

FUNERAL OF MR. G. HATFIELD

A great deal of local interest was occasioned on Sunday afternoon last by the funeral of **Mr G. HATFIELD**, late Bandmaster of the Isle of Wight Battalion of Rifle Volunteers, whose remains were interred in Ryde Cemetery with full military honours. The Volunteers formed up opposite the residence of the deceased, in Spencer Road. The coffin, which was covered with the Union Jack, was placed upon a wheeled bier, and on it were the deceased's busby, belt and baton, and some beautiful wreaths. The pall-bearers were Sergeant-Major EVANS, Quartermaster-Sergeant J. SEYMOUR, Sergeant-Instructors RAMPLING, SHEATH, BUCKLEY, and CONNOLLY. The chief mourners were deceased's two little boys, Reginald and George HATFIELD, who walked with Lieutenant HARRINGTON, of the 60th Rifles (deceased's old regiment). The officers present were Colonel CRADOCK (commanding the Isle of Wight Battalion), Lieut-Colonel F. DASHWOOD, Captain H. SWEETMAN, Captain J. FARDELL, Captain W.B. JUDD., and Lieuts. WHITTAM and Leslie SMITH. Colonel FETHSTONHAUGH (deceased's commanding officer when he was in the King's Royal Rifles) was present at the Cemetery, and so was Mr MILLER, Mus.Bac. (Bandmaster of the Royal Marine Light Infantry), Mr STEVENIGHT (Bandmaster Shanklin), and ex-Bandmasters R.A. COOKE and J.G. JONES, and a representative of the West Yorkshire Regiment. The firing party, who marched in open order and with arms reversed, were in charge of Col-Sergt. RANDES. The respect in which the deceased bandmaster was held was proved by the fact that over 300 Volunteers from all parts of the Island attended the mournful ceremony. The route chose to the Cemetery was up St. Thomas's Street and High Street, the band, under Assistant-Bandmaster W. SWEETMAN, playing CHOPIN's Funeral March was far as St. Mary's Church, when it was changed to the German Funeral March. The solemn service at the grave was performed by the Rev. Clement SMITH (Rector of Whippingham and Chaplain to the QUEEN) and the Rev. W.G. WHITTAM, who are the Chaplains to the Regiment. The hymn sung at the grave was "When our heads are bowed with woe," which the band accompanied. The customary three volleys were fired over grave. The coffin, which was of polished elm, with massive brass mountings, bore the following inscription – "George HATFIELD, died November 8th, 1898, aged 55 years." There were many floral offerings, including Colonel and Mrs CRADOCK, the Battalion Band, the Permanent Staff, the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Ryde Detachment, the Sergeants of the Ventnor Detachment, Sergeant H.D. WILLIAMS, Assistant-Bandmaster SWEETMAN, Mr and Mrs BROWNE.

The funeral arrangements were conducted by Messrs J.H PERKIS and Son, 118, High Street, Ryde.
