

MAYOR AND TOWN CLERK BEREAVED
Sons Killed In Action

On Tuesday the Mayor of Ryde (Councillor H.W.O. WEEKS) and the Town Clerk (Mr. T.J. FAWDRY) received the sad news that each had lost a son in the service of his country though in different spheres of action.

The Mayor's younger son, Mr. **Colin Henry WEEKS**, who was only 19 years of age, was killed in the early hours of Tuesday morning while serving with the National Fire Service during the blitz on a South Coast town. He was one of two Ryde young men who lost their lives in the same raid. Both men had come safely through strenuous fire-fighting during heavy raiding on the same locality a few hours previously only to be killed in a renewed onslaught.

Educated at Ryde School, Mr. Colin WEEKS was taking a special London college course for a Civil Service and the examinations were due to be held in January, 1940, but the outbreak of war meant a change of plans, and he was engaged on administrative and fire duties at Ryde Fire Station, passing his fireman's test. He was later absorbed in the N.F.S. He took a keen interest in studying the organ, and was a valued teacher at All Saint's Sunday School.

The other fireman to lose his life was Mr. **Bert DEWEY**, only son of Mrs. DEWEY, of Oakdene, St. John's Rd, Ryde. Like the Mayor's son, Mr. DEWEY was very popular among his firemen colleagues, and their death was widely regretted. Mr. DEWEY was well-known in the Island as a leader of a small orchestra, being himself a skilful violinist.

Both at a Council-in-Committee meeting and a public meeting on Russia held in Ryde on Tuesday evening those present stood in silent tribute to their memory.

The funeral of both firemen takes place at All Saint's Church, Ryde, tomorrow (Friday) at 2.30 p.m.

BEREAVEMENT OF THE MAYOR

At the last Council-in-Committee meeting Alderman, E.C. GOBLE, supported by all the other members present, expressed to the Mayor their heartfelt and deepest sympathy with him and Mrs. WEEKS in the great loss they had sustained in the death of their younger son Colin, who had died that day by enemy action whilst carrying out his duties as a member of the National Fire Service.

At the same meeting the Mayor informed the members that the Town Clerk had just received the sad news that his younger son, Lieut. R.A. FAWDRY, R.N., had been killed on active service. It was agreed that the profound regret of the Council be conveyed to the Town Clerk, together with their sincere sympathy with him and his family in their sad bereavement.

FUNERAL OF THE YOUNG RYDE FIREMEN
Impressive Tributes to Blitz Gallantry.

Seldom, if ever, in the History of Ryde have more impressive tributes been paid to devotion to duty than on Friday afternoon at the funeral of two firemen who lost their lives whilst fire-fighting during a recent blitz on the south coast.

The firemen were Mr. **Herbert James DEWEY**, aged 40, only son of Mrs. DEWEY, of "Oakdene", St. John's Road, Ryde and Mr. **Colin Henry WEEKS**, the 19-years-old younger son of the Mayor and Mayoress of Ryde (Councillor and Mrs H.W.O. WEEKS). Both were young men of outstanding qualities immensely popular with their colleagues of the National Fire Service and esteemed throughout the town. The sympathy of the whole community has gone out to the bereaved families in their irreparable loss. Mr. DEWEY had arranged to get married in a few weeks time. Mr. DEWEY and Colin had arranged to play the organ and violin together; they were music friends, a pursuit which gave them great happiness.

The first part of the funeral was at All Saint's Church, which was almost filled to capacity by the congregation representative of all branches of Civil Defence and of civic life, while many hundreds more lined the route and assembled at the Ryde Cemetery for the concluding rites.

The coffins were draped with the Union Jack on which rested choice flowers, were each carried on a fire engine, and were followed by a lorry burdened with flowers. The bearers were firemen colleagues of the two men.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Canon R.S. MOXON (vicar of Ryde), the Rev. E.E.M. GREEN (incumbent of St. James's Church), and the Rev. F.H. ROLFE. The hymns sung were "When I survey the Wonderous Cross" and "Abide with me." Mr. E.G. WELSH (organist), who accompanied the singing of the hymns, played at the conclusion of the service Walford Davies' "Solemn Melody."

The mourners of Mr. DEWEY were Mrs. DEWEY (mother), Miss P. PURNELL (fiancée), Mrs. KEMP, Mr. B. KEMP, Mr. and Mrs. STATE (cousins), Mr. Bruce MILLMORE (uncle), Mrs. CURTIS of Sandown (aunt), Mr. and Mrs. A. BISHOP (friends), and Mr. T. SANDALLS.

