

**Harry Tichborn Spanner**

**Isle of Wight County Press**

**18 March 1939**

**DEATH OF MAJOR H. T. SPANNER OF NEWPORT**

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**A Keen Sportsman And Horticulturist**

We deeply regret to record the death at 25 Shide-road, Newport, on Saturday, after having been in failing health for some time, of Major Henry Tichborn Spanner. Major Spanner had had a distinguished military career and took a keen interest in sport and in horticulture, particularly in growing sweet-peas, in which he excelled. Sympathy is felt with the widow, and family of two sons and four daughters, in their loss.

Major Spanner, who was 64 years of age, was a member of the "County Press" staff for some years. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1891, first specialising in submarine mining and then in electrical work, and gained rapid promotion, attaining the rank of C.S.M. in 1896 and warrant officer in 1908. He was "Gazetted" to a commission as lieutenant in 1910, became captain nine years later, and major in 1925. He retired on July 10th, 1928, having served on many stations at home and abroad. For the last six years of that period he was in command of the 30th Fortress Co. R.E. at Devonport, and officer-in-charge of Defence Electric Lights, Wessex Area (West).

Retirement gave the Major ample opportunity for following his two great interests. One, as mentioned above, was growing sweet-peas at which he was such an adept that he found a ready market for them in Covent Garden. His great successes at the National Sweet-Pea Society shows in competition with the finest growers in the country were recognised some years ago by his election as a vice-president of the society. Besides his successes there he scored many wins with his blooms at Southport and other places, and was a notable exhibitor at Island shows. The other interest to which he devoted much time and ability was that of sport, nearly every branch of which he understood and enjoyed. He took a keen interest in the affairs of the Newport Football Club, and some three years ago, when his brother (Mr. A. W. Spanner), hon. secretary of the I.W.F.A., was indisposed, he ably took over the duties.

He was buried in Newport cemetery on Tuesday with military honours. A funeral service was held in the Congregational Church, conducted by the Rev. D. Hendy Davies. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and the late Major's helmet and sword rested on it. In an eloquent tribute the minister referred to the deceased's distinguished military career, and to his great love for flowers and sport. Their church had many times been graced with magnificent sweet-peas, given by him, particularly at their anniversaries, which he never forgot, the church in which he was brought up.

The mourners were Mrs. H. T. Spanner (widow), Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Spanner (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. W. G. Spanner (son), Mrs. H. M. Palmer (daughter), Messrs. J. Hayward and W. Jurd (sons-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Spanner (brother and sister-in-law), and Miss N. G. Spanner (niece). Mesdames J. Hayward and W. Jurd (daughters), and Mr. F. H. Spanner (brother) were unavoidably prevented from attending. Another daughter (Mrs. R. Crawley) is abroad. Among others present were Mr. G. H. Arthur (president of the I.W.F.A.),

Mr. H. A. Williams (secretary Newport F.C.), Messrs E. R. Dore, C.C., and B. Sanders, C.C., ex-Inspector T. Cass, Mrs. Toogood, Mr. A. H. Downer, Mr. H. B. Lower, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Tee, Mr. A. Barton, Mr. Hart, Mr. J. W. Gibbs, and Mr. C. Eldridge.

The Last Post and the Reveille were sounded at the graveside by a bugler of the Royal Ulster Rifles, Parkhurst. A number of beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave. Mr. A. A. Westmore, of Blackwater, was the undertaker.

Mrs. Spanner and family desire to tender sincere thanks to Dr. McKay and Nurse Cooper for their care and attention, and to all kind friends for inquiries, messages of sympathy, and beautiful floral tokens. Will all please accept this as the only intimation.

*Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2021*  
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