



THE LATE Mr. F. B. SUMMERS, J.P.

## The Late Mr. F. B. Summers.

LAMENTED DEATH OF A PUBLIC  
BENEFACTOR.

HIS WORK AND INTEREST IN ALTON  
HOSPITAL.

As announced in last week's "Alton Mail," the death took place in the Alton Cottage Hospital on Thursday afternoon of last week, at the age of 57, of Mr. Frank Bright Summers, of Froyle Place, Froyle. The news of his passing came as a shock and a great sorrow to very many people, and more particularly to those connected with the Alton Cottage Hospital, and the residents of the district around Froyle. He was an inmate of the Cottage Hospital a few months ago, and when he returned to Froyle Place it was known that another operation might become necessary. He did, however, once more take his place in public affairs. The Sunday before his death he entered the Hospital again, and when on Tuesday enquiry was made as to the state of his health it was reported that he was going on fairly well. On Thursday morning, however, his condition was regarded as extremely serious, and, as stated, he passed away that afternoon.

The youngest son of Mr. John Summers and Mrs. Summers, of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs., he was educated at Mill Hill School, and when 19 or 20 went out to the Argentine to a ranch. He stayed there about a year and returned to Gloucestershire and took up farming. In 1895 the iron and steel firm of Messrs. John Summers and Sons, Ltd., decided to extend their business, and they started a new works near Chester, and from that time Mr. Summers took an active part in the firm. He remained in the business until 1908, when he retired, although up to the time of his death he was a director. In 1909 he went to live in London, but stayed there only a little over a year, and in 1910 took over the lease of Froyle Place.

### GALLANT AIRMAN SON.

In 1898 he married Miss Constance Taylor, of Great Ayton, Yorkshire. His eldest son, Captain William Assheton Summers, M.C., was killed at the Battle of the Somme on 30th July, 1916, at the age of 20. Captain Summer was formerly in the 18th Hussars, and then transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. Miss Dorothy Mary Summers, the eldest daughter of Mr. F. B. Summers, died in 1911 while in France. She was buried in Froyle Churchyard, and her father has been interred in the same grave. Mr. Summers' youngest daughter, Marjorie Constance, passed away at Mold, North Wales, in 1902, at the age of five years. The surviving son, Mr. Gerard Spencer Summers, is at Kenya Colony, East Africa, and was due to leave for home on the 20th of this month. He, of course, was unable to be present at the funeral on Monday. The surviving daughter is Mrs. Thomson-Glover, wife of Major Thomson-Glover, and lives near Norwich. Her husband has been serving in the Indian Political Department for some years.

### MR. SUMMERS' WAR SERVICE.

In the early days of the Great War, when mechanical transport was at a premium, Mr. Summers went to Belgium with his car, which he had fitted out as an ambulance, and afterwards in France his car performed useful service with the Red Cross. Later he returned to England, and was for some time the Military Representative on the Tribunals which were held in Alton. Froyle Place was a military hospital for 20 men from November, 1914, to November, 1915, and after that time, until the end of the war, was a convalescent home for overseas' officers.

Mr. Summers was president of several clubs in the Froyle district, notably the Cricket and Tennis Clubs, to which he gave great help. With his assistance the Cricket Club maintained a pitch which was noted in a wide area. A Justice of the Peace, and a member of the Froyle Parish Council, he was also a vice-president of the Alton Horticultural Society, and last year provided a cup for the best exhibit at the autumn show. Mr. Summers was a member of the North-East Hants Agricultural Association, and just previous to his death he was engaged in a scheme for a convalescent fund for the benefit of patients who had left the Alton Cottage Hospital.

