1921 census, 2 Vectis Terrace, Pyle street, Newport-

Arthur White	Head	50Y3M	Foreman Cement Factory	Newport, Isle of Wight
Caroline White	Wife	45Y8M	Home Duties	Isle of Wight
Hilda White	Daughter	21Y6M	Newsagent & Stationery Assistant	Eastleigh, Hampshire
Leslie White	***Son***	***14Y8M***	***Errand Boy***	***Newport, Isle of Wight***
Winifred White	Daughter	12Y8M	Pupil	Newport, Isle of Wight
Reginald White	Son	8Y8M	Pupil	Newport, Isle of Wight
Maurice White	Son	6Y6M	Pupil	Newport, Isle of Wight
Frank Verina	Boarder	25Y6M	Warden, Prison	Kensal Rise, London

Leslie Ganthrey White.

By Brian Greening

It was in 1929 that the subject of an impending hanging was brought close to the residents of Newport. Leslie White lived at No. 2 Pyle Street and like me was an ex pupil of Barton school. His father was employed at Dodnor Cement Works and a brother had served at Gallipoli where he had been injured. When Leslie left school at the age of fourteen, he obtained a job with a local ironmonger who had premises in Pyle Street, Mr. Harry Williams. However, having reached his early twenties Leslie decided to enlist in the Army. By 1929 he had served six years and was acting as Regimental policeman, hoping to leave the Army after serving seven years and joining the local police force. He was on escort duty, taking a deserter, Arthur Raveney, back to Catterick Army Camp in the back of a lorry. Private White, as he was then known, was shot and killed by Raveney, who had secreted upon him a gun. The prisoner claimed it was an accident stating that he was reaching into his pocket to obtain a cigarette and White, believing he was attempting to escape, pulled his gun on him that accidentally went off, shooting the soldier in the stomach and killing him.

Raveney fled on foot and was seen by a policeman riding a motor cycle. Here an episode from the Keystone Cops took place for the policeman, seeing his quarry ride off across a field leapt on to the back of a horse. Not surprisingly the horse soon tired of this idea and threw the policeman to the ground. Two days later Raveney was arrested and a subsequent search found the gun the Army had issued him, hidden beneath some railings on the route the man had taken. It was later proved that the bullet had come from this gun. By July 9th Raveney had been found guilty and sentenced to death and on August the 15th he was executed at Armley Prison in Leeds.

Leslie Whites funeral presented a spectacular sight. Two senior officers from Catterick had accompanied the coffin down to the Island and the 43rd Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, stationed at Parkhurst, provided a firing party, a band, the bearers and buglers. He was buried at Newport cemetery with full military honours. Sadly, his poor mother was still in a state of shock and never attended the funeral. His grave has no headstone, just a simple four-piece stone surround.

Private White's Funeral Procession on Snook's Hill

By Brian Greening for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2019
https://www.foncc.org.uk