

ISLE OF WIGHT MERCURY

Friday, December 11, 1914

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The announcement has been made this week that Second-Lieutenant W.B. Judd has been promoted to captain in the Army Service Corps. The inhabitants of Ventnor have heard of it with the highest gratification. Captain Judd held the same rank in the Territorials after an almost life-long devotion to the voluntary service, and his preferment to equal rank in the Regular Army will bring him hearty and sincere congratulations. The promotion was gazetted this week, and takes effect from November 4th.

Friday, May 14, 1915

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There are now four members of the Ventnor Council on Government service, namely, Messrs. Judd, Hills, Spencer and Leitch. Mr. Tory has been appointed Chairman of the Pier Committee in the absence of Mr. Leitch. We are confident he will carry out the duties with the ability and success which have always been associated with the office by Mr. Leitch.

Friday, July 9, 1915

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Captain W.B. Judd, A.S.C., has arrived in France with his company *en route* for the Front.

Friday, July 23, 1915

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The *London Gazette* supplement of July 19th contained the announcement of the promotion to major of Captain W.B. Judd, A.S.C., from date June 14th. Major Judd's advancement will be a matter of the utmost gratification to the townspeople of Ventnor. His promotion has been very rapid. Joining the Army Service Corps in October last as Second Lieutenant, he was promoted to temporary Captain in November, and now, after another seven months he has received his majority. Major Judd arrived at the front at the beginning of the present month.

Friday, October 8, 1915

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Major W.B. Judd arrived home on leave yesterday for a few days.

Friday, October 15, 1915

Major W.B. Judd left for the Western Front Headquarters on Tuesday after spending a few days' leave at home.

Friday, February 8, 1918

DEATH OF
MAJOR W. B. JUDD.

—
A Foremost Citizen.

—
An Indefatigable Volunteer
Officer.

—
The public generally will learn with the deepest regret of the death of Major Wm. Bush Judd, O.C., A.S.C., which took place at Prees Heath, Whitchurch, Salop, on Saturday. The late Major Judd had not been in his usual health since his return from France. He was at home for a few days a month or so ago, but there was nothing to indicate from his appearance that the end was so near. On Saturday he had a return of the heart trouble to which he was often subject, and death took place in the evening. The news was received in Ventnor on Sunday with deep sorrow and regret, and at first with feelings of incredulity.

The late Major Judd, who was the eldest son of the late William Mew Judd, succeeded his parents in the management of the Royal Marine Hotel, and from that time – now over twenty-five years ago – he had been intimately associated with the public life of Ventnor, doing much to enhance its reputation far and near and throwing his energies into its development in all directions.

Major Judd joined the local Volunteers, then under the command of Major T.R. Saunders, V.D., about thirty years ago. Subsequently he took command of the Volunteer Force in this town. His social gifts, winning personality and invariable good temper, made him a warm favourite with the men under his command. He entered into the life of the Detachment with great zest and energy, and few who had the pleasure of serving with him will forget the happy associations which always existed. One event in the early days excited his warm interest, this being a representation of “Cairo” at the Drill Hall, where there were many attractive side shows and entertainments, Lieut. Judd was a leading spirit in this affair, and like everything else he put his hand to, it was a great success.

Major Judd threw great energy into the movement for the formation of the National Reserve in 1913, and was appointed Captain of the Ventnor Company. He was always a great favourite with the men under him, and inspired them with his own intense enthusiasm for this branch of the National service. At the outbreak of the war he did excellent work in recruiting and by his efforts induced a large number of men to voluntarily enter the Army. He took a broad view of the war, and had definite ideas about the power and resource of our enemies. To the writer of this article he remarked once, “This is a five years' business.” After the mobilisation of the National Reserve, Major Judd, although long past the recognised standard of military age, joined the Army Service Corps, in which he was given a Lieutenancy. He trained

with his company for some time in England and was quickly promoted to his Captaincy, and after a short time, Major. In the early days of 1916 he went to France, and here the active work in the field, to a man of his high conscientious character, was most exacting, and he had a recurrence of the illness to which he was frequently prone. He was home on sick leave for some time last year.

Major Judd was a member of the Ventnor Council for eight or nine years and was Vice-Chairman in 1914. His position in the town, and his inherent desire to see Ventnor prosper, made him peculiarly fitted for the duties. He was always a warm advocate for improved communications between the Island and London, and exerted his utmost to bring a quicker and more dependable service. If he was sometimes excitable in debate, Major Judd invariably exercised considerable influence over the Council's decisions, and he served the ratepayers in a very able manner.

