

Photographs of portraits and newspaper cuttings re George Pringle Robertson, Bandmaster to the RAMC

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RAMC 1230/1

Photographed from original
20/7/76



RMC 1230/2

Photographed from original

20/3/76

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CPS

FUNERAL OF HANDMASTER
ROBERTSON

[illegible][illegible]

THE LOSS OF WEATHER

[illegible]

DEATH OF BANDMASTER G. ROBERTSON

It is with very sincere regret that we record the death of Mr. G. Robertson, of "Clint-hills," Church Lane, Aldershot, bandmaster of the Royal Army Medical Corps, which took place on Monday afternoon at the Cambridge Hospital from cancer. In several recent issues announcements have appeared concerning the illness of Mr. Robertson, but it was not until last week that we were able to apprise our readers of the really dangerous condition of this gentleman, who had a very wide circle of friends and acquaintances in both camp and town. Only a week or so ago Mr. Robertson went to London, but the specialist declined to operate, being convinced that no real good could follow, and later, on his return to Aldershot, the authorities at the Cambridge Hospital came to a similar decision, it being fully recognised that the end could not be long delayed and that no operation could ever hope to be successful. The deceased gentleman himself, however, did not appreciate his condition to be so very serious, and only a few days before his death he was asking for an approximate date to be given him for discharge from hospital with a view to making arrangements to spend a period to recoup himself at Brighton, and to Mr. Applin, a friend of many years' standing, who visited him at the Cambridge Hospital, he was equally sanguine. A few months ago one might have taken a lease of Mr. Robertson's life, but more recently to his friends he had complained of what he believed to be bad indigestion and pains in his chest. He was a fine soldierly man, and one whose personality never failed to be appreciated by those with whom he came in contact. His death has created a pronounced breach in military musical circles, for besides a talented bandmaster, even though but of a departmental band, he was also a composer of considerable ability, and many a selection of his own has been played at cafe chantants at the Officers' Club. He was a very keen advocate of Esperanto and had a wide correspondence in that language, one which he often asserted would yet hold its own in the languages of the world and had infinitely more to recommend it than the usual Continental tongues. He leaves a widow, three sons and one daughter to mourn his loss. Two of the sons are army schoolmasters, one being stationed at York and one at Aldershot, whilst the third son is being trained for the same profession and the daughter is a teacher in an army school. For them all the greatest possible sympathy has been expressed.

The deceased began his army career as a lad in the band of the Highland Light Infantry, and from whence he proceeded to Kneller Hall, eventually qualifying for the position of an army bandmaster. He was subsequently appointed to the band of the 2nd Middlesex Regt., now quartered at Bordon, in which regiment he remained as bandmaster for the very long period of twenty-five years. When he left on warrant officers' pension it was to the general regret of all ranks of the regiment, but another projected tour of Indian service held out no inducements to Mr. Robertson, who became an applicant for the post of bandmaster of the Royal Army Medical Corps, then about to become vacant on the retirement of Mr. J. W. Bennett, at Aldershot. To this position, some four years ago, he was unanimously appointed, and there is a general opinion that from the very first month of his engagement the band was brought into line with most up-to-date methods. To day there are few bands of greater or more all round proficiency than that of the Royal Army Medical Corps. The news of his passing gave rise to much real sorrow and regret not only amongst the members of his band but amongst all the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the corps and other bands throughout the Command, and offers from not a few bandmasters to be permitted to render funeral honours were received by the band president of the corps.

Requisition was made and sanction was obtained to accord to the deceased gentleman all customary military funeral honours, and the interment will take place this (Friday) afternoon, leaving the mortuary of the Cambridge Hospital at two o'clock, en route to the military cemetery, where the body will be laid to rest.

9/2/1912

RAME 1230 3

THE CAMP GAZETTE.

BANDMASTER'S FUNERAL.

OBSEQUES OF MR. G. P. ROBERTSON.

