

SOLDIER'S DEATH

WON'T DO IT!

HARBOUR BOARD

GALLANT RESCUE

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Body Found In Shannon

MYSTERY OF MISSING MONEY

The finding of the body of Private Thomas Minihan (23), of Sarsfield Barracks, in the Shannon on Friday morning, as reported in our last issue, had a sequel the same evening, when, following a post mortem examination, an inquest was held by the Deputy City Coroner, Mr. J. S. McNeill, touching on the circumstances of the death of the deceased.

Inspector Pender conducted the inquiry, and Mr. M. B. O'Malley, solicitor, appeared for the next-of-kin. Dr. Frank Crowe, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, gave evidence of performing a post mortem examination. There were no signs of violence, and death, in his opinion, was due to asphyxia following immersion in water.

Inspector Pender—How long would the body be in the water?—Not less than four days. Decomposition had set in. Samuel Greenwood, 12 Nolan's Cottages, stated that at 7.30 a.m. on Friday, he looked out of his bedroom window, which overlooks the Shannon. He saw a man's head floating in the water. He went down to the side of the water and saw a body. He reported the matter to the Guards. When he returned the body had floated out. He procured the boat and brought in the body. The body was dressed in Army uniform, and was later removed in the Army ambulance.

Mr. O'Malley—Did you notice if his clothing was torn or his tunic disarranged?—I did not take any particular notice. Guard O'Shea stated he was called to the slip at Nolan's Cottages on Friday morning, and there saw the last witness and the body, which was beside the slip. He assisted in removing the body from the water, and saw that it was fully dressed in Army uniform except for cap and belt. From the breast pocket witness took a paper, which was an Army pass, which identified deceased, and giving him leave for Sunday.

Mr. O'Malley—Did you search his other pockets?—I searched his tunic pockets and found some coppers and a rosary beads. ARMY SERGEANT'S EVIDENCE. Sergeant John Costelloe, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, Sarsfield Barracks, said deceased was attached to his battery since last May. The deceased was fond of gambling on greyhounds and horses and drank only porter. On Saturday, 15th of September, he met deceased at 7 p.m. in a licensed premises. They went to the greyhound races at the Markets Field. While there the deceased had bets six out of the seven races and won on four. The deceased won about £14 and he had about £4 of his own. He purchased the "Limerick Chronicle" before going into the dogs and used it as a racing card.

Continuing, the witness said that after the racing Minihan met two civilians in William Street and all four of them went into O'Donnell's licensed premises. Inspector Pender—Had you many drinks?—We had four pints each, but after the third the two civilians left. Before you came to O'Donnell's you had a conversation with the deceased?—Yes, Minihan handed me £10 to keep for him. I refused and said: "You are as well able to look after your money as I am." When did you part with the £10?—I left him at the junction of William St. and Catherine St. at 10.30.

Inspector Pender—What condition was he in at the time?—In my opinion he was sober and able to carry himself. Witness then gave evidence of identification and added that he saw Captain Leahy searching the body, from which he removed a "Limerick Chronicle," a postal order for 10/-, a betting slip, and a small bottle of whiskey. Replied to Mr. O'Malley, the witness said he had no idea where the deceased went when they parted.

Mr. O'Malley—He was not depressed or worried?—No. Nobody but yourself knew that he won £14 that night?—No; I don't think so. Inspector Pender—Do you know that the deceased was in the habit of giving money over to other persons to mind for him?—I did. Inspector—This is important in view of the fact that only £1 was found on the body. VERY OFF-HAND. Witness—Minihan used to lend people money and was very off-handed with it. Private James Lynch, 7th Field Regiment, stated he knew the deceased for five years, and that he was in the habit of betting. On two occasions he gave witness money to mind for him, and on September 14th he gave deceased £10, and on the 15th he gave him £15, which he had kept for him. He joined the deceased at 5.30 in a licensed premises on Saturday and stayed drinking until about 9.30. Deceased had about seven pints before he left with Sergeant Costelloe. Deceased was not drunk, but was in good form. Witness did not see him afterwards.

