

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 28th April 1949

Death Notice:

BROWN. – On April 23rd, at his home, Malmesbury, Ratcliffe Avenue, Ryde, Ernest Frank BROWN, aged 57.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 28th April 1949

DEATH OF MR. E. F. BROWN
Journalist and Townsman

Fellow journalists and many friends in other walks of life have felt a keen sense of personal loss in the death of **Mr. Ernest Frank BROWN**, for the past 22 years “I.W. County Press” chief editorial representative for the Ryde district.

Although he had suffered failing health for a considerable time past, Mr. BROWN did not take to his bed until a few weeks ago, the end coming early on Saturday morning at his home, Malmesbury, Ratcliffe Avenue, Ryde. He was 57.

A native of Shanklin, Mr. BROWN began his career in journalism when as a youth he joined the “I.W. Guardian”. Just before the first world war he transferred to the “I.W. Star”, and after the war was appointed a member of the editorial staff of the “North Wilts Herald.” Following further experience on the “Essex Weekly News”, he engaged in daily newspaper work, being a reporter for the “Nottingham Guardian,” “Nottingham Post” and “Nottingham Football Post.”

In 1927, after two years at Nottingham, Mr. BROWN returned to the Island to take up the appointment he had held ever since with notable ability and success.

Many Interests

Mr. BROWN was Ryde Correspondent of the Press Association and of all the leading London daily newspapers. He was the oldest Island member of the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight branch of the National Union of Journalists.

Not only in his professional capacity but as a townsman, Mr. BROWN took a lively interest in the civic and social life of the district, his experience making him a helpful mentor in many spheres. A former soccer player, he had served on the committee of the Ryde Sports Football Club, and was largely instrumental in forming the Supporters’ Club, a comparatively new but successful venture of which he was the energetic chairman. Other town movements which had claimed his valued help were the National Savings Committee and the Garden Show Committee, of which he was publicity secretary. He was also a member of the Ryde British Legion Club and the Town Club, a former member of the Conservative Club, and a former member of the committee of the County Primary Parents’-Teachers’ Association.

That the Ryde Buccaneers are a flourishing power for good in the town to-day is due in no small measure to Mr. BROWN’s initiative and encouragement at the time the organisation was put on a permanent basis.

The death of his wife eight years ago was a grievous blow from which Mr. BROWN never fully recovered. The sincerest sympathy is felt with the bereaved family – he leaves three sons and a daughter.

A man of keen perception and direct speech, Mr. BROWN was a staunch friend and a competent journalist with an unswerving sense of duty. He will be sorely missed.

Court Tributes

At the outset of Monday’s session of the Ryde Borough Magistrates’ Court, the Mayor (Cllr. S. R. BIRD) on behalf of the Bench, said he would like to pay tribute to the memory of a gentleman who had been many years attending that Court as representative of the “I.W. County Press” – Mr. BROWN. He was sure it was with great regret that they had all learned of Mr. BROWN’s passing, and he asked all in Court to stand in honour of his memory.

Inspector J. TURNBULL on behalf of the Police, Mr. J. G. FARDELL on behalf of the officials of the Court, and Mr. C. MERRILL, on behalf of the solicitors attending the Court, also associated themselves with the Mayor’s observations, Mr. MERRILL stating, “I am sure the accuracy of his reports has been above reproach.”

Mr. FARDELL said it was with deep regret that the court officials had learned of Mr. BROWN's death. They had lost a real friend and one whose services had been most beneficial to them.

Further tribute was paid at the Ryde County Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, when Sir Godfrey BARING, Bt., who presided, said that before they commenced the proceedings of the Court he would wish on behalf of the Bench to express their deep concern and regret at the passing of Mr. Ernest BROWN, who for 22 years was the highly esteemed and efficient representative of the "I.W. County Press".

"As regards reporting cases in this Court," Sir Godfrey said, "in the opinion of the Bench, Mr. Ernest BROWN was a most accomplished journalist, accurate, judicious and always scrupulously discreet. I doubt whether Mr. BROWN ever omitted a relevant or important fact from his reports or inserted in his reports extraneous matter.

"It is not the place to review Mr. BROWN's other activities," continued Sir Godfrey, "but it is sufficient to say he had been highly esteemed and regarded and the Bench would wish to extend to Mr. BROWN's family their sincerest sympathy in their hour of sorrow."

The Funeral

Conducted by Canon A CORY, R.D. (vicar), the funeral service at All Saints' Parish Church on Tuesday was attended by newspapermen and representatives of many local organisations. The choir, led the singing of the hymn "There is a land of pure delight" and "The King of Love my Shepherd is." The 23rd Psalm was sung and the Nunc Dimittis chanted as the cortege left the church, Mr. W. L. REED (organist) played "O rest in the Lord."

The mourners were Mr. R. E. F. BROWN (son), Miss A. BROWN (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. L. J. BROWN (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. A. LONG, Mrs. R. ATKINS (sisters), Mr. F. JOLLIFFE (father-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. S. JOLLIFFE and Mr. and Mrs. H. JOLLIFFE (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mrs. J. JACOBS (niece), Mr. F. COFFIN and Miss I. GROOME.