The mourners of Colin WEEKS were Councillor and Mrs. WEEKS (parents), Mr. Raymond WEEKS (brother), Mr. Tom RYALL and Mr. H.J. WEEKS (grandfathers), Mr. T. RYALL and Mr. F.C. GRIST (uncles), Mrs. TRUCKELL, Mrs. BOYCE, of Sandown, Mrs. S.C. NEEDHAM, T.C., and Miss SMITH.

Among many others present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Newport (Capt. And Mrs. J.S. BROWN), Councillor W.A. CHRISTY, C.C. (Deputy Mayor of Ryde), and the following members of Ryde Corporation: Aldermen E.C. GOBLE, A.F. WRIGHT, W. RUSSELL, and A. DENNIS, and Councillors A.E. EYMES, V. TURNER, T. SPATE, H.P. CHIVERTON, H.V. TAYLOR, Col. C.L. ELLERY, A.J. FEAKES, J.E. JACKSON. B. HOLBROOK and G.J. EVANS; Mr. T.J. FAWDRY (Town Clerk), Mr. SHEPARD (deputy town clerk), Mr. B.F. HOLNESS, Mr. J. AITCHISON (treasurer), Mr. A. AINLEY (sanitary inspector), Mr. K. HOSKING, Mr. D. LOFTS, and Mr. D. WHITTON.

Almost a hundred members of the National Fire Service attended under Fire Force Commander A.E. JOHNSON, Divisional Officer H. HACKETT, and Chief Officer M. HELLER. The Wardens' Service, and the First Aid and Rescue Parties were in the charge of Mr. E.W. JOLLIFFE, (deputy A.R.P. officer for Ryde, who also represented Mr. A.B. WARD, Chief A.R.P. officer).

Also present were Mr. J.A. BRAZIER (Fire Guard Staff Officer, Ryde Borough), Mr. F.O. EDNEY (secretary Southern District Council of National Sub-Postmasters' Federation), Mr. W.A. WRIGHT (president, I.W. branch of the National Sub-Postmasters' Federation), Mr. S.L. MATTHEWS (representing Alderman J.J.L. RYDER and Councillor Capt. J. McL. DOWN) Mrs. LOADER (representing Alderman E.C. LOADER), Mr. R.E.A. WEBSTER (clerk to the Borough Magistrates), Mr. P.F. LORD (representing Alderman A. ANDREWS, Chairman of the Royal I.W. County Hospital), the Matron and Sister CALBOURNE (County Hospital nursing staff), Mrs. W.A. CHRISTY (Ryde Centre Organiser, Women's Voluntary Services), Mrs. SWANN (deputy centre organiser, W.V.S.), Miss BRUCE (past deputy centre organiser, W.V.S.), Mrs. SUTHERLAND (Seaview First Aid Point).

Police Inspector W. BUTCHER (representing the Island Chief Constable, Mr. R.G.B. SPICER), Acting Sergeant T. McVICAR, and members of the Special Constabulary, Miss

ANDREWS, Mrs. PARRINGTON, and Miss CRAGG (chairman, hon. Treasurer and hon. Secretary, respectively, Ryde British Legion Women's Section), Mr. E. FRY (Post Office Battalion Home Guard), Mr. W.H. MITCHIE (Post Office Veterans), and Mrs. MITCHIE, Mr. W. PROUTEN SELF and Mr. H. BAKER (chairman and clerk, respectively, Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council).

Mr. F.A. MENNIM (Head Postmaster at Ryde), Mr. G.J. EVANS (Ryde War Savings Committee), Mr. A. GREEN (Toc H), Mr. M. CHAMBERS (Bembridge Toc H), Mr. R. DUNNE and Mr. B.C. PEAK (Sandown Toc H), Mrs. S. WARD (Ryde canteen and social centre), Mrs. WARRINGTON (Ryde Townswomen's Guild), N.S.P.C.C. (Inspector H.C. FOX and Mrs. FOX, the Rev. H. and Mrs. MacROW and a representative gathering of the Garfield Road Sisterhood.

