

SLAYER OF PEMBROKE

Town Aroused By Brutal Murder Of James Edwards

Britain to Pur

**Possible Motive
Sought—
No Money
Taken From Body**

PEMBROKE, March 15.—(Staff)—Inspector Robert Wannell, of the Criminal Investigation Department, Toronto, arrived today to take charge of the Edwards murder probe. He stopped questioning witnesses at 3 p.m. to attend the post-mortem, which was conducted by Dr. Max Klotz of Ottawa.

PEMBROKE, Ont., March 15.—(Staff)—This town was agog with speculation this morning when Ontario Provincial Police under direction of District Inspector T. W. Cousans, launched what he called "a full-scale criminal investigation" into the murder Sunday night of 26-year-old W. James Edwards, the taxi driver whose body was found slumped in the front seat of his abandoned cab by the side of the Pembroke-Westmeath Road, shot through the head.

Assisted by RCMP photographers and fingerprint men, Inspector Cousans made a close two-hour

**Breaks Own Record
For Mining Coal**

LLANELLY, Wales, March 15.—(Reuters)—Working on his knees with only 30 inches headroom, William King last week cut and loaded by hand 90 tons of anthracite, breaking his 71-ton record for the anthracite field set last January.

**Marshall Plan
Conference
Opens in Paris**

**Western Germany
And Spain May Be
Included**

PARIS, March 15.—(CP)—The 16-country European Conference today was asked to include Western Germany in the reconstruction plan for the continent.

Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin of Britain made the proposal. Foreign Minister Georges Bidault



PEMBROKE MAN VICTIM OF BRUTAL SLAYING—James (Jimmie) Edwards, 572 Norman street, 26-year-old taxi driver and father of two small children, was murdered in his cab last night between 10.30 and 11 o'clock on the Westmeath road, 16 miles east of Pembroke.

study of the cab and its grisly cargo. The snowdrifts adjoining the road were searched closely for the bullet, but up to press time today it had not been found. Nor has the weapon been found.

To Hold Postmortem.

Following the experts' examination, the body of Edwards was removed to the parlor of Malcolm & Deavitt to await a postmortem examination.

Dr. O. M. Klotz, of the Ottawa Civic Hospital, was expected in Pembroke to conduct it at 2.30 p.m.

Funeral arrangements have not been made as yet, pending the release of the body to the family.

Meanwhile Pembroke citizens, aroused by the brutal slaying, were searching for a possible motive. As far as is known no money was taken from the slain man's body. A reward of \$500 for the capture of the murderer has been offered by Leonard Murphy, owner of Murphy's Taxi Company, for whom the dead man worked.

Inspector Cousans arrived at the scene of the murder shortly after 5.30 a.m. from his Perth headquarters.

The body, discovered in the car on the road 16 miles east of Pembroke at 11.10 Sunday night, remained untouched and under guard of Provincial Constables B. C. Mills and J. H. A. Williams until his arrival.

The Inspector and RCMP experts started their examination of the scene just as dawn was breaking. Nearby farmers were questioned. The heavy crust of snow in the adjoining fields was searched for fresh footprints, as was a nearby barn.

At 7 o'clock the half frozen body was removed in a hearse and the investigation moved into Pembroke, where routine police machinery was set in motion.

Discovers Body.

Edwards' body was discovered by a fellow driver of the Murphy Company, William Perkins. Driving down the Westmeath road for a fare, Perkins noticed Edwards' taxi parked without lights at the east side of the road. Stopping his cab, Perkins got out and opened the front door. "I just stood there motionless for a minute—I couldn't believe it", Perkins told The Journal.

Recovering somewhat, he noted the engine temperature gauge stood at 160 degrees and then shutting the door, he drove one mile back along the road to a farm house and a telephone.

He called Provincial Police Constable Mills and told him what had happened. Obeying police orders, he returned to the death car and remained until the police arrived a few minutes later.

Police stopped all passing cars, taking the names and addresses of the occupants. Traffic was kept moving past the scene of the tragedy and by sunrise only a hearse, a police car, and several press cars kept vigil beside the murdered man.

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Arrest Possible

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They are checking on the many persons entering and leaving the town over that week end. Migrant workers figure largely in the investigation.

