



Alice POST Teynham (St. Mary's) Church Memorial Plaque

Munitions Worker, Cotton Powder Company, Faversham, Kent. Died 16/1/1916. Buried 22/1/1916 at Teynham Churchyard. Grave cannot be located. Aged 21. Born in Teynham, Kent, 19/1/1894. Daughter of Mr. James R. Post & Mrs. Henrietta Emily Humphries Post, of Teynham, Kent. Mother of Margaret Alice Post, born 19/7/1915, Teynham, Kent.

The following information is a summary of events from the East Kent Gazette 29/1/1916

A lengthy inquest was held at the Teynham Arms, Greenstreet on Thursday, 20th January 1916 by the Kent County Coroner Mr. C. B. Harris into the cause of Alice's death. The Jury found that Alice died from poison by the absorption of t.n.t (tri-nitro-toluol) into the system and urged that the Company provide better facilities for the safety of their staff. Alice had only been in the employ of the company for about five or six weeks. She had started complaining of headaches and feeling tired after only two weeks. Her skin had become blotchy and she eventually developed severe vomiting. After a visit to the factory on 17 July 1915, Dr. Edgar Leigh Collis, Medical Inspector of Factories had written to the firm pointing out the necessity of taking precautions against poisoning. His recommendations included the provision of respirators, cloak room accommodation, ointment, cocoa or milk in the mornings (to enable the workers' systems to resist the onslaught of poison), the alternation of employment (to other areas of munitions production) and washing accommodation. Following these recommendations, the Works Manager, ordered respirators on 21 July 1915. Having written five or six letters as to the whereabouts of these respirators, they finally arrived on 21st September 1915. Other respirators had been provided in the meantime, but some of the girls chose not to wear them, complaining that they made them too hot. Some of the other recommendations had been addressed but were not considered to be adequate. Due to it being a 'time of great stress,' and intentions to make the 'occupation as safe as possible,' the company asked for understanding that these alterations could not be made as quickly as they would like.