He was for some time Chairman of the Advancement Association, whose work had for him singular attraction and interest. For the whole of his maturer life Major Judd may be said to have been continually pegging away for more widespread and systematic publicity for Ventnor.

Here again his endeavours met with success. Up to a few years ago the town was not advertised in a systematic way and the methods of the campaign which was inaugurated under Major Judd's *regime* are now being improved with promise of further development when normal times return. As Chairman on several occasions of the Regatta Committee, and always a keen and active member of the Sailing Club, Major Judd conferred benefits on the town of his birth. In the widely known Carnivals for which Ventnor holds an honoured name, Major Judd may be said to have the inspiration. His gifts as a painter of scenery, which were exemplified at the many entertainments he organised, were particularly displayed in the Carnival exhibitions. His car was invariably the central feature of the show, and he could be seen dressed in old clothes and working far away into the night to perfect the scheme which his fertile brain had devised.

A sportsman in the highest sense of the word, Major Judd warmly espoused the cause of the I.W. Hunt, and was a frequent and successful rider at the race meeting at Ashey.

Major Judd's interest and enthusiasm in the aviation week a few years ago will be recalled. It was through his efforts that several aviators flew to Ventnor in the summer of 1911, causing a stir throughout the Island in those comparatively early days of aeronautics. This event led to the aviation week, which brought the town into prominence all over the country.

A staunch Conservative and one whose influence at election time was a great asset to his party, Major Judd took a leading part in all the arrangements.

In this article we have attempted to describe some of the late Major's varied activities. He was the embodiment of all that makes a true citizen. To some people he appeared reserved, but those who came to know him, quickly perceived his attractive and kindly personality. His loss to the town of Ventnor is a very real one.

Personal Characteristics.

Memory goes back to 1894. A small offer of sympathy rendered gladly founded a friendship over many years – a friendship during which Willie Judd showered constant kindness. His was a large generous heart, which was not in the sight of all men because his reserved disposition was opposed to outward display of feeling. But those who entered within the barrier of reserve found him to have a heart overflowing with generous promptings, full of sympathy, and capable of great affection. In the life of Ventnor one is compelled to ask, "Who can take his place?"

He and his father before him led in all that was of good to the town. They had many characteristics in common. Both were great sportsmen delighting to follow the hounds – and who of middle age will forget either of them on that fine jumper Cardinal? Both were keen with the gun, both were actors of quite professional cleverness, and both threw themselves heart and soul into the town's festivities, and in all efforts for the town's advantage. Both did their duty as members of the governing body; and for half a century or more they were the leading citizens. Both were full of energy and enthusiasm – and to whatever they put their hands they carried through. Lastly both were keen Volunteers and did much to stimulate the Volunteer movement in the Island. So keen was Willie Judd as a soldier, that rather than claim the privilege of age which entitled him to remain honourably in comfort at home with his family, he answered the call of his country and now he lies in a soldier's grave! He had always a weak heart and one remembers it was always an anxiety to those who loved him when he set out upon any undertaking requiring physical exertion. But this weakness did not deter him. His courage was always greater than his strength. One sees him riding across country in the hunt steeplechases, and remembers putting a "trifle on" because "Willie Judd" was in the saddle. His clever acting has been alluded to, but few who attended the play ever realised that those often very beautiful and elaborate scenes were his design and the outcome of his labour. Night after night and into the early hours of the morning he might have been found painting, or cutting out the scenery – always cheery, and taking it all on himself as a matter of course. This was characteristic of him. Had his life been directed otherwise an enviable career might have opened to him as an actor or scenic artist. He and his father were the leaders and life of the Ventnor Carnivals. What frolics this thought recalls! Then how many happy hours have we spent on the sea! He was one of the original members of the Sailing Club, and could hold his own with the "best of them" in the Club races. The Cricket Club was one of the glories of the town thirty years ago, and he and his father were always most generous supporters. Following his father's example, he was a most delightful host. Visitors he came to know were always welcome at his table or at those cheery little gatherings, at the Hotel, at which games and dancing passed merry hours away, and at the back of this generous impulse was always the desire that visitors might so enjoy their stay at Ventnor that they would come again. And so they did! He was not a correspondent; so when one went away it seemed like saying a last "good-bye"!

