

Robert John Mills

Isle of Wight County Press – 24 October 1997

OBITUARIES

Mr. Robert John Mills

A RETIRED naval chief petty officer died at St Mary's Hospital, Newport, five days after celebrating his 94th birthday.

Mr. Robert John Mills, of Castle Road, Newport, was born in Portsmouth and moved to the Island with his family when he was 14.

In 1921 he began his career in the Royal Navy and served on various ships during the war, including facing extreme danger in Russian convoys.

He was awarded the War Medal, the Atlantic Star, the General Service Medal 1939-1945, and the Russian Convoy Medal for his work.

Mr. Mills was a keen musician and played in various Royal Naval bands until he retired from the navy in 1946.

He subsequently became a customs official and patrolled the IW coast, first on a bicycle and later a motorcycle, and was often called to remote spots in the early hours.

Mr. Mills used to run Mills Stores grocery shop at Upper Ventnor, with his wife, Olive, and he moved to Newport in 1965 following her death.

During his retirement Mr. Mills enthusiastically pursued various hobbies which included playing and teaching various musical instruments as well as learning German and photography.

At the age of 86 he passed an examination in Morse code, which he had taught himself.

Mr. Mills leaves two sons, Michael and Wallace, a daughter, June, ten grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

His funeral took place at the Castlehold Baptist Church, Newport, on October 14 and was conducted by the Rev Gerald Clarke.

Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2025
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>