

## **Peter Woodford**

**Isle of Wight County Press 31 August 1946**

### **FATAL ACCIDENT ON NEWPORT-RYDE ROAD.**

#### **VICTIM DIES IN HOSPITAL.**

A fatal accident occurred late on Sunday night on the Racecourse, on the main Newport-Ryde road, when a pedestrian walking towards Newport was knocked down by a motor-cyclist in the same direction. The pedestrian was Mr. Peter Woodford, aged 19, of 1 Royal Exchange, Newport, and the motor-cyclist, Mr. Percy Radford, of Daveron Villa, Clatterford-road, Carisbrooke. Both were taken to the County Hospital, Ryde, in the Newport Borough ambulance. Woodford was so badly injured that he died in the early hours of Monday. Radford received head and facial injuries and was detained. Mr. Ernest Clay, of 8 Royal Exchange, Newport, who was walking with Woodford at the time was unhurt.

On Tuesday at the County Hospital, the Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. Webster) opened the inquest. Mr. J. P. Darch was present on behalf of Mr. Radford, driver of the motor-cycle, and P.S. Maybury represented the police.

Percy Victor Woodford, motor driver, of 1 Royal Exchange, Newport, said his son, aged 19, was employed as a handyman at the Bugle Hotel, Newport. As a boy he suffered from rheumatic fever, which left him with valvular disease of the heart, but he was quite active.

Dr. Samuel W. Wolfe, house surgeon at the County Hospital, said Woodford was admitted at 11.45 p.m. on Sunday. He was deeply unconscious and his breath smelt slightly of alcohol. He found he was suffering from head injuries, including a large bruise on the right side of the back of the head, with a small laceration in the same area. There was also a simple fracture of the left ankle. An X-ray examination of the skull revealed no fracture. He did not regain consciousness and died at 4.30 the following morning, death being due in his opinion to shock and laceration of the brain due to head injury.

On hearing that the condition of the motor-cyclist was fairly satisfactory the Coroner adjourned the inquest until such time as he was fit to give evidence.

Mr. Darch, on behalf of Radford, the Coroner, and P.S. Maybury expressed deep sympathy with the relatives.

The funeral of Mr. Woodford took place at St. Paul's Church, Newport, on Thursday, the Vicar (the Rev. H. G. Kelsey) officiating. The family mourners were Mr. P. Woodford (father), Lce.-Corpl. P. G. Woodford, Parachute Regt., and Mr. R. Woodford (brothers), Mr. and Mrs. P. Nolan (brother-in-law and sister), Miss Barbara Woodford (sister), Mr. C. Woodford and Mr. W. Glaire (uncles), Mrs. D. Hollis (aunt), and Mr. and Mrs. C. Salter (grandparents). Others present included Mr. E. Clay, Miss M. Maxwell, Miss D. Chevalier, Mrs. W. K. Taylor,

Miss P. Basterfield, Mrs. L. Hallett, and Mrs. E. McNeill (representing the staff of the Bugle Hotel), Mrs. H. Howard, and Master John Rees.

The arrangements were made by Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son.----Mr. Woodford and family wish to thank relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy in their great loss, also the police for their kind assistance and help. Please accept this, the only intimation.

**Isle of Wight County Press 14 September 1946**

**The Racecourse Fatality.**

**MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE PREFERRED.**

The adjourned inquest on Peter Woodford, aged 19, of 1 Royal Exchange, Newport, who received fatal injuries when involved in an accident with a motor-cycle ridden by Percy Radford, of Daveron Villa, Clatterford-road, Carisbrooke, on the Racecourse on the main Newport-Ryde road on August 25<sup>th</sup>, was held in the Guildhall, Newport, on Wednesday. The Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. Webster) read a letter from the police stating that proceedings were being instituted against Radford on a charge of manslaughter. He said that it was his duty to adjourn the inquest until after the manslaughter charge had been heard.

Evidence of identification was given by Percy Victor Woodford, father of the victim, and Dr. Samuel W. Wolfe, house surgeon at the County Hospital, stated that death was due to shock and laceration of the brain from a head injury. Radford was represented by Mr. A. R. Lightfoot.

After the inquest Radford appeared before the Mayor (Ald. H. Whitehead) at an Occasional Court at the Headquarters Police-station, Newport, on a charge of manslaughter. Only evidence of arrest was given, and accused was remanded to appear before the Newport Borough Magistrates on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, bail being allowed.

**Isle of Wight County Press 28 September 1946**

**NEWPORT MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE DISMISSED.**

**CONVICTION ON ALTERNATIVE SUMMONS.**

After a sitting which lasted well into the afternoon, the justices at the Newport Borough Petty Sessions on Monday dismissed a charge of manslaughter against Percy Edward Radford, aged 28, motor mechanic, of Daveron Villa, Clatterford-road, Carisbrooke. A summons for having driven in a dangerous manner was also dismissed, but a conviction was recorded on a summons for driving without due care and attention. Radford being fined £5

and ordered to pay £5 5s. Costs, and his licence was endorsed. The Mayor (Ald. H. Whitehead) presided.

The charges resulted from an accident on the Racecourse on the main Ryde-Newport road on the night of August 25<sup>th</sup>, when two youths were knocked down by a motor-cycle ridden by the accused. One of them, Peter Charles Woodford, aged 19, of 1 Royal Exchange, Newport, received injuries from which he died the next morning at the County Hospital; the other, Ernest William Clay, of 8 Royal Exchange, was only slightly injured. Radford was himself detained in hospital suffering from concussion, and, it was revealed, was not told of the fatality until a week later.

*(full report not transcribed)*

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