

Richard George Giddens

Isle of Wight County Press - 10 March 1945

Death of Major G. Giddens, M.B.E., of Newport

All who served with the I.W. Rifles during the last war, and many who knew him as a Home Guard officer in the present war, will regret to learn of the death of Major George Giddens, M.B.E., which occurred at his residence, Quebec, Carisbrooke-road, Newport, yesterday (Friday) morning, at the age of 71.

Major Giddens had a fine record of service with the Regular and Territorial units of the Hampshire Regiment, extending over nearly 50 years. He joined the 3rd Volunteer Battalion in September, 1891, and after a short time enlisted in the Hampshire Regiment. He fought with them throughout the South African War of 1900-1902, and in 1907 was transferred to the I.W. Rifles as an instructor, later becoming the senior permanent staff instructor as regimental sergeant-major, a position he held when the battalion was mobilised for the last war. He was granted a commission as lieutenant and quartermaster to the Rifles in January, 1915, and was continuously with the battalion in that capacity throughout its service on Gallipoli and in Egypt and Palestine, winning promotion to captain and the M.B.E. He continued as quartermaster of the I.W. Rifles after the war until February, 1934, when he retired with the rank of major on reaching the age limit. On his retirement his comrades marked their admiration of his many fine qualities as a soldier and his splendid services to the battalion by presenting him with a silver tea service and a cheque for £150. During the present war he returned to help the 19th Battalion Home Guard as a captain in its administrative department, and when the recent stand-down of the Home Guard took place Lt.-Col. F. Nevill Jennings, M.C., D.L., J.P., the commanding officer, paid a warm tribute to the value of his experience and devoted work. He had been ill for some months. He leaves a widow, two daughters and two sons, with whom much sympathy is felt in their bereavement. The funeral will be at Carisbrooke Church on Tuesday at 1.45 p.m. Home Guards are asked to assemble at 1.30.

Richard George Giddens

Isle of Wight County Press - 17 March 1945

THE LATE MAJOR GEORGE GIDDENS, M.B.E.

The funeral of Major George Giddens, M.B.E., quartermaster of Princess Beatrice's I.W. Rifles during the last war and an administrative officer, of the 19th Battalion of the Home Guard during the greater part of the present war, took place in the presence of many of his old comrades of the Hampshire Regiment on Tuesday. The Vicar of Carisbrooke (the Rev. H. Ewbank, R.D.) officiated at the service in Carisbrooke Church and at the interment in Carisbrooke Cemetery. Members of the South African Veterans' Association and the Newport and Carisbrooke branch of the British Legion met the cortege at the lich-gate and preceded it to the church, the coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and N.C.O.s of the Royal Berkshire Regiment acted as bearers. The hymn "The strife is o'er" was sung, the

organist (Mr. G. R. Barrett) played "O rest in the Lord," and the Vicar, in a tribute to the deceased, referred to his nearly 50 years of exemplary service in the Hampshire Regiment, and said he was admired by his comrades for his unfailing efficiency, conscientiousness, absolute reliability, and unswerving loyalty. The chief mourners were Mrs. Giddens, Miss W. Giddens (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. G. Giddens (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. W. Giddens (son), Mr. and Mrs. R. Hookey, and Mr. E. F. Millgate (hon. secretary of the British Legion, who also represented C. K. Sylvester). Mr. W. R. Arkless was unavoidably prevented from attending. The South African Veterans Association was represented by Messrs. W. Godwin, T.C. (hon. treasurer), W. Ferguson (standard bearer), C. F. Curling and E. Caplehorn, the Old Contemptibles' Association by Mr. E. C. Pearson (chairman), the British Legion by Messrs. A. B. Shaw M.B.E. (hon. treasurer), S. Trowell (standard bearer), W. H. Baker, C. A. Westmore, and H. J. Harvey, the I.W. Garrison and Col. R. E. Pickering by Captain Quennell, the Hampshire Regiment by Major H. J. Jeffery, and the I.W. Rifles and its Comrades' Association by Lieut.-Col. C. L. Ellery, O.B.E., T.D., Majors G. Raymond, J. G. Fardell, and A. C. White, Capt. W. S. Russell, and Messrs. H. E. Sheath, W. O. Minns, H. G. Peachey (also representing Mr. W. J. G. New of Ryde), B. Clark, G. Bartlett, and Athur Newnham. Capt. W. W. Sturgess represented Lieut.-Col. C. W. Brannon M.C., T.D., D.L. (commanding the 20th Battalion Home Guard and a former commanding officer of the I.W. Rifles, who was away from the Island). The 19th Battalion Home Guard was represented by Lieut-Col. F. Nevill Jennings, M.C., D.L., J.P. (commanding). Major A. C. Robinson, D.S.O. (second in command), Majors A. S. Clarke, W. S. Wallace, M.C., and T. C. Cunningham, D.S.O. (former Island group commander of the Home Guard), Capts. J. C. W. Damant (also representing Capt. H. J. Ward, J.P.) and B. Benzie, Lieuts. T. J. Simmonds and A. J. Carr, C.S.M. J. Burgess, and Q.M.S. Pedrick, of Headquarters Company; Major H. Underwood and Lieuts. C. A. Brown (also representing Capt. J. S. Brown, T.C.), and R. F. Denyer of A Company; Majors G. Denham and S. Y. Woodroffe, Capts. S. C. Wadham, F. J. Cosgrave (also representing Miss R. Hotham), and P. E. Little, and Lieuts. Ratsey, Dixon, Shoesmith, Brown, and Stewart of C. Company; Major F. H. J. Damp, M.C., Capt. R. B. Cheverton (also representing the Newport and District Home Guards' Association), Lieuts. W. T. Collins, J.P., and R. J. Machin, C.S.M. Davidson, C.Q.M.S. L. Ledicott, and Sergt. W. Caplehorn of D. Company; Lieuts. C. R. Westmore and S. Mew of E Company; and Major S. C. Picton and C.S.M. Eldridge of J. S. White's V.P. Company. Others present included Brig-Gen. C. F. Aspinall Oglander, C.M.G., D.S.O., D.L. (formerly commanding the 20th East Wight Battalion Home Guard), Major A. A. Downer (representing the secretary of the Hampshire and I.W. Territorial Army Association), Capt. A. N. Andrews (also representing Lieut.-Col. J. Kennerley), Capt. S. C. Allingham, Capt. W. H. Jackson (C Troop, 71st Hampshire Heavy A.A. Battery), Lieut. H. Harding (2140 Motor Transport Platoon, Home Guard), Mrs. Winscom, and Messrs. G. Norman, C.C., E. S. Welham, G. T. Harris, W. G. Sibbick, J.P., T. Benham, W. H. Nettleton, H. Barham (Coves), F. J. Wray, H. Phillips, R. W. George, and H. Dickson.

At the graveside a bugler of the Royal Berkshires sounded the Last Post and Reveille, the standards were dipped, and the Legionists dropped poppies into the grave. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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