

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 10th October 1942

RYDE MAN'S DEATH FROM SELF-INFLICTED WOUND.

The death occurred at the County Hospital yesterday (Friday) of **Henry Joseph MURSELL**, aged 51, of 1 Osborne-road, Ryde, who was admitted to the hospital on October 1st suffering from a self-inflicted wound. He was the complainant in police court proceedings at Ryde on August 7th, when a Maltese joiner named Vincent M. A. CALLEJA was remanded on bail on a charge of having stabbed MURSELL in the stomach. The facts have been reported to the Deputy Coroner.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 17th October 1942

A RYDE LABOURER'S SUICIDE.

SELF INFLICTED WOUNDS WITH A BREAD KNIFE.

How a stab wound received by a Ryde labourer in a quarrel affected his mental condition was related to the Deputy-Coroner (R. E. A. WEBSTER, Esq.) at an inquest on Monday. The deceased was **Henry Joseph MURSELL**, 51, of 16 Osborne-road, who died at the County Hospital on Friday week following a self-inflicted throat wound. Inspector W. BUTCHER represented the police.

The widow, Mrs. Nora Kathleen MURSELL, said her husband had always had robust health and thoroughly enjoyed life. At Sandown on July 30th, in an argument with another man, he received a stab wound in the stomach and was in hospital for five weeks. He was discharged in the early part of August. He was very low and depressed, and did not like to meet people outside the family or to be left alone. He thought everybody was against him and suffered from sleeplessness. On October 1st, when she took him an early cup of tea, he said he had had no sleep all night. he afterwards got out of bed saying he was going downstairs to get some water. Her daughter offered to get it for him, but he said he would go himself. Being suspicious of his manner, witness followed him. On going into the living-room she saw he had a bread knife in his hand. She struggled with him to get it away, but it was too late. With the help of her daughter she got it away and sent for Dr. SIM. She had visited her husband in hospital many times and on occasions he seemed worried and at times appeared very strange. Only once did he mention the stabbing affair, saying it was the cause of the trouble.

Mrs. Mary Kathleen TOOGOOD, deceased's daughter, deposed that when she heard her mother shout, she went downstairs and found that her father had cut his throat and there was a bread knife in his hand. Her mother was struggling with her father and she went to call the neighbours. When she returned they were still struggling. Eventually she took away the knife and her father collapsed.

P.C. FLOYD said that when he arrived at the house MURSELL was lying on the floor with an incised wound in the cartilage of his throat. Asked what he had been doing, deceased said "I can't sleep. Get a gun and blow my brains out." Dr. SIM arrived, the wound was dressed, and MURSELL was removed to hospital. In the last few weeks deceased had mentally deteriorated.

The Coroner read the evidence of Dr. William A. PORTER, until recently house surgeon at the County Hospital, which stated that MURSELL was first received in hospital with a severe stab wound in the stomach. He made a complete recovery, but was in low spirits. The incident seemed to have preyed on his mind and, having been an epileptic, he thought there would be a recurrence of the fits. When discharged from hospital his mental condition was agitated. On October 1st he was again admitted, with a severe throat wound, but his general condition was good, although he

appeared very agitated and sorry for himself. He underwent an operation and during the following week was very agitated at the sight of a razor. On October 4th he tried to take the razor away from the barber to cut his throat again and the police had to be summoned. On October 8th he was seen by Dr. DAVIES-JONES, who recommended that he should be certified as insane. On October 9th he collapsed and died from shock and infection of the lung causing pneumonia following a severe throat wound.

The Coroner recorded the verdict that deceased "died as a result of a self-inflicted throat wound, the action being committed whilst the balance of his mind was disturbed." Mr. WEBSTER expressed deep sympathy with the widow and daughter.

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Death Notice:

MURSELL.- Oct. 9, at the County Hospital, Ryde, **Henry Joseph MURSELL**, dearly beloved husband of Nora MURSELL.

N.B. We note there is a discrepancy in the address as being 1 Osborne-road (reported 10 October) and 16 Osborne-road (reported 17 October)

Researched & typed by
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