

Enid SPURGIN

Died 13 April 1999

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: JEWELL, CARL DORMER

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: RETIRED MARINE CONSULTANT

This statement (consisting of 5 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: C JEWELL

Date: 17/03/2004

I am the above named person and I live at the address overleaf with my wife Shirleyanne . I now live on the Isle of Wight prior to that I lived in Alverstoke.

I make this statement in relation to Enid Dormer SPURGIN who was born on the **Code A** **Code A** and died on the 13th April 1999 (13/04/1999). Enid SPURGIN was my aunt, she was my father's sister. My father and aunt were from a family of two children. My father died at the age of 76 from a stroke. My grandparents died at a reasonably young age, my grandfather was 52 but had been involved in a serious accident and my grandmother died at the age of 58, I don't know why.

I am not aware of any family illness or history from that side of my family.

My aunt taught at a small private school and later got married at about the age of 26 to Ronald SPURGIN . Between them they ran a market garden in Meon, Hampshire. My aunt and uncle had no children and sadly Ronald died in 1958 from cancer and the effects of mustard gas in World War I. My aunt never remarried.

After the death of my uncle, aunt Enid sold the business and moved to **Code A**

Code A This was to be the house she lived in for the rest of her life.

I would describe Aunt Enid as a fit, healthy and active person all her life. She was quite tall and of slim build. I do not recall any health problems she suffered from until she was in the late stages of her life. Aunt Enid was still driving a car to the age of 90.

Signed: C JEWELL
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

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Continuation of Statement of: JEWELL, CARL DORMER

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The first time I recall my aunt being ill was when she suffered from Rymes disease. She was in her late 80's and was admitted to the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth . Aunt Enid was in hospital for about three weeks. I was told by a doctor that she would never be the same again. However in a very short time she was back walking the dogs and driving her car. She did not seem to suffer from the ill effects having left hospital.

I was one of the people who had most contact with my aunt. She was always able to hold a conversation and was fully aware of her surroundings. Due to the fact that my aunt was such an independent person she did become miserable when she had to give up driving. She would have help around the home but was adamant that she wished to remain there and would not have a live in companion.

In mid March 1999 my aunt had an accident, where she fell over outside the Post Office in Stubbington . She was admitted to the Haslar Hospital on the 19th March 1999 (19/03/1999) where she had an operation on her right hip. I visited her in hospital and although she was in some pain the physio's at the hospital had got her sat up and moving. I was impressed at the level of care that she got at Haslar. Aunt Enid seemed ok in herself, she was still lucid when she spoke.

On the 26th March 1999 (26/03/1999) aunt Enid was transferred to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital . I do not know why she was moved, I think it was because of a lack of staff at Haslar. I think my aunt was on Dryad Ward, although she had a private room. I fully expected my aunt to be discharged from the GWMH and hopefully to return home.

I visited my aunt four or five times whilst she was at the GWMH. On my earlier visits she had other friends with her and was speaking with them quite happily. I also spoke with my aunt and she seemed fine. She told me that she rarely saw any doctors or physio's. I spoke to the staff and expressed my concerns about this. I was told that my aunt was to uncomfortable to be moved and had told the staff to go away on several occasions.

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2004(1)

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Continuation of Statement of: JEWELL, CARL DORMER

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Just prior to the Easter weekend in 1999, I don't recall the exact date, but it would have been about the 1st April, I visited my aunt with some chocolates. She was again able to hold a conversation and I recall saying to her "Aunt it's time to get you out of her", Aunt Enid replied "If the old horse doesn't get out of the stable she never will".

Aunt Enid did not seem to be getting anywhere and told me again that she was not seeing any doctors or getting any physio.

This point was again made in a letter from her financial advisor, Charles TOGHILL of Blake, Laphorn Solicitors . In a letter dated the 9th April 1999 (09/04/1999) Mr TOGHILL stated that Aunt Enid was terribly depressed and had not seen a doctor. This letter obviously added to my concerns.

I phoned the hospital and spoke to a member of staff, I don't know who but it was a woman. This phone call would have been on the 10th or 11th April 1999 (10/40/1999), (11/04/1999), I said "She is an old lady please make her as comfortable as you can". The lady said words to the effect that she would.

On the 12th April 1999 (12/04/1999) I visited my aunt in hospital, she was quite unconscious and I was unable to rouse her. I stayed for 2 or 3 hours and asked to see a doctor. When I saw him he told me there is nothing wrong with your aunt she is on too high a dose of morphine. I believe the name of this doctor to be Dr REED .

The doctor told the nurse to reduce my aunts diamorphine , he said she would be all right. When I left at about 1800 hours my aunt was still heavily sedated.

I got home and at about 2200 hours my wife received a phone call from the GWMH saying my aunt was conscious. Obviously we took this to be good news We were told my aunt had been given sips of water.

At around 0130 hours on 13th April 1999 (13/04/1999) I had another phone call to say that my

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2004(1)

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aunt had died. Given the nature of the previous call this came as a shock.

The cause of death was shown as Cerebrovascular accident and signed by Dr BARTON . My aunt was later cremated at Portchester.

With regard to my aunt my concerns are as follows:

1. The lack of treatment and care whilst at the GWMH. I feel she was somewhat abandoned.
2. The levels of morphine she was prescribed, especially with the comments made by Dr REED.

I have always had concerns about my aunts death. I only came forward when I heard about others expressing the same concerns. I have had a chance to review my aunts medical notes.

Signed: C JEWELL
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: