

**DEATH OF THE BATTALION BANDMASTER
OF THE I.W. VOLUNTEERS**

We record with regret the death of Mr. G. HATFIELD, the Bandmaster of the I.W. Volunteer Battalion Band, which occurred on Tuesday morning last, at his residence, Harrow Cottage, Spencer-road. Mr. HATFIELD's health has been a source of anxiety to his friends for some months past, and about a month or six weeks ago the disease from which he was suffering took an acute form and he was compelled to keep his bed. He has been gradually sinking ever since, but he bore his sufferings with a soldier's bravery and Christian fortitude.

Mr. HATFIELD had a long career in the Army before he came to the Island. He appears to have joined the King's Royal Rifles when only about 12 years of age, and he served in that well-known regiment for about 20 years, rising during that time from drummer boy to band sergeant. He then entered Kneller Hall and succeeded in passing examinations with credit, which entitled him to hold the position of army bandmaster, in which capacity he was appointed to the West Yorkshire Regiment. He was bandmaster in that regiment 17½ years, and when he left it received very flattering evidence of the goodwill of his comrades of all ranks in that regiment. He received many valuable presents from the officers, sergeants, and members of the band, and when he left in 1893 to take over the band of the I.W. Volunteer Battalion he was played from the barracks to the railway station, and warmly cheered as he left his old regiment.

Since he has been bandmaster here Mr. HATFIELD has certainly brought the Volunteers to a high degree of efficiency, and won the respect of officers and men. Altogether Mr. HATFIELD's military and volunteer services total up to 43 years, and it is only fitting that such a veteran should receive the honours of a military funeral which, we understand, will take place on Sunday afternoon. Mr. HATFIELD leaves a widow and two children, for whom much sympathy is felt.
