

Donald Rossi

Isle of Wight County Press – 14 January 1941

NEWPORT

Young A.R.P. Worker's Death.- The personnel of the Fire Brigade and A.F.S. are mourning the loss of a popular and promising young colleague, Messenger Donald Rossi, aged 17, who died at the County Hospital on Monday after an operation for appendicitis. He was only taken ill the previous Friday. The deceased youth had been a member of the A.F.S. since the outbreak of the war, was keenly interested in the work, and physically and in every way was a valuable member of the Service. He was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Rossi, of 8 Town-lane, with whom much sympathy is felt in their unexpected bereavement, and had been in the employ of the Vectis Stone Company. There was a large attendance of firemen, including representatives from all the principal Island towns, at the funeral yesterday (Friday), the first part of the service being at the Parish Church and the interment at Newport Cemetery. Four members of the Borough Fire Brigade (Messrs. P. Guy, C. Burton, E. Edwards, and B. Upward) acted as bearers, and the coffin, draped with the Union Jack, on which rested the deceased's steel helmet, was borne on the Fire Brigade tender, and preceded in procession to the church and the Cemetery by nearly 60 brigade and A.F.S. personnel and messengers, who formed a guard of honour at the house, the church door, and the Cemetery. The Newport representatives were led by Chief Officer S. Fairbrass and Third Officer E. Hurry, Parties attended from other Island Towns as follows: Ryde (in charge of Second Officer C. Gouge), Cowes (Patrol Officer R. E. Hannam), Sandown (Patrol Officer L. Linaker), Shanklin (Fireman R. Gregory), Ventnor (Fireman G. C. Pitts). Also in the church were Ald. W. Blake (chairman of the Town Council's General Purpose Committee and hon. A.F.S. section officer) and Second Officer W. Phillips. The Rev. C. L. H. Beardmore (acting vicar) officiated. .. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. A. Rossi (parents), Messrs. C. and W. Rossi (brothers), Mesdames E. Lock, Barman, and Barber (sisters), Mr. E. Lock (brother-in-law), Miss J. McCarthy, and Mr. G. Smith (deceased's friend). Fellow employees of the Vectis Stone Company were represented by Messrs. J. H. Westmore and R. Low. The many beautiful floral tributes included those from the regular brigade, the A.F.S., the A.F.S. Messengers, and the Vectis Stone Co. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,

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