

ROBERT WILLIAM HENRY MEADEN 1912-1988

Born 24 April 1912 at 80 Clarence Street Landport Portsmouth behind the present Sainsbury's, which at the time of his birth was the site of THE ROYAL HOSPITAL. He lived there with his Mother, Father, and Brother and widowed Grandmother Susan Good. He was baptised 16th March 1920 at St Agatha's Church and attended St. Agatha's School (which was almost next door) until 14 years of age. His leisure activities included football, cricket and swimming. His enthusiasm for both "POMPEY" and local football remained with him all his life. He started work at Timothy Whites the chemist in Commercial Road doing various odd jobs. He said that one of his regular tasks was to make methylated spirits, for sale in the shop. After a short time he entered the Dockyard as a Yard Boy (1927). He later became a Hammer man, before eventually becoming a Smith. He worked for many years in No 2 Smithery bending and shaping steel pipes. Around 1966-1968 he moved to the Chain test House, testing chain and cable used on HM Ships. (It was in 1964 aged 52 that he was diagnosed with angina)

He retired 30TH APRIL 1976 aged 64.

He married Ivy Wells 1ST AUGUST 1936, and they moved to a small bungalow at 40 "IVYDENE" Lonsdale Avenue Portchester, which they had purchased from the builder for £370. (I remember him telling me that his father chastised him, saying "the mortgage would be for ever a millstone around his neck". As at that time it was customary for the working class of Portsmouth to rent accommodation.)

Partly due to the death of his father in 1945, and the need to look after his mother, plus the fact that the Bungalow was too small for the

growing family, they moved to 13 Nelson Road Landport Portsmouth in 1946. Here he was able to keep an eye on his mother living at No 16 Nelson Road, until shortly before her death in 1948, when for the last few months of her life she lived with him and IVY at number 13.

The family moved to 71 Cardiff Road North End Portsmouth in 1960, when the City Council compulsorily purchased all that remained of Nelson Road, having decided to rebuild/regenerate the whole area, as it had been extensively bombed in WW2. He spent the rest of his life happily with Ivy at Cardiff Road. On the 13 April 1988, at about 0900hrs whilst on a bus in Queens Street, on the way to the Hard, for a coach trip to London he collapsed and died from a heart attack.

He was a quiet, generous and articulate man with a wry sense of humour who did not suffer fools easily, and whose bark was far worse than his bite.