### THOUSANDS GIVEN TO ALTON HOSPITAL.

He will be remembered as the Chairman of the Alton Cottage Hospital. In 1924 he and Mrs. Summers provided extensive alterations and additions to the Hospital, the cost of which was £14,000, exclusive of the appointments and the X-rays department. This brought the Hospital to the proud position of being second to none in the country for its efficiency according to its size. One of the new wards was dedicated to the memory of Miss Dorothy Mary Summers, and the other to the memory of Captain William Assheton Summers, M.C., while the operating theatre was dedicated to Mr. Basil Peile, who was secretary of the Hospital for 18 years. The alterations and additions to the Hospital included two large wards, close to which are the usual sanitary suits, bathroom, ward kitchen, surgeon's room, and lobby. An extension was made at the south end of the old buildings, and this consisted of the Matron's room, anaesthetic room, sterilising room and operating theatre. Over these rooms were placed two private wards, with a nurse's bedroom, etc. A special building was erected for treatment by X-rays, comprising a room for outpatients, X-rays room, and other arrangements. Over this is a store. Electricity light was installed and a plant house provided, also a mortuary. The whole of the buildings were adapted for radiator heating, and a boiler house provided. There were also a number of alterations made to the old buildings.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on 18th October, 1924, Mr. Summers said: "I felt that the time had arrived when Alton should have proper premises, better buildings, more in keeping with modern requirements and practice; and as Mrs. Summers and myself had been wondering how we could best perpetuate the memory of two children of ours we felt thankful to have the opportunity of fulfilling our desires and wishes, and at the same time benefiting present and future generations of Alton. That idea was more extended when we knew that there was a great desire among the public to do something to commemorate the memory of Mr. Basil Peile, who was for 18 years secretary of this Hospital. The idea of joining with us and erecting a theatre in his memory seemed to fit in very well, and so your theatre is dedicated to the late Mr. Basil Peile. There are a number of people I would like to thank for having assisted us in the fulfilling of our wishes and desires. First of all I want to thank Mr. Goodwyn Hall, for I dare say you will remember that it was his father, the late Mr. Henry Hall, who gave the land on which this Hospital was originally built. His son has followed in his generous footsteps and has given us a piece of land on which to build the out-patients' department and on which the theatre might be erected.

"Notwithstanding what I have done I still feel that your Hospital is not complete. I should like to see a children's ward, and I should like to see a maternity ward, but at the moment I am not in a position to carry this out. I hope at some future time to be in that position."

The extensions were opened by Canon Causon, whose father founded the Cottage Hospital.

## THE FUNERAL.

The respect and affection with which the late Mr. Summers was regarded was strongly evidenced at the funeral at Froyle on Monday afternoon. The little Parish Church was filled with those who came to pay their final tokens of goodwill. All the seating accommodation was taken; there were people standing at the back of the church, in the aisles, in the gallery, and in the porch, while quite a number remained outside the building, having arrived too late to gain admittance. Many of the villagers had walked considerable distances in order to be present, for in the death of Mr. Summers a great many of the poorer homes have lost a real friend.

From Froyle Place, where the Union Jack was flown at half-mast, the coffin was wheeled to the gate of the churchyard by members of the staff of Froyle Place, who acted as bearers, these being: Mr. F. Peters, Mr. A. Flatman, Mr. J. Brandall, Mr. G. Cherrill, Mr. G. Hollis, Mr. B. Childs, and Mr. J. Castle.

The principal mourners were: Mrs. Summers (widow), Mrs. Thomson Glover (daughter), Major Thomson Glover (son-in-law), Mr. W. Summers (brother), Mr. H. Summers (brother), Mrs. P. Withers (sister), Mrs. J. W. Summers (sister-in-law), Mrs. Montague Brown (sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Hyslop (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr. Geoffrey Summers (nephew), Capt. Russell (nephew), Mr. G. Hayes, Mr. Bruce Gardner, Miss Cuppage, Miss Wilson, the Hon. E. Butler-Henderson, Brig.-General Sir D. Arbuthnot, Bart., Capt. Freeland, Mr. and Mrs. L. Bell, Mrs. Hadow, and Miss Buckley.

Commencing with the 90th Psalm, sung to an ancient plain-song, the service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Lambert (Vicar of Wye, Kent), the Rev. J. D. Carter (Warden of the Sisters of Charity, and a former Vicar of Froyle), and the Rev. W. Annesley (Vicar of Froyle).

"Abide with me" and "Now the labourer's task is o'er" were the only hymns, and in that crowded church, upon such an occasion, their choice seemed singularly appropriate.

