

OBITUARY

MR. GEORGE A. PRESTON

Mr. George Arthur Preston, of King-street, Stockton, who was in his 54th year when he died last Saturday night, was for 40 years connected with the boot and shoe trade in Newcastle and was an outstanding sporting personality.

Mr. Preston was a son of the late Mr. Frederick and Mrs. Kathleen Preston, a well-known Newcastle family, and was for 38 years a member of the staff of Goldsmith's Ltd.

He was a foundation member of Newcastle Surf Club, and retained his membership for 20 years till he moved to Stockton about 15 years ago. He helped form the second Stockton Surf Club and was its first boat captain, being skipper of the first Towns' built surf-boat to be used in the district.

Mr. Preston, a noted beach fisherman, was secretary of the Stockton branch of the Returned Servicemen's League for some time, and was an active member till the time of his death. He was a member of the A.I.F. in the first World War.

Mr. Preston, with Mr. R. K. Robertson, brought the first surf canoe to Newcastle. The craft, well-known on Newcastle beaches, was the "Stickybeak" and its performances in rough seas were noted. The canoe was used in rescues and exhibition work before surf-boats or surf-skis became popular.

Mr. Preston is survived by his widow and his children, Douglas, Maxwell and Joan. His brother, Mr. John L. Preston, is well known in Newcastle's commercial and sporting life. Other members of the family are a brother, Mr. Howard J. Preston, and sisters, Mesdames C. Hornby, A. Frew and E. Barnes.