

## DEATH OF SERGEANT-MAJOR BARBER

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Mr. George BARBER, which occurred on Sunday afternoon at his residence, West Street, Ryde. The deceased, who was 61 years of age, was formerly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Life Guards, where he held the rank of Corporal-Major. Towards the end of his service he was posted to the Hants Yeomanry and became Sergeant-Major of the Isle of Wight Troop, a position he held until his retirement four or five years ago. Sergt.-Major BARBER was extremely popular in the regiment, and was at all times deeply interested in its welfare. He held the unique distinction of holding both the Regular and Volunteer Long Service medals. He became very well known throughout the Island by reason of his connection, after his retirement, with a number of societies, and he was everywhere much liked. He was drill instructor at the St. John's Road and other schools, and to the Ryde Borough Police. Deceased leaves a widow and grown-up family.

The interment took place on Thursday afternoon with full military honours, in the presence of a large concourse of people. Headed by a firing party and the band of the I.W. Rifles, which played Chopin's Funeral March, the coffin, covered with the Union Jack, and the deceased's helmet and sword, was drawn on a gun carriage from the Ammunition Column, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wessex Brigade, R.F.A., having six horses, and followed by 50 men of the column, under Lieutenant HARTNELL and a number of Yeomanry, who were under the command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant the Hon. F.E. BUTLER, commanding C. Squadron (Southampton).

Eight non-commissioned officers of the Yeomanry acted as bearers, and walked beside the gun carriage. They were Staff Sergeant-Major A. OSGOOD, Staff Sergeant-Major B. ISAACS, Staff Quartermaster Sergeant F. ROBINSON, and Farrier-Quartermaster-Sergeant LILES, (all of A. Squadron), Staff Sergeant-Major, S. FLETCHER (B. Squadron), Staff Sergeant-Major A. EADLE (C. Squadron), Staff Sergeant-Major R. VARCOE (D. Squadron), and Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant R. DASH (North Somerset Yeomanry), Troop Sergeant L.C. WOODS and Sergeant W. WARNE also followed. With the Ammunition Column were Brigade Sergeant-Major BARNSDALE, Sergeant R.C. SMITH, Sergeant W. TILL and S. SERGEANT Holland.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Life Guards, deceased's old regiment was represented by Regimental Quartermaster Corporal-Major H. HIDDEN, and Squadron Corporal-Major L.P. POPKISS. The Ryde Borough Police were also represented by six members of the force.

The first portion of the service was at the Parish Church, where the Vicar (the Rev. Hugh Le FLEMING) and the Rev. C.L. BLAKE officiated. The coffin was conveyed from the house via High Street and John Street, the route being lined with people. Again, at the Cemetery there was a very large number present.

The last religious rites having been performed at the graveside, the firing party under Colour-Sergeant Griffin fired three volleys, and the bugler sounded the "Last Post."

The chief mourners were Messrs. Bert, William and Frank BARBER (sons), and Mr. C. LANDER. Amongst those, in addition to the Territorial troops, who followed, were Alderman H. SWEETMAN, J.P., Major C. SWEETMAN, Mr. E.R. RATCLIFFE, Major J. ELLERY, Mr. W.E. GRANT, Mr. F. SHOTTER, Mr. A. DRAKE, Mr. W. DORE, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. P. COOMBES, Mr. J.W. LANGDON, Mr. S. ATTWOOD, Mr. G. STAINER, Mr. F. HOLT, Mr. J. DUFFETT, Mr. J. TRENT, Mr. F.S. GARRETT, Mr. TRIVVETT, Mr. J. SCOTT, Mr. J. RASHLEIGH, Mr. T. FORD, Inspector MARSHALL, Mr. G. BENNETT, Mr. A. REEVES, Mr. D. REEVES, Mr. J. FOULKES, and many other. Mrs. LINCOLN PHENE represented the Ryde Benevolent Society, for which deceased was collector.

Many beautiful floral tokens adorned the graveside and included the following:

"In loving memory from his sorrowing wife and family"; Will and Annie, Doll and Walt, Bert and Frank.

"With deepest sympathy from the teachers and scholars of the Upper School."

"A token of love to our dear Granfer from his little granddaughters, Gladys and Madge."

"With much sympathy and regret from Sid, Will and Bob."

"With sincere sympathy from his old troop, the I.W. Troop."

From Mrs. LUKER and Elsie.

From Mr. and Mrs. F.W. RANDES and family.

"With deepest regret and deepest sympathy from the N.C.O's and troopers of the Portsmouth Troop."

From Major General R.S. FETHERSTONHAUGH.

From Mrs. J. ETHERINGTON.

From Colonel HOWARD-BROOKS

From C. and I. LEADER

“With deepest sympathy from the Warrant and Non-Commissioned officers of the Second Life Guards.”

From Colonel and Mrs. Seely.

“With sincere sympathy from an old friend and comrade Edgard R. RATCLIFFE.”

“In loving memory of a dear comrade F.G. FLUX.”

“With deepest sympathy from the “Non-Commissioned Officers of the A company of the I.W. Rifles.”

“With deepest sympathy from the members of the Ryde Conservative Club and Association, Lind Street.”

From Mr. and Mr. HODSON

From the Ryde Football Club and from the children and teachers of St. Johns Road School.

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Researched & typed by

Ann Barrett

Val Minns