Coroner—You are not aware if deceased had any enemies?—No, so far as the Army is concerned. He was very popular. Capt. Leahy, M.O., 7th Field

New Road Proposal

KNOCKLISHEEN MILITARY CAMP

The Army authorities are anxious to have the old road from the Watchhouse Cross, on the outskirts of the city, which leads to the site of the new military camp at Knocklisheen, widened and generally improved.

In connection with this matter a letter was read from the Department of Defence at the last meeting of the Clare County Council, Mr. Sean Brady, Chairman, presiding. In the course of their letter the Department stated:—"The road is, approximately, 13 miles long and is surfaced in waterbound macadam, which will not stand up to traffic when the camp is occupied. Considerable portions of it are liable to flooding and are quite impassable during heavy floods in the Shannon. In places, the road is as low as 18 ft. Ordnance Data, while the high-water level of the Shannon is 22 ft. O.D. It will be necessary to raise the lower portions of the road to a height of 22 feet O.D. The road will also require widening to an effective carriage-way of 21 feet, re-surfacing in concrete and the provision of a concrete footpath 5 feet wide at one side. The Minister would be glad if arrangements could be made to have the necessary work carried out at an early date, having regard to the impending occupation of the new military camp at Knocklisheen."

On this, Mr. Reid, Acting County Surveyor, reported that only 700 yards of this road is in Clare and his preliminary estimate of the cost of carrying out the required improvements on this portion was £3,900. Mr. Begley did not see why the County Council should spend £3,900 on the improvement of this road for the military. The road should be maintained in a state to meet the needs of the local people, but it would be dangerous for their horses and stock if it were concreted. He proposed that no extra expenditure be incurred by the Co. Council on the road. Mr. Hayes and the Chairman agreed with Mr. Begley's remarks and the motion was passed unanimously.

TITLE FOR CORK

LONG LOSING SEQUENCE BROKEN

Cork won their first All-Ireland football title in 34 years, when they defeated Cavan at Croke Park, yesterday, after a closely contested game, by 2 goals and 6 points to 1 point. At half time Cork led by 1-4 to 0-5. The attendance figure of 67,329 was 11,916 below the record set up last year when Roscommon met Kerry. The gate receipts were £5,558, a decrease of £918 on last year's total.

Artillery, gave evidence of finding the articles described by Sergeant Costelloe in the body. Comdt. McGrath, O.C., 7th Field Artillery, stated the deceased was absent from the Sarsfield Barracks since Sunday night. His Army record showed that he was 23 years and unmarried, and that his home address was Anhid, Croom. Deceased had leave of absence to 11.15 on Saturday night and also an Army pass to 11.15 on Sunday night.

Miss Annie Blake stated she was barmaid at Mr. Reddan's premises in Wolfe Tone Street, which the deceased used frequent with his companions. Deceased was in the premises on Saturday night and had six or seven pints of stout before he left with Sgt. Costelloe. On Sunday witness was on duty between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., when the deceased came in and had a drink. He was alone and as far as she remembered there was no other soldier there. He paid for the drink with silver and left after five minutes. Deceased was usually pleasant, but on this occasion was downhearted.

Coroner—Could you possibly be making a mistake when you say you saw deceased on Sunday?—No. It could not have been on the previous Friday or Saturday?—No. Did the deceased ask for his companions?—No. This concluded the evidence.

CORONER'S REMARKS. The Coroner said he was perfectly satisfied the deceased met his death accidentally, but there was nothing to show how he fell into the water. In view of the fact that he had an appointment with Sgt. Costelloe for Sunday it was obvious that he did not intend to take his own life, and the probability was that he had a little too much drink and wandered down to the river, where he fell in.

Returning a verdict that death was due to asphyxia following immersion in water, the Coroner expressed sincere sympathy with the relatives of the deceased, in which Inspector Pender joined on behalf of the Garda. Commandant McGrath said deceased was an exemplary soldier and extremely popular with his comrades. He was generally recognised as a good soldier by all ranks in the Army, and he wished to express the Army's sympathy with the bereaved relatives.

Opposition To Boom Project

INCREASED LIGHTING CHARGES

Ald. D. Bourke, T.D., presided at the meeting of the Limerick Harbour Board to-day. The other members present were—Messrs. J. P. Goodbody, P. Whelan, B.C.; M. W. McGuire, B.C.; James O'Keefe, A. E. Goodwin.

