

Death Notice:-

SPARSHOTT .. Aug. 20, at the County Hospital, Ryde, **Frank Isaac**, dearly-loved husband of Ellen SPARSHOTT, aged 42 years.---Mrs. F. SPARSHOTT and family wish to thank all kind friends and relatives for letters of sympathy and beautiful flowers sent. Please accept this, the only intimation.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 24th August 1940

**HAVENSTREET COWMAN
ACCIDENTALLY SHOT**

The tragic circumstances of a Havenstreet resident's death were related to the Assistant Deputy Coroner (R.E.A. WEBSTER Esq.) at Ryde yesterday (Friday). The deceased was **Frank Isaac SPARSHOTT**, aged 42, of No. 2 Council Houses, Church-Lane, who died in the County Hospital on Tuesday, after having been shot by the accidental discharge of a rifle. Mr. C.S. SPURGEON was foreman of the jury. Mr. H.R. PALMER represented the family, and Insp. ROGERS was present for the police.

Mrs. Evelyn Mary SPARSHOTT, the widow, said her husband was employed by his father at Fishbourne Farm. He was deaf owing to the last war, in which he served with the Royal Engineers.

Lce. Corpl. Patrick DONOLAN deposed that at 10.p.m. On Tuesday he saw a man mounting a cycle, and called on him to stop. He did not do so, and witness again called twice in a louder voice without result. He ran after the man, whom he found stopped by the sentry. Asked why he did not stop, deceased made no reply. Witness heard a rifle discharged, and found that the deceased had been shot in the back of the head

By Mr. PALMER. The ordinary thing to do was to wave a red light, but witness did not do that. When he arrived where witness was there were three men standing round him, one of whom was in the on-guard position,

Pte. William ALLSWORTH stated that he asked deceased for his identity card, which he gave him. When asked why he did not stop before, he gave a grunt. Pte. DOUGLAS stood by deceased in the on-guard position, with bayonet fixed, and Lce. Corpls CAIRNS and DONOLAN also came up:

By the Coroner; Their instructions were that if a person did not halt at the third call they were to load and fire. Deceased had been asked to halt more than three times.

By Mr. PALMER: Witness had given back deceased's identity card when the gun went off.

Lce. Corpl. Alexander CAIRNS corroborated, and said that the deceased did not answer at first he was under the impression that he did not wish to. It was generally understood that they must get a person to speak to be sure whether he was a foreigner. After the occurrence Pte. DOUGLAS was placed under close arrest.

Pte. James DOUGLAS said he heard somebody shout "Stop that man," and loaded his rifle. He shouted to the cyclist to halt, but he came on and when he was stopped witness stood in the on-guard position with his rifle, but he could not remember whether the safety catch was over. While deceased's identity card was being examined, witness's rifle went off, and the man fell to the ground. Witness could give no explanation of the rifle going off. His finger must have been unconsciously on the trigger, he did not think there was any danger from the man after he produced his identity card.

Mr. PALMER: There were four men standing round. You were in the on-guard position with your rifle pointing towards his head, and another man with a bayonet. Do you think it is reasonable and proper thing to do ?.

Witness: I am supposed to keep in that position until we know he is all right.

Mr. PALMER: But he couldn't go far with four men standing round him. Do you think it was necessary to point the rifle at his head ?

Yes.

The Coroner: To hold the bayonet and rifle loaded until satisfied ?

Yes .

Mr. PALMER: But the man had produced his identity card.

Dr. Alfretta BLAKE, house surgeon at the County Hospital, said deceased was unconscious when admitted and died shortly afterwards from a gunshot wound in the head.

The Coroner said it was a most regrettable accident due, he thought to deceased's deafness , and the fact that the sentries were new on the road along which the deceased must have passed from time to time.

The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure, adding the following rider: "We are rather alarmed at these unfortunate incidents, which keep recurring, and we think a little more latitude should be given to civilians by the millitary authorities."

The Coroner said he would convey the jury's view to the proper authority.

Major E. ANNADALE, on behalf of the military expressed their deep condolences with the widow and relatives, in which the Coroner and jury joined.

The late Mr. SPARSHOTT leaves a wife and five very young children. The funeral will be at Binstead today (Saturday) at 2 o'clock.
