

DEATH OF WING-CDR. R. J. KNIGHTS- WHITTOME

BEREAVEMENT FOR ST. ALBANS' EX-MAYOR AND MAYORESS

The sympathy of the citizens of St. Albans will go out to Mr. and Mrs. D. Knights-Whittome, who have just relinquished the offices of Mayor and Mayoress, in the great bereavement they have suffered by the death of their younger son, Wing-Commander Ronald John Knights-Whittome, of the Royal Air Force.

He died in a military hospital on Sunday, having been admitted about a month ago, though he had not been in the best of health for some time before that. Aged 29. Wing-Commander Knights-Whittome was educated at King's College, Wimbledon, and Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne, Dorset. While at the latter school he won the challenge cup for rifle shooting.

Sometime after leaving school he joined the R.A.F. at Cranwell and went to Egypt about seven years ago. He was one of the flyers who were sent into the desert to search for the two British soldiers who had been lost and was fortunate in finding one of them.

While in Egypt he picked up a germ and on account of the condition of his health which followed he was sent home about six years ago and became Personal Assistant to Air

Vice-Marshal Babington. He went through a course of studies at the Slavonic School of Languages at London University and passed out in Russian. He later went to Tallin, Estonia, and studied for several months under a Russian Professor.

On his return to England he passed another examination in Russian and was subsequently attached to the Air Ministry, being appointed Wing-Commander at the beginning of this year. He leaves a widow and a son aged seventeen months.

Mr. and Mrs. Knights-Whittome's other son, Mr. Maurice G. Knightits-Whittome, of the Royal Tank Regiment, is serving in the Middle East.

The funeral took place yesterday at Halton and R.A.F. honours-were accorded. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. D. Knights-Whittome (father and mother) and Captain Woodfull. Millard (father-in-law). The widow was unable to attend.

Council's Sympathy.

At the meeting of the St. Albans City Council, on Monday afternoon, the Mayor (Councillor J. Tacchi) referred sympathetically to the bereavement sustained by Mr. and Mrs. Knights-Whittome. He explained that it had been the express wish of the ex-Mayor and Mayoress that their loss should not interfere with the proceedings that day (the election of Mayor) and it was for that reason that no previous reference had been made to it. He (the Mayor)

suggested that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Knights-Whittome. This was agreed and the members of the Council stood for a few moments in silence. Alderman E. Watson spoke of the admiration they all felt for Mr. and Mrs. Knights-Whittome who, he said, had bravely faced the Mayor-making proceedings without showing a sign of their great sorrow.

Guardians' Reference.

Before the commencement of the business at the St. Albans Guardians' Committee, yesterday, the Chairman (Mr. H. S. Gray) made feeling reference to the loss which had been sustained by Mr. and Mrs. D. Knights-Whittome, and it was unanimously decided to send them a letter of condolence.