

Albert Read

**Isle of Wight County Press
21 May 1938**

NEWPORT

Died at Southampton.—Mr. Albert Read, aged 46, of 6 Highfield-road, Newport, died in the South Hants Hospital at Southampton on Tuesday, following injuries received in an accident at the quay, Southampton, on the previous Tuesday. Read was mate on the motor vessel Fox, owned by Crouchers, Ltd., of Newport, and during the unloading operations he was struck by a sack when a sling broke, receiving injuries to his back and left hip. He was taken to hospital, where he made good progress for a time, but died following a sudden relapse. A single man, the deceased had been in the employ of Messrs. Crouchers since 1923, and sympathy is felt with his relatives in the sad occurrence. An inquest will be held by the Southampton Coroner today (Saturday).

**Isle of Wight County Press
28 May 1938**

NEWPORT MAN DIES AT SOUTHAMPTON

The inquest on Mr. Albert Edward Read, of 6 Highfield-road, Newport, whose death at the Royal South Hants Hospital on May 17th was briefly reported last week, was opened on Saturday at Southampton by Mr. A. L. Locke, the Deputy Borough Coroner. It was stated that the inquest could not be concluded that day as the extensive inquiries which had to be made were not complete.

Mr. Hugh Clement McMaster, of 6 Highfield-road, Newport, deposed that Read, his brother-in-law, told him at the hospital that the sling they were using on the derrick of the ship broke while they were loading sacks of meal. The load struck him and jammed him against the coaming of the vessel.

Dr. C. H. Comrie, house surgeon at the hospital, said the man was admitted on May 10th with severe injuries to the lower part of his back. He died on May 17th. Witness had made a post-mortem examination, which revealed that death was due to general peritonitis.

At this stage the inquest was adjourned until Thursday.

The Adjourned Inquest.

A verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury when the inquest was concluded by the Southampton Deputy Borough Coroner (Mr. A. L. Locke) at the Law Courts on Thursday.

Mr. B. L. Bemridge appeared on behalf of deceased's employers, Mr. J. Kean on behalf of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr. R. G. Ward of the Home Office, attended.

Alfred Alexander Chafe, of 2 Broad-lane, High-street, Southampton, stated that on May 10th, at about 5.30 p.m., he was on the Town Quay assisting to load sacks of meal on to the motor vessel Fox. The sacks were placed in a rope sling, the end of the sling was attached to the hook on the ship's derrick, and the sacks were hauled on to the ship by means of the derrick. When the last slingful to be transferred was

raised over the ship the rope broke and the sacks fell. After the fall he saw deceased lying on the deck near the hatchway.—In reply to Mr. Bemridge, witness agreed that it was the practice of all quay workers to cut any ropes in which they saw a flaw.

Arthur Wallace Gustar, of Beach-road, Newport, said he was the captain of the Fox, and was in charge on May 10th. Read had been mate on the vessel for about 4 years, and was an experienced hand. It was about middle tide and there was a drop of about 15ft. from the edge of the quay to the top of the vessel. The weight of the sacks of meal in the sling at the time of the accident was 7 cwt. He identified the rope produced as that used as the sling at the time of the accident. It had broken at the splice. There was more than one sling in use. The previous week he made an inspection of all the gear. When the rope broke the whole of the load fell into the ship's hold, but he did not see Read hit. Read's duty was to store the load in the hold.—Answering a jurymen, witness said the sling produced would be capable of taking a ton if it was in good condition.

Andrew Smith, of 18 Little London, Newport, engineer on the Fox, said he saw the rope break and the bags fall into the hold, where deceased was standing on the other sacks. He saw Read try to avoid the falling bags, and he had just got one leg over the side of the hatch when he was struck and jammed down on the top of the hatch. If he had not attempted to get out he would still have been hit by the bags.

The Funeral

took place on Saturday, the first part of the service being at St. Paul's Church, Newport. The Rev. H. G. Kelsey (vicar) officiated, and in a tribute to the deceased, expressed the sincere sympathy felt by all in the tragic circumstances of his death. The mourners were Mr. J. Read (brother), Mrs. Gallop, Mrs. Connelly, and Mrs. McMaster (sisters), Mr. H. McMaster (brother-in-law), Mr. F. Spanner (uncle), and Master H. McMaster (nephew). Deceased was very popular amongst his workmates, and the large number who walked in the procession to the church and to Newport Cemetery, where the interment took place, testified to the esteem in which he was held. Nearly 50 employees of Messrs. Crouchers, Ltd., were present, and the firm was officially represented by Mr. P. J. Croucher and Mr. J. F. Launder. Four workmates (Messrs. B. Morris, T. Leigh, A. Appleton, and L. Church) acted as bearers, and the large number of floral tributes placed on the grave included those from the employees at Southampton, his mates on the Fox, the staff at Newport, neighbours in Highfield-road, and the Eagle Dart Club.

Mrs. McMaster, sister of the late Edward Read, wishes to thank relatives, workmates, and neighbours of Highfield-road for beautiful flowers sent. Please accept this as the only information.

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