

(Cambridge Independent News, 25 June 1924)

DEATH OF MR. EDWARD KIRBYSHIRE

Crimean Veteran Passes Away at Age of 89.

EX-POLICE INSPECTOR.

Many in Cambridge and district will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Edward Kirbyshire, a Crimean veteran, and formerly an Inspector in the Borough Police Force. Mr. Kirbyshire died on Tuesday night at his residence, 119, Gwydir Street, at the age of 89. He had enjoyed splendid health until four or five weeks ago, when he had a bronchial attack, which in the end proved fatal.

Mr. Kirbyshire was a native of Cambridge, having been born in King-street in January, 1835. His grandfather was a porter at Sidney Sussex College, and his father served between 30 and 40 years in the Army, into which he was forced by the old Corps of Cambridge Fencibles. At the age of 14 Mr. Kirbyshire left school, and at the age of 17 he decided to follow in his father's footsteps, joining the 9th Light Infantry, which held a fine record in the annals of the British Army. He very soon obtained promotion. After serving two years in Ireland, the war with Russia broke out, and his regiment was ordered to the Crimea. The regiment embarked at Kingston, amid scenes of great excitement, aboard the Europa, and on 4th December, 1854, Sergt. Kirbyshire, as he then was, landed at Balaclava.

Many were the hardships and privations encountered. The regiment was encamped on the heights of Balaclava, and its ranks were soon thinned by disease. Many of the Regiment died in the greatest misery. On June 18th, 1855, Mr. Kirbyshire was present with the remnants of his regiment at the taking of the rifle pits and quarries in front of Sebastopol, and on 8th September of the same year he took part in the storming of the Redan, and received a probe from a Russian bayonet, which would have pierced him through the body had not the weapon glided off the brass of his belt and entered the

leather underneath. He remained with the troops in front of Redan until the retreat was ordered, but afterwards his wound obliged him to enter hospital at Scutari. After peace was signed, Mr. Kirbyshire landed with the 90th at Portsmouth on 24th July, 1856, and marched with them to Aldershot, where, having had enough of soldiering, he bought himself out. For his services in the campaign he was awarded two medals—the Turkish Medal and the Crimean Medal—and two clasps—Sébastopol and Alma.

He first thought of joining the Metropolitan Police, but finding there was a vacancy in the Borough Police Force, he applied for and obtained an appointment as constable on 13th October, 1856. He made satisfactory progress in the Force, and was selected for detective work. He was eventually appointed detective-sergeant, and after holding this position for 17 years he was raised to the rank of Inspector in November, 1885. After nearly 40 years in the Force, he retired on September 1st, 1894. During this long period he gained approbation not only of the magistrates, but of the townspeople for the admirable way in which he discharged his duties. A suitable presentation to mark his retirement was made by Mr. Holland, then Chief Constable of the Borough.

Mr. Kirbyshire took a keen interest in Friendly Society work, and was a member of the Loyal David Lodge of Ancient Shepherds. He passed through all the offices of the Lodge, and retired from the position of trustee after filling it for many years to the great satisfaction of the members, in March 1910. He was a member of the Beaconsfield Club and had a large circle of friends. He leaves one son—Mr. Arthur Kirbyshire, well known in Friendly Society work, and two daughters.

The funeral will take place at 2.15 on Saturday afternoon at Mill-road Cemetery.
