

DEATH OF WEALTHY WIDOW STIRS POLICE

Woman Found Dead in Chicago Hotel—Male Escort Mysteriously Disappeared.

Death of a woman in the City Hall Square Hotel, 87 West Randolph street, Chicago, has presented the police with the most baffling case in recent months.

They believe she was murdered, though so far investigation has failed to disclose the cause of death. A man who accompanied her and registered as husband and wife disappeared during the night, no one having seen him depart.

It might be called the case of a thousand angles. Letters, notations in a personal notebook, with names, addresses, cryptic references and other data found in the woman's handbag carry one all over America and across the Pacific ocean into the Orient. Only the dead woman and the persons named in abbreviated fashion can interpret the notebook.

The woman was identified at the Western Casket Company as Mrs. Anna Pocock, a wealthy widow, formerly of Canton, Ohio, but who prior to and since the death of her husband in 1914 has been living in Chicago.

She was identified by her son, Harry F. Pocock, 334 East Fifty-sixth street, an employee of Aldis & Co., accountants. However, identification only added another element of mystery to the case. He displayed no emotion when he viewed the body and said he had no theory as to how she met her death.

So far as he knew she had no suitors, he said, and he knew virtually nothing of her life in Chicago. He last saw her five days ago, when she visited his home and helped take a number of camera pictures of his little son. At that time she seemed happy and in the best of health.

It was 10:50 o'clock Thursday night when a gray-haired man with an English accent and fashionably attired in a summer suit and straw hat approached the desk of the City Hall Square Hotel and accosted Frank J. Kenmore, the night clerk.

"I would like to reserve a room for myself and wife," he said.

Kenmore handed him a pen and he inscribed on the register a name and address Kenmore could not decipher. "Beg pardon, but I cannot make this out," he said.

"J. S. Mintren," said the man, a shade of annoyance passing over his face.

He did not see Mrs. Pocock. She had remained in the woman's waiting room.

The bellboy, Edward Sorenson of 224 North Clark street, saw her, but had no conversation with her, as he escorted the couple to room 607.

"Boy," said her companion at the door of the room, "bring me a pitcher of iced water. And, say, boy, leave a call for me at 8 a. m."

That was all. That was the last time Mrs. Pocock was seen alive and the last time anyone saw her company. Occupants of adjoining rooms heard no sound from 607 throughout the night. Even the bellboy, when he brought the ice water, heard no one. He rapped at the door and then left it outside.

At 8 o'clock the next morning Sorenson and Kenmore, the night clerk, had gone home, but the day clerk saw the call and had the hotel telephone operator ring 607. She rang for several minutes. Then ceased. She thought nothing of the matter, as guests frequently leave calls and fail to observe them.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon Mrs. Margaret O'Neill, maid, was making her rounds. She rapped at 607. There was no response. She opened the door with her skeleton key and entered. Diagonally across the bed lay Mrs. Pocock, in a silken night dress. Mrs. O'Neill thought at first she was asleep. On nearer view she found she was dead.

She summoned the day clerk, who in turn notified the authorities. Coroner Peter M. Hoffman, Detective Sergeants John Prendergast and Charles McGurn of the Central Station and Detective Sergeant William O'Neill of the bureau were the first to arrive. Coroner Hoffman immediately summoned Drs. William H. Burmeister and William McNally, city coroner.

These two conducted a hasty post-mortem of the stomach contents and the heart. They found only traces of alcohol and those very slight. A more thorough chemical analysis is being conducted to determine whether there is any poison present.

And here develops another remarkable angle of the case. Coroner Peter M. Hoffman said:

"We have nothing to show how the woman died."

There were new fingerprint bruises on either side each muscle of the upper arm. At the base of the brain was a small contusion. The skin was not broken, but under it a clot of blood was visible. This could have been caused either accidentally or otherwise, the coroner said, but would not have caused death.

Finger print bruises, apparently about 10 days old, were found on either side of the upper hips and on the interior of the thighs.

"While the new bruises indicate that a violent, if silent, struggle transpired in room 607, all are superficial and could not possibly have caused death," the coroner said. "Reconstructing the struggle, I should say the woman was pinned on her back by the man."

Evidence of the struggle ends there, however. The bed linen, the bureau contents, the furniture, were all in order. There was nothing to indicate that Mrs. Pocock had been taken suddenly ill and that her companion had endeavored to give her treatment of any kind.

Main street merchants of Vincennes, Ind., have been notified by the police that it will be necessary for them to have their awnings and signs raised to a height of not less than eight feet from the sidewalk.

Several members of the police department who are taller than the average man made the complaint that caused the chief of police to issue the order.

Michael Kruba, of Worcester, Mass., advertised for a wife. She stayed 19 days then left him flat—minus \$600, he testified.

