

William Morris Coombes

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NEWPORT

FORMER DETECTIVE'S DEATH

Mr. William Morris Coombes, aged 61, of 6 York Road, a member of a well-known local family, died on Saturday at his home. He was the elder of four sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Coombes, one of whom was a war casualty, another is in business as a Sadler in Upper St James' Street, and the fourth a "County Press" employee. In his boyhood Mr. Coombes was a member of the St. Thomas' Parish Church and sang in the choir. He served for nine years with the Royal Hampshire Regiment in Turkey, Russia and India, and on returning to this country in 1927 joined the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. He served 19 of his 24 years in the force at Gosport as a member of the C.I.D. In 1941 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for bravery in recovering injured people from bomb-wrecked burning buildings in Gosport. When he retired in 1957 he returned to the Island and became a bank guard at Cowes and Freshwater. Many will recall his athletic prowess in his youth as a runner and also as a welter weight boxer. He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

The funeral was at St. John's Church on Thursday, followed by interment in St. Paul's Cemetery. There were no flowers, by request, and donations in lieu were requested for Cancer Research. The mourners were Mrs. Coombes (widow), Mr. K. Coombes (son), Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Coombes (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. D. Sherlock (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. F Munt (father-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. H. and Mr. and Mrs. J. Coombes (brothers and sisters-in-law), Mrs. D. Smith (sister), Mr. and Mrs. S. Crouter (brother-in-law and sister). The present-day police force was represented by Chief Inspector P. W. Baldwin, and retired members of the force by Mr. S. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. T. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. G. Plowman and Mr. G. Eyles.

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