

Denys William White

**Isle of Wight County Press
21 August 1948**

WOOTTON BRIDGE FATALITY
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**NEWPORT MOTOR CYCLIST
DIES FROM INJURIES**

On Saturday, at the County Hospital, the Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. Webster) opened an inquest on Denys William White, aged 23, of 92 Pyle Street, Newport, who died at the hospital on Thursday week from injuries received when his motor-cycle was in collision at Wootton Bridge on the previous Sunday with the rear of a milk lorry driven by Ronald Leslie Johnstone, of 11 Field Place, Newport, and owned by Messrs. P. R. Buckingham Ltd, of 12 Clifford Street, Newport.

Deceased's father, William Charles White, said his son was a motor mechanic. He had been driving ever since he was old enough to have a license and had never previously had an accident. The machine his son was riding on the day of the accident was not quite run-in and was mechanically in perfect order. The inquiry was adjourned until yesterday (Friday) afternoon.

Yesterday (Friday) the inquest was resumed with the assistance of a jury, of which Mr. A. J. Shiner was the foreman. — The driver of the lorry, Ronald L. Johnstone, said he was driving down Hight St., Wootton, at about 20 miles an hour and on passing the turning into New Road saw two cars parked on the near side. To allow a car coming in the opposite direction to pass he pulled in behind the lower car. Starting off again he had reached a speed of between 5 and 10 miles an hour and gave a hand signal that he was turning left to the entrance to the Sloop Inn. Halfway into the turning he felt a slight bump at the rear of the lorry and stopped in less than two feet. Owing to the length of the lorry he had to take a wide sweep to get into the side turning. Before taking the turn he looked into his mirror and saw nothing behind him. He would not if they were close up on his near side, neither did he think they would see his signal if only a short distance away.—Reply to Mr. C. Merrill (representing the relatives) witness agreed that when he asked two people if they saw the accident one of them replied "You never gave the chap a chance".

—P. C. Adams said the width of the road was 25ft. 6in.; that of the side turning 25ft. and the lorry was projecting into the main road 10ft. 6in.

—Thomas Webb, of Stonebridge Park, London, who was waiting for a bus, said he saw a motor-cycle rapidly approaching the lorry as it drew to the off side, taking up two-thirds of the road. He could see the motor-cyclist could not possibly pass on the near side. He heard a crash and then saw the cycle wobble out from the tail of the lorry and spill its rider. He was unable to say whether the lorry driver gave a signal.—Douglas Archie Bennett, the pillion rider, said they travelled down the hill at 20-25 miles an hour and about half-way down saw the lorry 50 yds. away. It swerved to its off side and then turned sharply into the Sloop entrance. Everything happened so quickly that he could not say at what speed they were going when the accident happened.

Medical evidence showed that death was due to a severe rupture of the spleen. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and exonerated the lorry driver.

The Funeral

Mr. White, who during the war was a dispatch rider in the Newport section of the N.F.S. and later served in the Fleet Air Arm in Ceylon, was employed after demobilisation by Messrs. Reg. Wells, Ltd. Recently he commenced in business on his own account as a dealer in cars and motor-cycles. He was a popular member of the I.W. Motor-Cycle Club and of the British Legion. The funeral service on Tuesday at St. Thomas's Church was conducted by Canon W. B. Hogg, the interment being at Newport Cemetery. The family mourners were Mr. W. White (father), Mrs. D. Hart (aunt, representing Mrs. White, mother, who was unable to attend through illness), Messrs. R. and L. White (brothers), Mr. W. C. White and Mr. and Mrs. E. Cook (grandparents), Miss A. White, Mr. and Mrs. C. Dolkin, and Mrs. V. Gillingham (aunts and uncle). Among those also present were Mr. E. F. Millgate (representing the British Legion) and Mr. H. Hayles (representing the Motor-Cycle Club). The large number of floral tributes included those from the I.W. Motor-Cycle Club; directors and staff of Messrs. Reg. Wells, Ltd.; part-time N.F.S. (Newport section); the British Legion; and Messrs. Buckingham and staff, Newport. Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

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