

Philip Maurice Allan Callaghan

Isle of Wight County Press

22 September 1933

NEWPORT.

DEATH OF MR. PHILIP CALLAGHAN.- One whose smart soldierly bearing and unfailing good humour made him a popular figure in the town has been removed by the death on Tuesday of Mr. Philip Maurice Allan Callaghan, an ex-battery sergeant-major of the Royal Field Artillery. He passed away at the age of 49, after a long and painful illness, at 12 Quay-street. Mr. Callaghan, who was familiarly known to most Newportonians as "The Major," was a member of an old local family. He joined the R.F.A. in 1903, being posted to the 140th Battery, which won distinction in the Great War. In his early days in the service he was stationed in Ireland and at other home stations, and won a high reputation as a sportsman, winning many medals and trophies for athletics. Up to the last he prized a cup and gold medal awarded him as the 20-mile cycle champion of his battery. A keen and able soldier, he quickly won promotion to the rank of sergeant-instructor of gunnery prior to the Great War, gaining the highest commendations in his various examinations. His battery was with the original expeditionary force sent to France, and Callaghan fought with it throughout the war on the Western Front, taking part in the battles of Mons, Messines, Vimy Ridge, and Hill 60. His narrowest escape from death was when a sniper's bullet clipped off part of his ear. In September 1918, he gained the rank of battery sergeant-major, which he held during service in Egypt, Palestine, and India until his retirement on pension in 1924. He held the Mons Star, Victory and Service medals, and the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. He had resided at Newport since his retirement, and had given clerical assistance to his life-long friend, Miss Greengrass, in her business next to the Post-office. He was an enthusiastic supporter of football, cricket and hockey, and often rendered valued service as a cricket umpire and hockey referee and coach on the Recreation-ground. His advice on hockey playing was frequently sought by local school teams, and was always readily given. He was also a great lover of birds and animals, and was never without biscuits in his pocket and other dainty morsels for his dumb friends. He was a popular member of the Liberal Club, the British Legion, and the R.A.O.B. In the last named Order his lodge was the Sir Edward Riley; he had gained provincial honours, and was a Knight of the Order of Merit and an ex-president of the Examining Council of the Knight's Chapter. He was known and much respected as a Buffalo throughout the Island lodges. The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. today at the Quay-street Methodist Church.

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THE FUNERAL.- of Mr. Philip Callaghan, whose death was reported last week, took place on Saturday, the service being held at the Quay-street Methodist Church, the interment following at the Newport Cemetery. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and members of the 219 (I.W.) A.A. Brigade, R.A., attended in uniform. At the entrance to the church R.A.O.B. members wearing their chains of office, and members of the Newport and Carisbrooke branch of the British Legion with their draped standard were drawn up. The service was conducted by the Ref. W. H. Mildon, B.A. Mr. R. G. Cooper was at the organ and

accompanied the singing of the hymns "Jesu Lover of my soul" and "Abide with me." The mourners were Mr. E. Callaghan (brother), Mrs. Sibson (sister), Miss H. Greengrass, Mrs. G. Chambers, and Mr. F. W. Yelf. Those also present included a large number of members of the R.A.O.B., to which the deceased belonged, and representatives from other Island lodges. The branch of the British Legion was represented by Messrs. F. R. Guy (hon. secretary), S. E. Leigh, W. Rodway, J. H. R. Williams, W. Clark (standard bearer), Willis, E. Gray, D. Jackson, and Pragnell. Among those also present were Messrs. H. E. Harvey, S. Croucher, W. G. B. Weeks, G. Norman, and Kemp (representing the Newport Cricket Club), G. H. Snellgrove and R. Parsons (the Liberal Club), Mrs. E. Bruce Drayton (the Newport Victoria Sports Club), Messrs. H. Perkins, S. Elliott, and O. Whittington, and Mr. A. E. Knight (the Newport Trades C.C.). At the cemetery the R.A.O.B. members formed a circle round the grave and sang the Absent Brethren hymn. Messrs. H. and F. Damp carried out the arrangements.

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

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