

RYDE GOLDEN WEDDING
Man Who Embarked 8 ½ Million Men

Mr. **Charles Crump TANCOCK**, and his wife, Mrs. Ellen TANCOCK, of Ivy Hatch, Haylands, celebrated on Monday their golden wedding. They were married on January 23, 1883, at Fugglestone St. Peter, Wilton, Wilts., and Mr. TANCOCK is now 75. The only thing to mar the celebration was that Mrs. TANCOCK has not yet recovered from a serious disposition and is still in bed. Mr. TANCOCK had a touch of the prevailing epidemic recently, but is now in good health again. Their two sons are both in Ryde, but the two daughters are both away, one being in India.

Mr. TANCOCK spent fifty years in railway service before he retired in 1921 and came to reside in Ryde. He joined the South Western Railway Company (now amalgamated with the Southern Railway) as a junior clerk in 1873 at Tisbury, Wilts. The following year he went to Crediton, Devon, his birth place, where he remained as a clerk until 1888, when he succeeded his father as a station master at Wilton. It is interesting to note that this station was served by father and son as stationmasters for a total of 38 years. From Wilton Mr. TANCOCK went as stationmaster successively to Alton, Winchester, Basingstoke and Bournemouth Central, and was finally appointed Superintendent at Southampton Docks in 1911, remaining there until his retirement. At that time the two departments, docks and station had not been separated, so that Mr. TANCOCK supervised the movements of trains right through the docks up to the boat side.

During the War he had a very special responsibility in the embarkation of eight and a half million troops who passed through on their way to France. So expeditiously was this done that at times trains were in, cleared and out again, in four minutes. The outbreak of the war threw a heavy task on the railway officials, for the Expeditionary Force had to be despatched with great secrecy. For three weeks Mr. TANCOCK had to get what sleep he could on a couch during the day. He worked in friendly co-operation with the War Office, through the Commander-in-Chief at Southampton, Brigadier-General A.G. BALFOUR, and a request from Mr. TANCOCK that the railway officials solely should be responsible for the unloading of trains was readily agreed to. This led to a great speeding up and many trains were cleared in a minute, or a minute and a half under the eight minute schedule which had been introduced. The staff had naturally to be augmented to cope with the traffic and Mr. TANCOCK was in charge of 178 men. The embarkation of the Expeditionary Force did not take them entirely by surprise for similar operations had been rehearsed after the Agadir gunboat incident in 1912. For the four and a half years of the war Mr. TANCOCK saw men from every part of the kingdom and colonies and from many other parts of the World, pour through Southampton, besides War material of every description, including the first tanks. At times the staff were almost overwhelmed as the trains were increased to deal with the greater movements of troops. When in 1916 King George V paid a visit of inspection to Southampton, Mr. TANCOCK was presented to him. His Majesty expressed warm appreciation of the efforts of the railway staff, and later in the same year Mr. TANCOCK went to Buckingham Palace and was personally decorated with the M.B.E. It was curious that throughout the War, although the docks remained lighted as to be visible for a distance of 20 or 30 miles, there was not a single air raid and this was attributed to the enemy air pilots being afraid of Portsmouth.

Before the War there had been progress very long twenty three special trains had been accumulated at the docks to deal with the casualties. The men were seen by the Medical Supervisor, who decided where the cases should go, they were taken by the medical staff to the trains, and their journeys were then arranged by Mr. TANCOCK. He was impressed by the extraordinary cheerfulness of the wounded, and recalls an occasion when a sailor who had lost both arms and legs, was cheering his comrades by singing comic songs. The most pathetic sight he saw was that of the men who had lost their reason and had come to England in separate boats. Almost as sad were the war-blinded men, many of them had never been hit, but whose eyes were deprived of sight by the terrific concussion of heavy artillery. Altogether two and a half million wounded passed through

Southampton en route for the many military hospitals throughout England. In the later years, as submarines were more effectually kept from the channel, and as the fighter grew greater in the north, many were taken through Dover. A terrible sight was that of the Canadians involved in the first gas attack of 1915. Mr. TANCOCK'S work during those four years can justly be said to have contributed to the success of the military operations.

Their many friends in Ryde will join with us in wishing Mr. and Mrs. TANCOCK many more years of happily married life, and in the hope that Mrs. TANCOCK will soon recover from her indisposition.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thurs 29th Dec 1944

MR. C. C. TANCOCK
Obituary

The death took place on Tuesday of Mr. **Charles Crump TANCOCK**, who formerly resided at Ivy Hatch, Upton-road, Haylands, Ryde. Mr. TANCOCK who was 87 years of age, was for many years in the service of the London and South Western Railway.

Beginning a very successful career as a railway clerk, he succeeded his father as stationmaster at Wilton and was successively stationmaster at Andover, Winchester, Basingstoke, and Bournemouth Central, until his appointment as superintendent of the Southampton Docks in 1911, a position which he held until his retirement in 1921.

To his excellent organising ability was due much of the smoothness with which ten million troops were taken to or from the ships which ran day and night from Southampton to France and other areas.

Following a personal visit by His Majesty the King to the docks, when Mr. TANCOCK was presented, he was awarded the M.B.E., and later was awarded the King Albert Medal of Belgium.

On coming to live at Ryde, Mr. TANCOCK took an active interest in the Haylands Horticultural Society of which he was at one time hon. treasurer. Subsequently Mr. and Mrs. TANCOCK moved to Bournemouth from which town Mr. TANCOCK returned about six months ago.

In addition to his widow, now in her 90th year, he is survived by two sons, both of whom are well-known in the town, two daughters, several grandchildren, all of whom are serving in H.M. Forces, and a great grandchild. In January of last year Mr. and Mrs. TANCOCK celebrated their diamond jubilee.

The funeral takes place at Wilton on Monday.

National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills & Administrations)

1945

TANCOCK Charles Crump of The Home Hospital Nursing Home Ryde Isle of Wight died 26 December 1944 Probate Llandudno 20 March to Lloyds Bank Limited.
Effects £2309.2s.4d.