## UNOSTENTATIOUS KINDLINESS.

In a brief address, the Rev. J. D. Carter remarked that they were there as the friends of Mr. Summers, moved by one thing, and that was his extraordinary kindness. His kindness was not confined to the use of his wealth, and material gifts, but he gave of the best of himself, as had been evidenced in the extension of the Alton Cottage Hospital. He was a kind man, but his kindness was not all of a character which could be known. He never sought to be advertised, and, the speaker believed, had done a great deal more in that way than people knew. He was straight and sincere, and hated shams, and those who knew him realised a little of his generosity of character. They commended his soul, and the souls of all the faithful, to that everlasting mercy and kindness of God Himself. And so their lips and hearts joined in the prayer for him, and all those who passed away in the faith of our Lord. "Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, may light perpetual shine on them, may they ever rest in peace."

Mr. Norris Thrower, A.R.C.O., who was at the organ, played before and after the service, his solos being "Epitaph" (Viene), "The Souls of the Righteous" (Ely), "O Rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn), and the "Marche Funebre" (Chopin).

Amongst the congregation were: Lord Basing, Major-General Sir Geo. Jeffreys, Sir C. J. Hubert Miller, Bart., J.P., Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Bart., Admiral Sir Reginald Tupper, J.P., the Hon. Geoffrey Parsons, J.P., and Mrs. Parsons, Major the Hon. Francis Needham, M.V.O., Admiral E. P. E. Jervoise, J.P., Brig.-General A. R. Burrows, Commander and Mrs. Belt, Colonel Mackenzie Edwards, Colonel L. C. E. Knight, J.P., and Mrs. Knight, Major Reginald Pole, Colonel G. B. Lempriere, J.P., Captain J. B. Scott, Captain H. A. Burrell, Captain Hector Greenfield, Captain H. Russell, Captain Llewellyn Llewellyn, Captain R. H. Towell, M.C., Mr. E. Stewart (representing Colonel the Right Hon. W. G. Nicholson, M.P.), the Revs. W. H. David (Rural Dean), F. Rowland Dawson (Vicar of Alton), and A. C. Mac-lachlan (Newton Valence), the Rev. C. E. Bond and Mrs. Bond (All Saints', Alton), the Rev. F. H. Sumner and Miss Sumner (Chawton), Mrs. Ogilvy, Mrs. Wickham,

Miss Wellesley, Mrs. Douglas Jey, Miss P. Joy, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Pecheil, Mrs. Eyre Lloyd, Miss Young, Mr. R. C. Bolton (Alton Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society), Mrs. and Miss Leeke, Miss Buckley, Mrs. Harold Sanderson, Nurse Barker, Mrs. Munday, Dr. H. C. Williams, Dr. O. V. Payne, and Mrs. Payne, Dr. Shirley Jones, Dr. Russell Carling, Dr. Jagger (Winchester), Mr. J. F. Parsons (hon. secretary, Alton Cottage Hospital), Mr. A. W. Hoare (hon. secretary, Hospital Saturday Committee), Miss E. H. Phillips (Matron), and Sister Russell, Sister Guerin, Nurse Turner, Nurse Butler, Nurse Knight (Alton Cottage Hospital), Mr. H. P. Burrell, C.C., Mr. Edgar Kempson, Mr. J. Alfred Eggar, Mr. A. J. Martin, Mr. R. H. Lock, Mr. J. A. Hayden, Mr. Walter H. Saville, Mr. F. Seth Smith, Mr. M. J. B. Whitby, Mr. P. J. Bullivant, Mr. J. Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Fair, Miss Annesley, Mr. Gilbert W. Harrap, Mr. E. G. Hayes, Mr. B. W. Bentinck, Mr. J. F. Gault, Mr. S. A. Morse, Mr. A. C. H. Bull, Mr. Gerald Hall, J.P., Mr. F. Gotelee, J.P., Mr. A. F. M. Downie, Mr. R. B. Eggar, Mr. T. Chesterfield, Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Gadban, Mr. and Mrs. J. Stockdale and Miss Stockdale, Mr. R. K. Twitchin, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Ridgers, Supt. Abel (Alton Police Division), Mr. W. L. Brownjohn, Mr. R. Brownjohn, Mr. R. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Westbrook, Mr. G. Westbrook, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. T. Knight, Mrs. Wilfred Andrew, Mr. W. Perry (hon. secretary, Alton Horticultural Society), Mr. W. Mylne, Mr. R. B. Wiltshire (representing Messrs. A. G. Denyer and Sons), Mr. W. Berry (Postmaster, Alton P.O.), Mr. W. P. Butler, Mr. Ed. Farquharson, Mr. and Mrs. Sturdy, Mr. and Miss Ruby Rawson, Mr. and Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Hollis, Mrs. Castle, Miss Marsh, Miss Usher, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Rixon, Miss Rowell, Miss Potheccary, Mr. T. Peters, Mr. R. Broomfield, Mr. W. Graffham, Mr. W. Burnett, Mr. W. Pike, Mr. A. Slater, Miss Payne, Miss Simpson, Miss James, Mr. E. Cook, Mr. J. Rix, Mr. C. Haines, Mr. W. Pithers, Mr. and Mrs. Goodwyn Hall were unavoidably absent.

