

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 28th June 1952

Death Notice

LEWIS. – June 23, of 110 Arthur Street, Ryde, James Harry, in his 91st year, last surviving son of the late George and Mary LEWIS

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 28th June 1952

Retired Mariner's Death. – The death occurred on Monday in his 91st year of Mr. James Harry LEWIS, of 110 Arthur Street. He was the last surviving son of the late George and Mary LEWIS, whose five sons, like their father, followed the sea as a career. At the age of 89 he and his wife celebrated their diamond wedding, when among many telegrams received was one from his late Majesty King George VI. Of six children, four survive him, and one, the Rev. H. J. LEWIS, is the superintendent of the Haverfordwest and Milford Haven Circuit of the Methodist Church. Active almost to the end, Mr. LEWIS could frequently be seen about the town, where he was well known to many friends. His recollections enabled him to hold interesting conversation concerning his life at sea, especially relating to the first world war. He joined the Navy at the age of 14 and became a first-class gunner and torpedo man. He was present at the bombardment of Alexandria in the battleship *Invincible*, but was invalided out in 1882 and placed on the Reserve. Afterwards he joined the Union Castle Line and later the P. & O. Steam Navigation Company, of which he had been a pensioner for 30 years. During the first world war his ship, the *Mongolia*, struck a mine and sank in 13 minutes with the loss of 23 of her crew. Mr. LEWIS possessed a silver watch presented to him by surviving passengers in a boat which, after some hardship, he brought to safety on the shores of India. Later another ship in which he was serving, the *Mooltan*, was torpedoed and again he had to take to the boats. At one period he sailed in famous racing yachts and raced for the Queen's Cup with Lord IVEAGH in the *Cetonia*. For several years he acted as signalman at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. He was born in Arthur Street when only four houses had been built there, and he died in the same street. He was a regular worshipper, first at the Bible Christian Chapel in Newport Street and later at the Garfield Road Methodist Church.

The funeral took place at the Methodist Church on Thursday, the Rev. T. J. FOINETTE officiating, Mr. H. L. BRADING, J.P., at the organ, accompanied the hymn "How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds," – The mourners were the Rev. and Mrs. H. J. LEWIS (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. P. LEWIS (son), Mr. and Mrs. G. T. CORNEY and Mrs. E. THORNE (son-in-law and daughters), P.O. and Mrs. T. THORNE, Miss E. CORNEY, and Mrs. P. THORNE (grandchildren). The interment was at Ryde Cemetery.

The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. V. TAYLOR and Son.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett
David Harris
Margaret Truckel