

Roland Logan

**Isle of Wight County Press
3 August 1929**

**NEWPORT STREET
FATALITY.**

Motor-Cyclist Killed

Mr. Roland Logan, aged 30, a married man with three young children, residing at 5 Town-lane, Newport, died in the County Hospital early on Sunday as the result of terrible injuries sustained on Saturday morning at the dangerous road junction at the bottom of Quay-street, Newport, in a collision between his motor-cycle and a heavy lorry proceeding along Sea-street. The circumstances under which the fatality occurred are explained in the inquest proceeding recorded below. The unfortunate occurrence caused widespread regret and sympathy in Newport and district, where the deceased young man was well known and much esteemed. For some years, since leaving the Royal Ulster Rifles, in which he was serving at Parkhurst, he had been employed as a plumber and water engineer by Mr. W. Jukes, of St. Thomas-square, who valued him highly as a capable and hard-working employee. Much of his work lay in the Calbourne and Shalfleet districts, where he was frequently engaged in attending to the water services controlled by the Rural District Council, and wherever he went he won the regard of everyone by his unfailing cheerfulness and courtesy. Just before his untimely end he had been recommended for appointment as a fireman in the borough brigade, and the recommendation would have come before the Town Council for adoption on Wednesday. He was a member of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows and of the Vectis Lodge R.A.O.B. The deepest sympathy is felt with his young widow, who is left with three little children.

THE INQUEST.

The Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the fatality at the Primitive Methodist School, Ryde, on Tuesday. Messrs. William Jukes and Sons, the deceased's employers, were represented by Mr. James Eldridge, Mr. R. V. Stokes, of Portsmouth, appeared for Mr. C. Cheek, the driver of the lorry, and Inspector Morrison represented the police. A jury was empanelled.

Frederick Edwin Harris, the deceased's father-in-law, residing at 6 Chapel-street, Newport, and employed by the Newport Corporation, identified the body as that of Roland Logan (30), of 5 Town-lane, Newport, a plumber who had been employed by Messrs. Jukes for some years. He had been driving for some years and witness should say he was acquainted with the roads of Newport. He had never had an accident before.

Mr. Eldridge: Was he a careful driver?—Witness: Yes, the most careful driver I have been with.—Q. He was not accustomed to driving fast?—No, sir.

Charles Henry Cheek, of Rowborough Farm, Carisbrooke, driver of the 4-ton lorry belonging to his brother at Chale, said he was driving along Sea-street on the morning in question, accompanied by Harry Whitewood, who was sitting on his left and acting as his mate. Witness blew his horn and proceeded straight through, keeping to his left. He did not hear anything. The motor-cycle came from the direction

of the quay; it struck his starting-handle and dumb-iron. Witness first saw the deceased when he was about 2ft to 3ft. in front of him. He immediately applied his brakes and pulled up in about the length of the lorry. Deceased did not sound his horn and witness could not estimate the speed at which he was travelling. Witness was travelling at about eight miles an hour. Deceased might have been travelling fairly fast to climb the incline of Quay-street. Witness had never had an accident before; he had been driving this lorry for five years and had driven for 15 years.

In reply to Mr. Eldridge witness said his lorry was 6ft. 5in. in width.—Q. Sea-street is about 20ft. wide?—It may be.—Q. Does your lorry make a certain amount of noise?—No, it is very quiet. He did not see another motor-cycle in front. There were no other vehicles in Sea-street at the time.—Q. Deceased would not be able to see you any sooner than you saw him?—No, sir.

Witness agreed with Mr. Stokes that his lorry was in good condition and that he was driving with care.—By Inspector Morrison: If deceased had seen him soon enough he should have gone behind the lorry.

The Coroner said they had no evidence as to the speed at which the cyclist was travelling. His own opinion was that the deceased thought it possible there was no other vehicle there at the time.

The Foreman: Did Mr. Cheek sound his horn?—Witness: Yes

It was stated in reply to questions that deceased was riding a 2 3/4-h.p. Triumph motor-cycle, which was found in second gear.