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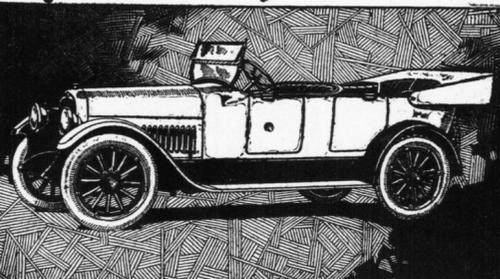
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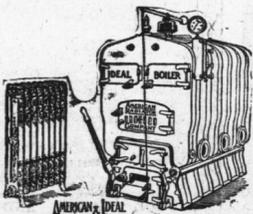
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STRIKING STATISTICS OF THE WORLD WAR

Of Every 100 American Soldiers and Sailors Who Took Part, Two Were Killed or Died of Disease—The Total Battle Deaths of All Belligerents 7,450,200 of Which 48,900 Americans.

The War Department made public a statistical summary of the largest step in the military preparation and action of the United States in the war with Germany, containing the most complete picture yet presented of the American Army in that conflict.

The report, which was prepared by Col. Leonard P. Ayres, chief of the statistics branch of the General Staff of the Army, contains some interesting data relative to the two divisions in which the Maryland draft and National Guard troops were brigaded—the 79th, which was trained at Camp Meade, and the 29th, which was trained at Camp McClellan. The report shows that Maryland ranked thirtieth among the states in the number of men furnished. Maryland furnished 47,054 men, or 1.25 per cent. of the total.

The 29th Division is shown to have been organized in July, 1917; to have arrived in France in June, 1918; to have entered the line in July, 1918, and to have begun its service as an active combat division in October, 1918. The 79th Division was organized in August, 1917, went to France in July, 1918, entered the line in September last and began its service as an active combat division the same month. The division was in quiet sectors 59 days and spent 23 days in active sectors.

The 79th Division spent 28 days in quiet and 17 days in active sectors. The division making the farthest advance against the enemy was the 77th, of New York, which made an advance of 7 1/2 miles. The 79th ranked nineteenth in miles of advance against the enemy, having advanced 19 1/2 miles. The 29th ranked twenty-fifth and advanced seven miles against the enemy.

The total prisoners captured by the American Army numbered 63,079. Of these 2,187 or 3.47 per cent., were captured by the 29th Division, and 1,077 were captured by the 79th. This was 1.71 per cent. of the total prisoners taken by the Americans.

The 79th suffered heavier in battle in deaths and wounded than the 29th. The 79th sustained 7,590 battle casualties, of which 1,396 were battle deaths and 6,194 were battle wounded. The 29th suffered 6,159 battle casualties, of which 940 were battle deaths and 5,219 were battle wounded. American casualties during the 47-day Meuse-Argonne offensive aggregate 120,000 men, or 10 per cent. of the total of 1,200,000 engaged, according to a "statistical summary of the war with Germany," prepared by Col. Leonard P. Ayres, chief of the statistics branch of the general staff, and published by the War Department.

"Of every 100 American soldiers and sailors who took part in the war with Germany," the report said, "two were killed or died of disease during the period of hostilities. In the Northern Army during the Civil War the number was about 10. Among the other great nations in this war between 20 and 25 in each 100 called to the colors were killed or died."

Best information obtainable by the general staff places the total battle deaths for all belligerents at 7,450,200, divided as follows:

Russia, 1,700,000; Germany, 1,600,000; France, 1,385,300; Great Britain, 900,000; Austria, 800,000; Italy, 330,000; Turkey, 250,000; Serbia and Montenegro, 125,000; Belgium, 102,000; Rumania, 100,000; Bulgaria, 100,000; United States, 48,900; Greece, 7,000; Portugal, 2,000.

American participation is summarized in the report in the following table: Total armed forces, including Army, Navy, Marine Corps, 4,800,000. Total men in the Army, 4,000,000. Men who went overseas, 2,086,000. Men who fought in France, 1,390,000.

Tons of supplies shipped from America to France, 7,500,000.

Total registered in draft, 24,234,221. Total draft inductions, 2,810,296.

Cost of war to April 30, 1919, \$21,850,000,000.

Battles fought by American troops, thirteen.

Days of battle, 200.

Days of duration of Meuse-Argonne battle, 47.

American battle deaths in war, 50,000.

American wounded in war, 236,000.

American deaths from disease 56,991.

Total deaths in the Army, 112,422.

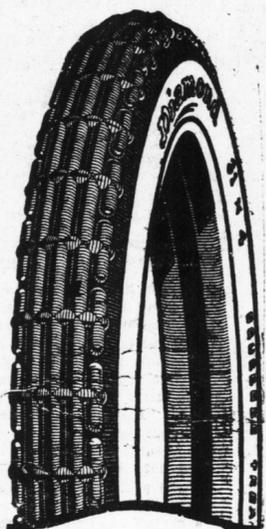
Under the head of "sources of the Army," the report shows that 13 per cent. came from the Regular Army, 10 per cent. from the National Guard and 77 per cent. from the drafted.

A concise history of the military operations in which American troops took part is given in a chapter headed "Two Hundred Days of Battle."

Attention was called to the fact that "two of every three American soldiers who reached France took part in battle."—By Louis Garthe.

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