

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 1st May 1948

Motor-Cyclist Injured. - As a result of being in collision with a motor lorry driven by Mr. Arthur A. FLUX, of 25 Linden Road, Newport, at the junction of Queen's Road, and Pellhurst Road on Thursday, Mr. **David HARRIS**, 18, of The Boulders, Binstead, who was riding a motor-cycle, was taken to the County Hospital suffering from severe internal injuries and a fractured arm. Yesterday (Friday) his condition was stated to be critical.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 8th May 1948

FATAL ACCIDENT AT RYDE

NEWPORT LORRY DRIVER
FREED FROM BLAME.

The circumstances of a fatal accident at the junction of Queen's Road and Pellhurst Road, Ryde, on Thursday week were investigated by the Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. WEBSTER) and a jury at the Town Hall on Monday, at an inquest on **David Barry HARRIS**, aged 17½, living with his parents at The Boulders, Binstead, who died at the County Hospital from serious injuries received in a collision while driving a motor-cycle combination. Capt. W. A. RUSSELL was foreman of the jury, Mr. J. M. ELDRIDGE represented Messrs. WESTMORE, Ltd., owners of the lorry involved, and Mr. R. D. WHITTINGHAM Mechanical Garden Services, owners of the motor-cycle combination.

Dr. D. C. MORLEY, house surgeon at the County Hospital, said HARRIS was admitted on April 29th with severe abdominal injuries and a dislocation of the right arm. An operation revealed a severe injury to the liver. He died the next day, death being due to shock and haemorrhage arising from the wound in the liver.

Deceased's father, Thomas Henry HARRIS, a company director, said his son had driven a car and then a motor-cycle combination for the Mechanical Garden Services, by whom he was employed, and on that day was carrying light equipment. His son had driven all the firm's tractors and he considered him very capable. He had never complained that the vehicle was in any way difficult to manage. When he saw his son in hospital he said the driver of the lorry cut the corner sharply.

Victor HAMMOND, of The Square, Yarmouth, said that at 11.30 a.m. on April 29th he was driving along Queen's Road. Coming in the opposite direction was a WESTMORE's lorry close to its near side and traveling at not more than 10 to 15 miles an hour. Before turning into Queen's Road he had seen in his mirror a motor-cycle combination following some distance behind, and having got some 10 to 15 yards into Queen's Road he heard a crash and on looking back saw someone thrown from the motor-cycle combination into the air, turn a complete somersault, and land in the road. He returned and assisted the lorry driver to pick up the youth, who was in great pain. The motor-cycle combination was lying on its side in the middle of the road just inside Queen's Road and the lorry was stationary on its near side,

Eric Robert LATHAM, of 48 Queen's Road, said that with assistance he put the injured man into his car, as he thought it best to get him to hospital to save time. He asked him how the accident happened and he replied that the driver had cut the corner too near. The motor-cycle was on its proper side of the road the lorry was facing towards Pellhurst Road and had not made the turn.

Arthur Aubrey FLUX, of 25 Linden Road, Newport, driver of the lorry, said he was driving towards Newport at between 15 to 20 miles an hour, and within 2ft.6in, of his near side. As he was approaching the road junction he saw the head of the motor-cyclist over the wall. HARRIS turned the corner and was about to pass the lorry when he seemed to lose control. Witness then heard a crash and immediately applied his brakes and stopped within a few yards. Getting out he saw the motor-cyclist on the ground a few yards from the rear of the lorry. He asked him if he was hurt and he said "its my right leg." – In reply to the Coroner witness said he did not reduce his speed as he came to the corner; there was no need for him to do so. The motor-cyclist came round the corner at a moderate speed and was about 1ft. or 2ft. from the near side kerb. When he came round the witness noticed that he was leaning away from his sidecar and thought perhaps that he had overbalanced, and that the weight of the cycle and combination had thrown him over that way. If he had been leaning the other way witness thought he would have got round safely. – Answering Mr. WHITTINGHAM, witness said he had been driving for 20 years,. He was not near enough to the corner to make the turn, but was just about to do so.

P.C. LARGE said the road was 21ft. wide. The motor-cycle combination was extensively damaged in front and it was in top gear. He found a dent in the rear off side mudguard of the lorry.

The Coroner said that in view of the evidence he though the jury should disregard deceased's statement as to the lorry driver cutting the corner.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, exonerated the driver of the lorry from blame, and expressed sympathy with deceased's parents, an expression in which the Coroner and solicitors joined.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the interment being at Binstead Cemetery, following a service at the house conducted by the Rev. H. BRAMWELL HOWARD (Methodist). The mourners were Mr. and Mr. T. H. HARRIS (parents), Mr. C. H. CAUTY (grandfather), Mr. C. CAUTY (uncle), Miss. K. HARRIS and Mrs. J. EVANS (aunts), Capt. and Mrs. A. C. SAYRES, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. FIELDING, Miss DAWSON, Miss M. BISHOP, Miss P. MILLS, Mr. R. S. BARNES, and Mr. Max SKOLUDEK. Capt. A. C. SAYRES and Mr. E. W. FIELDS (directors) and Messrs. R. S. BARNES and M. SKOLUDEK (employees), of the Mechanical Gardens Services, Ltd., were the bearers.

Messrs. J. PURKIS and Son made the arrangements.
