

William's Obituary

A GALLANT SAILOR DIES

Known widely for his long and most distinguished naval career, Captain William Pearson Townshend, of 60 Parkway, Gidea Park, died last week at the age of 74.

Captain Townshend was the third son of Mr. N. W. O. Townshend of County Cork and he went to sea at an early age, sailing to Australia in the "Sir Harry Lawrence." He was a man of great strength and courage, and at the age of only 19 saved the "Lord Roseberry" when she was foundering by climbing a mast and slashing free the sails—the only volunteer. For this he received a token from Lloyds; and later he was to receive the Royal Humane Society medal for saving a drowning sailor in Capetown harbour.

During the first world war he was mentioned in despatches for his work as captain of H.M. ships Prince of Wales and Dianthus, and after the surrender he became captain of the port of Constantinople, staying there till 1922.

ARMED MERCHANT SHIPS

Joining the P. and O. Company, he had many successive commands, concluding with that of the Strathaird, on whose building he was advised. He was for a time Commodore of the P. and O. fleet.

During the recent war he worked in Glasgow and Belfast, arming merchant ships as they came into the ports.

Capt. Townshend retired in 1935, and became an assessor for the Admiralty Court of Appeal. He was interested in the Royal Naval Old Comrades' Association and in the Sea Cadets, being president of both Romford and Dagenham Corps. He was a governor of the Royal Merchant Navy Orphanage, Wokingham, and on the committee of the Royal Alfred Home for Aged Seamen.

Capt. Townshend came with his wife to live in Romford at his present home in Parkway shortly before the first world war. Mrs. Townshend survives him.

The funeral service will be at the City of London Crematorium at 3 o'clock.