

EVIDENCE POINTS TO PROVE THAT HIS SON WAS MURDERED

A Deal of Mystery Obscures Tragedy of a Soldier's Ending.

Statement of a Woman, the Only Witness, Is Flatly Contradicted by Others Concerned in the Case.

OUT on the desolate stretch of land that separates Richmond from the ocean Robert Z. Wilson, a sergeant of the Sixth United States Artillery, lost his life Tuesday night. But one person, a woman, who lured the man now dead from his post of duty and possibly to his doom, was present when the shot was fired that sent a bullet into his breast and pierced his heart. Mystery shrouds the entire affair and it is deepened when those connected with the case attempt to explain and the suspicious circumstances, tangle their stories in a mass of contradictions.

Two theories as to the cause of the tragedy have been advanced to the police. One that the sergeant having played his last card in an unfortunate love affair ended his existence, the other that he was the victim of an assassin. His own pistol, a stout .38 caliber army weapon, was evidently used to fire the fatal shot. The belief that Wilson's own finger pulled the trigger is being rapidly dispelled, and the second theory, that of an assassin, gains credence as witness after witness relates the happenings on the dark highway.

The story begins with the sergeant, a dehaucher and degradation, Wilson, the woman and a thirteen-year-old lad, who had been living together in a rooming house at 195 Lake street. He went there to visit Mrs. William Germer, sister of Mrs. Germer, who had been living in the same house for some time.

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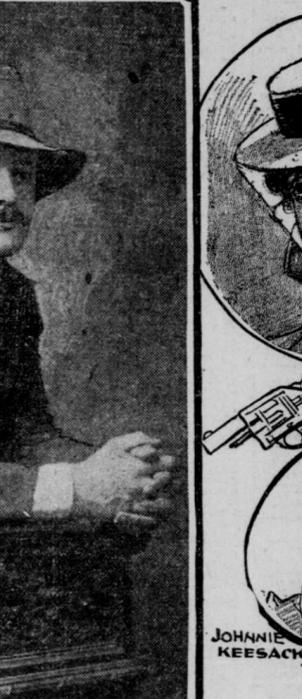
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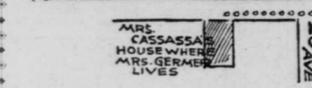
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MRS. GERMER



JOHANNIE KEESACK



SEGT. ROBERT Z. WILSON



OPEN LAND WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND LAKE ST.

Principals in a Case That Is Perplexing the City's Detective Force.

he told me he could not help it as he had been on the beach on a picnic with some people. After that we were friends again, just as though nothing had happened. I was not engaged to him, but he always said that he thought a great deal of me. I am married. My husband has gone to Manila. He went last January. He is a very changeable disposition. He used to tell me he was a very jealous man.

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had been done Johnny Keesack came staggering up from the direction of the house he had laid it on the table and put it in an appearance. He was not there immediately after the shooting, as Mrs. Germer stated.

Miller says that he saw the two boys, accompanied by Wilson and the woman, go up the street some time before he heard the shots. At the corner of the fence they stopped and quarreled. Wilson took of his coat when he came in the house, and when he went outside he was in the shirt sleeves. He said he was not changed in his disposition. He used to tell me he was a very jealous man.

When the Morgue deputies arrived they found the body without coat or hat. A bullet hole was in the breast. No powder marks were on the body. They searched for a weapon, and being unable to find one awoke Keesack and Mrs. Germer and placed them under arrest. The first revolver that was missed was the one which Keesack had taken from the Casassa home. He stated that after returning to the house he had laid it on the table and put it in an appearance. He was not there immediately after the shooting, as Mrs. Germer stated.

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FOOTPAD HIGES PISTOL WITH FATAL EFFECT

Fred Bortzmeyer Is Robbed and Shot Down in Cold Blood.

FOUND DYING ON SIDEWALK

Bloodthirsty Highwayman Escapes, but Leaves His Mask and Revolver to Be Picked Up by Police.