The funeral of the late Mr. George Pringle Robertson, bandmaster of the Royal Army Medical Corps, whose death we recorded as having taken place at the Cambridge Hospital from cancer, on the 5th inst, at the early age of 51 years, took place with almost entirely full military honours at the Camp Cemetery on Friday afternoon. Greater honour or respect could not have been paid to the memory of any soldier, and so spontaneous and true was it all that it must have been a solace to the bereaved widow and members of the deceased gentleman's family. As recorded in our last issue, Mr. Robertson, prior to taking over the control of the Royal Army Medical Corps' band, in which he was so greatly esteemed, had served in the 2nd Middlesex Regiment as bandmaster for the long period of twenty-three years, and seeing that his old battalion was stationed at Bordon it was only to be expected that they would desire to render all funeral honours possible. Thus it was that the band of the battalion, with non-commissioned officers as pallbearers, attended the funeral, but several other offers to render the last honours were received from other bands in the Command. The privilege, however, lay with the Army Service Corps' band, a departmental band like the Medicals, and under the command of Bandmaster H. J. Cook preceded the band of the Middlesex Regt. in the cortege and took its share in the rendering of the marches en route to the cemetery. So very popular was the deceased that scarcely a bandmaster of the whole Command was absent; indeed, nothing but duty prevented absent ones from being present, but all bands sent several representatives, who carried floral tributes. Large numbers of spectators were present to see the cortege leave the mortuary of the Cambridge Hospital shortly after two o'clock, it being formed as follows: Band and trumpeters of the Army Service Corps, under Mr. Cook; band of the 2nd Middlesex Regt., under Bandmaster R. A. Cooke, drums of each band being draped in crepe gun carriage supplied by Army Service Corps, drawn by six black horses and carrying the Union Jack-covered coffin, and upon which also lay some beautiful wreaths, the gun being manned by Sergt.-Major Frampton (in charge), Sergt. Morris (leader), Sergt. Darley (centre leader), and Sergt. Bashford (wheel), all of the Army Service Corps, with colour-sergts. of the 2nd Middlesex Regt. as pallbearers; three funeral coaches containing the following near relations: Mrs. Robertson (widow), Mr. George Robertson, Mr. Gordon Robertson, Mr. Rollo Robertson (sons), and Miss Flora Robertson (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, Brighton (sister and brother-in-law), Mrs. Andrews (sister-in-law), Mr. G. E. Pentelow (brother-in-law), Army Schoolmaster and Mrs. Riglen, Capt. F. W. Browne (Inspector of Army Schools, retired), Lieut. and Quartermaster Steed (depot, Middlesex Regt.); the whole of the Royal Army Medical Corps' band as mourners, each carrying wreaths; a very strong muster of non-commissioned officers and men of the Army Medical Corps; the bandmasters of the Aldershot Command and non-commissioned officers of the 2nd Middlesex Regt., including Sergt.-Major G. F. E. Rayson, Bandmaster R. A. Cooke, and twelve non-commissioned officers of the 2nd Middlesex Regt. from Bordon; Mr. J. W. Bennett, ex-bandmaster of the R.A.M.C. and whom the deceased succeeded; Mr. W. J. Applin, ex-bandmaster; ex-Sergt.-Major Jackson, Sergt.-Major G. W. Collins, and many other friends; indeed, there was

the R.E., Aldershot, with deepest sympathy; With deepest sympathy, from Miss Reid (matron) and Miss Knowles, Military Hospital, Aldershot; With all kind remembrances and deepest sympathy, from Miss Whitelaw and Ada; Keen sincere condolence raj profunda esparatio, de la Aldershot and Farnham Esperanto Group; With deepest sympathy, from No. 2 Company, R.A.M.C.; Capt. F. W. Browne and the Misses Browne, with deepest sympathy; With deepest sympathy, from Bandmaster and Mrs. W. F. Hawkins; In affectionate remembrance, from Bertie and Dolly; With deepest sympathy and condolence, from the Sergeants' Mess, Depot Middlesex Regt.; From the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, R.A.M.C., with deepest sympathy; In sympathy, from Flo and Oscar; With most sincere sympathy, from Lieut. Col. and Mrs. J. Douglas-Hunter; With deepest sympathy, from the members of the Sergeants' Mess, R.A.M.C., Millbank; With deepest sympathy and respect, from the Band President of the R.A.M.C.; From the R.A.M. Band, with sincere sympathy; With deepest sympathy, from the Depot Branch R.A.T.A., R.A.M.C.; From the Warrant Officers, Staff Sergeants, and Sergeants, R.A.M.C., with deepest sympathy.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. Finch and Sons.

scarcely a regiment unrepresented, the whole cortege being drawn up with the following officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps: Lieut.-Col. G. D. Hunter, DSO, Major N. Ross, Major G. G. Delap, DSO, Capt. G. A. K. A. Reed, Capt. J. Gillman, Capt. L. Cottrell, the last named officer being in charge of the parade, and a number of the junior officers of the Corps.

