

**Bertram Maurice Barnes
and
Beryl Maude Barnes**

Isle of Wight County Press - 4 March 1967

FATAL ACCIDENT AT ATHERFIELD

A 54-year-old postman died at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, on Sunday two hours after the car he was driving careered off the Military Road and overturned 300 yards west of the Atherfield A.A. box.

He was Mr. Bertram Barnes, of 11 Mill Street, Newport, who worked as a higher grade postman at Newport Post Office. He sustained leg and head injuries. His wife, Mrs. Beryl Barnes (50), received multiple injuries, and her condition was later stated to be very poor.

The inquest on Mr. Barnes was opened at Ryde Town Hall on Wednesday by Mr. J. V. Bullin (coroner).

Dr. P. D. Swinstead (pathologist) gave details of Mr. Barnes' injuries and said there was no alcohol present in the body. The cause of death was subdural haemorrhage as a result of a head injury.

Mr. Bullin adjourned the inquest until Tuesday,

Isle of Wight County Press - 11 March 1967

ACCIDENT VICTIM

Mrs. Beryl Maude Barnes, who was a passenger in her husband's car when it left the Military Road and overturned on Sunday week, died at the Royal I.W. Hospital, Ryde, on Thursday. Mr Bertram Barnes, of 11 Mill Street, Newport, a higher grade postman at Newport Head Post Office, died two hours after the accident.

An inquest on Mrs. Barnes has been adjourned by Mr. J. V. Bullin (coroner) until Monday.

Isle of Wight County Press - 18 March 1967

DOUBLE INQUEST AT NEWPORT

HUSBAND AND WIFE DIE AFTER ACCIDENT

A jury returned a verdict of accidental death at the inquest at County Hall, Newport, on Monday, on Mr. Bertram Maurice Barnes (53), postman, and Mrs Beryl Maude Barnes (50), his wife of 11 Mill Street, Newport.

Mr. Barnes died at the Royal I.W. County Hospital on Sunday February 26th soon after a car he was driving crash on the Military Road near Chale, and Mrs. Barnes died on March 9th.

Mr. J. V. Bullin, (coroner) said the inquest on Mr. Barnes was opened on March 1st. Dr P. D. Swinstead (pathologist) said death was caused by Subdural Haemorrhage due to a head injury.

Dr. Swinstead said he carried out a postmortem examination on Mrs. Barnes on March 9th. There was a fracture of the skull on the left hand side and of bronchial pneumonia. She did not regain consciousness after the crash. Death was due to bronchial pneumonia following head injuries.

Dr. Peter Hubert Walker Sheard, Stroud House, Stroud Road, Freshwater, said that at about 4 p.m. on the day of the accident he was driving along the Military Road towards Chale. About half-a-mile beyond Brighstone bridge he saw a green car 300-400 yards ahead of him. He was travelling at 45-50 m.p.h. and was closing on the car. He did not think this car was involved in the accident. Ahead of it he saw the rear of another car pull to its offside as if to overtake something in front and swing back across the road and on to the nearside verge before rolling over in the road, Two persons were thrown from the car and he gave medical assistance. A motor-cycle patrolman was on the scene within three minutes, also an A.A. patrolman, and the ambulance also arrived quickly.

Frederick Robert Oakley, of The Haven, Tennyson Road, Yarmouth, said he was driving his car along the Military Road towards Chale at a speed of 35-40 m.p.h. The road was clear ahead but three or four cars were following him. He was aware of something happening on his offside but his recollection was not clear. Then he saw a flash of blue in his wing mirror and a car went straight across in front of him. He thought it must have been going fast. The car hit the verge and turned over in the road and there was glass everywhere. He stopped immediately.

THREE CAR ABREAST

Judith Irene Ferguson, 8 Catherine Terrace, Hunnyhill. Newport, represented by Mr. A. J. M. Gale, said she was driving towards Chale at about 45 m.p.h. There were two cars in front of her. She overtook one car which left her behind a green car. There was nothing coming in the opposite direction. She looked in her mirror and as there was nothing there she indicated and drew level with the green car. She saw a blue car come flashing past on her offside, so the three car were abreast. Her speed was 40-50 m.p.h. The blue car went along the grass verge, and then came back straight across the front of her car and overturned. This car was travelling very fast, over 60 m.p.h.

In reply to Mr. P. Rolf (for personal representatives) she said she had been driving for six years. After overtaking the first car she pulled back to the correct side of the road. Before starting to overtake she looked in her mirror to see if there was anything behind. She could see a good distance and there was no sign of the blue car.

Jack Leonard Harvey, 39 Longmead Road, Ryde, said he was a passenger in the car driven by the last witness. After overtaking the first car Miss Ferguson indicated before starting to overtake the

second. He thought she carried on along the offside of the road. There was a distance of about 20 yards between the two cars she overtook.

P.C. P. J. D. Hillier said he examined the car driven by Mr. Barnes and found the rear tyres nearly devoid of tread and the track on the offside front wheel maladjusted. This bad track would not have any affect under normal conditions, but could in an emergency.

The coroner said Mr. Barnes obviously lost control and the car capsized. The jury might come to the conclusion that the speed at which the car was travelling was a contributory cause, and the track might also have the some effect.

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