ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 19th February 1929

DEATH OF MR. JOHN JENKINS. – We regret to record the death at his home. Venice Lodge, Simeon-street, on Friday week, of Mr. John JENKINS, who for nearly 40 years had been associated with the work of Missions to Seamen. Mr. JENKINS's last illness began with the wreck of the Mission's little motor-yawl Eirene, off Ryde Pier during the gale towards the end of last November, and the shock produced by genuine grief at the loss of the vessel in which he had carried out such splendid work on behalf of the Mission laid him prostrate on a bed of sickness, from which at the age of 78, there was no hope of recovery.

Mr. JENKINS spend his earlier years in the Mercantile Marine, but subsequently became in turn the skipper of the Missions' boats at Ipswich, Harwich, and Felixstowe. Sixteen years ago to-morrow (Sunday) he came to Ryde as a Scripture reader for the Mission, and only those who came into intimate contact with him realise how much he loved the work and how true and deep was his interest and enthusiasm in all that he undertook on behalf of the cause he so ably represented. He will be specially missed by the seamen of coasting vessels and the men attached to the lightships in the neighbourhood. His kindliness of manner and his consistent geniality were attributes which won for him an abiding esteem and affection, and during his Christmas visits to the men at sea, when he carried with him gifts of literature and other seasonable presents, he was always accorded a genuinely warm welcome. Whatever the weather or the condition of the sea each year he set out with Mr. W. BROOKER, the captain of the Eirene, on this benevolent errant, and on these occasions his courage and pluck for one who had lived beyond the Psalmist's allotted span of life, were further evidence of his great love for the work. With his widow, who survives him at the age of 77, sincere sympathy will be felt.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, the first part of the service being held at Holy Trinity church, the Ref. P. B. PHELPS, of the Mission to Seamen, assisted by the Vicar (the Rev. N. H. STUBBS), officiated. The coffin was draped with the flag of the Missions to Seamen. The mourners were the widow, Mrs W. SMY (niece), Mrs. HARVEY (sister-inlaw), and Mr. W. BROOKER. Among others present were Capt. F. GARTSIDE TIPPING, C.B.E., R.N. (representing the London Committee), the Rev. C. E. PATERSON, of Cowes (hon. chaplain to the Missions in the Solent), Miss PURCELL (hon. secretary of the local committee), Messrs. A. and D. REEVES, A. T. HODGES, G. H. FRENCH (station-master at Ryde Pier), G. H. SAVILL, H. ADAMS, and J. H. AUSTIN, Dr. and Mrs SPENCER CHURCHILL, Mr. and Mrs. SANDALLS, Mrs. STUBBS, and Miss CAREY. Ten members of the Warner, Owers, and Royal Sovereign lightships were also in attendance. The interment was at the cemetery.

Among a large collection of beautiful flowers were wreaths from the London Committee, the committee of the Ryde branch, the officers and crew of the Southern Railway ferry boat, Trinity House, and the Women's Fellowship of Holy Trinity Church.

Mr. C. LANGDON was the undertaker.

Mr. W. BOOKER, on behalf of Mrs JENKINS and relatives, wishes to thank all friends for their kind sympathy and the flowers.

Researched & typed by Ann Barrett Janette Gregson