



SOUTH WILTSHIRE  
CORONER'S INQUESTS  
(Dinton extracts)



**Thomas ANDERSON      27<sup>th</sup> October, 1916**

***A Soldier Drowned***

The body of Rifleman Thomas William Anderson, of the Post Office Rifles, was found in the River Nadder at Dinton on Thursday last week, after he had been absent from camp for 12 days. An inquest was held at Fovant Military Hospital by the Coroner for South Wilts.

Company - Sergeant-Major James Dunne, of the Post Office Rifles, stationed at West Farm Camp at Fovant, said that Anderson had always been of a quiet but cheerful disposition. Anderson had last been seen alive on 7<sup>th</sup> October, on his way to the dining hall. Anderson paid great attention to his duties as a soldier and never made any complaints or took any intoxicants in any quantity. He was a good soldier.

Charles Bracher, a dairyman in the employ of Mr C M Green and living at Fovant, said he was walking near the river at 9am Thursday morning, when he saw something in the water. He saw that the object in the water was the body of a man, dressed in khaki and had apparently been in the water for some time. Police-Sergeant Crouch was called for and helped to remove the body. The body was about a yard from the bank, in four to five feet of water. There was a footpath leading from Fovant to Teffont, which crossed the river by a narrow bridge, four feet in width, near Teffont Mill. The bridge was about 300 yards from where the witness found the body. He could not say whether there were railings at the side of the bridge.

Captain J T Murphy, of the RAMC, stationed at Fovant Military Hospital, said Anderson was brought in at 12.45 on Thursday and death was evidently due to drowning. There were no marks on the body, which had been in the river for some days.

The Coroner, in summing up said that he had been informed by Anderson's parents that he had no trouble and that it would have been the last thing in the world for him to have taken his life. The Coroner said that there was always the possibility that he may have fallen into the water after coming back in the dark.

A verdict of "death by misadventure" was returned.

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