

Last Survivor of 1907 Lifeboat Disaster.- Mr. Alfred Arthur JEFFERY, of 33 Albert Street, who died on Sunday at his son's home, 89 Sandown Road, Lake, was the last survivor of the Ryde lifeboat disaster on January 1st, 1907. Mr. JEFFERY, who was in his 91st year, was a member of the old Ryde lifeboat crew for a great many years. On that ill-fated occasion the crew were called out during a gale to rescue a man in a small boat, and in the heavy seas the lifeboat Selina capsized, and two of her crew, Mr. HEYWARD and Mr. HAINES, were drowned. The other members clung to the upturned boat for several hours before being rescued from the mainland shore. The man whom they had sought to rescue was also saved.

Mr. JEFFERY had spent the whole of his life in the borough. He was the last survivor of the old Ryde fishermen and followed that calling until after the last war, when failing eyesight forced his retirement. In his earlier days he followed the custom of local fishermen by becoming a yacht hand during the summer and in that capacity served for over 30 years in the s.y. Monsoon, owned by the late Mr. HURST, a cotton manufacturer. Right up until his retirement Mr. JEFFERY knitted his own fishing nets. During the first world war he was engaged on ships bringing horses and mules from Bermuda for service with the forces in France. His wife died only a few weeks ago and they were both members of the W.V.S. Derby and Joan Club and had the distinction of being the longest married old couple, their wedding having taken place 69 years ago. Two sons and three daughters survive him.

The funeral service took place at the Congregational Church on Thursday and the Rev. G. J. NELSON officiated. The family mourners were Mr. and Mrs. J. JEFFERY (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs. R. WARD (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. C. BUTTRY (son-in-law and daughter), and Mr. and Mrs. J. PHILLIPS (grandchildren). Mr. and Mrs. C. JEFFERY (son and daughter-in-law) and Mrs. E. HORNIDGE (daughter) were prevented by sickness from attending. The interment took place at Ryde Cemetery.

Messrs. H. V. TAYLOR and Son made the arrangements.
