

THE LATE MISS HEASLOP OF RYDE.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL WORK

Miss Catherine Phedora Lucy HEASLOP of Salween House, High Park Road, Ryde, who died in a nursing home on Wednesday week, had for many years been prominently identified with the Girl Guide movement and the work of the Conservative Party in the Island. She was also a keen supporter of the British Legion. Her death followed an illness of several weeks' duration.

Miss HEASLOP, who came from a family with a long military tradition, was imbued with a deep sense of patriotism and public duty which was reflected in the manner in which she carried out her activities with those associations she supported. She was a capable organiser, never sparing herself in attention to detail, and her thoroughness and the enthusiasm she displayed in all she undertook earned her the deep respect and affection of those who came under her influence. Many friends will recall her gracious charm of manner and numerous kind acts not only towards the young people to whom she devoted much of her time, but particularly among the sick and elderly. Sympathy is felt with Miss Helen BROADBENT, who had shared her home for many years and is a patient in the same nursing home.

The only daughter of the late Col. Colpoys Parkyns HEASLOP, Royal Marines, Miss HEASLOP was born at Hambledon and was in her 79th year. The family settled in Ryde in the nineties so that the greater part of her life had been spent in the Island, and she had lived at Salween House since 1897. She was among the last representatives of the old families which were resident in the St. John's area of Ryde when the parish was well to do and the Island still enjoying the popularity it received during Victorian days. The outbreak of the first World War gave her the opportunity to put to the test her sense of patriotism, and she immediately undertook training at St. Thomas's Hospital, and then went to Tidworth where she was attached to Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service. From there she went to Salonika, and for the rest of the war served on hospital ships. During the last war she was in charge of the W.V.S. arrangements in the St. John's district.

In 1926 she formed the 3rd Ryde Troop of Girl Guides, later becoming district commissioner and then divisional commissioner for N.E. Wight. She retired in 1945 when her work was recognised by a presentation from the association, and well-deserved tribute was paid to her 21 years service for the movement.

By her death, St. John's Church, Ryde, loses one of the oldest and devoted of its members. For a period Miss HEASLOP had served on the Parochial Church Council.

A PROMINENT CONSERVATIVE

Her untiring work for the I.W. Conservative Association in the Ryde St. John's area is exemplified in the present strength of the branch, which she was instrumental in founding. Her first active association with the party started in the year before Sir Peter MacDONALD was first returned to represent the Island. She was then chairman of the Ryde women's section and having superintended the election campaign in the St. John's area quickly saw the advantages which would follow with the establishment of a separate branch in that district. Her endeavour bore fruit in 1924 and she became the first vice-chairman of the new branch. Subsequently she succeeded the late Mr. P.S.M. THELLUSSON, J.P., as chairman, and remained in office for many years until she retired shortly after the last war. Throughout that

period she had been a member of the Central Executive Committee and of the Central Council of the association.

As a vice-president, she was for many years one of the most ardent supporters of the Ryde women's section of the British Legion. Another movement in which she took a deep interest was the Oxford University Extension Lectures and she was the hon. secretary of the Island section for a period. She had a great appreciation of music and was herself an accomplished pianist. Since its inception she had been an ardent supporter of the I.W. Musical Competition Festival and had evinced the same keen interest in the I.W. Grand Opera Company. Her sporting interest were mostly in yachting and were largely fostered by the fact that her cousin, Mr. F. A. RICHARDS, has for many years been a keen competitor at the Solent Classes regattas with his 8-and 6-metre yachts, in which she frequently sailed.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral service at St. John's Church, Ryde, on Saturday, was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. J. PEARMAN). The lesson was read by Mr. J. H. RAGGETT (church-warden). The choir, with Mr. R. H. TOOGOOD at the organ, led the singing of "Jesus lives" and "Through the night of doubt and sorrow" and the chanting of Psalm 90 and the Nunc Dimittis. The interment was in the family grave at St. John's Cemetery. The chief mourners were Major H.A.P. HEASLOP, M.C., and Mrs. HEASLOP (nephew and niece), Miss L. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. RICHARDS and Mrs. F. CUNNINGHAM (cousins), Miss BROADBENT, and Miss P. CRUTWELL.

Capt. Sir Peter MacDONALD, K.B.E., M.P., and Lady Jean MacDONALD were represented by Mr. E. H. CASTLE, T.C., and the St. John's branch of the I.W. Conservative Association, Capt. H.A. DRUDGE (agent), and the Conservative Central Office by Mr. W.G. F. SUTTON, T.C. The I.W. Girl Guides' Association was represented by Lady BARING, J.P., and the 3rd Ryde Group by three Guides and Mrs. PHILLIPS (Ranger skipper). Other Girl Guide representatives attending were Miss POTTER (divisional commissioner, Ryde), Miss THIRKELL J.P. (district commissioner, East Wight), and Miss G. DORRIEN-SMITH (chairman, Ryde association). The Southern Area of the British Legion was represented by Miss G. ANDREWS and the Ryde women's section by Miss P. RHODES (president), the Hon. Mrs. WILSON-HEATHCOTE (past president), Mrs. W. M. BROWNE, J.P. (vice-president), and Mrs. W.O. Rees MILLINGTON (chairman).

The floral tokens included those from the Conservative Association, the North-East Wight Divisional Girl Guides' Association, and a poppy chaplet from the Ryde women's section of the British Legion.

The arrangements were made by Messrs. J. WHEELER and Sons.

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HEASLOP. - Major and Mrs. H.A.P. HEASLOP and Miss BROADBENT express their thanks for the kind letters and floral tributes received on the occasion of the death of Miss HEASLOP, and hope to acknowledge personally in the near future.

Researched & typed by
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