A MEETING of the Governors and Subscribers of the Aldershot Hospital will be held, in accordance with Rules 7 and 8, at the Aldershot Hospital, on FRIDAY, February 23rd, at 5 p.m.

W. WREN,
Hon. Secretary.

Agenda:

To receive annual report.
To pass balance sheet.

To appoint three members to the committee of management in place of Mrs. Robertson, Mr. J. Drew, Mr. W. T. Robertson, J.P., who retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election.

General business.

4678

NORTH HANTS CONSERVATIVE AND
UNIONIST ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL

GENERAL MEETING

will be Held at the
TUMBLE-DOWN-DICK HOTEL,
FARNBOROUGH, on SATURDAY,
24th February, 1912, at 2.45 p.m.
All Unionists are Invited.

AUCTION SALES.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Visit of the

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Officers, Staff Sergeants, and Sergeants of
Aldershot and Norman: From the Warrant
Aldershot: In loving memory, from George,
With deepest sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs.
From Corporals of the R.A.M.C., Aldershot:
deepest sympathy: With deepest sympathy,
master and Band of the 19th Hussars, with
gone but not forgotten: From the Band
and Mrs. Hildfield and family, Farnham—
sex Regt: In heartfelt sympathy, from Mr.
commander of the Sergeant's Mess, 2nd Middle-
sex Regt: With deepest sympathy, from old
Cavalry Brigade School, with deepest sym-
School: From the Standard of the Model
sympathy, from the teachers of the Model
Mess, 4th Middlesex Regt: With deepest
taken of deepest regret, from Sergeant
sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. Paxman: A
officers, 2nd Middlesex Regt: With deepest
pathy, from Colonel R. W. H. Norris and
R.A.M.C. Mess, London: With deepest sym-
deep sympathy from the officers of the
command, Fred: In loving remembrance and
H.A.M.C.: In loving memory of a dear old
General Robinson and officers of the
of deep affection and respect, from Surgeon-
2nd Middlesex Regt: Others were: In token
dear old bandmaster from the band of the
inscription, "With heartfelt sympathy to our
in regimental colours, bearing the following
Aldershot: "A beautiful wreath worked out
master, from the band of the R.A.M.C.,
in remembrance of an old friend and band-
sympathy," and "With deepest sympathy and
of the Aldershot Command, with deepest
with broken strings from the "Bandmasters
Other floral tributes were two beautiful harps
In loving memory from Annie and family:
an old friend, from Mrs. Stead and family:
Pan and Jim: In affectionate remembrance of
children: In affectionate remembrance, from
daddy, from your loving and sorrowing
wreaths were: In loving memory of dear
which was buried with the coffin, other family
Besides the wreath sent by the widow,
THE FLORAL TRIBUTES
Robertson, died 5th February, 1912, aged 61
bore the simple words: "George Pringle
upon the coffin, the inscription plate of which
significant meaning. Then came the last look
dell, and never was it sounded with more
Last Post, rang out from the buglers in the
the music was hushed and the notes of "The
passed to his long home when a moment later
informed that a true friend and comrade had
deeply touching moment, and the feeling was
men and assembled mourners. It was a
the living with the dead, "was sung by band-
Days and moments quickly flying, blind
clined to his last resting place, the hymn,
of the Medical Corps gently lowered their late
band with musical accompaniment, as was also
the Psalm of the day, and then, as bandmaster
music, the Lord's Prayer was chanted by the
The prayers were informed, led with full band
termed a choral communal service followed
away down in the dell, and what might well be
on the knoll and the trumpeters of the A.S.C.
the solemnity, the band of the Middlesex Regt.
nave. Around it grouped the relatives and
one of the prettiest spots of the quiet God's
stretch of Surrey Hills, the grave is placed in
burial ground and overlooking the vast
Situate on the knoll by the side of the officers,
the graveside the scene was most affecting.
the service was most feelingly rendered. At
cometary chapel, where the initial portion of
George's Church, and last passed into the
by the Rev. R. E. Smith, chaplain at St.
until the body had been received at the gates
Band Regt. Farnham, music that continued
Farnham's "Reveries," under the leadership of
Regt. that other sweet and haunting march,
followed by the band of the 2nd Middlesex
way to the burial ground and away and there
tears of many to fall, and this melody half-
music that seemed to haunt and cause the
Corps first led the cortege to the cemetery,
of death, "the band of the Army Service
To the touching music of Beethoven's "Song
TOUCHING FUNERAL MUSIC