

**Alfred Arnold**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
10 August 1935**

**WHIPPINGHAM ROAD FATALITY**

**JURY'S VERDICT AND RIDER.**

The Acting Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at Ryde, on Saturday, on the body of Alfred Arnold, aged 51, a sheet metal worker, of 3 Green-street, Newport, who died at the County Hospital on Wednesday week as the result of a collision with a motor-cyclist at Whippingham two days previously. Mr. C. Merrill appeared for the deceased's family and Inspector H. Randall represented the police. Mr. V. Turner was foreman of the jury.

Mrs. Elsie Edith Arnold, the widow, said her husband had been in the habit of cycling to and from work and used the Alverstone road. He had good hearing and eyesight, was a temperate man, and never smoked. He had worked at Cowes since just after the war. He was an experienced cyclist and always rode slowly.

Frank Thomas Brading, on 10 Dover-street, Ryde, deposed that he was riding his pedal cycle from Ryde to East Cowes, travelling on his near side of the road, at about 7.30 a.m., when some 100 yards from the cross-roads a motor-cycle passed him on his right-hand side going in the same direction as himself. It was travelling at from 30 to 33 miles an hour, and he was travelling at from 10 to 15 miles an hour. He was not near enough to see the collision, but after he had proceeded 50 yards he heard the sound of an impact and hastened to the cross-roads. He saw the motor-cycle had skidded in the road. The driver had got up and was rubbing his hands. He asked witness to look after the fellows in the road while he went to the farm to get water to wash his hands. The pillion rider was lying on the road. The motor-cyclist then walked up the road and a car came along and went to Cowes for a doctor.—By Inspector Randall: The motor-cyclist did not appear to reduce speed and he did not hear him sound his horn. Witness was going from a minor to major road and decreased from a major to a minor road. According to the marks on the road if the deceased had travelled another four or five feet he would have been clear of the corner.—Mr. Merrill: Actually you could not say that the motor-cyclist did not slow down.—He did not appear to do so.—The driver of the motor-cycle: Are you certain about my speed?—I have been motor-cycling for 10 years and I am quite sure of my estimate of the speed.

P.C. Chandler stated that on arriving at the scene he saw that there had been a collision between a motor-cyclist and pillion rider and a pedal cyclist. Deceased was lying unconscious on the side of the road, and on the ground further up the East Cowes road was the pillion rider. Fry was walking about in a dazed condition with his hands grazed and cut. The pedal cyclist was using the Alverstone-road and the motor-cyclist the East Cowes road. There was a skid mark 35 ft. up the latter road from the point of impact. He pointed out to Fry that he was on the wrong side of the road and he made no reply. He was attended by Dr. Kennedy, who sent him to Ryde in a car. Visibility and the road surface were good. There was a clear view of about 86 ft. Anyone walking could see it.—The Foreman: But the motor-cyclist would be lower?—By Mr. Merrill: The motor-cyclist was not in a built-up area and therefore there was no speed limit. The motor-cycle's brakes were good. The pedal cycle was hit broadside on its off side.

Dr. J. R. McElroy, house surgeon at the County Hospital, said deceased was admitted at 9.30 that morning. He had a scalp wound at the back of the head, but there was no apparent fracture. The ribs on the right side of the chest were crushed in and broken, and had perforated the right lung. Deceased died

as a result of the injuries at 12.10 a.m. on July 31st.—By Inspector Randall: His injuries were consistent with a machine hitting him while travelling 30 miles an hour, but he could not judge of the speed by the injuries.

James Edgar Fry, of Oakgreen Villa, St. John's-hill, Ryde, bricklayer employed at East Cowes, told the coroner and jury that he left his home about 6.50 a.m. to go to East Cowes carrying Albert Dore, of Oakfield, as his pillion passenger. The latter was ill and unable to attend those proceedings. He had been travelling that road for a fortnight with Dore as his passenger. Before he arrived where the accident occurred he sounded his horn two or three times and began to sound it when about 18 yards away from the corner. He was travelling at about 12 miles an hour on the corner, and when he passed the pedal cyclist Brading his speed was about 20 miles an hour. He heard no response to his horn and continued to go on over the cross-roads. He reduced speed near the sign post. He first saw the deceased about 12 yards ahead. He was on his proper side and appeared to be going on the same road as witness. The skid marks on the road were only for a distance of 25ft.—Inspector Randall: I measured them myself: they were 35 ft.—By Mr. Merrill: He had been driving a motor-cycle off and on for eight years.—Q. If the cyclist had put out his hand could you have pulled up?—Yes, easily.

The jury retired and on their return the Foreman said they were agreed that deceased died from injuries sustained in the accident. They wished to add a rider that they did not think the motor-cyclist exercised sufficient care.—The Coroner: You do not attach criminal responsibility to him?—The Foreman: No, sir.—The jury gave their fees to the widow, with whom they expressed sympathy.

## THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place at Newport on Saturday amid many signs of respect and sympathy. The first part of the service was at the Unitarian Church, the Rev. Gordon Cooper officiating. The hymns "Lead kindly light" and "Abide with me" were sung, with Mr. G. Kirkup at the organ. The minister made a reference to deceased's tragic passing and expressed deep sympathy with the widow and relatives. Four of the deceased's relatives, Messrs. Tozer, F. Long, T. Sharp, and H. Lines acted as bearers, and large numbers of his fellow employees walked in procession to St. Paul's Cemetery, where the interment took place.

The mourners were Mrs. Arnold (widow), Mr. L. Arnold (son), and the Misses A., W., and P. Arnold (daughters), Mrs. Arnold (mother), Messrs. B. and N. Arnold (brothers), Mrs. Holder and Mrs. Henderson (sisters), Mrs. Woodmore (mother-in-law), Messrs. Henderson, Cheverton, and W. Woodmore, and Mrs. Grimes, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Gray, and Miss Woodmore (brothers and sisters-in-law).

The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

Mrs. Arnold and the members of the family wish to thank Drs. Hartill and Kennedy and also the medical and nursing staff at the County Hospital for their care and attention, and all neighbours, friends, and fellow workers for messages of sympathy, beautiful floral tributes, and kind assistance in their sad and sudden bereavement.

*Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2020*  
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>