Mr. T.S. MELLANBY, Lt. Col. And Mrs. W.A. MURRAY, Mrs. E.C. GOBLE and Miss B. GOBLE, Mr. Paddy DOYLE, Mrs. A.F. WRIGHT, Mr. E.J. CAWS, Mr. O.P. BRADING, Mr. and Mrs. PERKIS, Miss PERKIS, Mr. E.C. AYLWARD, the Rev. S.J. CORNISH, Mr. C.G. MARTIN, Mrs. SALTER, Mrs. BUTT, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. ARCHER, Dr. and Mrs. G. UPCOTT-GILL, Mrs. TIMMS, (representing Mr. Norman TMMS), Mr. J.S. NEWMAN, Miss NEWMAN, Mr. F.W. TAYLOR, Mr. F. CREASEY, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. TAYLOR, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. SPRINGER, Mrs. GALE (representing Mr. A. GALE), Miss WALLIS, Miss NUTT, Mr. A.C. JOLLIFFE, Mr. C. BARTON, Mrs. KING, Miss M. KING, Miss WHEELER, Mrs. BURNETT, Mrs. POOLE, Mr. and Mrs. E.G. WELLS.

Mr. and Mrs. A.E. WEEKS, Mr. J.R. DIXON, Mr. H.W. CURTISS, Mr. T. CAWS, Mr. R.J. GRIST, Mr. FARNSWORTH, Mr. A.J. NEWBERY, Mrs. F. MILLER, Mrs. J.F. MILLER, (also representing Mrs. W. RUSSELL), Mr and Mrs. F. CHIVERTON, of Newport, Mrs. MATTICK, Mr. and Mrs. BARLOW, Mrs. RUSSELL (Swanmore), the Rev. and Mrs. E.S. WILLIAMSON, Mrs. B.F. HOLNESS, Miss ROSE (RUGGS Ltd.), Mr. E.F. BROWN, Mr. F.A. KINGSWELL ("I.W. TIMES").

Capt. A.F. BILLETT (district commissioner Cubs), Miss M. SWANN (assistant commissioner Cubs), and Group Scoutmaster E.F.R. WILCOX (3rd Ryde Troop, representing the North-East Wight Boy Scouts Association). (Both of the deceased were past members of the troops in the district, Colin WEEKS in the 3rd Ryde and Mr. DEWEY in the 2nd Ryde). Old Rydeians, present pupils of Ryde School, a number of them in Scouts' uniform, and girls of the Convent of the Cross were present. At Ryde Cemetery the two firemen were buried in adjacent graves.

Among a great mass of beautiful tributes to both firemen were tokens to each of them from the officers and men of the Ryde Section whole-time personnel of the National Fire Service; Ryde Section part-time personnel; Ryde Section Firewomen; Fire Force Headquarters; Divisional Headquarters; Ryde Section Company Officer; and several wreaths from other Island sections of the National Fire Service.

Floral tributes to Colin, among many others, included those from the North East Wight Boy Scouts Association; Ryde Borough Council; Ryde Corporation officers and staff; Sub-Postmasters' Federation; the Borough of Ryde Allotments Association; A.R.P. and Civil Defence personnel; Old Rydeians; Ryde School staff and boys; Fire Brigade colleagues at Seaview, County and Ryde W.V.S., Ryde Townswomen's Guild Police War Reserve and Ryde Constabulary; the May Queens and the children of Ryde Junior Council School.

The following is a list of the choice floral tributes to Mr. DEWEY: In loving memory of my darling boy, so devoted and kind, from his broken-hearted mother; Phil; Mr. and Mrs. KEMP and family (cousins) London; Emm and Jack (cousins) Lyndhurst; Olive, Arthur, Sheila and Ken; Mr. and Mrs. CURTIS; Mrs. PURNELL; Mr. and Mrs. Reg HACKSHAW; members of Toc H, Ryde; Mr. and Mrs. Cyril WHITE and family; Mrs. COTTON and family; Mr. and Mrs. NORRIS and Gwen; Mr. and Mrs. H. JOLLIFFE; Mr. and Mrs. HENDY; Vera and Jack; Mr. PECK and family; Mr. PAUL and family; Mrs. KENNEDY and family; Mr. C. HERBERT and members of Toc H,

Sandown; Miss PEARS; Mrs. HAYLES; Betty and Stan; Civil Defence. A.R.P., Ryde; N.E. Wight Boy Scouts Association; Mr. and Mrs. Walter HOBBS; colleagues of N.F.S., Seaview; Mr. and Mrs. PURRIER; Mrs. A. COTTRELL; the Mayor and Mayoress; Mr. and Mrs. R. NEWELL; Ted (MILVERTON) ; Mrs. ALLEN and family; Mr. and Mrs. BLACKMORE and family; neighbours in Quarry Road and in St. John's Road; neighbours in Daniel Street and Bennett Street; Mr. F. CLARK , Mr. F. CLARK , junr., and H.W. TAYLOR; members of the N.F.S. Ryde; part-time members of the N.F.S.; and Ryde Police.

Researched & typed by
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