The "I.W. County Press was represented by Lt.-Col. C. W. BRANNON, M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P (director and manager), Mr. W. G. SIBBICK, J.P. (editor), Messrs. G. F. ROBERTS, G. H. S. ALLEN, H. W. MINNS (also representing the office N.U.J Chapel), L. F. RODAWAY and P. B. DAVIS (editorial staff), Messrs. T. SMITCH (Cartoonist), P. MORGAN (news room), R. T. LAWN (machine room), and R. HOLBROOK (Ryde agent).

Other newspapermen present were Mr. F.A. KINGSWELL (editor, "Isle of Wight Times," also representing the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight branch of the National Union of Journalists), Mr. Maurice HARRISON and Mr. K. R. CHOWN (editorial staff, "Isle of Wight Times"), Mr. R. G. WEST (representing the editorial staff of the "Portsmouth Evening News"), Mr. C. W. RAYNER (representing Mr. C. W. COOPER, editor, "Isle of Wight Mercury"), Mr. G. Gordon SAUNDERS (proprietor, "Isle of Wight Guardian"), and Mr. C. W. ADAMS (representing Mr. E. W. ADAMS, "Surrey Advertiser"), Mr. P. H. LIGHTBOWN represented the directors of the "Isle of Wight Times."

Among others present were the Mayor of Ryde (Cllr. S. R. BIRD, J.P.), Ald. W. RUSSELL and Ald. H. P. CHIVERTON, Capt. A. GRIST, M.B.E., M.C., C.C. (chairman, Ryde National Savings Committee), Councillor W. A. CHRISTY, J.P., Messrs. T. S. MELLANBY, E. A. LANGDON and D. O. HOGG (Ryde Sports F.C.), Mr. and Mrs. R. T. CURRIE (secretary and treasurer), Messrs. J. TEASDALE, N. PENFOLD and R. SOUTHWELL, Mrs. FLEMMING and the Misses F. and P. HOGG (Ryde Sports Supporters Club).

Mr. A. J. READ (assistant Town Clerk), Mrs. F. SMYTHERS, (Haylands F. C. Supporters Club), Mr. A. J. ARCHER (president, Ryde Casuals C.C.), Messrs. L. G. TANCOCK, D. G. TIMMS and C. LIFE (Vectis Boating and Fishing Club).

Mr. J. G. FARDELL (magistrates' clerk), Mr. N. F. LONG and Mr. S. ATTWOOD (representing present and former magistrates' court officials), Mr. O. P. BRADING (Ryde Bowling Club), Mrs. H. W. O. WEEKS (vice-chairman, also representing Mrs. W. RAMAGE, hon. secretary) and Mrs. HAYLES (Ryde Garden Show Committee).

Messrs. G. H. SAVILL, A. KERVILL and W. GRIFFIN (Ryde Buccaneers), Messrs. A. J. SHINER and W. F. GRANT (British Legion and Ex-Servicemen's Club), Mr. D. P. DAVIES (Ryde Golf Club), Mr. H. R. BROWN (Isle of Wight Master Bakers' Association).

Miss E. R. PARRY (Ryde Women's Section of the Conservative Association), Mr. E. H. LEWIS (Messrs. MEW LANGTON), Mr. W. R. GOUGH (representing Mr. H. J. COHU, head postmaster, Ryde), Mr. E. FRY, M.B.E. (postmaster, Shanklin), Mr. H. J. DAVIES (headmaster, Ryde Secondary Modern School), Mr. H. WILLIAMS (also representing Mr. J. H. WAVELL).

Mrs. G. REDSTONE (also representing Mr. J. L. REDSTONE), Mrs. PERKINS (representing Mr. J. R. PERKINS), Mrs. M. O'DELL, Mrs. A. FORD (representing Miss N. FORD), Mr. L. G. WAY, Mr. W. H. WILLIAMS, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. GAWN.

Messrs. J. L. DYER, A. C. WHITE, A. J. BALLARD, W. H. WILLIAMS, C. FORER, A. F. PLENINGER, J. H. PERKIS, jnr, A. T. HODGES, Wallace WHEELER, Mrs. W. FRENCH, Mrs. I. RYALL, Mrs. TEASDALE and Miss A. ADAMS (also representing Miss E. ADAMS).

Ald. A. F. WRIGHT, J.P., was unavoidably prevented from attending.

The interment was in his wife's grave in the Ryde Cemetery. Among nearly forty beautiful floral tributes, were those from the directors of the "County Press," all departments of the "County Press," the officers and members of the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight branch of the N.U.J. Chapel; Ryde Garden Show Committee; Ryde Sports Club; Ryde Sports F.C. Supporters' Club; Ryde British Legion and Ex-Servicemen's Club; Ryde Town Club; Ryde County Primary Parents'-Teachers' Association; Vectis Boating and Fishing Club; Ryde Buccaneers; Ryde Gas Company Sports Club; and Messrs. H. PACK and Co.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett
David Harris
Margaret Truckel