

Edwin John Huck

Isle of Wight County Press - 10 February 1923

CRIMEAN VETERAN'S DEATH AT NEWPORT.

A fine old soldier, one of the few remaining heroes of the Crimea and Mutiny campaigns, and probably the oldest ex-soldier in the Island, passed away at Kinburn House, Lugley-street, Newport, yesterday (Friday) in the person of Mr. Edwin John Huck, who was within a few days of celebrating his 93rd birthday. The deceased was a familiar, not to say martially inspiring, figure in the town, with the fine row of medals which he invariably wore on his breast, and up to about six months ago he took his daily walk with an uprightness of figure and soldierly bearing, which clearly betokened his military training in the hard but effective school of 80 years ago. He was pardonably proud of his participation in those two great and historic military ventures, and was always ready to discourse very interestingly on his duties as a soldier. Last August he was forced to take to his bed with swollen legs, and since then he had been confined to the house. The end came very peacefully during sleep, just after 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, his daughter-in-law, with whom he had resided for the last 14 years (since the death of his wife) finding that he had passed away when she took his dinner to the bedroom. Whilst health permitted the deceased was a regular worshipper at the Parish Church. A member of an old Newport family, he joined the 20th Regiment of Foot (now the Lancashire Fusiliers) at Parkhurst on November 7th 1845, and in April the following year was posted to the regiment at Bermuda. Here he served until April 1847, when the regiment was transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia. After periods of duty at Quebec and Kingston he returned to England with his battalion, in October 1849, and remained in this country for a while at the depot of the regiment, at Parkhurst until the outbreak of the Crimean War, for which he embarked with his regiment at Plymouth on July 17th, 1854, arriving in Turkey on August 7th. He landed in the Crimea with the allied armies on September 14th, and remained throughout the campaign, taking part in the battles of the Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman, and Kinburn (after which he named his house), and the siege of Sebastopol, going through the campaign unscathed, and witnessing the cessation of hostilities on March 1st, 1856, arriving at Spithead on his return from the war on July 18th. In the following August (1857) he left with his regiment for the Indian Mutiny. Leaving Spithead in a whaling ship on August 8th the vessel arrived at Calcutta on November 19th the voyage lasting 106 days, or just over three months. During the Mutiny he took part in seven engagements - at Chanda, Umeerput, Sultanpore, Dauraka Fort, the relief of Lucknow, Mujidlah, and Baukee. The arduous nature of the campaign may be imagined from a record of continuous fighting, which he frequently quoted, when the force to which he was attached marched 24 miles in the Indian sun, fought a stiff engagement, and captured a fort and 20 of the 22 guns used by the rebels. After that Mutiny had been quelled his regiment embarked at Calcutta for England on February 11th. 1862, and after a voyage lasting nearly four months, via the Cape of Good Hope, landed at Gravesend on June 5th. He received a free discharge from the Army in June, 1862, after having served as boy and man for 16 years, 228 days. He held the British Crimean Medal with bars for Sebastopol, Inkerman, Balaclava and the Alma. Turkish Crimean Medal, and the Indian Mutiny medal with Lucknow bar. He was granted a small pension in 1878, which was increased in 1906. On his return to civil life Mr. Huck was for many years foreman at the mineral water factory in St. Thomas's-square, but for the last 10 years had lived in retirement. He was held in the greatest esteem by all who knew him.

The funeral will take place at St. Johns's Church, Newport, on Wednesday afternoon. By the deceased's request there will be no military honours or flowers.

Isle of Wight County Press - 17 February 1923

NEWPORT.

CRIMEA AND MUTINY VETERAN'S FUNERAL.- The funeral of Mr. Edwin John Huck, the Crimea and Mutiny veteran, whose death, at the age of 93, occurred on Friday week at Kinburn House, Lugley-street, took place on Wednesday at St. John's Churchyard, his remains being placed in the grave containing those of his wife, who died about 14 years ago. Military honours were not accorded. The Rev. Dr. Sutton, assisted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon) officiated at the service in the church and at the graveside. The mourners were Messrs. E. and R. A. Huck (sons), the Misses E. J. and R. Huck (daughters), Mrs. R. A. Huck (daughter-in-law), Mrs. C. Wheeler, representing deceased's son-in-law Mr. P. Delves, of London), Messrs. Arthur and Alfred Huck (grandsons), ex-R.S.M. Kingston, formerly of the 20th Regiment of Foot, (an old comrade now residing in Caesar's-road), and Mrs. Edward Carter, of East Upton, Ryde, who attended as a daughter of the late Col. Evelegh, who commanded Huck's regiment (the old 20th) both in the Crimea and at the Indian Mutiny. - Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Huck desire to express their feeling of sincere gratitude to all who have sent expressions of sympathy at this, their father's promotion from us here below - "O then what raptured greetings!"

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