

Sad Story Told

Jewess's Death In Limerick

Inquest Details

Mrs Elsa Hoefler, the Austrian Jewess who was found shot dead in a Limerick hotel on Thursday night, was stated, at an inquest on Monday, to have been depressed because she had lost all her money and property in Vienna since Hitler annexed Austria.

She was suffering from a nervous break down, and told a witness that she took drugs to make her sleep.

According to her passport she should have returned to Austria on October 4th—two days after her arrival in Limerick.

The Coroner said she had written certain letters, but he did not propose to put them in evidence as they had no bearing on the tragedy. One letter, he said, contained a passage: "I am compelled to go to my death."

Evidence was given by Mrs Annie Tobin, 18 Newsham street, that Mr Hoefler had been staying in her house since the early part of September; his wife arrived on Oct. 2nd; she appeared to be very depressed and spoke continually of money and property which she had lost since Hitler entered Austria.

The jury brought in a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind.

Mrs Hoefler's daughter, Mrs Gaskell Kutcher, broke down during the inquest and was assisted from the room. Her husband was also deeply affected.

Mrs Kutcher said that a revolver was taken from her mother fifteen years ago when she had a nervous break down, spending some time in a clinic.

Bergy A Doolin said how he found a revolver in Mrs Hoefler's right hand when he was called to the hotel after she had been discovered dead in bed. Beside the bed, he said, were two bottles containing a crystalline substance.

Bessie Hoefler, the dead woman's husband, whose evidence was interpreted by the Rabbi (Rev J S Ganswants), said she had suffered severely from her nerves for some years. On one occasion he found a number of Veronal tablets under her pillow and threw them away. Sometimes his wife insisted on sleeping under the bed. He never saw her with a revolver.

Herr Hoefler said his wife was born in Bohemia; he was born in Poland, but had become a naturalised Greek.

Foreman of the jury—Is there evidence that the family lost their property in Vienna?

Herr Hoefler—I was a rich man; I had 30,000 Austrian shillings, and I have lost it all; my wife and daughter had property and securities; I could, through my own channels, bring only £140 to Ireland for my wife.

Coroner—How was your daughter affected?—She lost all, every penny.

The Coroner expressed sympathy with the husband and daughter.