

**Charles Frank Guy**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
12 November 1955**

**NEWPORT**

**Inquest Adjourned.**- The Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin) opened an inquest yesterday Charles Frank Guy, 40-years-old agricultural engineer, of 13 Pyle Street, who died at Whitecroft Hospital on Wednesday. After evidence of identification had been given by a brother, Mr. George Frederick Guy, of 14 Lugley Street, the Coroner adjourned the hearing for one month.

**Isle of Wight County Press 17 December 1955**

**NEWPORT BUSINESS MAN'S SUICIDE**

**DEATH DUE TO ASPIRIN POISONING**

How he spoke of taking a dose varying from 200 to 300 aspirins on the day before his death was described at the inquest conducted by the Coroner (Mr. J. V. Bullin) in Whitecroft Hospital on Friday week on Charles Frank Guy, aged 40, of 14 Lugley Street, Newport. The Coroner explained that the inquest, which he opened a month ago, was adjourned to await the result of a post mortem examination.

Dr. P. W. Swinstead (pathologist) said certain organs were sent for chemical analysis, and this revealed that they contained a lot of aspirin. The cause of death was aspirin poisoning.

Dr. J. J. Dowdall, of Bedford Lodge, Newport, gave evidence that Guy had been a patient of his since 1931. In January 1944, he was suffering from insomnia and nerves and was advised to enter Whitecroft as a voluntary patient. He did so, leaving hospital in March of the same year. He was quite well until October 7th this year when the same symptoms returned, and witness arranged for him to be seen at the clinic and to attend the hospital as an out-patient.

Dr. Dowdall continued that on November 8th he was summoned to the home of Guy, whom he found perspiring and vomiting. Guy told him he had taken 200 aspirins. - Replying to the Coroner, witness said that amount would be a lethal dose.

**COULD NOT SLEEP**

George Frederick Guy said he was the brother of the dead man, with whom he had been in partnership as agricultural engineers since 1950. Since witness returned from the forces in 1945 his brother had been in good health and not unduly depressed until October. He then complained that he could not sleep at nights, and went to see Dr. Dowdall, who arranged for him to visit Whitecroft. Witness drove his brother to the hospital where electrical treatment was advised. Witness said that his brother was definitely depressed, but after visiting the hospital he took it that his idea was to go home and try and pull himself together. On November 5th his brother did not feel too good, and asked witness to

telephone Whitecroft for advice. The advice was for his brother to enter hospital, but if he did not wish to do so electrical treatment might be arranged. His brother was too late for treatment that day.

Witness said that on November 6th his brother seemed a lot better, and did a job or two at home. He had a good sleep that night, and on the following day turned up for business and did a day's work. Next day he seemed to be in good spirits and declared that he was going out for a walk. Witness next saw him at about 4.30 or 5 p.m. when he looked ill and was vomiting. The doctor was sent for, and arranged for his admission to hospital, and witness drove him to Whitecroft at once.

### **NO WORRIES**

Witness, who told the Coroner that his brother had no business or financial worries and was interested in his work, identified a note produced as being in his brother's handwriting. He had no doubt, having heard the medical evidence and read the note, that his brother took his own life.

Dr. H. T. J. Hynes, medical officer in charge of the male wards at Whitecroft, said that Guy was admitted as a voluntary patient at 6.45 p.m. on November 8th, and told him that he had gone on to St. George's Down and had taken 300 aspirins. Witness detailed the treatment given, and said that afterwards the patient appeared more comfortable and seemed to settle down. At 10.20 his condition was satisfactory, but shortly before 5 a.m. it deteriorated, and he died while witness was with him.

Describing it as a sad story, the Coroner told Mr. Guy that his brother had obviously received the greatest care from him and from the doctors. He had no doubt that Mr. Guy deliberately took his own life. He recorded a verdict of suicide while the balance of mind was disturbed.

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