

Son Murders to Avenge Mother

Kills Brother's Wife While She Is Sitting in Barber's Chair.

Lincoln, Neb.—The day before Fane Mason was shot by her brother-in-law as she sat in a barber's chair at Leigh, Neb., she had gone with Frank Mason to Fremont, Neb., to decorate the graves of relatives. They have some pretty customs among the gypsy tribes and, in accordance with one of them, a lighted Christmas tree was placed by Fane Mason and her father-in-law, Frank, over the grave of his grandfather. Frank Mason's wife was buried nearby about a year ago.

The gypsy graves are well kept, some of them so beautifully, indeed, that people often drive out to the Ridge cemetery to view them.

There apparently was nothing overt in this visit of the gypsy chief, Frank Mason, and his daughter-in-law to inspire the wrath of his two sons, Duffy and Ted. It probably did, however, fan their growing anger into a blaze. They resented the fondness of their sixty-one-year-old father and chief for his eighteen-year-old daughter-in-law.

Fane Schafer Mason was not gypsy-born. She was married to Duffy Mason, April 17, 1920, at Pierce, Neb. She had spent the greater part of her life on the road, as her parents are horse traders but not gypsies. Her husband left her a day after the marriage and they had lived together only at intervals since. Duffy Mason says he did not wish to marry her.

Resented Intimacy.

For all that it is certain he resented the growing intimacy between his father and the girl. They had been in Omaha together some time before the shooting and the chief had bought her some fineries that young girls love. A lot of money he paid for them, too, as much as \$100. That means the profits of quite a bit of horse trading.

Chief Mason allowed he had a right to buy some things for his own daughter-in-law and he had a right to be in Omaha at the same time as Fane. That didn't square things with his sons, however. They put a different interpretation on his gifts to Fane.

So the night after Fane and Frank had plied the little lighted Christmass tree over the body of the gypsy child Fane Mason returned to the camp at Leigh. Her husband, Duffy Mason, said to her, according to the testimony, "Fane, I want you to go home. I don't want to live with you."

But Fane didn't go home. She started to prepare supper over the camp fire. The Masons had been living in a covered wagon despite the zero weather.

Right here the ghost of the gypsy woman buried near the child, out at Ridge cemetery enters the story. Ted Mason, who shot Fane a short time later, explains it this way:

"She comes back to camp all dolled up in some new clothes and starts to get supper. She used a skillet and some things my mother owned. I couldn't stand to see that girl touch

the things my mother used to touch. And I told her so. And I told her what I thought about her and father.

"She threw the things down on the ground, and ordered me out of the wagon."

Ted Mason went up to the town. Duffy Mason joined him there. Some time later they heard that Fane had come up to town, and was in the barbershop. Also, that their father was with her.

Ready for Hair Cut.

When the brothers entered the shop Fane Mason was seated in a chair ready for a hair cut. Frank Mason stood beside her. The tragedy moved quickly. Holding a revolver about six inches from the back of the girl's head, Ted Mason fired.

As she slumped in the chair Frank Mason caught her in his arms and kissed her. She died in his arms.

The brothers gave themselves up, and their father followed them to the town hall. They were his sons and he was ready to employ a lawyer to defend them. They were of his tribe. He was their father and their chief.

They hurried back at their accusations, their threats. He did not flinch. Turning to the officer who was guarding them he said: "Marshal, give Ted the gun, and see if he's got nerve enough to finish me."

"I don't want to shoot you," replied his son. "If I had wanted to kill you I could have done it long ago."

Frank Mason was deeply concerned with the funeral arrangements. He asked the undertaker to have a woman assist in the preparing of the body and he and the undertaker sat up all night with it. "This is the code of ethics of our family," Mason explained.

As Fane's body was being prepared for removal to Schuyler, Neb., the home of her family, Frank Mason stood beside it and wept. He bent and kissed the lips of the dead woman. He urged that the remains be placed in a vault, saying that gypsies never bury their dead except in vaults. The request was not granted, her own people taking the body and interring it in their own church.

At the preliminary hearing the father told tearfully of events which led to the quarrel. He said he had happened to meet Fane in Omaha and that they registered at a hotel there, but in separate rooms. He spent \$100 on clothes for her. His sons threatened to cut her new coat off her back if they should catch her wearing it.

From their cell in the dungeon of Schuyler jail, Ted and Duffy Mason talk freely of the quarrel and the crime. They received word that their father would defend them without any show of emotion. "I did not love my wife," says Duffy. "I was forced to marry her. I left her the next day and went West."