Years have passed since we met. The last time I saw him was in London, when he was serving the Island as its representative on the Society formed for the purpose of advancing the interests of British Seaside Resorts. We had but one or two cheery words together, and after that I think we did not meet again.

As in the father, so in the son, Ventnor has lost one whom it will be scarcely possible to replace, and the gap in its social and municipal life cannot be filled because of the particular and original personality that occupied it.

In all he did for Ventnor, he had the hearty co-operation and assistance of his wife, and to Mrs. Willie Judd and her daughters we all offer our tribute of tenderest sympathy. A.P.

The Funeral.

took place this afternoon. It was of an imposing military character. At the time of going to press, there were numerous evidences of mourning in the town. There was a service at Holy Trinity Church before the interment, and a very large and representative gathering assembled. The hymns sung were "Fight the good fight," "Abide with me," and the Nunc Dimittis was sung at the close. The local Volunteers

supplied the firing party and members of the 9th Hants Regt. acted as bearers. Mr. T. Brading was the undertaker.

A full report of the funeral will be printed next week.

Friday, February 15, 1918

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On few occasions in this locality has there been such a moving exemplification of public regret and sympathy as were associated last Friday with the funeral of Major W.B. Judd. Wherever one turned, expressions were heard of sorrow of the inhabitants in the loss of one whose influence and energy were ever directed to the highest interests of the town. Many of the shops and the elementary schools were closed, and there were many tokens of mourning everywhere. The military ceremonial was very efficiently conducted by the local Volunteers, under Lieut. W.H. Lawler. This, we believe, was their first experience in this respect, but there was nothing wanting in all that goes to make a smooth and satisfactory performance of the exacting duties which such an event entails. Indeed it is conceded that the work could not have been better done. The scene in the Cemetery will not be readily forgotten by those present. The whole ceremonial was a striking tribute to the memory of one whose loss to the town is admitted on all hands.

Some particulars are to hand of the circumstances of Major Judd's death. As the Officer Commanding the A.S.C. at Prees Heath, he had been invited to attend the marriage on the Saturday of one of the officers in the camp. He attended the wedding and afterwards a social gathering in celebration of the event. Major Judd had just proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom when his head fell slightly forward. A friend came to his assistance, but after uttering a simple word of apology for so forgetting himself, the Major breathed his last. Everything possible was done by the doctors and nursing staff at hand to restore consciousness, but all was of no avail.

At a meeting of the District Council on Monday, speaking with emotion and deep feeling, Dr. Robertson expressed the sympathy of the Council and of the town in the death of Major Judd, and referring also to his activities outside the immediate government of Ventnor. There was a hushed pause while the Council stood in their places to mark their sense of devotion and sympathy. We understand that the family have received over four hundred letters and messages of condolence from friends all over the country, many of them couched in the warmest terms of admiration for the late Major's public spirit, lofty character and high personal qualities.

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Ventnor District Council.

...

The Chairman referred to the loss of the late Major W.B. Judd in feeling terms. (This is reported elsewhere). Proceeding, the Chairman proposed votes of condolence with Mrs. Warren, who had seven sons in the Army and has lost three, with Mrs. T. Dennis, who has lost her son in Palestine, and with Mr. and Mrs. G. Young, 2, Albany Villas, Upper Ventnor, who had also lost a son, apparently at the Battle of Gaza, and who was formerly in the employ of the Council.

The votes were carried in silence.
(not all the report has been transcribed)

Friday, February 15, 1918

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FUNERAL OF
MAJOR W. B. JUDD

Impressive Ceremonial.

Ventnor was in mourning for the funeral last Friday afternoon of Major Wm. Bush Judd. Many business houses were closed and drawn blinds and black shutters to windows were general. Long before the procession left the house, crowds of people gathered in the streets, at the Church and Cemetery. The obsequies were of a military character, the body being drawn on a gun carriage to the Church, thence to the Cemetery. On the coffin, which was covered with the Union Jack, rested the deceased officer's sword and service cap. The nave of Holy Trinity Church was reserved for the mourners. Headed by the local Volunteers, formerly the military escort and firing party, and by the Sandown Town Band, which played the Dead March in Saul *en route*, the funeral procession was watched with mournful interest as it passed through the High Street.

All the local bodies with which Major Judd was associated were represented.

