

Alison Irene Fry

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22 November 1952

MOTOR-CYCLING FATALITY

NEWPORT WOMAN'S DEATH IN HOSPITAL

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. C. E. Fry, of Ingleborough, Staplers Road, Newport, a well known Newport chemist, and his two young daughters, in the death of his wife, Mrs. Alison Irene Fry, aged 41, which took place at St. Mary's Hospital on Tuesday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Fry recently became enthusiastic motor-cyclists, both owning lightweight machines, and Mrs. Fry's death followed an accident near the Fighting Cocks Inn on the main Newport-Sandown road on Wednesday week, when she fell from her machine and received severe head injuries. She was taken to St. Mary's Hospital, where she died without regaining consciousness.

She was the only daughter of the late Mr. F. W. Lock, formerly of the Central Fruit Stores, St. James's Square, Newport, and of Mrs. Lock, of Duxmore, Whitepit Lane, Newport, and was educated at Castledene and Westmont Schools. Like her parents she was a devout member of the Brethren who worship at Holyrood Hall, where she acted as organist on occasions. She was also the local secretary of the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers' Association. Since the age of 17 she had been a member of the local V.A.D. of the British Red Cross Society and did admirable work during the war at St Mary's Hospital and the Royal I.W. County Hospital and as an ambulance attendant. She unobtrusively performed many acts of neighbourliness, for which she will be gratefully remembered. Her daughters are aged 8 and 6. The funeral service is to take place at Holyrood Hall at 2 p.m. to-day.

THE INQUEST

The Acting Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin) sat with a jury, the foreman of which was Mr. R. E. Fairweather, when the inquest was held at St. Mary's Hospital yesterday.

Mr. Charles Everit Fry said his wife had been riding a motor-cycle for about two years without mishap. Her eyesight and hearing were perfect. The machine was in good order.

Bernard Floyd, of 13 Granville Road, Cowes, a lorry driver, said that at 11.20 a.m. on November 12th he was driving from Lake to Newport at about 25 miles an hour. There was no other traffic except the lady motor-cyclist, who was about 150 yards ahead of him. Just past the Fight Cocks the lady turned to adjust a strap on the rear pannier. She let go of the handlebars with one hand. Witness continued: "I could see her gradually going closer and closer into the near-side bank. As she turned to right herself it was too late; she was right on the bank. The footrest dug in and threw her. The bike went into the centre of the road and she fell off on the left-hand side." He pulled up and ran to the motor-cyclist. A farm labourer, who had heard the crash, came and they lifted her to the side of the road. He tried to telephone from two places, but found no-one in, and was successful at a third place. The motor-cyclist was not going at an excessive speed - about the same speed as the lorry.

Police Constable R. Lupton said that at 12.30 p.m. he went to the scene of the accident. Mrs. Fry had just been removed to hospital. There was a groove in the bank 7ft. long. The motor-cycle was 18 yards away across the road and there was a pool of blood in the middle of the road, 20 yards from the grooving in the bank. The machine was in good working order. They left the scene at

about 12.15 p.m. - The Foreman: There seems to be a query about the length of time taken by the ambulance to reach the scene - an hour and 10 minutes? - The Coroner: We do not know when it arrived, only when it was going back. - Mr. Floyd (recalled) said he could not state the exact time the ambulance arrived, but in view of the difficulty about telephoning he did not think that there was any unreasonable delay. - The Coroner said the exact information could not be ascertained without an adjournment, but they had had evidence that there was no unreasonable delay.

Dr, A. K. Dowle, house surgeon at St. Mary's hospital, said the cause of death was laceration of the brain consequent on a fractured skull.

The Coroner said it was a very sad case indeed, and all their sympathy went to Mr. Fry in his great bereavement. There was no doubt how the unfortunate accident occurred. Mr. Floyd did all that could have been done. There was a little doubt in some jurymen's minds, but he thought they could be well satisfied with Mr. Floyd's comment that no delay seemed to have occurred.

A verdict of accidental death was returned. The jury commended Mr. Floyd on his action and eventually securing the use of a telephone in such a scattered district, and they tendered their deepest sympathy to Mr. Fry and his young family.

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29 November 1952

FUNERAL OF MRS. A. I. FRY

The funeral took place on Saturday at Holyrood Hall of Mrs. Alison Irene Fry, whose death as a result of a motor-cycle accident was reported last week. The service was conducted by Mr. John Weston, a London evangelist, assisted by the Rev. E. E. M. Green (incumbent of St. James's, Ryde). The hymns "The King of Love my Shepherd is", "Abide with Me" and "Sleep on beloved" were accompanied by Miss Dorothy Blake at the organ. Mr. Weston paid eloquent tribute to Mrs. Fry's Christian life and witness. The large attendance included representatives of organisations with which Mrs. Fry had been associated, members of the Newport V.A.D. detachment forming a guard of honour. The mourners were C. E. Fry (husband), Mrs. F. W. Lock (mother), Messrs. A. G. and S. R. Lock (brothers), Mrs. L. I. Fry (sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. C. Channer, Miss E. Barton, and Mr. P. Fry (uncles and aunts), Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott, Mr. C. Jolley, the Misses C. and E. Quinton, Mr. and Mrs. W. Reynolds, Mrs. A. Kilmartin, Mr. B. R. and Miss E. Knight, and Mr. N. Fry (cousins), Miss M. Chiverton, Mesdames W. Hardacre, Newcombe, and Munro, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Fry, and Mr. F. H. Burgess.

(Only family mourners transcribed)

The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements. A memorial service was held on Sunday at Holyrood Hall, conducted by Mr. P. H. Rolf.

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