



# *Coroner's Inquest Report Minety*

## **Edward John Hinder**

Edward John Hinder (36), single, a rural postman, who, at the time, was spending a few days' holiday, left his home, the Old Post Office, Minety, on October at an early hour in the morning in search of rabbits. He failed to return, and after waiting for three days without receiving any tidings of his whereabouts, his widowed and aged mother, Fortunata Annie Hinder, informed the police of his disappearance.

Search parties were organised, but their efforts to trace the man were in vain. On Saturday afternoon last, when over five weeks had elapsed, a farm labourer, named Frederick William Norris, was walking along the little used Rigsby Lane, near Lynbrook Farm, when in a ditch, overgrown with brambles, he discovered Hinder's body in an advanced stage of decomposition. The body lay face downwards, and underneath the stomach was a gun.

At the inquest held by the Coroner for North Wilts (Mr A L Forrester) on Tuesday, PS West stated that he found the gun, in which was a spent cartridge, lying across the ditch. Near the stump of a tree was one of deceased's feet, which suggested that he may have stumbled against this obstacle and fallen. The police surgeon said he had found a hole in the centre of the man's forehead such as would result from a cartridge discharged at close range.

The Coroner, who sat without a jury, recorded a verdict of "Accidental death."

Hinder served in the Army during the war, and was taken prisoner soon after hostilities began.

**Western Daily Press 23 November 1922**