

Edwin Carter

No. BJC/08

Date of Birth: Code A

Date of Death: 24 December 1993

Mr Carter was a widower and was admitted to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 8 November 1993 for pain control and long term care. He had a previous history of a cerebrovascular accident and was believed to have stomach cancer.

On admission, it was noted that Mr Carter was reluctant to eat, needed help with personal hygiene and used a Zimmer frame for mobility. The notes, on admission, state that Mr Carter was not suffering but on 20 November 1993 Mr Carter began deteriorating and was commenced 20mgs of Morphine Sulphate.

Although Mr Carter requested his medication be stopped on 22 November 1993 he was complaining of pain again on 11 December 1993 when Oramorph 10mgs was given.

Mr Carter was seen by Dr Lord on 20 December 1993 where it was noted that a syringe driver could be commenced when necessary. This proved to be the case on 22 December 1993. Mr Carter died two days later.

Some of the experts note that the dose of opiates was quadrupled at the time of transfer to a syringe driver.

Although the experts questioned why such dosage should have been given, they acknowledge that Mr Carter was already so close to death that it would not have made any significant difference to his length of life.

There was a variation in initial views amongst the experts but they concluded, on reviewing the notes that, although the treatment may have been negligent, it did not appear there was any attempt to cause harm to Mr Carter.