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**FIVE REPRIEVE
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**Sudden Death at
Sea of author,
Mr. John Brodie**

A FORMER New Plymouth journalist who was to become famous as an author, Mr. John Brodie, died at sea three days out from Southampton on Monday, according to a message received from the special London correspondent of the New Zealand Press Association this morning.

The message said that Mr. Brodie, whose books were written under the name of "John Guthrie," died aboard the Rangitiki from coronary thrombosis, and was buried at sea.

Only last month Mr. Brodie with his wife concluded a visit of more than two months to New Zealand, the greater part of which was spent with Mr. Brodie's mother, Mrs. W. Brodie, Courtenay Street, New Plymouth.

The late Mr. Brodie was born at Paeroa, 50 years ago, and received his early education at the Thames High School, from where he transferred to the New Plymouth Boys' High School to begin a distinguished scholastic career.

At the age of 23 years he entered Canterbury University College where he gained his B.A. degree in history as well as his Diploma in Journalism two years later. In 1926 he was one of Canterbury College's nominees for the coveted Rhodes Scholarship, but was not successful.

In Sport

During his school years Mr. Brodie distinguished himself in sport. He was a member of the Canterbury College First XV for four years, and its captain for two years. He represented Canterbury and New Zealand universities at Rugby on several occasions.

During his years at Canterbury College he played a leading part in various student bodies, holding executive positions on the students' association, of which he was vice-president when nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship. He was also editor of the college "Review."

At the completion of his university course Mr. Brodie joined the staff of the Taranaki Daily News, New Plymouth, as a reporter in 1927, remaining there for four years. In this period he continued playing Rugby, but it was as a Taranaki representative cricketer that he will best be remembered in local sporting circles.

Widely-known

From 1933 to 1937 Mr. Brodie was assistant editor of the New Zealand Listener, and at the end of the latter year he left for England to begin a career which made him a widely-known author.

Best known of Mr. Brodie's many publications is "The Seekers," a novel with a New Zealand background which was successfully filmed last year, part of the photography being done in New Zealand. The film attracted world-wide attention and brought Mr. Brodie's powers as an author into notice in many countries.

Other publications of Mr. Brodie include: "The Little Country," "So They Began," "The Man In Our Lives," "Journey By Twilight," and "Paradise Bay."

In many of these books what Mr. Brodie described as New Plymouth's "tremendous character" had led him to write much about the town and its people.

Football Injury

Despite the handicap of an amputated right leg—following a football injury some 20 years ago—Mr. Brodie served in World War II in Royal Air Force operations. He became an expert in night-fighter tactics.

It was during his recovery from the amputation that Mr. Brodie wrote his first book, and at a later stage of his convalescence he wrote his second book. War time work prevented him from making any more major literary contributions during that period, but since then he has produced five novels, as well as "The Man in Our Lives" a "portrait" of his father which he considered his best work. Two of the books were



MR. JOHN BRODIE . . . died and buried at sea.

published in the United States, and although Mr. Brodie did not produce a best-seller, his reputation in both Britain and the United States grew steadily over the years.

Since 1945 Mr. Brodie has held the position of editor of "Books of Today" a trade publication in England which enjoys a high reputation amongst book-sellers in all parts of the world.

Local Furore

When he was told in New Plymouth recently of the minor furore the publication of his novel "Paradise Bay" had caused here Mr. Brodie said: "That's the trouble about setting a book in a small town. You know, it isn't quite fair to the novelist to think he models his characters on real people. He may take a physical characteristic from this or that person he has known, but the people in his books are the products of his imagination."

In an interview with the Herald in December, shortly after his arrival, Mr. Brodie summed up his impressions of New Plymouth by saying:

"My wife would like to retire here, and I can think of no other place where I would be happier, but journalists never seem to retire."

During his New Zealand visit Mr. Brodie said that he hoped to gather material for a new book about New Zealand during the course of his trip.

His present trip to England was his fourth. When war broke out in 1939 he was in New York on his way to Britain.

Mr. Brodie's wife, an American, Miss Elinor Roddam, whom he married in England, made her first visit to New Zealand with him from December till last month.

Mr. Brodie is also survived by his mother, Mrs. M. D. Brodie, of Courtenay Street, New Plymouth, two brothers, Alan of Okato and Lex of New Plymouth and two sisters Mary (Mrs. Russell Matthews, New Plymouth, and Ann (Mrs. Nigel Palethorpe of Sydney).

**More Spirits Drunk
In New Zealand**

**Stormy Weather in
Pacific Islands**