

**DEATH OF COMMANDER FORSYTH, R.M.**

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**NAVAL FUNERAL AT RYDE**

With profound regret we announce the death of **Commander Douglas Methuen FORSYTH, R.N.**, of Leavington, St. John's Park, Ryde, which occurred in London on Monday. Captain FORSYTH's health failed him some months ago. He entered a nursing home in London and died on Monday from heart failure after undergoing a severe operation. He was born at Malvern on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1847, and was the youngest son of the Rev. J. Hamilton FORSYTH, by Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Lord Edward O'BRYEN, brother of the last Marquis of THOMOND. He entered the Navy in March, 1861, and in his early years saw a large amount of service in various parts of the world. His last appointment was as first-lieutenant on the Royal Yacht Osborne. While serving on the Osborne Lieut. FORSYTH contracted an acute attack of inflammation of the eyes, and was invalided. This eye trouble obliged him to retire from the service with the rank of commander in 1879. Having taken a house in Ryde two years previously, he continued to make that town his home, and interested himself in various matters connected therewith. For many years he was a member of the committee of the Royal I.W. County Hospital. He was a staunch supporter of all Church charities, especially those of St. John's, his own parish, where he will be long remembered as a kind friend and neighbour. Commander FORSYTH was one of the earliest promoters of telephonic communication in the South of England. He was for several years a director of the Western Counties Telephone Company. He married in 1874, Kate, daughter of Capt. William O'BRIEN, and leaves two sons and a daughter. He was a member of the Junior United Service Club, the Royal Victoria Yacht Club (Ryde), the Royal Navy Club (of 1765 and 1785), and an hon. member of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

The funeral took place with Naval honours at St. John's Cemetery, Ryde, on Thursday afternoon. The coffin was placed upon a bier, which was drawn by men from H.M.S. Excellent (Whale Island), under the command of Chief-Petty-Officer MANSELL. It was covered with the Union Jack, and the deceased's cocked-hat and sword were placed at the head. The inscription on the coffin was : "Douglas Methuen FORSYTH, Commander, R.N., born 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1849, died 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1915." The service at St. John's Church was most impressive. The clergy present were the Rev. Wilson PEARCE (Vicar), the Rev. J. E. EDDIS, R.D. (Vicar of Holy Trinity), the Rev. J. T. PUCKLE, the Rev. H. HOLE, and the Rev. Miles ATKINSON (Wootton Bridge). The opening sentences were recited by the Rev. Wilson PEARCE, the lesson was read by the Rev. H. HOLE, and the Rev. J. E. EDDIS read the burial office. The hymns sung were "Holy Father, cheer our way," and "Nearer, by God, to Thee." As the coffin was carried from the church, the organist (Mr. JELICOE) played the "Dead March" from SAUL. At the conclusion of the service at the graveside a bugler from H.M.S. EXCELLENT sounded the "Last Post." The mourners were Mrs. Douglas FORSYTH (widow), Commander Douglas O'BRYEN FORSYTH and Mr. A. O'BRYEN FORSYTH (sons), Miss M. O'BRYEN FORSYTH (daughter), the Rev. P. E. O'BRYEN METHUEN and Mr. A. METHUEN (cousins), Miss C. O'BRIEN, Miss F. O'BRIEN, and Mrs. LILLINGTON (sisters-in-law), Miss C. LILLINGTON, Miss H. HARVEY, Admiral H. S. H. Prince Louis of BATTENBERG, and Mr. J. H. OGLANDER, and the following from the house, Alice HAYLES, Minnie FLUX, Elsie COOPER, Alice GRINHAM, Wilfrid DANIELS, A. HANLEY, CASS, and J. BALLARD. Amongst those present at the church were the Dowager Lady CALTHORPE, the Hon. Mabel CALTHORPE, General and Mrs. FETHERSTONHAUGH, Colonel and Mrs. E. W. CRADOCK, Miss BROWNE, Colonel

ENGLAND, Colonel Worthington WILMER, Colonel HOWARD-BROOKE, Colonel and Mrs. WATERS, Major E. C. MURRAY, Mr. P. THELLUSSON, Mr. G. P. QUAYLE, Mr. W. WATTS, Dr. J. D. DAVIES and Dr. WADHAM, Mrs. DOBIE, Ald. E. GROVES, J.P., Mr. J. WHEELER (Chairman of St. Helen's District Council), Captain STANNEY, Mr. E. CARTER, Mr. G. FARDELL, Mr. H. F. WADE, Mr. W. R. TAYLOR, Mr. R. COLNUTT, Mr. E. C. GOBLE, Mr. G. H. FRENCH (station-master, Ryde Esplanade), and Mr. T. A. WRIGHT. Mr. G. H. HARRISON, of Thornton, was prevented from attending owing to absence from the Island. The floral tributes were an anchor from the family, and a wreath from the servants.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. PURNELL and PURNELL of Ryde.

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Mrs. Douglas FORSYTH wishes to thank all her friends for their kind expressions of sympathy with her in her great loss. For the moment she is unable to answer all the many letters she has received, but she hopes to do so before long.

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Researched & typed by  
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