

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday May 6th 1916, front page.

KILLED IN ACTION

HOLLIS .. Killed by the explosion of an enemy shell at Lowestoft, April 25th, **William Thomas HOLLIS**, of the Royal Naval Anti-Aircraft Corps, nephew of the late W. GIBBS and of Mrs. GIBBS, of Ryde.

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday May 6th 1916, page 2.

A VICTIM OF GERMAN BOMBARDMENT

Much regret was felt in Ryde at the news received last week that Mr. W. T. HOLLIS, the nephew and adopted son of the late Mr. W. GIBBS and Mrs. GIBBS, of St. Hillier's, Strand, was amongst those killed in the German bombardment of Lowestoft, on Tuesday week. Mr. HOLLIS was educated at the Grammar School, Newport, and entered the Winchester branch of the Capital and Counties Bank, where he was well-known in football circles, playing for the institute, and being hon. sec. of the Nondescripts F.C., in their best days. He left Winchester and was engaged in the Standard Bank of South Africa, London; and for nine years he was attached to the Naval Volunteers of the Buzzard training ship. When war broke out he went to Walmer, but being unable to accompany the draft to Antwerp, for medical reasons, he returned to his civil occupation for a time, and then joined the mobile section of the Royal Naval Anti-Aircraft corps, and was stationed at Lowestoft, where he met his death. The evidence given at the inquest showed that the room where he was, was struck by a shell in the early hours of the morning, which carried away the floor of the bedroom, and the occupants were precipitated to the floor below, and death had resulted from the explosion of a shell from one of the enemy's ships or from a falling beam. Mr. HOLLIS's body was brought to Ryde on Saturday last, for interment in the Cemetery. There were several beautiful floral tokens, amongst which was a very large wreath inscribed "With deepest sympathy from his colleagues in the Standard Bank of South Africa, London." One of the officers in the Corps stated that Mr. HOLLIS was always liked by officers and men, and was ready at all times to carry out anything he was asked to. Messrs. COOMBES, of Cross-street, had charge of the funeral arrangements.
