



Coroner's Inquest Report Oaksey

Arthur Buye

"Probably his finger slipped when he was cocking the gun".

This was the statement of a witness at an inquest held at Cirencester on Arthur Buye, aged 29, of Oaksey, Wilts, a slaughter man, who died from injuries received when using a humane killer at the Government slaughterhouses at Cirencester.

The Coroner (Mr R R Smith) returned a verdict of "accidental death".

Evidence given by Fred Gillman, another slaughter man, was that a number of calves and three or four beasts had been killed on August 30. Buye was about to kill another beast, which witness was holding. From a window ledge, Buye took the killer, which was loaded but not cocked.

Witness heard the discharge and Buye shouted "Oh!"

Witness added, "I went to Buye and put my arm round him to prevent him from falling. Buye pulled up his shirt to show that he had been shot in the side. Buye did not say what had happened, but I think his finger slipped off the cock as he was cocking the killer".

Mr Gillman added that both Buye and himself had used the killer on many occasions without any accident.

Cyril B Hill, another slaughter man, said that he was present at the time, but did not see what happened. He agreed with Mr Gillman as to the accident being probably caused through Buye's finger slipping.

Dr Leslie E Hughes said that he saw Buye at Cirencester Memorial Hospital a few minutes after the accident. He was in a very collapsed condition. There was a perforated wound in the left side and all the signs of haemorrhage of the stomach. Immediately after a blood transfusion, Buye revived a little, but only temporarily.

The following morning witness operated and found that there had been extensive haemorrhage. Buye's condition did not improve and he died in the early hours of Wednesday morning from shock, following severe haemorrhage.

Harry Smith, proprietor of the slaughterhouses concerned, said that the killer had always proved absolutely satisfactory. It was in proper order at the time of the accident. Buye was taken to hospital within five minutes of the accident.

As stated, a verdict of "accidental death" was returned.

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