

## **Arthur Harry Baker**

**Isle of Wight County Press – 3 May 1941**

### **The Island and the War**

#### **WOUNDED**

Sergt. Arthur H. Baker, R.E., whose wife (formerly Miss Gladys Smith) and child reside at Arthadys, St. George's-lane, Newport. Sergt. Baker received grave injuries when gallantly dealing with an unexploded bomb on the East Coast, but he is now making good progress. Before joining the Army soon after the outbreak of the war he was a foreman at Messrs. Dibben and Son's establishment, Church-litten, Newport.

**Isle of Wight County Press – 1 December 1956**

#### **NEWPORT**

**The Late Mr. A. H. Baker.**--The funeral took place on Saturday of Mr. Arthur Harry Baker, aged 42, of Arthadys, St. George's Lane, who, although severely injured during the war, became a familiar and well-liked figure about the town after building up a successful leather-craft business. Mr. Baker died in St. Mary's Hospital the previous Wednesday, following a sudden haemorrhage at his home, where he had been since leaving the hospital last year after a two-months' illness. The elder son of the late Mr. H. A. Baker, the owner of a local painting and decorating business, Mr. Baker was a craftsman in the employ of Messrs. W. Dibben and Sons before joining a Royal Engineers' bomb disposal unit in 1940. A year later, when stationed at Scarborough a bomb exploded while he was carrying it over a fence. His companion was killed instantly and Mr. Baker lost both legs and suffered multiple injuries from blast and fragments. After a spell in hospital he returned home, where he began making thong handbags to occupy his time. This hobby by his pluck and persistence, developed into a small one-man leather industry carried on in a workshop in his house, fitted with special machinery. From there he supplied beautifully made leather goods, including handbags, brief cases, and satchels, to shops throughout the Island and the South of England. Although he was self-taught his work was so expertly carried out that it satisfied the standards of a London buyer. In everything he was helped by the devoted assistance of his wife, formerly Miss Gladys Smith, whom he married in January, 1939. She collected local orders and helped with their delivery from Mr. Baker's invalid car, which he used regularly up to his illness last year. The funeral service, in St. Thomas's Church, was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth, R.D.) and included the hymn "Abide with me" and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. The chief mourners were Mrs. Baker (widow), Miss Jeannette Baker (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Baker (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. L. M. Smith (mother-in-law), Mr. S. L. Smith (brother-in-law, also representing Mrs. Smith, who was unable to attend because of illness), Mrs. A. Woodnutt (aunt), Mr. and Mrs. E. White (cousins), and Messrs. R. Hurrell, R. C. Coward, and R. Jones. Representatives of Messrs. Dibben and Sons and the War Pensions Committee and a number of friends were also present. The many floral tributes included those from Messrs. Dibben and Sons and friends and neighbours. Interment took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Mr. A. E. Wyatt made the arrangements.

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