



CORONERS INQUESTS



Thomas Swansborough 1909

Ludgershall Carter's Death at Bustard Camp

Thomas Swansborough, a carter, in the employment of William Hutchins, haulier, of Ludgershall, met with a fatal accident at Bustard Camp late on Friday night.

From the evidence taken before the Deputy Coroner, Mr. G. M. Wilson, at Bustard Camp on Saturday evening, it appears that the deceased, about sixty years of age, was a steady man. His employer last saw him alive at four o'clock on Friday afternoon, when he started with a load of forage in a spring trolley drawn by two horses. The deceased had been directed to leave part of his load at Bustard Camp, and the remainder at West Down. The horses were perfectly quiet, and he could well be trusted with them.

A Sergeant-Bugler, of the 9th County of London Territorials, said he was with the guard on Friday night, a few paces from the main road leading from Salisbury to Devizes. They were playing the "Tattoo," and had almost finished when he saw a waggon coming along the road from the direction of Salisbury. The horses suddenly swerved to the right, the deceased fell out, and the back wheel went over him. It was a very dark night, and there were no lights on the vehicle.

Lance-Corporal Wheeler, acting-orderly to the medical officer, heard the bugle sound for the ambulance. He took a lantern, and found the deceased lying on his back by the side of the road. He was groaning, and practically unconscious. Having taken off his waistcoat, he found a wound on the left shoulder. The deceased did not tell him how the accident happened.

Albert Ehrmann, the senior medical officer of the 3rd London Brigade, said when taken to the hospital Swansborough was suffering severely from shock, and had some ribs fractured. He died about 1.15 the next morning, and he attributed death to shock from the fractured ribs and possibly concussion of the brain.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

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