

LEGAL

1923

C.S.

No. 526/23

Registrar

SUBJECT.

192 3

EDWARD ERIKSEN

12th July

Report of Inquest Held at South Georgia

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

Copy of minutes from Registrar of 12<sup>th</sup> July 1923 — Encl (1)  
Letter from Coroner, S. Georgia of 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1922 — " (1a)

*PA  
20/7/23*

*V.B. Submitted  
G.K.B.  
O.C.F.C.  
19 July 1923*

*11/11/23 20 July 23*

Subsequent Paper.

COPY.

918

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

July 12th ..... 19 23

From Registrar S.C.

To

Stanley

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

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Letters from Coroner S. Georgia dated 29th Novbr 1922 and 23rd March 1923 forwarding copies of Coroners Inquisitions held at South Georgia.

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Hon. Col. Secty.

Submitted accordingly for the information of  
H.E. the Acting Governor

(sgd) M. Craigie Halkett

Registrar

July 12th 1923.





South Georgia to wit:

An Inquisition taken for our Sovereign Lord the King at Stromness Harbour, South Georgia, on the fourth day of November 1922, before me one of the Coroners for our Lord the King for the said South Georgia, upon the Oath and affirmation of:

Oscar W. Wilhelmsen

Edward Gulliksen

Charles Jansen

Adrian Hystrom

and Rolf Chr. Harberg

on view of the body of Edward Eriksen, as to how he came to his death, and I do hereby state that,

Edward Eriksen was found dead on the platform of the whaling station at Stromness Harbour, South Georgia, on the third day of November 1922, and that the cause of his death was three deep cuts on his neck, reaching from one ear to the other, and do further state that Edward Eriksen, while temporarily insane did kill himself.

*E. W. B. Binn*

Coroner.



Deposition. Inquiry touching the death of Edward Eriksen at Stromness Harbour, South Georgia this 4th, day of November 1922.

Oscar Wilhelm Wilhelmsen, (Sworn)

I am employed on the whaling station as Carpenter, and on yesterday at midday was informed of the death of Eriksen, who is my brother in law. I have known him for 26 years and he has never to me knowledge had anything wrong with him, he has always been healthy. I have not known of any previous insanity in the family. Deceased was a man not addicted to drink or to taking of drugs.

So far as I am aware he had no bad news from home or anything that would cause him to worry. About three years ago, his wife was living with another man, but I believe since they have made it up and have lived together. The two days preceding his death, he asked me to walk about with him, which I did and we talked about home, and he appeared to be a little uneasy and nervous, but as he went on with his work as usual I took no notice of it. He was on quite good terms with all the men on the station.

sgd. Wilhelm Wilhelmsen

Taken and sworn before me this 4th, day of November in the year of our Lord 1922.

sgd. Edw. B. Binnie

Coroner.

Deposition.

Inquiry touching the death of Edward Eriksen at Stromness Harbour, South Georgia this 4th, day of November 1922.

Edward Gulliksen 'sworn'

I am a labourer on the whaling station at Stromness Harbour, and yesterday morning when the whistle blew for dinner I left the platform and hung my hook up on the wall and should go to dinner. Deceased was near to me with his knife in his hand, as I was leaving I turned round and saw him falling, he still held the knife when he fell. There was no other person near him, so his wounds must have been self inflicted and moreover such an accident would be nearly impossible. I have not known deceased before I came to South Georgia, scarcely a month, but during that time he was quite sane and normal to all appearances. I did not notice anything different about him that morning, he went about his work as usual.

sgd. Edvart Gulliksen

Taken and sworn before me this 4th. day of November in the year of our Lord 1922.

sgd. Edw. B. Binnie

Coroner.

Deposition.

Inquiry touching the death of Edward Eriksen at Stromness Harbour this 4th, day of November 1922.

