

EGBERT SYDNEY JAMES STOCK

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES 10 APRIL 1924

FATAL COLLISION RYDE MOTOR CYCLISTS TRAGIC DEATH

A sad and fatal accident involving the death of a well-known Ryde man, Mr **Egbert S J STOCK**, of Burlington House, Pier Street, builder's foreman in the employ of Messrs BALL, of Cowes, occurred on Saturday as he was returning from his work at Shanklin on his motor cycle. When at a dangerous corner near Morton Farm he collided with a youth named Colin Raymond WRIGHT, of Brading, as the latter was turning into the main road riding an ordinary bike. The youth escaped with slight injuries although the bicycle was completely smashed, whereas Mr STOCK's machine remained undamaged. Mr STOCK died at the County Hospital the same afternoon as the result of his injuries. He was 66 years of age and much respected.

The circumstances attending the collision were investigated by the Acting Coroner (Mr F A JOYCE) at the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, High Street on Tuesday afternoon, Mr J MARCH, solicitor, Shanklin, represented the youth WRIGHT.

Ivor Victor STOCK, 31 Pier Street, employed by the Ministry of Pensions, identified the body as that of his father, Edgar Sidney James STOCK, who was in the employ of Messrs BALL of Cowes, as builder's foreman. He was 66 last birthday. His father used to return from Shanklin (where he was working) on his motor cycle which he had been accustomed to ride since 1916.

Ralph Purdey PLUMMER, 32 Swanmore Road, Ryde, yeast merchant, stated he was returning from Sandown to Ryde on an ordinary bicycle about 12.10 noon on Saturday and was passing Morton Farm when he heard a lad whistle and saw him in a small roadway on witness's left hand side. He did not know whether he was walking with his bicycle or riding it. The motor cyclist was some distance behind. Witness went on about 20 or 30 yards and then heard a crash and went back when he saw a motor cycle lying across the road, the deceased being by its side. He found the man had received a severe blow on the left side of the head. The lad's bicycle was on the Sandown side of the motor cycle and was smashed badly. It was a very dangerous corner. Witness procured help and deceased was taken into a barn at Morton Farm. He was breathing very heavily and quite unable to speak.

In reply to Mr MARSH witness said the road from the farm was rough and would be against fast riding. No-one witnessed the accident. The road was a private one leading to the high road.

The Coroner remarked that it was the duty of every cyclist and car driver to see that the corner was quite clear and it was a question whether the boy exercised proper care.

Colin Raymond WRIGHT (13) Glenroy, High Street, Brading, who had his right hand bandaged, said he worked on Saturdays for Mr BUTCHERS, confectioner, Sandown, and took bread to Morton Farm, just after noon on Saturday last. He placed his bicycle near the gate and after delivering the bread went to an adjoining house and asked for a drink of water. He then remounted his bicycle and went at a walking pace round the corner intending to go back on the Sandown road. He first saw the motor cycle in the middle of the road about 15 feet off. Deceased's motor struck him when he shut his eyes and remembered no more. He did not hear the motor cyclist coming at all. Witness had been riding a bicycle about two years and had not had an accident previously.

By Mr MARSH: He saw the motor cycle approaching as he was crossing on the other side of the road. He felt something hit him on the right leg and witness believed deceased's machine struck his.

Mr PLUMMER in answer to questions said he had seen deceased on the road before but he had never noticed him riding at an excessive speed.

PC MARTIN, stationed at Brading, said he heard of the accident about 12.20 on Saturday and proceeded to the spot and described the scene. Dr O'GRADY directed the deceased's removal to the Hospital within thirteen minutes of being called.

Dr Elizabeth Mary MARTIN, house surgeon at the County Hospital, deposed that deceased was brought there about 2 o'clock on Saturday. She examined him and found him to be suffering from a fractured skull. He died about 4.30 the same day. There were other superficial injuries consistent with a cycle collision such as described.

The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that the facts were established by the evidence. It seemed that the lad was going slightly round a dangerous corner and approaching the road and he thought it was evident that the motor cyclist struck the bicycle with the unfortunate results that led to the inquest being held. He need hardly repeat as Coroner that it was very essential riders approaching a corner should exercise great care, the accidents and mortality from cycle and motor accidents being terrific and he could not accept as entirely accurate the boy's evidence that he took the corner quietly but as boys were apt to do very fast. There was no degree of blame attached as it was an accident entirely. He recorded a verdict to the effect that deceased died from injuries caused through the collision.

Mr MARCH on behalf of the youth's parents said they deeply sympathised with the deceased's family and regretted the occurrence. He also fully agreed with the Coroner's verdict and his remarks he took it applied to boys generally and not to the lad WRIGHT in particular. Mr STOCK said the relatives did not wish to blame the lad in any way.

(We note the different spellings of Mr Stock's first and second name in the third paragraph of the report)

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS 12 APRIL 1924

SHOCKING FATALITY NEAR BRADING
RYDE MOTOR-CYCLIST DIES AFTER COLLISION WITH CYCLIST

A Shocking accident, resulting in the death of a Ryde motor-cyclist, occurred shortly after noon on Saturday, at a notoriously dangerous spot on the main road about half-way between Brading and Sandown.

