

William Chauval Hodgson

**Hampshire Advertiser
6 March 1872**

NEWPORT

Funeral of the Deceased Lieutenant-Colonel of the 79th Regiment.—Our obituary records the demise of Lieutenant-Colonel William C. Hodgson, who was commanding the 79th Regiment (Cameron highlanders) at the Albany Barracks, Parkhurst, up to Friday last. As a commander he was highly esteemed for his justice, clemency, and kindly bearing, and his hasty removal by death is much deplored by the garrison. He arrived here with his regiment from India in November, and at the Newport Corporation dinner on the 9th of that month he was a guest of the ex-Mayor, and, by his frank, manly bearing and kind fraternal utterances, won the good opinion of all the company. On Thursday, the 15th ult., the commands of Her Majesty were conveyed to Parkhurst Barracks that the 79th Regiment should march along the East Cowes-road from Newport, at a given hour the next morning. The deceased happened to be in London at the time, and Her Majesty's commands were immediately telegraphed to him. After some delay, the telegram came to hand, and he hastened from London, and arrived in time for the parade and march out, and had the gratification of appearing with his regiment before his Sovereign and receiving her gracious thanks. On his hasty journey thither he took cold, and the next day was confined to his room. Dr. G. H. Dabbs, of Newport, was called in on the fifth day of his illness, when erysipelas had set in, and the case assumed a serious aspect, and the illness terminated fatally on the Friday fortnight after the march out. Yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon his remains were "borne, with dirges due, in sad array", through Newport, and consigned to their last resting place in Carisbrooke Cemetery. An immense crowd of inhabitants witnessed the solemnities, and all along the line of procession the dwellings showed tokens of mourning. The staff of the Isle of Wight Artillery Militia, and the captain and officers of the 2nd Isle of Wight (Newport) Rifle Volunteers accepted invitations to attend. A report of the funeral will appear in our next Saturday's issue.

**Hampshire Advertiser
9 March 1872**

**FUNERAL OF THE DECEASED LIEUT.-COLONEL
OF THE 79TH REGIMENT**

In our issue of Wednesday last we recorded the demise of Lieutenant-Colonel William Chauval Hodgson, commanding the 79th Regiment (Cameron Highlanders), stationed at the Albany Barracks, Parkhurst. The funeral took place on Tuesday, and every officer and man of the regiment who was able to attend embraced the opportunity to pay the mourning duties to his highly esteemed late commanding officer. At 9.30 a.m. the regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel K. R. Maitland commanding, and also the 103rd Regiment (Royal Bombay Fusiliers) paraded, and shortly after 10 o'clock the funeral *cortege* left the barracks in the following order:--

Firing party, 300 of the 79th Regiment
Band of the 79th, with muffled drums, playing "The Dead
March in Saul".
The Highland pipers of the 79th.
Band of the 103rd Regiment.
The Coffin,
Covered with the Union Jack, and bearing bonnet, sword, and

Sash, on gun carriage, drawn by four horses.
 Deceased's charger.
 Chief mourner,
 Chaplain to the Forces and the doctor.
 Officers of the 79th Regiment and 103rd.
 Staff officers of the South-Western District.
 Officers of the Isle of Wight Artillery Militia.
 Officers of the 2nd Company (Newport) Rifle Volunteers.
 The Mayor of Newport (Mr. W. B. Mew).
 The Vicar of Newport (the Rev. G. H. Connor, M.A.)
 Carriage of Mr. C. G. Macgregor, J.P.
 The 79th Regiment.
 The 103rd Regiment.
 Non-commissioned officers of the Staff, Isle of Wight Militia.
 Army Pensioners holding office at Parkhurst Prison.

