

INQUEST AT RYDE

On Wednesday afternoon the Deputy coroner (Mr. F. A. JOYCE), sitting without a Jury, held an inquest at the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom concerning the death of **Maurice Frank BULL**, aged 23, a porter at the Royal Esplanade Hotel, who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning.

Will James BULL, dairyman, No. 1, Butts Road, Haylands, the father of the deceased, said he last saw his son alive on Sunday, the 10th inst., when they went to Portsmouth and back. Deceased seemed to be in his usual health. Witness had never known him to have fits.

James HOUNSLOW, second porter at the hotel, said he and deceased went to bed about 11 o'clock on Monday night. They occupied the same room, but had separate beds. The next morning about 6.30 he called the deceased, but received no reply. He switched the light on, and found the deceased lying face downwards in the middle of the pillow. He was dead. Witness heard no sound during the night. About two months ago witness was awakened about 3 o'clock by the deceased making a great noise, and on going to him he found him foaming at the mouth. The next morning when he told deceased about it he said he must have been dreaming.

By the Chief Constable (Mr. C. GREENSTREET): The kitchen porter told him that morning that deceased had informed him that he had fits while in the Army when in India.

Dr J. R. PRIDMORE said he saw the body as described by the last witness. Death in his opinion had taken place some hours. The colour of his face pointed to suffocation, and a post-mortem examination had confirmed that view. It was probably due to an epileptic fit.

Verdict was returned accordingly.
