

James Beggs

Isle of Wight County Press
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NEWPORT

R.A. Warrant Officer's Sudden Death.—Battery Sergt.-Major James Beggs, of the 530 (Princess Beatrice's) Coast Defence Regt. R.A., whose wife resides at 7 Town-lane and who was very well known in the town as a postman and dance band drummer before the war, died suddenly at his apartments on Sunday while spending a week-end leave at Bournemouth. As his death was due to heart disease no inquest was necessary. The deceased served in the last war as a bandsman in the Royal Irish Rifles, and left that regiment at Parkhurst after they became the Royal Ulster Rifles. He was very popular in his associations as a postman and dance band drummer. He had been on service with the 530 Coast Regt. R.A. since the commencement of the war, and his comrades much regret his unexpected death and sympathise with his widow. The funeral took place with military honours on Thursday. A service was held in the Victoria Methodist Church, Pyle-street, conducted by the Rev. H. M. Jackson, and the interment was at Newport Cemetery. The chief mourners were his widow and brother (Mr. W. Beggs). Six fellow sergeant-majors of his regiment were the bearers, and a detachment of the regiment also attended, under the command of Capt. W. Erith. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and trumpeters sounded the Last Post and Reveille over the grave. Those also attending included the Head Postmaster (Mr. E. H. Williams), the following members of the Post-office staff: Messrs. C. J. Guy (overseer), W. Reynolds (assistant inspector), A. E. Punch,, and G. Randall (clerical), R. Edmunds and E. J. Fairweather (postmen), and a former member of the staff (Mr. W. W. Watson). There were over 30 floral tributes, including those from the 530 Coast Regt. R.A., the Post-office staff; and the Royal Ulster Rifles' Association. Mr. H. W. Parnell made the arrangements.

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