

**Charles John Gapes**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 6 September 1958**

**ELDERLY NEWPORT MAN FATALLY INJURED**

**COLLISION WITH MOTOR-CYCLIST**

Mr. Charles John Gapes, aged 86, of 13 Forest Road, Newport, was fatally injured in a road accident near St. Mary's Hospital on Monday. It is understood that he was intending to walk to Newport and left his home about lunch-time. He was crossing the road when a motor-cycle, ridden by Mr. Peter Arthur Nash, of 22 Rook Street, Parkhurst, approached. Mr. Gapes stood still at first but, according to one witness, then moved into the path of the machine. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital, where he died three hours later. The police are anxious to interview anyone who witnessed the accident. The motor-cyclist was taken to St. Mary's Hospital with head injuries, but was later transferred to the Royal I.W. County Hospital.

Only evidence of identification and medical evidence was taken when an inquest was opened by the Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin), at St. Mary's Hospital on Wednesday. After hearing that Mr. Nash, the motor-cyclist who was involved in the accident, was still unconscious at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, and that it was unlikely he would be fit to give evidence for a month, the Coroner adjourned the proceedings for a fortnight; if a further adjournment was necessary he would arrange it. The motor-cyclist was represented by Mr. E. Band.

Evidence by Dr. Abdul H. Mian, house surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital, was to the effect that when brought to the casualty department after the accident Mr. Gapes was suffering from multiple injuries, including compound fractures of the left arm and leg, and that he died from the combined effects of his injuries, shock, and loss of blood, in spite of all that could be done for him. The Coroner expressed sympathy to Mrs. Phyllis Daisy Hunt, granddaughter of Mr. Gapes, with whom he resided, and who gave evidence of identity.

Mr. Gapes was a native of Portsmouth. After leaving school he joined the Navy, and the latter part of his 33 years service was spent in the Coastguard Service, mostly in Ireland. In the second world war, he served as an A.R.P. warden.

Mr. Gapes worked for a while in Oxford as a caretaker in the Wesleyan Memorial Church. He married Miss Laura May Attrill, in 1896, at Northwood Church and came to the Island to live in 1929. Mr. Gapes was a Freemason, a member of the Darby and Joan Club, and the P.S.A. His only hobby was astronomy.

The funeral service took place on Friday, at the Northwood Parish Church, followed by interment in Carisbrooke Cemetery, in the grave of his wife. The Rector (the Rev. H. E. Strudwick) officiated. The arrangements were made by Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,

© 2020

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>

11 August 2020