

Bertha Patricia Munt

Isle of Wight County Press 2 March 1963

NEWPORT WOMAN DIES IN GAS-FILLED ROOM

WORRIED OVER ILLNESS

At an inquest at the Guildhall, Newport, on Thursday the Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin) recorded a verdict that Mrs. Bertha Patricia Munt, aged 58, of 27 Horsebridge Hill, Newport, killed herself while the balance of her mind was disturbed.

Cyril Hedley Henry Munt, insurance agent, said that when he got up on Monday his wife was no worse than she had been over the last few weeks. She had complained of pains in her lower abdomen for many years, but in recent weeks that they were more severe. In August she had a nervous breakdown and was in hospital for several weeks. Although she had hinted at taking her life he had never given it the attention perhaps he should have done, believing she would not have the courage to do it.

On Monday she returned to bed after breakfast and when he arrived home at lunchtime he realised that something was wrong as the door to the kitchen was closed and the bottom sealed with a mat. He found his wife sitting in a chair in her nightdress and dressing gown, near the gas stove, which had all the taps and the eye-level grill turned on.

Kate Amelia Dore, of 39 Horsebridge Hill, Newport, said Mr. Munt arrived at her home in a distressed condition. She telephoned for the ambulance and went back to the house to see what help she could give.

Albert Reginald Hart, of 150 Adelaide Grove, East Cowes, ambulance driver, said Mrs. Munt was taken to St. Mary's Hospital and examined in the ambulance, but found to be dead.

Dr. Richard Hugh Sandiford, of The Dower House, Pyle Street, Newport, said Mrs. Munt had complained of pains for about 14 years. She had been examined many times and had been seen by specialists, surgeons, gynaecologists, and nothing organically wrong was found. After treatment in Whitecroft Hospital she seemed a little better. Recently when she again complained of pains she became annoyed when he suggested that she ought to again see the psychiatrist.

Dr. Peter Duncan Swinstead (pathologist) said he found nothing organically wrong. Death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

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