The officials in attendance were—Mr. D. O'Brien, Acting Secretary; Mr. T. F. O'Sullivan, B.E., Harbour Engineer and Capt. C. J. Hanrahan, Harbour Master. In connection with the proposal of the E.S.B. to erect a boom across the Abbey River above Baal's Bridge and against which the Harbour Board had protested, a letter was read from the E.S.B. stating that the proposal to erect the boom came from the Grand Canal Company as a precautionary measure to prevent accidents to canal boats during high water in the winter seasons. As the boom would be only used during the winter it could not be obstruction to pleasure boats or other vessels. In any case, it was stated, the boom could be removed at any time.

The Chairman said that in view of the letter of the E.S.B. the Board might re-consider the proposal to erect the boom. "DEFINITE OBSTRUCTION." Mr. McGuire said that he was strongly opposed to erecting the boom, as it would be a definite obstruction. The E.S.B. had already blocked the Shannon to pleasure boats by the new salmon weir above Thomond Bridge. Now it was proposed to block the remaining outlet via the Abbey River. He would not agree under any circumstances to the erection of the boom.

Mr. O'Keefe—What does the Harbour Engineer say about the boom project? Engineer—I'm satisfied that the boom will not serve the purpose intended. The correct thing to do would be to construct a dolphin or a jetty if the canal boats need protection in flood waters. The putting of a boom across the river will be an obstruction, but will not be a protection to canal boats. Mr. Goodwin said that the boom, once it was put down, would not be removed to facilitate pleasure boats.

Mr. O'Keefe said that in view of the statement made by the Harbour Engineer the Board should not acquiesce to the proposal. The E.S.B. should be made aware of the opinion expressed by the Engineer. After some further discussion, it was decided that the E.S.B. be informed that the Board would not agree to the erection of the boom and, further, that, in the opinion of the Harbour Engineer, a boom would not serve as a protection to canal boats.

LIGHTING CONTRACT. The Engineer reported that as the lighting contract with the E.S.B. had concluded, a new contract had to be made. The E.S.B. had declined to renew the contract on the old basis, but instead had increased the lighting charges for the lamps within the dock area by 325 per cent. The E.S.B. held that the lamps within the dock area were a private service, and, consequently, the private rate for lighting should apply. He thought that they should enter a strong protest against that proposal.

Mr. Goodbody—I don't think that a protest would be of any use. Engineer—The E.S.B. should fix a scale of charges for Harbour Boards. Answering Mr. Goodbody, the Engineer said that he could prepare an estimate to show what the increased cost in lighting would mean to the Board.

Mr. Goodbody thought that the Board should consider the question of providing their own lighting system. It should be possible to procure the necessary equipment at a low rate just now. The Engineer said that he would consider that suggestion and prepare a report for the next meeting. Chairman—In the meantime we can enter a protest against the E.S.B.'s new scale of charges. Mr. Goodbody—Yes. The discussion then ended.

SHIPPING. The Acting Secretary reported that since the last meeting two regular traders, two coasters, and three overseas vessels had entered the port.

HANDBALL FINALS

J. J. Gilmartin, Kilkenny, beat W. Walsh, Cork, in the All-Ireland handball finals (singles) at the Depot Court yesterday in four straight games—21-5, 21-10, 21-7, 21-8. Kildare beat Tipperary in the doubles junior—3 games to 1.

A HEAVY POLL

The local elections in France were held yesterday and the poll is expected to prove the heaviest in the history of that country. The people of Limoges were prevented from voting because a municipal strike kept all the city records locked up.

BETTING RECORD

About £1,250,000 was wagered at the race meeting at Belmont Park, New York, on Saturday, which set up a new world record. The attendance was 49,614.

GRIM STORY OF THE STORM

The crew of the Aran lifeboat effected two gallant rescues during the height of the fierce storm that swept the West coast of Ireland during the week-end, says a message received to-day.

Warned of the approach of the storm, a number of British fishing trawlers that were operating off the Aran Islands made for the comparative safety of the little harbour of Killofinan. Two trawlers, however, were caught by the storm before they could reach Killofinan, and were driven on to the rocks. They were being pounded by heavy seas and were in imminent danger of foundering when the crews sent up rockets.

