

# 'Nuclear fear' led man to kill family and himself

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A librarian's fear of a nuclear holocaust drove him to massacre his mother, wife and daughter before killing himself, it was said at an inquest yesterday.

Mr Frank Parry, aged 52, of Danvers Road, Broughton, near Barnbury, had harboured a death wish for several years, but was worried about leaving his loved ones to face death by radiation sickness. So he killed them and turned his gun on himself as police closed in.

The story of his fears unfolded when lengthy notes he wrote after carrying out the three killings were read to the inquest at Rotherham.

The inquest was into the deaths of Mr Parry, his wife, Audrey, aged 50, their daughter Justine, aged 12, and Mrs Ruth Parry, aged 79. Their bodies were discovered

The coroner, Mr Kenneth Potter, recorded verdicts that Mr Parry's wife, daughter and mother were killed unlawfully and that Parry killed himself.

He said the notes Parry left tried to explain his reasons for the "awesome, monstrous responsibility" for taking their lives.

The notes read in part: "For some years now I have wished to die. However, this would have meant leaving the three persons dear in the world to me without my protection.

"I could not leave them to the threat of death by radiation sickness after the coming atomic war. On March 28 I realised I could not go on, in action was to take them with me. I have done this. Happily, none of them had the slightest

inkling of what was going to happen... ter they passed him he heard a noise like a pistol shot and saw the girl fall. He told police what he had seen.

"What were the final arbiters? I have been dead professionally for 12 years, of which the last 10 have been a nightmare. More importantly, and I have felt this more since reaching 50, I am a man who thought himself a poet, and wished to be nothing more, yet I have not succeeded in publishing a single line. And yet these are not the reasons. Basically, profound pessimism and the futility of human life and the desire that those who one loves should not suffer the horrors of what is to come."

Mr Roger Clarke, of Adwick le Street, near Doncaster, said in evidence that he was walking at Barnburgh Cliff, just outside Rotherham, on March 28 when he saw a man and a schoolgirl walking. Shortly after they passed him he heard a noise like a pistol shot and saw the girl fall. He told police what he had seen. Detective Inspector John Finch, of Thames Valley police, said they discovered a large amount of ammunition at Parry's house. They also found 14 handguns, eight loaded, and a 6.5 calibre rifle. Two handguns were found in Parry's possession.

Mr Potter said the fact that Parry collected antique firearms was perhaps understandable, but it seemed incredible that he should have an armory of guns, some loaded. Parry appeared disturbed and unbalanced in his mind. He was afraid of leaving his loved ones to the threat of death by radiation but his relatives could not recall him ever talking about it.