

LOCAL MAN AND VISITOR MISSING

Just when Ryde was congratulating itself that the holiday rushes had been unattended by any fatality, a serious accident has occurred. At about midday on Tuesday a young visitor hired one of Mr. LININGTON'S rowing-boats. He was told to go carefully and to keep near the Pier. When some way out, and apparently ignoring the warnings given him, he was seen to be in difficulties. **Norman REEVES**, aged 20, and Arthur DIBBENS, aged 14, requisitioned another boat and rowed out to help the visitor. The boats were lost sight of for some time and were seen later off Seaview by Mr. A. NEWELL, boat builder. When he got close up to the boats they had capsized, only DIBBENS was found afloat, and he was clinging to one of the boats. Mr. NEWELL succeeded in getting him on the steam-launch Viceroy. The missing man REEVES was well known locally, residing with his parents at Grosvenor House, Nelson-street, Ryde. DIBBENS lives at Seaview Cottage, Dover-street. He has only just left school. From the Steam-launch he was taken to the Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

On Wednesday morning, the occurrence was the subject of general conversation, and it was noticeable that not a single rowing-boat was in use as usual. At midday it was reported that a young man who was staying at Hazelwood, the Y.M.C.A. holiday home, was missing – he had not returned to the home since Tuesday morning. On Thursday, it was stated that the missing man was Mr. R.G. MACKAY, of 48 Adys-road, East Dulwich, London., S.E. There remains little doubt that he was the person whom REEVES and DIBBENS vainly attempted to rescue.

At the conclusion of the juvenile regatta on Thursday the Mayor (Ald. ANDREWS) expressed regret at the death of Mr. Norman REEVES, the brave would-be rescuer of the other victim of Tuesday's boating tragedy. Whilst the Mayor was voicing the town's sympathy the large number of men present in the crowd stood with heads uncovered, in spite of the fact that a heavy downpour was in progress.
