T. Collins, J.P. (vice-chairman), W. Ferguson (hon. secretary and standard-bearer), W. Brown, W. Parsons, F. Eldridge, A. Everett, and R. T. Lawn, and the British Legion by Messrs. W. G. Rodway (vice-chairman) and E. F. Millgate (hon. secretary). Past and present members of the Prison Service attending included Messrs. S. B. Davies (ex-principal instructor), W. M. Vigurs, T. C. McGrotty, E. J. Bartlett (ex-principal officer), A. E. Fry (ex-chief officer), E. J. White, J. Twomey, M. Ellis (representing the prison staff), G. Perry, T. W. Stone (ex-chief officer), A. J. Hitching (ex-steward), and F. W. Munt, and the Rev. T. L. Kember (former chaplain).

Others present included Mr. and Mrs. C. Caplehorn (also representing Mrs. M. E. Willisford), Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. M. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. F. Blake, Mr. E. C. Pearson (representing the Old Contemptibles' Association) and Mrs. Pearson, Mr. A. B. Shaw, M.B.E.

(representing the British Legion), and Mrs. Shaw, Mesdames E. L. Stride (also representing Mr. H. M. West), E. Howell, V. Biggs, T. C. McGrotty, E. Taylor, A. May, A. Small, M. Ellis, G. Perry, J. Parsons, G. Hunt, H. Maynard (also representing Mr. Maynard), and E. Griffin, Miss Gillett, and Messrs. P. Venables (also representing Mrs. Venables and family), E. Packer (representing the clerical department, Parkhurst Prison), P. J. Milsom (general manager of the I.W. Theatres, also representing the directors), A. V. Rogers (manager of the Grand Cinema, also representing the managers of the I.W. Theatres), E. W. Satherley, K. E. Miller, J. T. Drudge (also representing Messrs. A. T. Drudge and Co.), R. G. Drudge, K. W. Johnston (ex-A.R.P. officer), E. V. Harvey, P. E. Primmer, W. Simmonds, C. Gapes, C. Peak, J. Robertson, and F. J. Sibbeck.

At the cremation at Southampton, which was attended by Messrs. E. and F. Farmer, A. T. Drudge, Dennis, Groundsell, Shaw, Packer, Ellis, and Venables, the exhortation was recited by Mr. Pearson.

The arrangements were made by Mr. F. G. Groundsell.

Mrs. Farmer and family thank all friends for messages of sympathy in their bereavement.

*Transcription by Jeremy Hallam for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries*

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