Fred Bortzmeyer, a young man who arrived here from Cleveland, Ohio, a few days ago and has been living at 1325 Geary street, was shot and fatally wounded about 1 o'clock this morning by a lone highwayman at the corner of Ellis and Polk streets. He was able to give the police a description of the robber, and it tallies closely with that of the man who terrorized the Western Union building last week.

Bortzmeyer had spent the evening downtown and missed the last car. He started to walk on Ellis street and when at the corner of Polk was accosted by a short man wearing a mask, who presented a revolver and told him to throw up his hands. He did so, and in response to a demand for his money gave the robber \$20.

Unsatisfied the footpad reached for his victim's watch. Thereupon Bortzmeyer fled to the sidewalk and the robber fired the shot and found Bortzmeyer lying on the sidewalk. He was removed to the Receiving Hospital by Dr. Bobby pronounced his wound fatal.

Bortzmeyer's strength was falling fast when he reached the hospital, at 2015 Fillmore street, and he remained unconscious and could talk with difficulty. He asked Lieutenant of Police Martin to take him to his sweetheart, Miss Grace Hale, at San Diego.

Lieutenant Martin sent out a posse of men, so he walked up to Thirteenth and K streets, where he was shot by the robber. They found a .32-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver and a piece of black cloth on the sidewalk within twenty feet of the body. Bortzmeyer was picked up, but no trace of the murderous footpad.

SAVES MOST OF HIS MONEY.

C. Hedberg Held Up by a Bold Highwayman on Fillmore Street.

C. Hedberg, who conducts an oyster business in the Fish Market, at 2015 Fillmore street, was held up and robbed shortly before 1 o'clock Wednesday morning. Hedberg was leaving the market, after having closed the gates, when he was suddenly confronted by an armed robber who demanded that he throw up his hands under penalty of being made a subject for the coroner. Realizing that the fellow would not hesitate to shoot, Hedberg complied with the demand.

"Shell out, you damned desperado, and be quick about it," the robber commanded the desperado, and he handed him a \$20 gold piece and a \$20 gold piece and the remark that that was all the money he had.

Hedberg, glad to escape with his life, lost no time in leaving the highwayman at going home.

He reported the hold-up to Captain Seymour, who detailed all his available men to search for the highwayman. From the cool manner in which he threw up his hands Seymour is satisfied that the man is an experienced hand at the business.

Hedberg describes the fellow as being of medium height. He wore a slouch hat and a dark suit of clothes. His face was hidden behind a white mask.

I had just closed the market for the night of the day when the robbery occurred, and started for my home. I had gone to the market to buy some goods, and I had a \$20 gold piece and a \$20 gold piece in my pocket.

I covered me with a pistol and commanded me to give him all the money I had or take a chance on going to the morgue. I had \$20 in one of my pockets and \$20 in another. I gave him the twenty-dollar piece, and concluding that I was not to be harmed, I gave him the \$20 piece.

On the person of Wilson was found a letter addressed to Mrs. Germer, and the character of the wound would indicate that the man had died instantly.

An autopsy showed that the bullet had entered the right side of the heart. The man could not shoot into his own body at an angle of 35 degrees upward without producing a powder mark on his clothes. How the gun came to be so far away from the body could not be explained. Miller says that the body was almost cold when he reached it and that it was very cold.

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REVISING THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURES

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HALER'S

interesting facts!

143 tuxedo mesh pattern velt, with chenille dots and border of narrow...

embroidery, 1400 yds. white cambric...

towels and towelings, 15 pieces (say 300 yards) of towel...

hosiery, an unusual offering; latest imported tan cotton...

leather goods, genuine alligator purse, chamolli lined, inside pocket for gold and card case...

vacation hints, 50 ft. of 5-ply 3-inch garden hose, complete with nozzle...

millinery, thirty dress hats which were \$3 and \$4, reduced to \$2.50...

for the garden, 50 ft. of 5-ply 3-inch garden hose, complete with nozzle...

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