

Horsley, David

From: Horsley, David
Sent: 07 June 2007 15:56
To: 'Rolling, Susan'
Subject: RE: Gosport War Memorial

Hello,

The simple answer is that I don't know yet.

At the moment, the position is this. There are 10 cases where it seems death may not be due, or entirely due, to natural causes but only 3 of the bodies remain, the others having been cremated. Legally, I can only do Inquests in the remaining body cases unless the Secretary of State gives permission for me to do otherwise.

This doesn't seem fair to me as regards the other 7 families, so I'm going to be writing to the Ministry of Justice to see if I can get the Minister's consent to hold Inquests on the cremated ones too. There is a power to do this but it hasn't been used very often so I don't expect a quick reply from the Ministry as they'll want to ponder, I'm sure.

I'm only intending to do Inquests on this limited list not the remainder of the 92 because at the moment I have no evidence before me that gives me reasonable cause to suspect that their deaths are anything other than natural.

You can tell them that if you think it's advisable.

If you don't mind, I'd rather you did it, please, in line with our agreed policy on dealing with the media.

Thanks very much.

D.

David C. Horsley
H.M. Coroner
Portsmouth & South East Hampshire

-----Original Message-----

From: Rolling, Susan [mailto:]

Code A

Sent: 07 June 2007 15:44

To: Horsley, David

Subject: Gosport War Memorial

David

The News is trying to find out how many inquests will be held ref this case. Do you

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want to tell them through us or is it too soon to say?

Thanks,

Susan

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