Without a moment's hesitation the Aran lifeboat was launched, and for three hours the crew fought the gale in an endeavour to reach the doomed vessels. Eventually the lifeboat got alongside the trawlers and succeeded in taking on board the two crews, numbering altogether 26 men. On the return journey the lifeboat was washed from stem to stern by mountainous seas, and fears were entertained for her safety. She at length reached Killofinan amidst the prayers and supplications of wives, children and hundreds of the islanders who watched the thrilling rescue from behind great boulders.

ATOMIC BOMB

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S STATEMENT

President Truman announced at his Press conference in Washington to-day that he accepted full responsibility for the atomic bomb. He denied published reports that Mr. Wallace, Secretary for Commerce, had created differences in the Cabinet regarding the maintenance of the secret of the bomb. Whether the bomb was to remain a secret or not, the President said, was not a matter for the Cabinet, but for him. He would come to a decision on the point at the appropriate time.

Gen. MacArthur has warned the Japanese that they must not attempt any research work in relation to atomic energy.

STRIKE FEVER

SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES

A New York message, received this afternoon, states that the strike fever in the United States is spreading. Over 235,000 persons are now on strike, and it is feared that the number will grow. To-day 11,000 lift operators in New York went on strike, and it is expected that the 4,000 who remained at work will be "out" within the next twenty-four hours.

PLAGUE OF CATERPILLARS

Widespread devastation is being caused to cabbage fields in South Wexford by a plague of caterpillars. In one field, near Rosslare, scarcely a leaf remains of 6,000 cabbages sowed about a month ago. Normally caterpillars attack only cabbages in gardens or lots near houses, but this year open fields are being destroyed.

ACCIDENTALLY SHOT AT REHEARSAL

A pantomime rehearsal in a private house in Belfast last night ended in tragedy, when one of the players, Francis McGettigan (16), 55 St. James's Road, Belfast, was accidentally shot through the heart with a pellet from an air-gun.

CHARGED WITH MURDER OF 40,000

The first mass murder trial in the American zone in Europe will open at Wiesbaden on October 8th, when seven men and one woman will face trial for the alleged murder of more than 40,000 Russians, Poles and Germans at a mill at Hadamann, about 20 miles from Wiesbaden.

'BUS CUT IN TWO.

A double-decker bus was practically cut in two by a falling tree, blown down by a 60-miles an hour gale in Glasgow on Saturday. One man was killed and another seriously injured in the crash. Seven other passengers escaped with a bad shaking.

JOYCE A BLACK AND TAN?

According to an article appearing in the "People" yesterday, William Joyce ("Lord Haw-Haw"), who last week was sentenced to death for high treason to the British Crown, served in "A" Auxiliary Company of the Black and Tans.

SCIENTISTS KILLED BY TYPHOON

A party of eminent Japanese scientists who were investigating the effects of the atomic bomb were among the victims of the typhoon which struck Hiroshima last week. The scientists were carrying out an independent investigation.

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SALE

DUGGAN'S, 48, WILLIAM STREET, LIMERICK

FIRST ANNIVERSARY SALE

From FRIDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, to SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER

The Warehouse will Open Each Day during Sale at 10.30 o'clock, a.m., and will Close from 1 to 2.15 p.m. for lunch.

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DRAPER, 48, WILLIAM STREET, LIMERICK

Popular Band.
Dancing, 10 to 4 (S.T.) Mineral Bar.
TICKETS (including Tax), 5/-
Visiting Team will attend.
(29-6p)

CALLING ALL CARS?
SHEILA M. DUNNE'S
Farewell Dance
ROYAL SPA HOTEL,
LISDOONVARNA,
SUNDAY, 7th OCT.
Dancing, 9 to 2.
Admission (including Tax) 5/-
(29-6c)

Patrickswell Lawn Tennis Club.
GRAND DANCE
At CLARINA HALL,
SUNDAY, SEPT. 30th.
9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Music by C. Keane's Band.
Admission (including Tax) 2/6
(30c)

BRUFF POINT-TO-POINT DANCE
Will be held at the HALL, BRUFF, ON SUNDAY NIGHT, 30th SEPTEMBER, 1945.
Further Particulars later.
M. BARRY.
(30c) Hon. Sec. (29-6p)

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