

**Frederick Mew**

**Portsmouth Evening News - Tuesday 04 April 1905**

**RYDE.**

**TELEPHONE MAN'S FATAL FALL.**

The Coroner for the Island (Mr. F. A. Joyce) held an inquest at the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Monday afternoon, into the death of Fred Mew, of 52, Sea-street, Newport, foreman in the employ of the National Telephone Company, who died at the Infirmary on Friday last, as the result of a fall from a ladder in the grounds of Caversham House, Dover-street, Ryde. - Mr. A.T. Ivens appeared for the deceased's family, and Mr. Thirkell watched the case for the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd. - The Coroner informed the jury that there would have to be an adjournment, at the request of the Inspector of Factories and Workshops. - Frank Mew, 18, Albert-street, Newport, brother of deceased, identified the body, and said deceased had been five or six years in the employ of the Telephone Company. He had been coming to work at Ryde daily. - Harry Baker, 17, Pitt-street, Swanmore, in the employ of the Telephone Company, said he and deceased were employed at Caversham House, on Friday afternoon, putting "deadeners" to deaden the sound of the wire. They had a 25 rung ladder, which they had borrowed from the house. Deceased was up the ladder and had hold of an "eye-spike," which was driven into the wall, to steady himself. This drew out, and deceased fell backwards off the ladder, first pitching on witness's shoulder and then falling on the garden path, striking his head against the brick edge of the garden path. Witness, who was taking the cable to the deceased, had his left foot on the ladder. - The inquiry was here adjourned for a week.

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**Hampshire Advertiser – Saturday 08 April 1905**

**NEWPORT.**

The funeral of the victim of the recent telephone accident at Ryde, Frederick Mew, of Sea-street, Newport, took place at Newport Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, preceded by a service at St. Thomas's Church. There were a large number of floral souvenirs.

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**Portsmouth Evening News - Tuesday 11 April 1905**

**ISLE OF WIGHT.**

**RYDE.**

**THE FATAL FALL AT RYDE.**

The Deputy Coroner for the Island (Mr. F. A. Joyce) held an adjourned inquest at the Town Hall on Monday afternoon into the death of Fred Mew, foreman in the employ of the National Telephone Company, of 52, Sea-street, Newport, who met with his death on March 31st while fixing a "deadener" to the wall of Caversham House, Dover-street, Ryde. - Mr. W.F.E. Seymour, H.M. Inspector of Factories, was present. - Mr. Ivens appeared for the friends of the deceased man, Mr. Thirkell for the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd., and Mr. H.C. Damant for the Telephone Company. - Mr. Damant expressed the regret of the Company that one who had been so satisfactory a servant had met with his death in this way. - Harry Baker, who was with the deceased at the time of the accident, was recalled. He said they borrowed a ladder for use from the gardener at the house. Deceased was an experienced man at the work. He was five rungs down the ladder when he

fell. - By Mr. Ivens: They were about to take a ladder from their store when a man named Rayner, in the employ of the Company, said there was one at the house. =By Mr. Damant: Deceased was in charge of the job. The ladder was long enough for the work they had to do. - By Mr. Thirkell: Deceased held the eye spike to take his weight so that witness might go up with the cable. He said "Wait a moment. This ladder is rather slight. I will ease the weight of it, Harry." - Dr. A. B. Waller, House Surgeon at the Infirmary, stated that deceased died in less than an hour after his arrival at the institution. From a post mortem he found a fracture right across the middle of the base of the skull. - Mr. Carey, Manager of the Telephone Company, also gave evidence. He said they had ladders 60 feet long at their store. - The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," but expressed the opinion that the eye spike should have been driven further into the wall.

*Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2018*

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