The inscription on the coffin was:

FRANK BRIGHT SUMMERS,

Died 7th January, 1926,

Aged 57 years.

## THE FLORAL TOKENS.

Floral tributes were sent from: Mr. W. Summers; Mr. H. Summers; Mrs. James Summers; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Summers; Mr. Geoffrey Summers; Colonel and Mrs. Bastard; Capt. and Mrs. Hugh Russell; Dr. and Mrs. Withers; Mrs. J. H. Boenders; Major and Mrs. Thomson-Glover; Mrs. Buckley and Miss J. Buckley; Mrs. Montague Brown; General and the Lady Kathleen Brownlow; Lord and Lady Basing; Mr. Arthur Bull; Mr. H. Buckley; Colonel and Mrs. Crookshank; Mrs. and the Misses Complin; the Misses Crowley; Miss Cuppage; Lady Foster and Miss Wellesley; Mrs. Edward Farquharson; Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ferrand; Mr. and Mrs. Fair; Mr. and Mrs. Rawson and family; the Rev. F. H. Sumner and the Misses Sumner; Mr. J. Sidebottom; Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Stockdale; Capt. and Mrs. Jervoise Scott; Major and Mrs. Taylor; Large, Bates, and Scrivener; of Upton Grey; Miss Wilson; Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Williams; the Rev. H. Woolrych-Whitmore and Miss Whitmore; Mrs. Wickham; Mrs. Young; the Committee of the Alton Cottage Hospital; the Secretary and Nursing Staff of the Alton Cottage Hospital; Alton Athletic Association; Froyle Cricket Club; Froyle Tennis Club; Teachers and Scholars of Froyle School; the Office and Management Staff, Hawarden Bridge Works; the London Office, Lime Street; Management Staff, Globe Ironworks, Stalybridge; Indoor Staff, Froyle Place; Outdoor Staff, Froyle Place; Colonel and Mrs. Greenfield, and Capt. and Mrs. Greenfield; Capt. E. and Miss Hilton Gardner; Mr. J. Gault; Mrs. Gadban; Sir Henry Gauvain; Mr. C. Bruce Gardner; Miss Grimston; Mr. Arthur Hoare; Mr. Stanley Harris; Mr. and Mrs. Hyslop and Miss Taylor; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hayes; Mr. and Mrs. Harrap; the Hon. Eric and Mrs. Butler-Henderson; Mr. J. Highfield Jones; Mr. E. Peter Jones; Mrs. and Miss Joy; Mr. and Mrs. Luxton; Mr. and Mrs. Eyre Lloyd; Mr. Sydney Morse; Sir Hubert Miller, Bt.; Mr. and Mrs. Mills; Major and Mrs. Nelson; Mrs. Sackville Owen; Mrs. and Miss Ogilvy; Dr. and Mrs. O. V. Payne; Nurse Peacock; the Hon. Geoffrey and Mrs. Parsons; Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell; Miss E. Phillips; Mlle. Guerin; Miss B. Hurley; Miss S. Hannan; and others.