

William Russell Duffy

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NEWPORT

Death of Mr. W. R. Duffy.—A well-known resident of Elm-grove, Mr. William Russell Duffy, an ex-Drum-major of the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regt., and a member of a family with a fine record of military service, passed away on Good Friday. He was the last of four soldier sons of the late Sergt. J. Duffy, of the Cameron Highlanders, and the late Mrs. Duffy, of 34 Elm-grove, and joined the Hampshires as a boy of 14. A year later he was in India, and he subsequently served in Arabia, South Africa, Mauritius, Gallipoli, France, and in the Army of Occupation on the Rhine, where he concluded his 23 years of service in 1919. He was for some years the smart drum-major of the 2nd Hampshires, and had the distinction of being one of the heroic members of that battalion who landed on Gallipoli from the transport River Clyde. He remained on the Peninsula throughout the operations there, and was one of two N.C.O.s who accompanied a brigadier on the final look-round after the evacuation. He served in France from March, 1916, to October, 1917, when he was wounded, and for the rest of the war period he was engaged in instructional work, but he went to the Rhine as drum-major of a young soldier's battalion. He was a comrade of Major Jeffery, the senior quarter-master of the Hampshire Regt., in his early soldiering days. Two of his brothers, the late Capt. and Quarter-master A. J. H. Duffy, and the late Orderly-room Sergt. A. C. Duffy also served in the Hampshires, and a younger brother was never heard of after the fall of Kut, where he was serving with the R.G.A. For some months before his final illness Mr. Duffy had been employed in the cook-houses at Parkhurst, and at one time he was temporary officer at Parkhurst Prison. Old comrades of the Hampshires paid honours at the funeral at Carisbrooke cemetery on Tuesday. The Chaplain of the L.T.C. (the Rev. P. M. Smith) officiated, six sergeants acted as bearers, a bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille, and the coffin was draped with the Union Jack. Those attending were: Mrs. Bessant (sister), Mesdames A. J. H. Duffy, of Chelsfield, Kent, and A. C. Duffy, of Portsmouth (sisters-in-law), Messrs. G. C. Russell and J. R. Toogood (cousins), A. Leal, and J. Hannam, and representatives of his fellow workers at the cook-house at Parkhurst. In addition to those from the family, wreaths were sent by: Major Jeffery; Warrant officers and Sergts. of the Hampshire Regt.; the staff of No. 3 Cook-house, Parkhurst; neighbours at Elm-grove; friends at the Gardeners' Rest; and many old friends at 41 Nodehill.—Mrs. Bessant thanks Dr. G. L. Peskett for his kind attention to her brother, Major Jeffery and his comrades of the Hampshire Regt., and neighbours at Elm-grove for their kindness, and all who sent floral tributes.

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