

NOTTINGHAM EVENING NEWS

Thursday, February 25th, 1909

THE LAST OF A VETERAN MILITARY FUNERAL AT TOLLERTON

The first military funeral that has been seen at the village of Tollerton took place yesterday afternoon, when the remains of William Hickling, a Crimean veteran, were laid to rest in the pretty churchyard. Hickling, who was born in the neighbouring village of Keyworth in November, 1835, died on Friday at Tollerton, after a short illness. In 1853 Hickling enlisted in the Grenadier Guards at Nottingham, and was discharged in 1864. The popular commander, General Sir Redvers Buller, learnt his drill with Hickling. Whilst serving in the trenches before Sebastopol Hickling was wounded in the right leg by a piece of shell. He went to the Crimea with the Royal Albert draft of the Grenadier Guards, numbering 400, of whom only eighteen returned, and was awarded the Crimean and Turkish medals, with a bar for Sebastopol.

At the funeral ceremony practically the whole of the inhabitants of Tollerton and many people from neighbouring villages attended to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of the old soldier, who was greatly esteemed in the neighbourhood. The coffin, which was covered with a Union Jack and upon which rested a number of wreaths, was conveyed from Hickling's house to the churchyard on a gun-carriage lent by the Nottingham squadron of the Royal Horse Artillery, drawn by six horses. The cortege was headed by a firing party of Robin Hoods, in charge of Sergeant J. Jordon, whilst following the coffin were seven bearers – Colour-Sergeant F. Dominic, Colour-Sergeant G. E. S. Allsopp, Sergeant M. K. Dunn, Sergeant F. C. Tarlton, Sergeant J. Johnson, and Sergeant F. Stanley – all members of the Robin Hoods, who were in charge of Colour –Sergeant A. Porter. Major T. A. Hill, J.P., in the absence of Mr. H. Sealey Whitby, attended the funeral to represent the Nottingham and Notts. Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Association, by whom the arrangements for the funeral were carried out.

The service in the church and at the graveside was conducted by the vicar (the Rev. St. John Macdonald), and following the interment three volleys were fired over the grave, Bugler-Sergeant C. Pidd, of the Robin Hoods, sounding the Last Post. Eleven veterans from Nottingham attended the funeral.