

David Cockburn Macdonald

Isle of Wight County Press – 10 February 1940

NEWPORT.

Death of Queen Victoria's Piper. – The death occurred on Monday at the Freemasons Tavern, where he had been living in retirement for some years since he gave up the licence of the Prince Regent, Lower High-street, of Mr. David Cockburn Macdonald, aged 71, who, until ill-health laid him aside, was a popular figure in the town. Mr. Macdonald, when he came to Parkhurst Barracks from India in 1895 with the Scottish Rifles, was the youngest pipe-major in the Army, and while he was at Parkhurst he had the honour of being commanded to Osborne House by Queen Victoria to pipe in the haggis at the royal dinner on Burns night. He did this for several years and received the personal congratulations of the Queen on his piping and soldierly bearing. After leaving the Army he became the licensee of the Prince Regent and held it for 22 years. During the Great War he volunteered in Kitchener's Army. We was a typical Scot, full of enthusiasm for anything he undertook, and was held in high esteem by his many friends in the town. Mr. Macdonald was a Freemason and an active member of the Newport Bowling Club until failing health compelled him to give up the game. The funeral service took place in St. Thomas's Church on Thursday, the Rev. E. M. Ellis officiating. The funeral was semi-military in character, the coffin being draped with the Union Jack, and two buglers from the barracks sounded the Last Post at the interment, which was at Carisbrooke cemetery [*no, at NEWPORT cemetery*]. The mourners were Mr. M. Macdonald (brother), Mr. J. Whiting (nephew), and Miss M. Whiting (niece). Other mourners were Messrs. N. Y. Groundsell, W. Winchcombe, T. Carwardine (representing the Licensed Victuallers' Association), and Mrs. J. Cooper. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. H. W. Parnell..

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