Crowds of spectators lined the way through Newport, the bell tolling and the band of the 79th pouring forth the touching strains of woe. Next the pipers played "Flowers of the Forest", and then the band of the 103rd took up the song of glory. On nearing the cemetery the pipers played the solemn Highland dirge, "Land o' the leal". The slow march occupied two hours and forty minutes. Arrived at the gates of the cemetery, where the Rev. C. B. James, vicar, and the Rev. R Nutt, curate, were waiting, the corpse was borne by non-commissioned officers of the 79th to the mortuary chapel, where the rev. vicar and the Rev. H. Hare, chaplain to the forces, officiated. In the last scene of all, when the three volleys were fired over the grave, it was observed that many a soldier's effort to stem the falling tear proved unavailing. On the quick march back the bands played some favorite Scotch songs. Among those who attended the funeral were Majors Cumming, Cant, and Percival, of the 79th, and Herne of the 103rd; Captain Leith and Surgeon Lithgow, of the 79th; Captains Taylor and Reeves, Lieutenants Glass, Clarke, Hughes, Wyne, and Aylmer, Sub-Lieutenant Gray, Captain Pomfret, paymaster; Surgeon Fraser, and Assistant-Surgeon Fishborne, of the 103rd; Major Barker, assistant to the Adjutant-General of the district; the aide-de-camp to Lieutenant-General Viscount Templetown, commandant of the district; Captain Pattison, and Lieutenant Salisbury, of the Isle of Wight Artillery Militia; Captain Pittis, and Lieutenant Arnell, of the 2nd Isle of Wight Rifle Volunteers; the Rev. Hodson, deceased's brother-in-law, and Dr. Dabbs.—The following is an extract from the regimental orders:--

"Parkhurst Barracks, 2nd March, 1872.

"Lieut.-Col. Maitland deeply regrets to have to announce the death of Colonel William Chauval Hodgson, late Commanding 79th Cameron Highlanders. His services extend over a period of thirty-two years, most of which time was spent abroad; in the Mediterranean, the Crimea, and in the East Indies, and during the last eleven years and-a-half in command of the corps.

"The officers have to lament the loss of one who was always to them a kind and considerate commanding officer, and the non-commissioned officers and men have been deprived of a true friend, who was ever zealous in regarding their interests and promoting their welfare.

"Lieut.-Col. Maitland feels that this day will be regarded by all ranks of the 79th Highlanders in after years as a day in which the corps sustained a loss as sad as it was unexpected.

"To the sorrowing relatives of the late commandant 79th Highlanders, Lieut.-Col. Maitland, in the name of the regiment, expresses his heartfelt sympathy for them in their great distress, and he hopes that this public testimony of the respect and affection borne in the ranks of the regiment for their late commanding officer, may, in some degree, help to support them in their sad bereavement".

Hart's Army List give the following particulars respecting the dates of the deceased officer's commissions, &c.:--William Chauval Hodgson, Ensign, 18th September, 1840; Lieutenant, 10th February, 1843; Captain, 11th June, 1847; Brevet-Major, November 2nd, 1855; Major, August 7, 1857; Lieut.-Colonel, July 10th, 1860; Colonel, July 10th, 1865. Been in command of the regiment twelve years.

Served in Eastern Campaign of 1854 and 1855 with the 79th Highlanders, including the battles of Alma and Balaclava; expedition to Kertch and Yenikale; siege and fall of Sebastepol, and assaults of June 18th and September 8th, (medal in three clasps, brevets major, knight of the Legion of Honour, fifth clasp of the Medjidi, and Turkish medal); served in Indian Campaign of 1858 and 1859, including the siege and capture of Lueknow, (medal and clasp).

Colonel Hodgson, in March, 1869, commanded the 79th Cameron Highlanders, and personal escort of the late Earl Mayo, at the Durbar held at Umballa, to receive Shere Ali Khan, the Ameer of Cabul; he was also appointed to command the first Infantry Brigade and guard of honour on the same occasion.

During the fourteen years of service of the 79th in India, it was considered the best conducted regiment in that country, and the punishments in it were less than those in any other regiment. The deceased colonel was very careful to keep up the physique of his men. It is said that, during a recent intensely hot summer in India, when offenders were brought before him, he would say, "Ah, you know I can't punish you with drill this weather".

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