

## **Albert William Bishop**

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### **SHIPYARD PRINCIPAL AND CINE ENTHUSIAST**

#### **THE LATE MR. A. W. BISHOP, OF NEWPORT**

The rather sudden death on Friday week of Mr. Albert William Bishop, aged 64, of The Paddocks, College Road, Newport, is keenly regretted in local business circles particularly by those connected with Newport Harbour, and also among Island amateur cine enthusiasts. Mr. Bishop was taken ill suddenly in the early evening and died within half an hour. Sincere sympathy is expressed with his widow and only daughter (Mrs. E. H. Leigh), and his aged mother, who also resides at The Paddocks.

Mr. Bishop represented the third generation of his family to be associated with Odessa Shipyard, founded by his grandfather in 1883, and carried on by his late father, Mr. W. H. Bishop, formerly of Hillside, Newport. He entered the firm as a lad, and the association had been unbroken save for service with the I.W. Rifles during the 1914-18 war. Of fine physique, Mr. Bishop joined the I.W. Rifles in his teens in 1908, and when war was declared, went with them to Gallipoli with the rank of sergeant. He was wounded at Suvla Bay, and was sent back to this country, later becoming a musketry instructor.

Returning to the shipyard after the war, Mr. Bishop took control on his father's sudden death in 1938, and had since been responsible for the considerable development of the business. He became adviser to Messrs. Pickfords (later succeeded by British Road Services) on all matters connected with the maintenance of their fleet of coastal vessels plying between the Medina and the mainland, and they were among the firms to entrust all their repairs to the yard. One of the fleet, the Whip, a wooden-hulled vessel, was built at Odessa Yard in the early 1920's, but latterly, although he designed them, vessels were built in yards which had the facilities for steel construction. In addition to his business interests, Mr. Bishop was a true lover of the sea, and between the wars sailed and raced the sloop Zereda as a member of the East Cowes S.C.

During the last world war Mr. Bishop gave service to his country on the home front not only in his business, but also as a special constable, and subsequently, on its formation, in the Observer Corps (later the Royal Observer Corps). In the latter years of the war he succeeded to the post of head observer, but had to relinquish the appointment about four years ago when he suffered a serious illness. In all, he did 13 years' service, which was recognised by the award of the long service medal.

In the last few years Mr. Bishop had taken up amateur cinematography as a hobby with marked success, and its pursuit took up much of his spare time. He had a large and varied selection of films depicting scenes both locally and on holidays which he took on the Continent, and he was always ready to place himself and his projector at the disposal of local societies and church organisations. In this way he greatly assisted many good causes, and he had undertaken engagements for many months ahead. He was a vice-president of the I.W. Amateur Cine Society. He was a member of the Albany and Albany Mark lodges of Freemasons, took an interest in local affairs, and was a supporter of the Conservative cause as a member of the local association and a worker during elections. He was also interested in sport, particularly football, being a former player for the Newport West End Club, and a vice-president of Newport F.C. and in recent years a regular spectator at home matches.

## MASONIC TRIBUTE AT FUNERAL

There was a large and representative congregation at the funeral service on Tuesday, at St. Paul's Church, Barton, including Masonic brethren from the Albany and other Island lodges who formed a guard of honour along the church path as the cortege arrived, and many representatives of British Road Services. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley) who referred to the fact that Mr. Bishop's family had been associated with the parish for many years and were held in affectionate respect by those who remembered them and their work.

The service included the metrical version of the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm sung to the tune "Crimond," and the hymn "Abide with me." Mr. Wheatley read the Masonic funeral oration and the brethren sang their closing ode. Mr. L. E. Dore at the organ played Mendelssohn's funeral march at the conclusion of the service.

The mourners were Mrs. Bishop (widow), Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Leigh (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. A. Plumbley, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wheeler, and Messrs. C., B., and W. Millmore, and J. Fisher (brothers-in-law and sisters). Mr. and Mrs. F. Miell and Mrs. S. Wakeley (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Bishop and Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler (nephews and nieces, the last named representing Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wheeler, of Venezuela), Messrs. F., A., and E. Langley (uncles), Mrs. G. Gustar and Mr. G. Langley (cousins), Mr. and Mrs. S. Morgan and Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Guy. The Odessa Shipyard was represented by Messrs. W. Mew (foreman), I. Westmore, W. Beere, P. Crutcher, C. Smith, L. Deacon, and W. Cook.

Other organisations and firms represented included Albany Mark and Albany, East Medina, and Osborne lodges of Freemasons, the Royal Observer Corps, the I. W. Cine Society, I. W. Rifles Old Comrades' Association, the Ancient Order of Foresters, the Borough Hall Garage, Messrs. W. Hurst and Son, British Road Services, Messrs. O. G. Day, Ltd., Messrs. W. B. Mew, Langton and Co., Messrs. W. Blake and Son, the Newport Motor Marine Engineering Co., the Vectis Shipping Co., Hunter and Coombes, Ltd., and Island Oils, Ltd.

Interment was at the Newport Cemetery and the many floral tributes included those from Odessa Shipyard, Albany Mark Lodge of Freemasons, the I.W. Amateur Cine Society, British Road Services in the following departments: Newport and Cowes depots' clerical staff, Quay Street, the I.W. Group, and the marine shop, the Newport Motor Marine and Engineering Co., the Vectis Shipping Co., the Williams Shipping Co., Messrs. W. B. Mew, Langton and Co., Mr. Aedy and the staff of the Red Road Garage, Wootton, H. A. Wills, Ltd., I.W. Rifles Comrades and the Royal Observer Corps. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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