

Arthur Aelfric Alabone

Isle of Wight County Press – 21 February 1942

Newport Dentist's Lonely End.

FOUND DEAD IN WORK-ROOM.

*[newspaper refers to **Alfred** Aelfric Alabone]*

The Deputy-Coroner (R. E. A. Webster, Esq.) held an inquest at the Guildhall, Newport, on Tuesday, into the death of Mr. Arthur Aelfric Alabone, aged 58, who had been in business as a dentist at 120 Lower St. James's-street since he succeeded his father, the late Mr. Walter Alabone, in 1917. Mr. Alabone, who had been living alone since his niece, who kept house for him, joined the W.A.A.F. last autumn, was found lying dead in his work-room on Friday afternoon last week, after a neighbour had noticed that newspapers had not been taken in and had informed the police of her fears that something was amiss.

Miss Kate Mary Etheridge, of Sunnyside, Watergate-road, Newport, said the deceased was her nephew. Since he had been living alone she had visited him each week and last saw him on February 6th, when he made no complaint. He suffered from convulsions as a child and during the last 20 years or so he had been subject to epileptic fits. The seizures were mild in character, but had become more frequent of late, causing momentary loss of control.

Mrs. Evelyn Ethel Harris, wife of Mr. B. V. Harris, chemist, of 9 Lower St. James's-street, said that since his niece left him, the deceased had come to the shop on an average three times a week. She noticed that he had been somewhat strange in manner and for that reason declined to serve him with a large bottle of Lysol on Monday February 9th. Some weeks previously she saw him on his hands and knees on the pavement in Lugley-street, and a little later he came into the shop. Her husband told him that he was not on a fit condition to live alone, and informed the police of what she had seen.

Mrs. Florence Elizabeth Dickson, of 121 Lower St. James's-street, depose that at about 11.30 a.m. on Friday, as she was passing the deceased's house. she noticed that the front door was open, that two periodicals were lying in the vestibule, and two daily papers in the letter-box. After speaking to Mr. Harris about it, she informed the police. She lived next door and could often hear Mr. Alabone poking the fire and hammering, but no sounds had been heard since February 11th.

Miss Florence Edith Cross, formerly assistant to the late Dr. J. B. McKay, stated that the late doctor had frequently attended the deceased for epilepsy and in March, 1938, he was severely burned through falling on the fire while in a fit.

P.W.R.L. Smith stated that after Mrs. Dickson had reported as to seeing the neglected papers he and P.C. King gained an entrance to the house from the rear and he discovered the body lying face downwards in the work-room upstairs. In the living-room adjoining was a daily newspaper dated February 11th. The newspapers in the letter-box were the two following issues. There was no sign of a struggle or of any disorder in the house.

Dr. G. L. Peskett, who was called by the police, said he found slight injuries on the deceased's face, but they were consistent with his giving fallen forward and remaining with his face pressed against the floor. He had made a post-mortem examination which revealed intensive congestion of the lungs, degeneration of the heart, and atheromatous. Death was due to acute congestion of the lungs, bronchial pneumonia, and diseased condition of the heart. Death had taken place at least 18 hours before.

The Coroner returned a verdict of death from natural causes, according to the medical evidence.

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