Duffy said he had not seen the girl again until about a month before the shooting. He was requested by his brother to come home, so he rejoined the family wagon. He and his wife had quarreled for several days and he

Workers Find Strange Bird in Old Structure

New York.—Wreckers demolishing the building on the site for the new building of the New York Athletic club came upon a strange crippled bird recently which defied identification even by that man of diversified knowledge, the foreman. The bird, perched on a rafter, resembled a pigeon, but had a comb somewhat like a rooster.

The bird was taken to the West Forty-seventh police station. A claw and a wing had been injured, the latter having been bound with a strip of adhesive tape.

The bird has a dark gray breast, brown feathers at the neck and white specks around the tail.

decided to ask for a divorce. His father reminded him that gypsies do not seek recourse to courts, but settle their own affairs, he said.

"I would have nothing to do with my wife," Duffy continued. "We talked it over with the county attorney and he advised us to get along if we could. Then I began to notice that my dad was 'sweet' on her. He would give her money and they were always together. I didn't care. She was a bad woman, but I wouldn't have my father arrested, because we gypsies settle those things ourselves."

Ted Mason, apparently unconvinced by his sibling, agrees with his brother.

"She was worthless and bad. She promised to be awfully good to me if I would get Duffy to marry her."

The county attorney characterizes the Mason brothers as "daredevils." Neither can read or write. Duffy asked that some one be allowed to read them newspaper reports of the crime, but was refused. "Dad is to blame for it all," says Ted. "He never gave us an education."

This was before the preliminary, when told his father would appear against them. The father later changed his mind.

About a month before the killing Fane Mason was stabbed in the shoulder by a relative of her husband. She was taken secretly to Schuyler and hidden in a house. During the night Ted and Duffy spirited her away in the car and authorities heard no more of her until the killing.

At the preliminary hearing the father told tearfully of events which led to the quarrel. He said he had happened to meet Fane in Omaha and that they registered at a hotel there, but in separate rooms. He spent \$100 on clothes for her. His sons threatened to cut her new coat off her back if they should catch her wearing it.

From their cell in the dungeon of Schuyler jail, Ted and Duffy Mason talk freely of the quarrel and the crime. They received word that their father would defend them without any show of emotion. "I did not love my wife," says Duffy. "I was forced to marry her. I left her the next day and went West."

Duffy said he had not seen the girl again until about a month before the shooting. He was requested by his brother to come home, so he rejoined the family wagon. He and his wife had quarreled for several days and he

FIX BAYONETS!

The War at Close Range Described in a Remarkable Series by an Officer of the Marines

Capt. JOHN W. THOMASON, Jr.
(Illustrated by the Author from Sketches Made on the Battlefield)
© by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.

As a company officer, I always had a job. There is no intent to overlook those very gallant gentlemen, our friends, the army. Their story is ours, too. JOHN W. THOMASON, JR.

CHAPTER I

Attack.

In the fields near Marigny marines of the First Battalion of the Fifth found an amiable cow. There had been nothing in the way of rations that day; there were no prospects. All hands took thought and designated a robust Polish corporal as executioner. He claimed to have been a butcher in a former existence. He was leading the cow decently away from the road when a long gray car boomed up, halted with the touch of swank that Headquarters chauffeurs always affect, and disgorged a very angry colonel.

"Lieutenant, what are you doing there?" he yelled.

"Sir, you see, the men haven't had anything to eat, and I thought, sir— we found this cow wanderin' around—we couldn't find any owner—we'd like to chip in and buy her—we were goin' to—"

"I see, sir, I see! You were going to kill this cow, the property of some worthy French family. You will bear in mind, Lieutenant, that we are in France to protect the lives and property of our allies from the Germans—Release that animal at once! Your rations will be distributed as soon as possible—carry on!"

In 1917, when trained soldiers in the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry, two old regiments with names from all of our wars on their battle-flags, the Second regiment of engineers—and engineers are always good—and the Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth field artillery. It was a division distinguished by the quality of dash and animation by an especial pride of service. It carried to a high degree esprit de corps, which some Frenchman has defined as esteeming your own corps and looking down on all the other corps. And although it paid heavily in casualties for the things it did—in five months about 100 per cent, the Second division never lost its professional character.

In 1917, when trained soldiers in

the United States were at a premium, the navy offered a brigade of marines for service in France; it was composed of the Ninth and Twenty-third infantry,