

BIRTH: 1929 Ryde, IW. (IW Registrars ref: R87/E46)

Edgar George LININGTON

Mother's maiden name: BARTON.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday Aug 17th 1935, page 3.

ANOTHER CASUALTY OF THE STREETS

The recent heavy toll of life on the Island roads was increased at Ryde on Monday, when the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. LINNINGTON, of 44 Prince-street, was darkened by the death of their little son, **Edgar George**, who passed away a few hours after admission to the County Hospital with serious head injuries. The little chap was knocked down by a motor-car in the front of which he ran from behind a stationary lorry in St. John's-road. The driver of the car was Sir Ralph GORE, Bt., the well known amateur helmsman, who was on his way to a yachting fixture at Southsea and was greatly distressed at the sad tragedy.

On Wednesday, at the High-street Methodist School, the Deputy Coroner (F. A. JOYCE, Esq.), with a jury, held an enquiry into the circumstances.

Edgar Henry LINNINGTON, father of the boy, said his son had been in the habit of going to his grandfather's in Castle-street to go out in his boat. He crossed St. John's-road every day. At 9.30 on Monday morning, while witness was working at Bembridge, he received a telephone message as a result of which he went to the County Hospital where he saw his son unconscious and remained with him until he died.

William HICKMAN, painter, of 122 Arthur-street, Ryde, said he was walking down St. John's-road at about 9.30 on Monday and saw a motor-car coming up the hill at a normal speed. There was a stationary vehicle at Prince-street corner. Witness caught sight of a child standing on the kerb at the back of that vehicle, and the next thing he saw was the child dashing across the road. The stationary vehicle obscured his view of the accident, but he heard the impact and ran to where the child lay in the road. He picked him up and saw that he was badly injured, and the owner of the car conveyed the child to hospital.

Ralph Arthur LETCH, a student, of St. Alban's, Herts, staying on holiday at Ryde School, said he was walking down St. John's-road and saw a large lorry stationary close to the kerb near the corner of Prince-street. He then saw a small boy run from behind the lorry across the road and a car struck the child, who swung round and fell. The driver stopped immediately. In his opinion the car was travelling at a reasonable speed.

P.C. HODGES said he saw the car coming up the hill on its correct side at a speed of about 15 miles an hour. When about opposite Salter's Yard the child rushed across the road from behind the lorry. It met the car and was thrown to the ground. He heard the driver exclaim "Oh," and pull up at once. He rendered assistance and the driver took the child to hospital. On the near side of the front wheel was a piece of flesh, which he

thought was where the child's head struck the car. At that point the road was only 17ft.4in. wide and it was impossible for the driver to have seen the child run out.

Dr. John Richard MCELROY, house surgeon at the County Hospital, said the boy was admitted unconscious and died two hours afterwards from shock and hemorrhage following a fracture to the base of the skull.

Ralph St. George GORE, Bt., of Watch House, Bembridge, said he was driving his Rolls-Royce car towards the top of St. John's-road, travelling at a speed of 18 miles an hour. As he approached Prince-street he saw a large lorry stationary on the near side, and was passing it when he heard a noise as if something had struck the near side of his car. He never saw the child and the only intimation he had was the noise. He stopped dead and on getting out saw a man run to the car and pick up the boy from the road. He did not think the front wheel of his car went over the boy.

The Coroner told the jury that he did not think they would have any hesitation in coming to their verdict. There was an abundance of evidence that the driver of the car was not going at an unreasonable speed.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and attached no blame to the driver---The foreman expressed deep sympathy with the father, to whom he handed the jury's fees—Sir Ralph GORE also expressed deep sympathy with the parents and said he appreciated the efficient way in which the witness HICKMAN helped the child.
