

Edge End Man's Collapse

After Cycle Ride

HEART'S LOST BALANCE

George Frederick Haggar (55), an Edge End resident, died suddenly on Sunday when sitting at the dinner table.

At the inquest, conducted by the Divisional Coroner (Mr. M. F. Carter) in Edge End Chapel on Wednesday afternoon, it was disclosed that Haggar had suffered from serious heart trouble, yet according to the evidence he had never complained in his life nor had he been prevented from attending regularly his work as a bricklayer.

His son, John Henry Haggar, of 3, Council Houses, Edge End, stated that his father had been able to follow his occupation until Saturday. On Sunday he was not present when his father left home, but he was there when he returned and he noticed nothing unusual about him. He knew he had been out on his bicycle to Joyford, a distance of about 1½ miles. The return journey would be very much against the collar for the biggest part of a mile.

"On entering the house my father took off his hat and coat and sat down at the table with the intention of having his dinner. As he went to sit down I turned round to speak to him, and I noticed that his head was resting on the table. I went to him and said, 'What is the matter, Dad?' and as I did not get any reply I thought he had eaten something which had got stuck in his throat or that his false teeth might have caused an obstruction. I put my fingers in his mouth and pulled out the teeth."

Questioned by the Coroner, witness said his father did not say anything. He did not think that he had eaten any of his dinner—he was in the act of putting some meat into his mouth. At no time had his father complained to witness about himself.

VISIT TO JOYFORD INN

Tom Baldwin, licensee of the Albert Inn, Joyford, said that he had known Haggar for ten years. On Sunday Haggar called to see him about 12.30, having cycled over. He stayed for one hour, during which time he drank four pints of beer. There were other workmates present, and Haggar gave no indication of anything being the matter with him. He had nothing to eat with the beer. To reach Edge End from Joyford he would have to climb a steep hill for half a mile or more, but it would not be possible for Haggar to ride up the hill—he would have to walk and push the bicycle. From the top of the hill it was fairly level.

Dr. E. W. Battle, Coleford, said he had not attended Haggar professionally for 10 years. On Sunday he was summoned to Edge End, and he arrived there about 2.10. Haggar was dead when he arrived, but he could not find any external signs to account for death. On October 26 he conducted a post mortem examination. The body was that of a well-developed and well-nourished man. Death was due to cardiac syncope, due to accussion of the coronary artery, accelerated by a very distended stomach.

The Coroner: I am not suggesting the man should not have taken beer, but suppose he had not drunk beer before leaving Joyford would you have expected the man to have collapsed as he did? What I mean is this: undoubtedly the beer was responsible for the distended stomach; can you say whether death was due in some measure to over-exertion?

LATE FOR DINNER

Witness: This could easily have happened without touching beer whatever. The least exertion might have resulted in a sudden collapse. The heart had lost its balance, and I am surprised there had not been a previous collapse. I understand that he did not ride his bicycle to and from work, but that he rode in a lorry, and this undoubtedly preserved his condition and enabled him to do his work as a bricklayer. But for exertion he might have lived for some time. I think he must have hurried home, seeing that he was late for dinner, and under the circumstances this could have happened without having any beer. It was liable to happen to him at any time. In 99 cases out of 100 people in the condition as this man was collapse suddenly.

Returning a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony, the Coroner added that death was to some extent due to over-exertion.