

PUT INNOCENT MAN TO DEATH?

Grim Tale of Murder and
Execution in State of New
Jersey.

George H. Brandon was executed in Trenton, N. J., a few days ago, protesting his innocence with his dying breath and resisting until he had to be man-handled into quietness. There seems to be a general belief that Brandon was an innocent man. The story of the case is presented by the New York Tribune:

At 1:15 o'clock of the moonlit morning of August 22, 1918, Arthur Kupfer, a young paymaster, and Edith Janney, a 19-year-old acquaintance, both residents of Perth Amboy, left an inn on the outskirts of Rahway, to go home in Kupfer's automobile. Their visit to the inn had been an innocent and friendly one. The proprietors of the place knew both Miss Janney and her family.

The Murder.
At 2:07 o'clock, or 52 minutes afterward, the Rev. Frank H. Moore, superintendent of the State Reformatory at Rahway, was awakened from bed, and without stopping to put on his glasses, he looked out on the road, which passes under his window. In the moonlight, according to statements made a little while later, Moore saw an automobile stopped, and a man carrying another toward a ditch. Upon depositing his burden at the roadside this man returned to the car, and it was driven off at high speed by a third man who had remained at the wheel. The man left in the ditch was Arthur Kupfer. Within an hour, or thereabouts, he died from a bullet wound in the heart. At dawn the body of Miss Janney was found beside a road in the village of Linden. She had been shot through the head.

The Accused.
For almost two years the police made no headway in the investigation. Then they received a communication from John Lambie, alias George H. Brandon, a prisoner at Auburn under a sentence for burglary, that he knew the murderer. He offered to reveal his name in consideration for his own liberty and a job. An arrangement was arrived at and Brandon named Charles Pechaud, a fellow-convict. He said that Pechaud had confessed to him. Pechaud, when accused, admitted being on the scene of the murder, but said that he was a companion of Brandon's and that it was the latter who had murdered the two for purposes of robbery. At the trial, Pechaud was accepted as state's evidence and stuck to his story. Dr. Moore identified Brandon as the man he had seen, despite the fact that he had seen him only once before and then without his glasses and in circumstances of some excitement, until he had seen him in prison.

A Lawyer's Course.
The state also introduced evidence in the form of finger prints from the rear door of an automobile purporting to be Kupfer's car. The door was not produced. Photographs of other finger prints, identified as those of Pechaud were produced from the windshield of the car. These were held to confirm Pechaud's story to the effect that he rode in the front of the car and Brandon in the back of the car and he had fired the shots.

Brandon's defence was that he had

never been near the scene of the crime. He was found guilty and sentenced to death. His lawyer did not prosecute the writ of error which he had secured, and admitted that his inaction was due to the fact that Brandon's money had run out. For this outrageous conduct he was disbarred. His action attracted more attention to the case of Brandon and another lawyer took it up.

The Inexorable Law.
New evidence was unearthed. Witnesses were prepared to come forward in the support of Brandon's alibi. Men who had worked in a New York City garage with him, and Miss Dorothy Brodell were ready to swear that at the time of the crime he could not have been in New Jersey. Another witness was ready to testify that Dr. Moore, when summoned to identify Brandon at Auburn, did not recognize him until he had been pointed out. There was other evidence to show that the former lawyer had bungled the case. Unfortunately for Brandon, the New Jersey law

says that after a case has been tried, and new evidence upon which it is desired to have a new trial, must be submitted within six months. The six months had elapsed and this new testimony could not be considered. The governor, however, had power to intervene, and he refused to do so. The net result will be a large increase in the number of people who disbelieve in capital punishment.

THROUGH SEWERS TO HOUSES THEY PLANNED TO ROB

Vienna, Aug. 17.—(Associated Press by mail).—In a raid on the sewers for thieves who were suspected of availing themselves of those short cuts up into houses they intended to rob, a number of men have just been captured by the police after a fight with revolvers. Women clad in black tights were among them.

MADONNA IS RESTORED TO MOUNTAIN TOP

Italian Soldiers and Women
and Children Scale Peak to
Replace Statue Dislodged
in War.

Monte Grappa, Italy, Aug. 19.—(Associated Press, by mail).—This morning, 5,000 feet high, amid the rugged crags of the Alps, has just been the scene of a vast pilgrimage of 16,000 veterans of the world war, women and children, who for days have been climbing to reach the summit where the statue of a Madonna and child was reconsecrated in memory of the Italian heroes who fought in these mountain fastnesses.

The road to the summit is eighteen miles in length and winds through passes, skirts the edge of bottomless ravines and rises finally to giddy heights, where to the south one sees the plains of the Isonzo to the sea, to the north continue chains of towering Alps. It was thus that, during the war, the army that occupied Monte Grappa controlled the plain. It was the mountainous battleground of the Italian and Austrian armies, and its changing of hands during the course of the war is the story of the whole campaign.

The Madonna which has now taken her place on the summit was placed here in 1910 by Cardinal Sarto, patriarch of

Venice. In May, 1918, while the stronghold was in possession of the Italians, an Austrian bomb struck the pedestal on which the statue rested. A captain of engineers and handful of men left their dugouts among the rocks, and in a terrific bombardment lifted the statue and took it to a place of safety. On a convenient day it was taken down from the mountain and carried back to the year to remain until the end of the war so that it could be erected with safety.

For the ceremony of replacing the Madonna, which has just taken place, the king was represented by the Duke of Bergamo, who delivered an address on the sacrifices made by Italian troops in the defence of Grappa. Former Premier Orlando made the principal speech, in which he recounted the heroic exploits of the Italian army in overcoming the seemingly unsurmountable difficulties of the mountain strongholds. There were special commissions of the ceremony from the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. After the addresses, a mass was celebrated. The Cardinal of Venice, with five bishops of the Veneto officiated in the religious ceremony.

General Giardino, known as the "Defender of Grappa," received a gold medal from the city of Treviso. While the ceremonies were performed, a huge Italian dirigible hovered over the mountain heights signalling to the mountain villagers. It also carried a message to

Grappa from the city of Venice, which reads as follows: "The bulwark of the air salutes the bulwark of the mountains."

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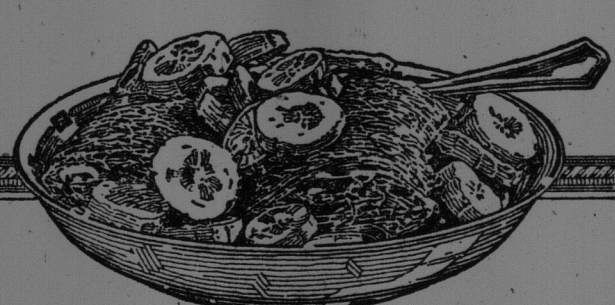
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