Colin Raymond WRIGHT, a 13-year-old boy, of Glenroy, High Street, Brading, while riding a bicycle in a private road leading from Morton House Farm, collided with a motor-cycle ridden by Mr **Egbert Sydney James STOCK**, age 66, of 24 Pier Street, Ryde.

Mr STOCK was flung violently to the ground, and severely fractured his skull. Although prompt attention was rendered, and the ambulance was soon on the scene and had conveyed the injured man to the County Hospital by 1.45, he died the same afternoon as a result of the terrible injuries he had received. The boy, who was stunned, but received only minor superficial injuries, had a miraculous escape. Although the motor-cycle (a 2 ³/₄ h.p. Douglas) was little damaged, the bicycle was wrecked almost beyond recognition. The way in which the frame was bent points to the fact that the motor-cycle must have struck the other machine almost in the centre, and it is amazing that the rider should have escaped without very severe injuries.

The rider who met his death under such distressing circumstances was well-known in Ryde. He was employed as a builder's foreman, by Messrs BALL, of Cowes, and at the time of the accident

was returning home from Shanklin, where he had been working for some time. The boy cyclist had delivered (xxxxxxx – large black mark on copy making it impossible to read) farm, and had only just mounted to ride back to Brading when the collision occurred. At the junction of the private road the main road is narrow, although it widens towards Brading. There is a high bank at the corner which tends to obscure the vision of drivers on both roads, and so makes the spot all the more dangerous. The private road slopes down towards the main road, and this in itself would tend to make the cyclist take the corner rather faster than otherwise. No one actually saw the accident, and it happened too suddenly for the cyclist fully to realise the circumstances, but it would appear that in coming from the side turning and attempting to cross to his near side of the main road the boy cut right in front of the approaching motor-cycle and was instantly struck down. The collision, apparently, happened near the middle of the main road.

An inquest was conducted at Ryde on Tuesday afternoon by the Deputy Coroner (F A JOYCE, Esq.), who returned a verdict of "accidental death". Both machines were produced: the bicycle with frame, wheels, and handle-bars badly buckled, and the motor-cycle with the off-side footboard and splash-guard bent. A sketch plan of the scene of the accident, showing the positions in which the two machines were found, was referred to by the Coroner. Mr J MARSH watched the proceedings on behalf of Colin WRIGHT.

Suggestive evidence was given by Ralph Purdey PLUMMER, a yeast merchant, of 32 Swanmore Road, Ryde, who at noon on Saturday passed Morton House Farm while cycling from Sandown to Ryde. He heard the lad up the side turning whistling, and saw him with his bicycle, but could not say whether he was mounted or not. He also heard a motor-cycle behind him. Before witness had ridden 30 or 40 yards he heard a loud crash, and, in perceiving what had occurred, left his bicycle and ran back. The motor-cycle was lying across the road, and the rider was lying unconscious with one leg on each side of the machine, having evidently received a very severe blow on the left side of the head. Witness gave what attention he could, and called for help, giving instructions to telephone for a doctor. Mr LANGDON, who was passing, fetched a doctor from Brading. The injured man was carried to the barn at the back of the farm, still unconscious, and breathing very heavily.

Colin Raymond WRIGHT, a schoolboy, explained that on Saturdays he delivered goods on a bicycle for Mr BUTCHER, confectioner, of Sandown. After delivering bread at the farm, he mounted the bicycle only about four yards from the main road, and turned the corner at a walking pace. He saw the motor-cycle approaching in the middle of the road, about 15 or 18 feet away, and shut his eyes. He knew nothing more until he found himself sitting in the road. He had been a cyclist for nearly two years. Questioned by Mr MARSH, witness said that the motor-cycle struck him, and not vice versa. He felt a blow on the right ankle and all up his side.

PC MARTIN said that the main road at that part was only 18ft wide. After Dr O'GRADY had arrived he summoned the ambulance by telephone, and it was there within 30 minutes.

The Coroner: It is very satisfactory that the ambulance arrived so soon.

Elizabeth Mary MARTIN, house surgeon at the County Hospital, examined the injured man immediately on his arrival at 1.45, and found that he was suffering from a badly fractured skull and superficial injuries. He died at 4.20 that afternoon.

In returning a verdict as stated, the Coroner said it seemed that the lad came fairly slowly round the dangerous corner, and was taken by surprise by the motor-cycle, which evidently struck the bicycle.

It was essential that people should always approach corners with the greatest care. He could not accept as entirely correct the boy's statement that he took the corner at a walking pace, but believed it was entirely an accident so far as he was concerned.

Perhaps the boy did what a good many boys would have done, turned the corner rather faster than was wise. It was a calamitous accident, and he expressed deep sympathy with the relatives of the deceased. – Mr MARSH, on behalf of his clients, joined in this expression. – Mr Ivor Victor STOCK, the deceased man's son, said that none of his relatives believed the accident to be the fault of the boy.