

## **Funeral of Mr. Jos. Trewavas, V.C.**

Some thousands of people assembled at Paul on Sunday afternoon to witness the last solemn rites in connection with the funeral of Mr. Joseph Trewavas, V.C., whose life came to a sad termination on Thursday at his residence, Mousehole, under now well-known and distressing circumstances. Numbers of people began to congregate from almost every district in West Cornwall two hours before the cortege started on its journey and the immediate roads leading to the house were crowded with sympathisers. As the higher powers could not well be communicated with it was thought inadvisable to have a regular military funeral, but the Army and Navy were represented informally out of respect to the memory of the deceased. Mr. Parsons, officer-in-charge of the Coastguard Station was present with a seaman and about 50 men from the No. 11 Co. Paul Artillery Volunteers, besides which some 30 men from the No. 7 Co. Penzance stood at attention in line formation when the procession left the town. The Volunteers were under the command of Capt. James Runnalls, and the following officers: C.S.M. Pine, Paul; Serjts. Beer, Mildren, and Thomas, Paul detachment; and Serjt. Stevens, Penzance. The funeral procession arrived at Churchtown in the following order: Bearers, hearse, 1st and 2nd mourning coaches, doctor's carriage, representatives of the Coastguards, Volunteers. As the coffin, enshrouded in the Union Jack, entered the church the organist, Miss Irene Aitken, played as "Interlude" very effectively, and "O rest in the Lord" as the people left the building. The impressive service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. R. W. Aitken), and the 39th Psalm was chanted by the choir. After the proper lesson was read the hymn "O God our help in ages past" was sung and the assembly remained standing as the corpse left the church for the place of interment. Here beneath the sod in a sheltered corner of the burial ground, behind the school, were laid to rest the remains of a man whose name, if not in favour with all men should be honoured at least for the one deed of conspicuous gallantry which earned for him the coveted distinction of wearing the Victoria Cross. The mourners were: Mr. J. Trewavas (son), and Mrs. Blewett (daughter); Mr. H. Trewavas (brother), and Miss S. Trewavas (daughter); Mr. and Mrs. W. Humphreys, Newlyn (cousins); Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harry; Mr. J. Nicholls, Raginnes; Dr. Fox (medical attendant), Mr. Newall, Penzance, and Mr. Michael Pender. The bearers were, Messrs. Wm. Cradock, W. Giles, C. Harris, Edward Pezzack, Bruce Wright, R. T. Harvey, H. Potter, and J. J. Hockin. The coffin was covered in black cloth with brass furniture and bore the following inscription on the breastplate: "Joseph Trewavas, died July 20th, 1905, aged 69 years."

The hearse and carriages were supplied by Mr. T. Warren, Penzance, and the undertaking arrangements were satisfactorily carried out by Mr. Wm. Grenfell, Mousehole.

## AN APPRECIATION OF DECEASED.

It was some years after his return to Mousehole that the late Mr. Trewavas began to interest himself in parochial affairs, but when once his interest was aroused he took an active part in all that concerned the welfare of the parish. As a member of the Highway Board his opinion carried weight with his comrades in duty, as the expressions of a practical and observant mind. He represented his parish as a member of the fisheries commission and was treasurer to the Mousehole Harbour Commissioners up to the time of his decease. He was also for many years treasurer of Hutchen's Charity Trustees, and one of the most regular representatives at the Board of Guardians. Although strongly upholding his own opinions and a trenchant debater, outside the meetings all bitterness was laid aside and whether he won or lost for his side his one observation was "Well! now we shall be none the less good friends after all." His attachment to his old parish church was singularly great and rain or shine he invariably attended its services on the Sunday. The vicar asserted that during his nearly 29 years' tenure of the living of Paul he could only remember him being four times absent from at least the morning service. Often, of a specially tempestuous Sunday morning when he stood shaking the wet from his clothes the vicar would say "Now, Joe, I expect I shall have to say, 'Dearly beloved Joe, the scripture moveth you and me to confess our manifold sins and wickedness,' " but although he allowed the soft impeachment he generally suggested that he expected there would be a few more sinners to move before the commencement of the service. A staunch friend but a straight speaking and hard hitting antagonist. He certainly was not open to the condemnation "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you," but as a public man he enjoyed the confidence of a very large majority of his fellow parishioners and his excellent business capacity was acknowledged by the way in which so many were continuously entrusted to his keeping. In many ways the parish of Paul is poorer today by the loss of one of her most honoured and efficient sons.

*Transcribed from Evening Tidings, Monday, July 24, 1905.*