Charles Jansen (sworn)

I am engaged as flenser on the whaling station at Stromness Bay and yesterday morning was working near deceased. He appeared just the same as usual and did his work the same. But just before 12 oclock noon, he followed me about everywhere as though he were afraid of something. I left the platform at 5 minutes to 12 to wash my boots and put away my knife, and deceased was standing sharpening his knife with a stone, when I returned to the platform just about when the whistle should blow, he was still sharpening his knife and feeling the edge with his thumb. He then put it away and went to the winch and hove up a piece of blubber and then told the boy, who was working with him, to go to dinner. At this moment the whistle blew so I turned and left the platform, I saw him go back to his knife. I met the engineer who said a man had fallen on the platform so I turned back and saw deceased falling or rather trying to raise himself. I wne tback and tried to help him up, but he was bleeding freely and had evidently died from loss of blood, as he made a slight movement of his head and lay still.

sgd. Karl(Charles )Jansen.

Taken and sworn before me this 4th. day of November in the year of our Lord 1922.

sgd. Edw. B. Binnie

Coroner.

Deposition.

Inquiry touching the death of Edward Eriksen at Stromness Harbour, South Georgia, this 4th. day of November 1922.

Adrian Nystrom (sworn)

I am a labourer on the whaling station of the Vestfold Co. and yesterday was engaged in cutting up meat on the flensing platform, it was just on the stroke of 12 oclock when the whistle was blowing for dinner. I saw deceased pick up his flensing knife and drew it across his throat. There was noone near him at the time, the men were all going to dinner. There was another man who was engaged in dragging the blubber to the cutting machine, standing near by, but his back was turned so possibly did not see what actually happened at the moment. I saw deceased in the morning when we went to work and he was quite normal. I have never seen him intoxicated, nor to my knowledge was he addicted to drugs. I knew him at home in Sandefjord and he was always in good health and of sound mind. He complained of a bad appetite the last few days, but did not seem to worry about anything. I lived in the same room with him throughout the winter.

sgd. Knut A. Nystrom

Taken and sworn before me this 4th. day of Novbr. in the year of our Lord 1922.

sgd. Edw. B. Binnie  
Coroner.

Inquiry touching the death of Edward Eriksen at  
Stromness Harbour, South Georgia, this 4th, day of  
November 1922.

Rolf Chr. Aarberg.

I am the Doctor attending to the whaling stations at  
Stromness bay, and on the 3rd. November at about 12 oclock  
noon, I was called to Stromness Harbour to see a man, who  
was said to have inflicted certain wounds on himself. On  
arrival at the whaling station, I at once saw the man, who  
was then dead and, had evidently been dead for a littl e  
while. The cause of his death, I found, on examination  
to be three cuts on his neck, which had severed the skin,  
the windpipe and the aesophogus, also the large bloodvessels  
on both sides. The cuts were inflicted with a sharp instrument  
and cannot in my opinion have been the result of an accident.

*(Sgd) Rolf Chr. Aarberg*

Doctor.

Taken and sworn before me this 4th, day of November in the  
year of Our Lord 1922.

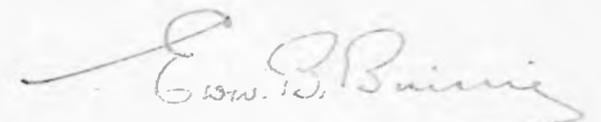
*E. B. Bunn*

Coroner.

Coroner.

On the 3rd. November 1922, I was called to Stromness Harbour to the whaling station of the Vestfold company on the report of the manager that one of the men had died suddenly on the platform. I at once proceeded to Stromness Harbour arriving there at 7 pm. where I at once made certain enquiries that might assist me on the morrow when the Inquest would take place. I met the Doctor who was in attendance and viewed with him the body. Deceased had three distinct cuts on the neck, reaching from one ear to the other, and low down so that to inflict them it would be necessary to unbutton the shirt and singlet in front. As the result of the inquiry I found that deceased had been on the station the whole winter and was on good terms with the other men, There had been no excess of liquor on the station every man was sober at work, and he was not addicted to the taking of drugs. There seems no apparent reason for his action and the evidence does not assist one at arriving at a conclusion. It is said however that his wife had given birth to a child recently and he had perhaps been worrying over this as it is some 2 years since he left home. I can find nothing in the evidence to attach blame on anyone connected with the station, so have returned a verdict of Suicide during temporary insanity.

The office of the Coroner 4th. November 1922.



Coroner.