

Minnie Blanche Violet Purkis

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NEWPORT

The Late Mrs. W. G. Purkis.- The death occurred on Friday week at St. Mary's Hospital of Mrs. Minnie Blanche Violet Purkis, aged 79, of Suvla, Cypress Road, widow of Mr. W. G. Purkis, eldest son of the late Mr. G. B. Purkis, J.P., Mayor of the Borough in 1899 and 1900 and founder of the local tailors' and outfitters' business. Mrs. Purkis was the daughter of the late Mr. W. U. Kirk, for many years in business as a photographer at Cowes. Before her marriage in February 1903 she was a keen tennis player as a member of the Cowes Tennis Club. After their marriage she and her husband lived above the business premises in St. Thomas's Square. The late Mr. W. G. Purkis was a popular captain of the Rowing Club and was employed in the business until the outbreak of the 1914-18 war when he was called to active service with the I.W. Rifles, of which he had been a member for some years. A capable and enthusiastic soldier he was sergeant-major of B. Company when the battalion landed at Suvla Bay in August 1915. After his death in the subsequent fighting Mrs. Purkis, who was left with a son and two daughters, moved to Cypress Road, naming her new home after the battle in which her husband was killed, and had lived there until her illness in December. In 1939 her younger daughter, Joan, was a nurse at the War Memorial Hospital in Hong Kong, and after its capture by the Japanese, Mrs. Purkis suffered the anxiety of her daughter's interment until the end of the war. She was safely released, however, and has since married and is living in New Zealand. The funeral service took place at St. Thomas's Church on Tuesday, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth). The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Purkis (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. G. Carter (son-in-law and daughter), Mesdames V. Endle and E. Purkis (sisters-in-law), Miss M. M. Kirk (niece), and Messrs. O. A. Purkis and A. Kirk (nephews), the former also representing Mr. George B. Purkis and Sons, Ltd. Among the wreaths was one from the firm. Interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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