

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 6th Aug 1949

DEATH OF ISLAND'S ONLY SCOUT V.C.  
**MICHAEL CRABB OF RYDE**

The only Island Scout to hold the Cornwell Badge --- the Scout's V.C. --- **Michael CRABB**, only son of Mr. E. G. CRABB, of the Corner House Restaurant, Union-street, Ryde, was buried on Saturday. He died after nearly two years' illness. Michael, who was 15, was a pupil of the Ryde Secondary Modern School and a keen member of the 1st Ryde Scout Troup when he developed inflammation of the lungs. He was put into the children's ward of the County Hospital, where he became a permanent invalid and for 51 weeks suffered continual pain without a word of complaint. He was operated on three times and was given over 20 blood transfusions and 200 injections, including Plasma. In spite of all this he was the happiest face in the ward and he was a favourite with the nursing staff. He occupied his time by modelling---at which he was exceptionally skilled--and entered his handiwork in local model exhibitions.

In April 1948, he was awarded the Cornwell Badge for his "high character and devotion to duty, together with great courage and endurance," the ceremony taking place by his bed in the ward. That year his mother died, but he still kept an outwardly cheerful face. He was unable to take part in the Scout rally at Carisbrooke Castle in honour of the visit of Lord Rowallan (Chief Scout), but his father took him by car and afterwards Lord Rowallan came for a special chat with him. One of Michael's most treasured possessions was an autographed full-sized photograph of the Chief Scout, who sent it to him shortly after his visit.

Michael left the hospital in November and after a period with his father went to live first with Mrs. A. P. KELLEWAY (Mr. CRABB's sister-in-law), and then, still a permanent invalid, with Mrs. A. M. BRADDY. He underwent further treatment at a London hospital. On Tuesday week Mr. CRABB took him for an evening car ride to Sandown and Shanklin and during the journey Michael admitted feeling unwell. A few hours later he died at his home. His father is justifiably proud to have possessed a son who upheld the fine traditions of Scouting and whose name has been added to the Illustrious Roll of Honour.

### **Funeral**

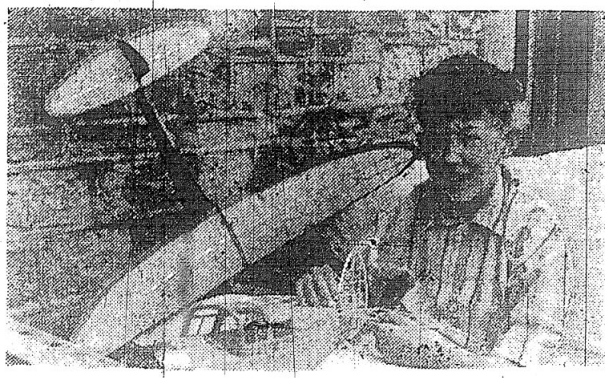
The funeral service at the Parish Church was conducted by Canon A. CORY, R.D. (vicar) and Mr. W. L. REED (organist) accompanied the hymns "Lead kindly Light" and "There's a Friend for little children." The choir chanted the Nunc Dimittis as a recessional. The mourners were Mr. CRABB (father), Mr. and Mrs. E. CRABB (grandparents), Mr. and Mrs. A. P. KELLEWAY (uncle and aunt), Miss E. M. BARTER and Mrs. S GRIFFIN (great aunts), Mr. B. KELLEWAY and David KELLEWAY (cousins), Mrs. G. BARTER (great aunt), Mr. H. BARTER (cousin), Mrs. BRADDY, Miss H. CHRISTMAS, Mr. and Mrs. RYDER, Mr. and Mrs. H. LINDAY, and Mrs. and Mrs. J. COLEMAN. In addition to the Ryde St. John's Sea Scouts those present included Mr. H. J. DAVIES (head master of Ryde County Secondary School), Mrs. C. YOUNG, Mrs. DOWDAN, Mrs. PERKIS and Mr E. JOLLIFFE (representing Messrs. WHEELER Bros).

The interment was at Ryde Cemetery in the grave of his mother and the coffin bore a stained wooden replica of the Cornwell Badge.

The tributes included a wreath in the form of a cushion with the Scout emblem picked out in flowers from the 1st Ryde Troop and one in the shape of a model aeroplane from John IRONSIDE, who had spent many hours modelling with Michael and others from his fellow Scouts in the N.E. Wight; the staff and pupils of the Ryde County Secondary Modern School; the staff of the Corner House Restaurant; and the Ryde Businessmens Association.

The members of the Ryde Scout Group were unable to attend as they are in camp at Winchester.

**A picture of Michael Crabb  
from the same page of the newspaper**



*Unfortunately the picture is very poor quality like most of those in the newspaper film archives.  
However, it does show the smiling little boy that he was.*

Researched by  
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