

SOLDIER AND SPORTSMAN

DEATH OF MAJOR J.G. ALLAN OF QUARR

The funeral took place on Monday of **Major James Gibb ALLAN**, D.S.O., T.D., of Woodlea, 5 Elenors Grove, Quarr, Binstead, a Scot with a distinguished record in the 1914-18 war. Major ALLAN, who was 91, died at his home on Wednesday week.

Born at Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, he traced his descent from a 17th century family of weavers in Glasgow. He was educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh, and showed great prowess in sport. He played rugby football for the West of Scotland, and in 1902, 1903 and 1906 was a Scottish international hockey player.

A Territorial Army officer, he served in France during the 1914-1918 war, as commanding officer of a Highland field company in the Royal Engineers (T.A.) in the 51st Highland Division. He was awarded the D.S.O. in 1917 and was three times mentioned in dispatches. His outstanding qualities won the admiration of those serving under him, and after the war he was honoured at reunions by the men he led. He was a founder member of the Old Comrades' Association of Highland Field Companies, which he had supported until his death.

After the 1914-1918 war, Major ALLAN was a shipowner in Glasgow, and took a great interest in yachting from boyhood. He became well known on the Clyde as a helmsman. Since coming to the Island in 1955 he could get about only with difficulty, the culmination of serving in the trenches so many years before, but each year special arrangements were made to enable him to attend and enjoy Cowes Week. He was a member of the Island Sailing Club and of Wootton Creek Sailing Club before its amalgamation with the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. He was a member of the Ryde branch of the British Legion and also took a benevolent interest in the Church of the Holy Cross, Binstead, Binstead branch of the Conservative Association, the Society for the Protection of the Solent Area, and the I.W. Society for the Preservation of its Natural Beauty. Many deserving causes claimed his support.

The Rev. C. TARGETT (rector) officiated at the funeral service at the Church of the Holy Cross, Binstead. The Scottish metrical version of the 23rd psalm and the hymns "Saviour again to Thy dear name" and "Jerusalem the golden" were sung, and Mr. D. FRYE (organist) played music by MOZART and BACH. Mrs. A. J. GRIEVE, Major ALLAN's only surviving sister and closest relative, was unable to be present owing to being unable to travel from the mainland, and the service was attended by a large number of nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces, and friends. Three members of the Old Comrades' Association, Highland Field Companies, travelled from Glasgow and Edinburgh to attend. They were Messrs. LONGMUIR (president), WEBSTER (vice-president) and WEST (hon. secretary). All had served under Major ALLAN.

The interment was in his wife's grave in Binstead Cemetery. The floral tributes included a wreath from the Highland Field Companies Old Comrades' Association.

Messrs. LANGDON made the arrangements.
