

**DEATH OF COLONEL GORDON WATSON**

Much regret will be felt in the Island at the death of Colonel Henry Gordon WATSON, son of Colonel Gordon WATSON, of 8 Cadogan Gardens, and Wydford, Ryde, which occurred at Folkestone on Friday last, following an operation for appendicitis. The deceased officer was the only son of Colonel Gordon WATSON and was born at Ryde on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1862. He was educated at Eton and Brazenose College, Oxford. He took a commission in the Hants and Isle of Wight Artillery Militia and when the South African war broke out he took one half of the regiment to the front. He was present at the operations in Cape Colony, the Orange River Colony, and in the Transvaal from May, 1901 to May, 1902. He was mentioned in despatches (London Gazette, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1902) and received the Queen's Medal with five clasps. With Colonel Gordon WATSON'S life terminates the life of the old County Militia. Last spring saw the last training of this force which is now absorbed into the Reserve of the Royal Field Artillery and the old county name is gone. There were present at his burial on Tuesday, Col. Graham GORDON, Col. CLAYTON, and his father, Col. Gordon WATSON, who had all commanded the Hants and Isle of Wight Artillery Militia before him. The deceased gentleman married Evelyn, elder daughter of Mr. George HARTLEY, of Wheaton Ashton Hall, Stafford, and leaves one daughter, Christabel. Mrs. H. GORDON WATSON had lately recovered from an illness and he went with her to recruit at Folkestone. While there he had a very severe attack of appendicitis which necessitate an immediate operation from which he never recovered. Succumbing three weeks afterwards from exhaustion.

The interment was on Tuesday at Ryde, the service being at Holy Trinity Church, where the Rev. J.E. EDDIS officiated. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and flowers, and the remaining members of the old permanent staff of the Colonel's regiment in which he was popular and beloved acted as bearers, but only one of them Colour-Sergeant GIBBS, was with him during the whole time in South Africa.

The mourners present at the funeral were: Mrs. Henry GORDON WATSON, Colonel GORDON WATSON, Mrs. GORDON WATSON, Major-General STEPHENSON, C.B., Mrs. STEPHENSON (sister), Mr. E. HARTLEY (brother-in-law), Major-General SPENCER EWART, C.B., Mr William CORSER, Colonel CLAYTON and Colonel Graham GORDON (late commanding officer of Hants and I.W. Artillery), Captain Adams COSNER, Captain Ramsay SAUNDERS and Captain Brooke HITCHING, Mr. WEBBER (Officers of the Hants and I.W. Artillery), Sergeant-Major HOGGART, Quartermaster Sergeant RANKIN, Company Sergeant-Major WHOLAN, Sergeant Trumpeter DENN, Colour-Sergeants GIBBS, CARRY, P. SMITH, Sergeants MORDON and GODDARD (members of the permanent staff of the Hants and I.W. Artillery).

Flowers were sent by the officers of the Hants and I.W. Artillery the Sergts. of the Hants and I.W. Artillery, Mr. H. GORDON WATSON, Colonel and Mrs. GORDON WATSON, Major-General and Mrs. STEPHENSON, Mr. F. ANDERSON, Major-General and Mrs. SPENCER EWART, Colonel and Mrs. CROZIER, Colonel and Mrs. GRAHAM GORDON, Colonel and Mrs. H. WEIR, Colonel H. THOYTS, 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars, "York House," Folkestone, Major and Miss THOYTS, Viscountess DUPPLIA and Miss BACON, Mrs. ROSS, Mrs. GIBBS, Mrs. ROGERS, Miss WEIR, Mr. Haydon CORER, Mr. and Mrs. W. GRIFFITHS.

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