

MYSTERIOUS DEATH.---About half-past 5 o'clock on Thursday morning, the body of a Coastguardsman, named Michael COGLIN, was found dead on his beat between Ryde and Spring Vale. Mr. BARROW was sent for, and on his advice the body was conveyed to the Coastguard station at Ryde, where an inquest will be held this day (Friday). Deceased, who was last seen alive about 3 o'clock on Thursday morning, leaves a wife and two children.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A COASTGUARDSMAN

The inquest on the body of **Michael COGHLAN**, whose sudden death we announced last week, was held at the Coastguard Station, Ryde, on Friday afternoon, before F. BLAKE, esq., deputy-coroner of the Isle of Wight. The evidence adduced was as follows:

James Charles WAY deposed that he was a Coastguardsman stationed at Sea View, and knew deceased, who had been in the service for about four years, and was stationed at Ryde. Witness saw deceased alive last about 3 o'clock on Thursday morning, at the turnstile near Sea View. Deceased then complained of being unwell with a dreadful pain in his chest, and said he had fainted during the night. Deceased said two women passed him who he asked to get him some water, but, being afraid of him, they went on. Two soldiers, who came along afterwards, he also asked to bring him water, and they said they would but never returned with it. Deceased also said he had seen the chief officer, Mr. JEFFERY, and witness told him the best thing he could do was to go home, and deceased got up and went away towards Ryde, saying "Charlie, this is too long hours---from 9 o'clock." He had always considered deceased to be of good health. Deceased did not complain of any ill-usage, and witness did not believe he had been injured by smugglers or other persons during the night.

James GRIMES said he was a greengrocer at Sea View, and went from that place to Haylands about 5 o'clock on Thursday morning. On his way he saw a man, as he thought asleep, on the Saltern duver, but did not know it was a Coastguardsman. Going along, he met Mr. MOORMAN, and returned with him to where the man lay. Not liking his looks, he stooped down and found the deceased, dead, and cold. They then sent on Mr. MOORMAN's son, who was with his father, to the Coastguard station, but did not touch the body. There were no marks of a struggle where the body lay, but it seemed as if deceased had fallen there and not moved afterwards.

Mr. George JEFFERY deposed that he was the chief officer of the Coastguard, stationed at Ryde, deceased being a boatman in the service, which he entered on May 10th 1871. Witness believed deceased's health had been good since he had been in the service, his age being 37 years and 4 months. Deceased was told off duty with the other men at 8.15 on Wednesday night, his hours being from 9 till 4 the following morning. Witness went on duty and met the chief boatman at Sea View. On their return to Spring Vale, two young gentlemen accosted them and said one of his men was ill and sitting under the wall. That was just after 11 o'clock, and they hurried on and found deceased sitting under the wall near Spring Vale. Deceased said he had been very poorly, but could not say what was the matter, more than that he had felt dizzy, and had a pain under the left breast. Deceased said he felt better then, but witness told him he had better go and get some tea or other refreshment. Deceased said "No, Sir," and witness then told him if he got poorly again he had better go to the station.

Mr. LONGHURST deposed that he was a surgeon, and assistant to Mr. BARROW. At half-past 6 on Thursday morning he went along the sea wall to Spring Vale, but found that deceased's body had been removed. On his return he met the men carrying the body, and he then made an external examination. On the left side of the upper lip was an abrasion, and another over the left eye. They were caused, he thought, by deceased having fallen on some gravel. From the symptoms described, and the general appearance of the body, it was his opinion that death resulted from heart disease, the symptoms exactly corresponding with those produced by a diseased heart.

After a brief summing up by the coroner, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased's death resulted from heart disease.

The funeral of deceased took place on Saturday, when a large number of Coastguardsmen, clad in blue jackets and white trousers, accompanied the remains to their last resting-place in Ryde Cemetery. The procession was a solemn and impressive one, and the coffin covered with the Union Jack.

Researched by
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