

## 2 Colonel Briggs: Garrison Commander, Barrow. Died 30<sup>th</sup> December 1916



April 29<sup>th</sup> 2013

The grave is very close to the entrance to the Crematorium, below the car park.

Note the obsequious vocabulary used in the Press report below.



Ellerslie on Prospect Road, where Colonel Briggs lived (April 25<sup>th</sup> 2013)

Colonel Frederick Clifton Briggs was commanding the Garrison in Barrow, and lived in an imposing house in Prospect Road. Most recently this was used by the Health Service, but is currently up for sale (June 2013). After a successful career in the Regular Army, and having retired, he volunteered at the beginning of the war.

*The West Indian Club Ltd: An early 20th century West Indian Interest in London* by David Clover (2007), explores the role of a gentlemen's club in London, active from 1898 to the 1970s, and makes reference to Briggs:

Mrs Whitfield was the only woman amongst the founding members and the only member with an Irish address. She was also the largest founding donor, giving £5 on the formation of the Club. Mrs Whitfield, who also had a residence in London, was the widow of George Whitfield, Esq., JP of Modreeny, county Tipperary, Ireland, who died aged 71, in London, in 1892. In 1870 his estate at Modreeny was 443 acres. We know that Mrs Whitfield donated £20 to the West Indies Mansion House Hurricane Fund in 1889, and that her children married well: her eldest daughter Jessie marrying Frederick Clifton Briggs, Captain of the Devonshire Regiment and youngest son of the late Hon. Augustus Briggs, of Barbados; her youngest daughter Kathleen, marrying Sir Francis Osborne, Baronet, and her son George, marrying Violet Stoney, daughter of the late Deputy Surgeon General of Frankford, Ireland. <http://www.caribbeanstudies.org.uk/papers/2007/Clover%2007.pdf>

The *Barrow Guardian* Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup> 1917 reported his funeral:

**COLONEL F. C. BRIGGS**  
SUDDEN DEATH OF GARRISON COMMANDER  
THE FUNERAL : AN IMPOSING SPECTACLE

We deeply regret to chronicle the death of Colonel F. C. Briggs, Commander of the Barrow Garrison, which occurred early on Saturday morning in a Barrow Nursing Home. The sad news created a painful feeling in the town for the deceased had only been ill a week, and the end came with tradgic (*sic*) suddenness, following an attack of appendicitis. Colonel Briggs only took up duty in Barrow two months ago as Commander, in succession to Colonel Turner, but he won the highest esteem of all who met him. It was only after the Mayor had attended Church, on November 12<sup>th</sup>, that Colonel Briggs was introduced to the town by His Worship, in the Town Hall. His was a most unassuming personality and yet he was beloved of (*sic*) all with whom he came in contact, and those under him whilst giving due regard to the exigencies of duty, looked upon him as a true friend to them. It is only a few weeks ago that the deceased officer delivered a most stirring and inspiring address on the war, at the local Volunteers Prize Distribution, in which he called for a more vigorous effort on the part of the individuals in the prosecution of the present war to a successful termination. He was an officer of ripe experience, and had had a most distinguished military career. He saw active service in the Afghan and South African Wars, being in command of the 2nd Devons during the latter campaign. In November 1909 he retired, but on the outbreak of the present war he gallantly, despite his age, joined up again and commanded the 8<sup>th</sup> Norfolks, with whom he proceeded to France. He served with great distinction there, being mentioned in despatches, and in November 1915, he returned to this country, where he has performed useful and manifold services in connection with the troops in training and recruiting. Profound regret has been occasioned by the gallant officer's sad demise, and flags are flying at half-mast on the Town Hall, and various other institutions in the town. Colonel Briggs leaves a widow (who recently presented the prizes at the Girl's (*sic*) Secondary School Prize Day) and a family of two daughters, who have been the recipient of many messages of condolence in their sad bereavement.

There followed a long list of mourners, mention of almost 1500 soldiers being in attendance. It ends: After the ceremony the troops, headed by the band playing martial music, marched via Devonshire-road, Ainslie-street and Abbey-road, to Ramsden-square, where they returned to their respective headquarters.