

Motor Car Accident

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY

A terribly tragic accident occurred on Saturday evening, the victim being Mr. J. Wood, of "Woodholme," Beach.

It appears that he was driving his motor car, and, it is presumed, endeavoured to get over the railway crossing near Vincent before the Umtata train, which was approaching. He failed to get across in time, however, and the car collided with the engine, which, we understand, struck the motor on the side, causing it to turn round, and then struck it again at the back. The unfortunate motorist was conveyed to town by train in an unconscious condition, and was taken to the Frere Hospital. There were head and face injuries and the base of the skull was fractured. The rest of the body was not marked at all. Mr. Wood never regained consciousness, and died at about 4.30 a.m. on Sunday. He was the sole occupant of the car – a "Ford" – which was battered almost beyond recognition. The son of a clergyman in England, Mr Wood came to this country a good many years ago, and practically ever since he has been a valued member of the staff of the Standard Printing Co., Ltd.

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The Motor Fatality

MR. J. E. WOOD'S Funeral

The funeral of the late Mr. J. E. Wood, the victim of the motor accident on Saturday afternoon, took place yesterday, a large number of friends attending to pay their last respects. The procession was headed by the members of the Glamorgan Lodge, S.O.E., of which Order the deceased was a member, and there were also present many members of his craft. The pall-bearers were Messrs. C. J. Smith, R. S. Hughes, W. Stimson, S. Dunn, H. Lethbridge, H. O. Parsons, F. S. Woolgaar, and G. R. Griffith, while the chief mourner was Mr Arthur Wood, brother of the deceased. At the cemetery the body was committed to the ground by the Rev. W. H. Irving, who also conducted the S.O.E. service.

The late Mr. Wood came to South Africa some twenty years ago, entering the service of the Standard Printing Co., with which firm he has been ever since, having for many years held the position of works manager. He went through the Boer war, joining Brabant's Horse, and was present at the siege of Wepener, where he was wounded in the hand. After the relief he went through the Free State with Roberts' Horse. "Joe," as he was familiarly known to his intimates, was a cheerful soul, was esteemed by all who knew him and will be greatly missed. To his widow and relatives in East London the sympathy of a host of friends will go out in their painful bereavement, and in no less degree will be extended to the dear old folks at Home. Many floral tributes were sent by sorrowing friends.

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IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY of my dear Husband, Joseph Edward Wood, whose transition took place on 19th January, 1919

IN LOVING and Cherished Remembrance of our brother-in-law, Joseph Edward Wood also father, William Fredk. Waldeck, departed this life on the 19th and 27th January, 1919 respectively.

There everlasting Spring abides,

And never-with'ring flow'rs;

'Tis but a narrow sea divides,

This heavenly land from ours

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FUNERAL NOTICE

Friends are invited to attend the Funeral of the late

Mr Joseph Edward Wood

(of Standard Printing Co.)

Leaving the Embalming Chambers, 29 Park Avenue, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON at 4 o'clock.

J. G. Jones

Undertaker

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Sons of England Patriotic and Benevolent Society

GLAMORGAN LODGE No. 60

Members of the Sons of England are requested to attend the Funeral of our late Bro. J. WOOD, leaving the Embalming Chambers of Mr. E. Jones, Park Avenue TO-DAY (Monday) at 4 p.m.

B.B. will assemble at the Lodge Room at 3.30 p.m. Emblems, Red Roses or Oak Leaves.

A. W. HOWITT,

Worthy President.

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The Motor Fatality.

The following was the verdict in the inquest on the late Joseph Edward Wood, delivered by Mr. E. W. Bowen, Additional Magistrate: "Accidental death due to fracture of the skull sustained in a collision between a motorcar driven by the deceased and a railway train at a level crossing near Vincent Station on the 18th January, 1919.

The evidence adduced exonerates any railway servant concerned with this inquest from negligence or culpability, but the crossing itself is a level one, is perfectly open, and is, in my opinion inadequately safeguarded.

During the evidence, Martha Wood stated she lived at Woodholme, East London, and the deceased was her husband. He left home on the 18th in their car, a Ford. They had had this car for about ten months. Both her husband and she drove the car. She considered the deceased a careful driver. When the deceased left home on the 18th he intended proceeding to the Ocean View Hotel to spend a few days.

George Henry Domoney, a constable in the South African Police, stationed at Clifton, stated that on the 18th he was on duty near Vincent Halt, when his attention was called to an accident that had occurred at the rail crossing about 400 yards from the halt. He proceeded to the place and found a motor-car badly smashed on the side of the line at the crossing. The two wheels on the right hand side were broken up. He inspected the tyres of the car, and followed the spoor back to Western Avenue. The spoor appeared to be zig-zag. The driver took a wide turn when turning off Western Avenue, the spoor on the right hand side was fully a yard off the metal road. The driver had a good view from Western Avenue of an approaching train coming towards the crossing.

Reiner Xxxnand stated he was a fireman employed by the South African Railways and was stationed at East London. He was firing a train down from Amabele to East London on the 18th January, his driver being J. Troup. The train stopped at Vincent Station. Before the train started from the station the drive sounded the whistle, and again sounded for the crossing. He first saw the motor when it turned in from Western Avenue towards the crossing. He thought the driver of the car was going to stop. He then called out to the engine driver "motor car," but it was then too late, as the motor car made no attempt to stop. He could not tell what speed the train was going at the time of the accident.

Joseph Troup stated he was a driver in the S.A.R. and resided in East London. On the 18th January he was driving on the train down from Amabele to East London. He stopped at Vincent. Before starting again he sounded the whistle, and again for the crossing. When about on the crossing he heard his fireman shout "motor car." He at once put on the brakes (both steam and vacuum). At the time when the fireman shouted out this warning to him he was travelling at about 18 miles per hour. He saw nothing of the accident until he had stopped. He was on the lookout ahead of the train. He had the train well under control. When he stopped the van was about 20 yards from the crossing.

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JOSEPH E. WOOD

Practical Printer, &C.,

109, High Street,

Ventnor,

I.W. (Isle of Wight)

Begs to inform the Inhabitants of Ventnor and District that he has opened a Printing and Stationery Business at the above address, and trusts that with the latest designs, prompt and personal attention to all orders to merit a share of your patronage and support.

J.E.E. has purchased an entirely new Printing Plant, and will therefore be able to guarantee the very best work at the lowest possible prices.

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