

Herbert Arthur Long

Isle of Wight County Press

27 January 1943

CARISBROOKE CARPENTER'S TRAGIC DEATH.

WAR CONDITIONS PRODUCE DEPRESSION.

Unable to throw off heavy depression caused by war conditions, a well known inhabitant of Carisbrooke inflicted wounds to his throat which ended fatally at the County Hospital on Monday. The deceased was Herbert Arthur Long, aged 56, of 29 Alvington-road, Carisbrooke, a carpenter and formerly a coal merchant. On Thursday the sad circumstances were investigated at the hospital by the Island Coroner (R. E. A. Webster, Esq.). Inspector Butcher was present.

Grace Ella Long said that she had been living with her brother, who until the petrol shortage 18 months ago, was a coal merchant and then reverted to his occupation as a carpenter and did odd jobs. Her brother was a quick-tempered man and 10 years ago became a patient at the County Mental Hospital because a doctor thought he might take his life. He remained there about six months. When he gave up his coal round it upset him very much, but he became more cheerful after going back to his old job. On the previous Friday night he seemed very depressed at getting an unsigned note requesting him to attend a fire watchers meeting: he said he did not like unsigned notes being put through the door. During the last three months she had been helping her sister, who was ill, at the Vicarage, and when she returned home on Saturday he was pleased to see her, but complained that the police had been watching the house and had sent her home. On Sunday he had his meals as usual, but again said the police were watching the place, adding that he was tired of it. On Monday when she took him a cup of tea he said he had had no sleep and that lights had been flashed at him through the night. Afterwards he seemed a little better and got up. When she left at 10.30 a.m. he came to the door and said "Good-bye." On her return at 1 p.m. she could not find him in the house and eventually went to his workshop at the top of the garden, and on partly opening the door heard his voice feebly say "Is that you, Grace?" When she asked him what was the matter he replied "I am nearly gone, I can't help it. My nerves are gone. God forgive me." - By the Coroner: Her brother suffered from fits of depression at various times since giving up the coal round and since he had been denied wood and materials for his carpentry he had been much worried and said the work he had done would bring trouble on him from the Government. - By Inspector Butcher: There was nothing in the remarks about the police watching the house.

William Daniel Symes, porter-signalman, of 33 Alvington-road, Carisbrooke, said that about 1.30 on Monday Miss Long called him to come quickly as her poor brother had tried to destroy himself. With P.W.R. Attrill he went to the workshop, where he found deceased lying on his back in a pool of blood. Whilst P.W.R. Attrill made deceased as comfortable as possible, witness obtained the help of a doctor and the ambulance. Later, in moving a box to make room for the stretcher witness found a blood-stained razor.

P.W.R. Attrill said that whilst attending to the deceased, who was conscious, he kept repeating "It's my nerves."

Dr. William Gross (house surgeon) said that when deceased was admitted to the hospital at 2.15 p.m. on Monday he was suffering from severe shock and two wounds in the throat, one deep and one more or less superficial. After receiving anti-shock and other treatment his condition improved, and it was arranged to take him to the operating theatre for further treatment, when he collapsed and passed away at 7.40 p.m. Death was due to shock following the wounds. - In returning a verdict that "deceased died from shock due to cutting his throat whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed," the Coroner said he undoubtedly became depressed on losing his coal round, and when he could not get materials for his carpentry business he became worse.

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