

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 7th April 1917

### SEA CAPTAIN'S DEATH AT HOSPITAL

An inquest was held on Wednesday morning at the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, by the Deputy Acting Coroner (Mr. W. H. P. F. THIRKELL), touching the death of Lewis Lawrence RICHARDS, aged 69, captain of the transport Westergate, belonging to the Franco-British Steamship Co., who died at the Royal I.W. County Hospital on Monday, and whose home was at 16, Harrogate Road, Sunderland.

The Coroner said it appeared that the deceased's only relative was his wife, who was an invalid. The Matron at the Hospital had received a letter from her saying that it was an appalling blow to her to hear of her husband's death and she was broken-hearted with grief. Dr. A. B. WADE, house surgeon at the Hospital, said the deceased was admitted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, having been landed at the Pier from his ship, ill. He complained of injury to his foot, and on examining it witness found the fourth toe on the right foot crushed and in a gangrenous condition. Deceased told him it was the result of an injury he received about two months previously through a piece of iron falling on to his foot. He was also suffering from diabetes. The gangrene extended and the diabetes got worse and deceased died on Monday. The cause of death was diabetes accelerated by the injury and gangrenous condition of the foot. The relatives were communicated with while he was in the hospital and deceased had received several letters from his wife.

The Jury, of which Mr. H. P. TAYLOR was the foreman, returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

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Researched & typed by  
Ann Barrett  
Janette Gregson