Dr. Mary Hamilton, house surgeon at the County Hospital, Ryde, said deceased was admitted to that hospital at about 11 o'clock on Saturday morning. He had a fracture at the base of the skull of a serious character and a compound fracture of the left leg. There were no other injuries, but these were consistent with the accident. He was in a state of complete unconsciousness and died on Sunday morning at 2.20.

Harry Whitewood, of 3 Clarence-terrace, Carisbrooke, labourer in the employ of Mr. Thomas Cheek, of Chale Abbey, Ventnor, said he was acting as mate to the driver of the lorry. They were travelling at from 8 to 10 miles an hour. He gave corroborative evidence.

James Alfred Quarrier, St. John's-place, Newport, commercial traveller, stated that he left Messrs. Crouchers' office on Saturday morning at about 10.15. He saw the lorry and heard a crash. On turning round he saw what had happened. He went and got Dr. Foster. Witness never heard a warning, but he would not say that one was not given. The lorry was on the left-hand side of the road and was going at from 8 to 10 miles an hour. It was one of the most dangerous corners in Newport.

By Mr. Eldridge: He had seen the deceased cycling and he was a most careful driver.

Charles Bradley, of 21 Crocker-street, Newport, storeman at Crouchers, said he heard a crash and found the accident had happened. It was a dangerous corner and should be approached with considerable care.

The Coroner said unfortunately the police had been unable to find a witness to speak as to the speed of the cyclist. He had no objection to the next witness being called, but saw no reason for it.—Mr. Eldridge asked that he should be sworn.

Gilbert Kellaway, water inspector, employed by the Newport Corporation, stated that at 9.45 on Saturday morning he met deceased by arrangement on Newport Quay. Witness and deceased had motor-cycles and witness crossed Quay-street first expecting deceased to follow. He turned round and saw what

had happened. He did not think deceased would have increased his speed to take the incline. He was very careful for a long time over his cycle and that was why he went slowly.

The Coroner, in summing-up, said they had evidence of the speed of the lorry, but none on the other side. He was afraid that in this case deceased took the corner faster than he usually did. It seemed to him that it should be the first duty of anybody coming from that bridge to see if anyone was coming along Sea-street. He could not help feeling that the poor fellow paid the penalty for not exercising enough care on this occasion.

The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death with no blame attaching to anyone”.

Sympathy with the relatives and regret was expressed by the coroner, solicitors, and jury at the close of the proceedings.

The funeral took place on Wednesday amidst many signs of the deep regret and sympathy the sad fatality aroused. A service was held at St. Thomas’s Church and the interment followed at the Fairlee-road Cemetery. The Vicar (Canon C. H. Thomson) officiated, assisted by the Rev. C. E. Paterson (vicar of Holy Trinity, Cowes), who, as Grand Provincial Chaplain of the R.A.O.B. in the Island, read the Buffaloes’ burial office at the graveside, while about a dozen Buffaloes from the Vectis, Beatrice, Riley, and Carisbrooke Lodges stood around the grave with linked hands. Deceased was a member of the Vectis Lodge.

The family mourners were the widow, Messrs. Robert, Edward, and Walter Logan (brothers, the two last-named from Cork), Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Harris, (the widow’s parents), Mrs. R. Logan (sister-in-law), Mr. W. Harris (brother-in-law), Miss C. Logan (niece), Mrs. Newman, Messrs. H. and J. Harris, and Mrs. E. Harris. Amongst those also attending were Mr. W. Jukes (also representing his father) and the following fellow employees: Messrs. E. Bowles, S. Moth, F. Osborne, C. Fletcher, and B. Jukes; Mr. W. Merwood (chief sanitary and water inspector of the Rural District Council), Capt. P. E. Shields, M.C. (chief officer of the Fire Brigade), Messrs. T. P. Whiston, secretary, and J. W. Way (representing the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows), Capt. A. B. Cooke (representing the Shalfleet Parochial Committee), Mr. W. Barton (Shalfleet), Mr. G. W. Dore (Calbourne), Mr. F. T. Cheek (Chale Abbey), Mrs. Jukes, the Misses Jukes and Saint, and many other friends.

Mrs. Logan wishes to thank the doctors who attended her husband at the time of the accident, the Staff of the County Hospital for their kind attention, and friends for sympathy and generous assistance; also all those who sent floral tributes.

Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son ably arranged the funeral.

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