

**Hedley Francis Heaton**

**Supplement to the London Gazette  
10 December 1919**

**CITATION FOR AWARD of MILITARY CROSS**

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**Capt. Hedley Francis Heaton, 1/5th Bn., W. York, R., T.F.**

For conspicuous gallantry at Avesnes-le-Sec, from the 11th to 16th October, 1918, when his courage, coolness and initiative were a fine asset to his company, which was in the front line throughout the attack, and performed excellent service. Despite heavy shelling of the advanced posts, machine-gun fire, and an extraordinary amount of shell-gas, he, by his personal example and devotion to duty maintained a splendid spirit amongst his men.

**Isle of Wight County Press  
14 January 1956**

**FORMER BANK MANAGER'S DEATH**

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**Church and Choral Singer**

A former esteemed member of the business life of the Island capital, who gave outstanding service to St. Thomas's Parish Church and the musical life of the town, has been removed by the death at St. Mary's Hospital yesterday of Mr. Hedley Francis Heaton, M.C., aged 72, of Castle Crag, Nodgham Lane, Carisbrooke.

Mr. Heaton was manager of the Newport branch of the Midland Bank from its opening in 1923 until his retirement in 1946, and throughout that period, including the difficult war years, discharged his duties with a courtesy and efficiency which won him many friends.

The possessor of a rich tenor voice, Mr. Heaton was well known in connection with the Parish Church both as a chorister and hon. secretary of the Parochial Church Council. For many years he was a member of the Newport Gleemen and was also a prominent supporter of the Borough Philharmonic Society and of the I.W. Musical Festival Competition.

He was a vice-president of the Newport and Carisbrooke Branch of the British Legion and his services were readily placed at the disposal of many local charitable causes. He was a member of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, and since retiring to Carisbrooke had taken an interest in

local affairs. On the occasion of his retirement, when he was succeeded by Mr. W. A. M. Leigh, of Cowes, he was presented with an inscribed gold wristlet watch.

The funeral service will be held at St. Thomas's Church of Monday preceding cremation at Southampton. No flowers are requested but it was Mr. Heaton's wish that donations should be given to the Parish Church organ fund.

**Isle of Wight County Press  
21 January 1956**

**FORMER NEWPORT BANK MANAGER**

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**Inquest Evidence of Fall Downstairs**

An inquest on Mr. Hedley Francis Heaton, M.C., aged 72, of 2 Castle Crag, Nodgham Lane, Carisbrooke, who died in St. Mary's Hospital on Friday week, was held at the hospital on Monday by the Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin).

Margaret Heaton told the Coroner that on January 1st she and her husband took tea with their friend, Miss Moody, who occupied the flat above theirs. During the evening Mr. Heaton left the sitting-room, and a few minutes afterwards, when he should have been returning, they heard a crash, and found him lying unconscious at the foot of the stairs. The passage between the sitting-room and the head of the stairs was in darkness when they went out on hearing the crash, although she had ascertained that two lights were burning there before her husband left the sitting-room. After he regained consciousness he remembered nothing about the accident, and had been unable to explain why he fell. Her husband had been in indifferent health since he had a slight stroke in 1952, and had recently been unsteady on his feet.

Dr. Malcolm Wright, casualty officer at St. Mary's Hospital, said that on examination of Mr. Heaton with the aid of X-ray photographs on his admission on January 1st he found a fracture of the left forearm, bruising of the scalp, early stages of broncho-pneumonia, and a suspected fracture of the skull, although the X-ray plate had not been good enough to decide that point and the patient's condition had not permitted a further X-ray. The heart was enlarged. In spite of treatment, Mr. Heaton grew worse, and died in the early hours of January 13th. His death was due to broncho-pneumonia and congestive heart failure, which witness considered to have been accelerated by the effects of the fall.

Dr. D. G. McCann said he had recently attended Mr. Heaton for a virus infection, with a severe cough, and at the time of the occurrence he had just got up after a spell in bed. He had noticed that Mr. Heaton had been unsteady on his feet, and was letting him feel his way after being in bed.

The Coroner expressed sympathy with the widow and members of the family, and recorded a verdict of accidental death.

## THE FUNERAL

Brethren of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons lined the entrance to St. Thomas's Church, Newport, for the funeral on Tuesday, which was attended by representatives of the many organizations and societies with which Mr. Heaton had been associated. During the service conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth) the hymns "Lord it belongs not to my care" and "How bright these glorious spirits shine" were accompanied by Miss K. Lower (organist). The Vicar referred to the long service Mr. Heaton had given to the church as a valuable choir member and indeed throughout his life.

The occasion was a solemn one, not sad, because he had left an example which they would all do well to follow. He had readily shared his gifts with others, not the least in the worship of God. The Masonic Brethren sang their closing ode and the Vicar delivered the masonic funeral ovation.

The chief mourners were Mrs. Heaton (widow), Mrs. P. McKimmie (daughter), Mr. A. J. Heaton (son), Rev. B. R. L. Smith (brother-in-law), and Miss D. Smith (sister-in-law), Mrs. A. L. Hutchinson (also representing Miss M. Moody), and Miss H. E. Thorne.

Those also present included representatives of St. Thomas's Parochial Church Council, Mothers' Union, and Bible Class; Carisbrooke Parish Church; I.W. Musical Festival Competition; Newport Amateur Musical and Dramatic Society; St. Cecilia Singers; Newport Gleemen; Ripon Cathedral Choir Old Boys' Association; the former Bach Choir; the Island Council and Newport and Carisbrooke branch of the British Legion; Carisbrooke branch of the I.W. Conservative Association; Newport Cricket Club; Newport and Ryde branches of the Midland Bank; Messrs. Roach Pittis and Co.; Vectis Shipping Company; Messrs. W. H. Barton and Son; Messrs. Wray and Sons, Ltd.

At Mr. Heaton's request there were no flowers but it was his wish that donations should be given to the St. Thomas's Church organ fund. Cremation took place at Southampton. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

*{Burial of the ashes of Mr. Hedley Francis Heaton, M.C., in the presence the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth, took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on 23<sup>rd</sup> January in the grave of his daughter, Margaret Rosemary.}*

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