The mourners were Mrs. W. Bush Judd (widow), the Misses Molly and Nancy Judd (daughters), Major Charles Judd (brother), Miss Lucy Judd and Miss Katie Judd (sisters), Mrs. William Mew Judd, Mr. Walter Judd (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. Harry Preston, Major and Mrs. Fred Preston, Lieut. and Mrs. R. Preston, Mrs. E.W. Baiby, Mrs. Douglas Courage, Mr. G. Maddick, Mr. Tom Pethick, Miss Lambert and Miss Ribbands.

The pall bearers were Col. Sir Charles Seely, Bart., M.P., Colonel E.W. Cradock, D.L., Major Charles Sweetman, A.S.C., Major J. Fardell, Captain Henry Lington, T.D., and Captain Frank King, V.D.

The service at the Church was singularly impressive, the music being very feelingly sung by the choir under Mr. Edwin Lemare. The hymns were "Fight the good fight," and "Abide with me." The prayers were read by the Rev. A.P. Clayton (Vicar) and the lesson by the Rev. B.H.P. Smith (Priest-in-charge of St. Alban's). The choir led the funeral cortege from the Church chanting the Nunc Dimittis. Mr. Lemare afterwards played Chopin's "March Funebre."

At the cemetery there was a very large attendance of the general public. The committal portion of the service was read by the Rev. A.P. Clayton and the firing party, with Sergt. D.P. Wheeler in charge, discharged three volleys with precision. This was followed by the sounding of the "Last Post," by Bugle-Major Jacobs, Sergt.-Bugler G. Dennes, and Lnc.-Corpl. Humphries. The coffin was deposited in a grave, which had been lined with most beautiful flowers and greenery. A pathetic incident occurred at the close, when the large and reverent assembly stood uncovered, many being in tears, while the widow and daughters of deceased threw poses (*sic*) of violets, lilies of the valley and roses on to the coffin.

The Fire Brigade, who were in the funeral procession, afterwards lent excellent help in keeping the vicinity of the grave for the immediate mourners.

Several members of the Special Constabulary were on duty in the streets and at the Cemetery and carried out their duties with great satisfaction. A word must also be said of the praiseworthy manner in which the Volunteers performed their very exacting part in the day's proceedings. Lieut. W.H. Lawler was in charge.

It would be impossible to print a full list of those who attended the funeral. Among those at the Church and cemetery were: -

(those who attended have not been transcribed)

The elementary schools of the town were closed for the funeral.

List of Wreaths. Etc.

There were a very large number of beautiful wreaths and other floral tokens. In addition to those from the widow and daughters, the following is a list: -

(the list of wreaths has not been transcribed)

REQUIEM

On Friday morning a solemn requiem was held at St. Alban's Church for the late Major Judd, the widow and several members of the family being present. The service was impressively conducted by the Rev. B.H.P. Smith (Priest-in-Charge).

Funeral Ceremony at Prees Heath.

There was an imposing military display when the body of the late Major Judd was removed from the headquarters at Prees Heath to the station. In the procession were a large of officers, among whom Major Judd had been held in the highest esteem and affection, and about three hundred men of the A.S.C. The officers present were Brigadier-General W.H. Sitwell, C.B., D.S.O., Lieut.-Col. K.D. Mackenzie, A.D. of S. and T., Western Command, Lieut-Col. G.B. Dartnell, Majors J.A.T. Tredgold, G.S.E. Carter, W. Pullan, C.H. Fanshawe, B.W. Phelps (all of the A.S.C.), Major R.P. Gwynne, 17th Brigade Staff, Captains R.W.W. Bayley, H.S. Andrews, and Lieuts. A. Foote and A.W. Ellis, A.S.C., Lieut. J.E. Willcox, 5th Border Regt., Lieut. H.A. Carter, Works Batt., Lieut. And Quarter Master A. Saunders, Captain Houtman, C.F., and Captain F.H. Bullock.

Public References.

