

## SOLDIER'S DEATH ON RANGE

### Bullet Ricocheted

The death of Harold Ronald Clark, 34, soldier, of the 23 Pioneers, Puckapunyal, on October 17, was caused by a bullet which ricocheted after striking a tree, according to witnesses at the inquest yesterday.

Lieut. Geoffrey Noall Webster told Mr. Tingate, P.M., the coroner, that he was in a trench during firing practice on the range at Puckapunyal on October 17. He was watching the fire from another trench through a periscope. Suddenly Clark, who was on his immediate right, dropped his rifle and fell to the ground. When examined he was dead. He had been shot in the neck. The trench in which they were stationed was two feet deep and dug into the bank of a creek, the top of which was seven or eight feet high. The men were ordered to remain in the trench and keep down so that it was impossible for anyone to be hit by direct fire.

After the accident he examined a nearby tree, on which were three bullet marks. In his opinion the bullet which struck Clark may have ricocheted from this tree.

Private Albert Eric Martin said that he was in the trench beside Clark, who obeyed all safety instructions.

Mr. Tingate recorded a finding of accidental death.