

SOLDIER'S SUICIDE AT NEWHAVEN.

CUT HIS THROAT IN HOSPITAL.

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Yesterday an inquest was held at the Council Chamber, Newhaven, by Mr. G. Vere Benson, Coroner for East Sussex, on the body of Lance-Corporal Elias Luff, aged 39 years, 3rd Royal Sussex Regiment.

Lieutenant A. C. Clayton stated that deceased had been in the Service just over 22 years. In September, 1914, he was wounded in France, and was invalided home in June, 1915, and for a time was in hospital in England, and when discharged as fit for duty he came to Newhaven, and served in the Garrison police.

Mark Mill, of Portslade, stated that deceased's father and mother were both dead. Witness had known deceased ever since he was a lad, and he had visited witness whenever he was on leave. So far as witness knew, deceased was of steady and sober habits. Deceased had more than once suffered from fever. He had a letter from deceased about two weeks ago; he was then all right.

Sergeant Henry Barrett stated that deceased had been under him in the Garrison police about four months.—He noticed that deceased seemed poorly, and advised him to see a doctor. The deceased seemed at times lightheaded.

Q.M.S. Thomas Lee, R.A.M.C., attached to the Military Hospital, said the deceased came into the hospital on the 14th inst. He seemed very quiet and reserved, but appeared to be going on all right. On Sunday morning when witness went into the ward he saw deceased in bed with a razor in his left hand, and before witness could get across to him the deceased had drawn the razor across his throat, severing the windpipe. He had not noticed anything specially the matter with the man.

Dr. Will, R.A.M.C., stated that he was on duty at the hospital when deceased came in. He was suffering from feverish influenza. The deceased appeared to be very quiet and reserved. When witness was summoned after the deceased had cut his throat, he found the wound to be very deep on the right side of the neck. The deceased's condition became worse, and he died from pneumonia, which supervened.

In answer to the Coroner, the witness stated that deceased had suffered from Malaria fever more than once, and these fevers almost always caused depression.

The jury, of whom Mr. W. A. Gay was foreman, returned a verdict to the effect that deceased committed suicide while temporarily insane.