



Schoolmaster Killed

Fatal Injuries

Mr. S. E. Wilkins, the Coroner for Mid Bucks, opened the inquest, at the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, on Monday 17th October, on Mr. Palmer Brodie, 'aged 26, only son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Raynal Brodie, of 46, Mulgrave-road, Sutton. Surrey, who was fatally injured in a car accident in the Buckingham road, Aylesbury, between 2.30 and 3 o'clock on Saturday morning.

Mr. Brodie, who was a master at the Aylesbury Grammar School, was a passenger in the car at the time, although the vehicle actually belonged to him. It was being driven by Mr. J. F. Haynes, of Willow road, Aylesbury, and there also were in the car Miss Cynthia Unwin, of Drayton Gardens, South Kensington, and Mr. Basil Whiteley, an Aylesbury bank clerk, of Buckingham-street, Aylesbury.

It is understood that all four had been to a dance in the town. While they were driving along the Buckingham-road, the car overturned a few yards from the Horse and Jockey " public-house. Mr. Haynes was able to rouse Mr. S. W. Chamberlain, the landlord of the 'Horse and Jockey,' who took them into his house and rendered what assistance he could until the arrival of the St. John Ambulance, which conveyed them to the Royal Bucks Hospital nearby. Mr. Brodie was dead on arrival at the hospital, and probably died immediately after the accident.

At the inquest on Monday the Coroner intimated that Mr. Whiteley was not well enough to attend, and therefore he did not propose to go into the circumstances with regards to the actual accident but would merely take evidence of identification and medical evidence.

Mr Brodie's Aylesbury activities

Mr. Brodie had been a member of the teaching staff at the Aylesbury Grammar School for three years, and taught Economics and Latin. He was educated at Dulwich College and St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he secured a B.A. degree with Honours. He came straight to Aylesbury from the Institute of Education in London, where he had gone after spending three years at Cambridge.

An all-round sportsman, Mr. Brodie took a prominent part in the sporting life of the Grammar School, particularly Rugby football. He had also played for the Aylesbury Rugby Football Club.

He was an enthusiastic swimmer, and while at Dulwich College established a sprint record for the baths which had since been beaten. He acted as Hon. Secretary of the Aylesbury Wednesday Club.

A reference to the accident and his death was made by Mr. G. P. Furneaux, the headmaster of the Aylesbury Grammar School, on Monday morning, when the school assembled. Mr. Furneaux emphasised the fact that Mr. Brodie was beloved by everybody at the school and had its interests at heart and took part in all its activities. Mr. Furneaux reminded the students of the opening words of hymn which they often sang, 'He liveth long who liveth well.' Those words could be applied to Mr. Brodie in very truth. There was little they could do in the matter now, except to live each day as it should be lived. They took their lives for granted, but they need have no fear if they lived each day as it should be lived.

Dr. and Mrs. Brodie took back with them on Monday bunches of flowers from the students, the teaching staff and from Mr. and Mrs. Furneaux. The flowers included red and white carnations, red and white being the colours of Phillips House, to which Mr. Brodie belonged.

At the express wish of the family the funeral service Wednesday was of a very quiet nature, and the attendance confined to the family. An enquiry at the Royal Bucks Hospital yesterday elicited the statement that Miss Unwin was "quite comfortable " and Mr. Whiteley's condition was fair.

From the Aylesburian Magazine, 1939 edition:

In memory of the late Mr Palmer Brodie, a master at the School from 1935-1938 whose tragic death was recorded in the last issue of the 'Aylesburian'. His parents, Dr. and Mrs Brodie have presented to the School a Challenge Cup which will be known as the Brodie Trophy.

The Staff and pupils of the School wish to express their sincerest appreciation and thanks to Dr. and Mrs Brodie for this loving gift of a beautiful memorial trophy.

The Brodie Trophy will be held each year by the House gaining the highest number of aggregate points in House activities during the previous School year.