

War Pensioner Dies in Cottage Fire at Fairlie

An elderly man lost his life when fire destroyed a two-roomed cottage in the Reserve, Fairlie, late on Monday night. He was: Ernest Slow, 70, single, a war pensioner.

Mr Slow, who lived alone in the cottage, apparently had retired to bed and was overcome by smoke while asleep. The fire, which broke out about 11 p.m., is thought to have started near a coal range in the kitchen. It was first noticed by a neighbour, Mr E. Baker, who roused another neighbour, Mr E. Cullimore, and gave the alarm by telephone. The Fairlie Fire Brigade made a quick turn-out, but the cottage was blazing fiercely on its arrival, and was gutted.

An inquest was opened yesterday morning before the district coroner (Mr J. A. Fraser, J.P.). After evidence of identification had been given by Constable R. J. McElhinney, of Fairlie, the inquest was adjourned sine die, and a post-mortem examination was ordered.