At a meeting of the Ventnor District Council on Monday evening, the Chairman, Dr. Robert Robertson, J.P. C.C., made a touching reference to the late Major Judd's association with the council and his varied activities in the town. Speaking with deep feeling, Dr. Robertson said: -

Before we proceed to the ordinary business, it is again my sad duty to ask you to pass votes of condolence with some who have passed from us since our last meeting. We are all conscious of the great loss we have sustained in the death of a member of this council, Major Judd. It was only some few weeks, three or four, ago, that he was here looking the picture of health, as cheerful and bright as ever he was, and very interested in his work. He asked whether I considered he ought to resign the council. I said that there were enough of us and I hoped he would still remain a member. He has been taken from us and we can all realise now how great he was as a citizen of the town, not merely as a member of this council. He did his duty in a very thorough way. He was Vice-Chairman of the council when the war broke out, and owing to his enthusiasm, he took up the call of his country and there is no doubt through his good example a very large number of men responded to his appeal. He felt he could not continue as Vice-Chairman, and resigned, but allowed his name to remain as a member. He was elected as a councillor in 1898 and retired of his own will at the end of three years. He was re-elected in 1909 and served until his death. Mr. Judd was far more than a member of the council; there was not a matter that affected Ventnor that he had not thoroughly at heart and threw himself into with the

utmost vigour and energy to promote the interests of the town. Looking back, no one with the experience of life in Ventnor, as he had, has taken so large a part in promoting the success of everything in the interests of the town. If you think of the carnival, we all looked for Mr. Judd's car as something unique, and at the regatta he was a prominent in sports of all kinds. It was not merely in Ventnor; he was one of the best known men in the Island, liked by everybody for his genial and courtly manner, and we felt he was a credit to the town by representing us so favourably wherever he went. His enthusiasm for voluntary service for the army before the war is well known, and when war broke out, although exempt by his years from active service he, at the very earliest opportunity, joined up and went to France. His health unfortunately prevented him remaining there, and has been for sometime past in this country. It has come as a blow and as a loss, and I am sure you will join with me in expressing to Mrs. Judd our sympathy and feeling of the great loss which the town has sustained in his being taken away.

At the meeting of the I.W. Hotels Association last Wednesday at the Pier Hotel, Ryde, the Chairman, Mr. Greenham, referred to the loss which the Association had sustained by the death of Major W.B. Judd, who was for many years Chairman of the Association and a very active member, and the usual resolution of sympathy and condolence to his widow was passed, and arrangements were made for a wreath to be sent from the members.

Before commencing his sermon at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday morning, the Vicar (Rev. A.P. Clayton) referred in feeling and appreciative terms to the death of Major Judd. He said a gloom had been cast over Ventnor by the death of one who had been taken from them under tragic circumstances and whose loss they all deplored. Major Judd gave up a life of ease to do what he could in the great war, although he was not in robust health. He was one of their public men who would be greatly missed in the town and Island, and who was always willing to do his utmost for the public good. Although he did not die on the battlefield, he none the less gave his life for his country, and the sympathy of that Church and congregation would be with the family in their great loss.

MAJOR W.B. JUDD.
AN APPRECIATION BY HIS
COMRADES IN ARMS.

There are men who are as fleeting shadows; we are pleased to know them but, having passed by, they are quietly forgotten. Such men lack that personality which makes the heart glad, and bring back tender and happy memories when their names are mentioned. There are other men whose kind, noble, and unostentatious regard for their fellows is ever remembered by those whose pleasure it was to receive help and advice when such were needed. On Tuesday last we saw the mortal remains of Major W.B. Judd, of the Army Service Corps, proceed on the one-way trail with all the honour and respect that we could show to our comrade in arms. He was a "good officer." He brought credit to his Corps. At all times a fine type of an English gentleman, he possessed a charming personality which endeared him to all who knew him, and his last moments, spent in wishing happiness to others, were typical of the kindly desires ever present in his thoughts. His epitaph might well stand: "He was a perfect, gentle knight."

[LATE ADVERTISEMENT]

MAJOR WILLIAM BUSH JUDD,
DECEASED.

ALL PERSONS having any CLAIM against the Estate of the above-named deceased, are requested to send particulars thereof to the undersigned within ten days of this date.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1918.

URRY, WOODS & PETHICK,

St. John's chambers, Ventnor.

Solicitors for the Executors.

Friday, March 15, 1918

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Ventnor District Council.

THE LATE MAJOR JUDD.

The following letter was read:

Royal Marine Hotel,
Ventnor.
Feb. 25th, 1918

Dear Mr. Oakes,

Will you kindly convey to the Chairman and Council of Ventnor my thanks and appreciation of their very kind letter of sympathy. It is indeed a comfort and solace to know that the lively interest my husband always had for the good of the town and the work he did so willingly and unsparingly for the welfare of all has been so recognised; but Ventnor, his native town, was always very dear to him.

Yours sincerely,

HELEN JUDD

(not all the report has been transcribed)