Records of construction camps at Petawawa, Des Joachims, Chalk River and lumber camps in the Petawawa and Mackey Station areas and the Quebec side, show several score workers left their jobs at that time.

It is thought possible that the murderer was forced to shoot when his original intention was only to rob Edwards and take his cab. Edwards still had money in his pockets when he was found. It appears the murderer did not have time to take the money.

Edwards was found shot through the head and slumped down in the front seat of his darkened cab, 200 yards past Chaffey's Corners on the Pembroke - Westmeath road, 10 miles northeast of town at 11.05 that Sunday evening.

Police know that Edwards' taxi, travelling fast, passed a slower car about three miles south of Chaffey's Corners shortly before 11 o'clock, the time of the murder. The driver told police he saw the Edwards taxi and a truck stopped about 40 yards apart when he reached Chaffey's Corners and turned right before Beachburg. This could have been only a matter of two or three minutes after Edwards' black taxi passed him. The three men in the truck, travelling from Westmeath to Pembroke, said they saw Edwards' taxi pass Chaffey's Corners, pull in to the side of the road, stop and put out its lights. They passed the darkened car and pulled up beside the road.

Asked For Lift.

A man jumped out of the right-hand door of the taxi and told them his car had broken down and asked for a lift to Pembroke.

If the murderer was bent on getting out of the Pembroke area by stealing a taxi it is likely he was forcing Edwards to drive to

a deserted stretch of the Pembroke-Westmeath road.

Tried to Save Himself.

Edwards was in the process of buying the taxicab for himself from his employer, Leonard Murphy, and it was his sole source of livelihood. It is thought he saw a chance of saving himself by stopping when he saw the approaching truck.

Instead, the murderer's hand was forced. He shot Edwards and took the opportunity of begging a lift back to town from the inaccessible murder scene.

Police have been fortunate in establishing the time of the murder within 30 seconds either way of 11 o'clock. In addition to the evidence of the men in the truck and the driver of the car passed by Edwards' taxi shortly before the shooting, they have the evidence of Bill Perkins.

Perkins, another Murphy Taxi Company driver, found Edwards' body at 11.05 slumped in the front seat of the death car. He met the truck in which the murderer was a passenger about half way between Chaffey's Corners and Highway 17. At the time of the actual shooting police believe Perkins must have been about to turn off the highway to the Pembroke-Westmeath road on his way to pick up a fare at Mills bridge about four miles past the murder scene.

A puzzling point in the investigation is the murderer's use of the word "Whyte's" instead of Clearview tea room, the name that appears on the restaurant, from whence he called Edwards' taxi and to which he returned after the shooting. Two years ago the restaurant was known as Whyte's cabins and assumed its new name on renovation.

Some one stationed at Petawawa military camp during the war could have known this and would have felt safe in appearing in the area again without being recognized.

The investigation has been hampered by a number of false leads given police by people who simply "want to get into the act". Police cars have been kept flying about the district running down these false scents.

Inspector Kelly said the investigation was now a process of elimination and a lot of deadwood had to be cut away to get to the hard core of fact.

Inspector Robert Wannell, associated with Inspector Kelly in the investigation, left Tuesday for Toronto and Ottawa to check results of laboratory tests with Provincial officials and fingerprint results with the RCMP.

Questioned By Provincial Police

Report Search Narrowed To Local Man

3 O'Clock Edition Service.

PEMBROKE, March 16.—(Staff)—An arrest seemed near this afternoon in connection with the investigation into the taxi murder of 26-year-old James Edwards Sunday night.

District Inspector T. W. Cousins and Inspector Robert Wannell of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Ontario Provincial Police sought the help of Pembroke city police this afternoon and shortly after two o'clock a young man and woman were brought to the police station in a Provincial Police car for questioning.

Search Narrowed to One.

Indications are that the search has narrowed to a local man.

Neither inspector has as yet made any statement but their activities during the day pointed to a break in the mystery.

Pembroke Police Chief Dan Carnegie yesterday offered the full co-operation of the city police.

RCMP photographers and fingerprint experts have returned to headquarters in Ottawa. The death car was exhaustively examined for fingerprints and some time will be needed to sort and check them with RCMP files.

The blood-soaked seat cushions and floor mat from the taxi were carefully bundled up and shipped to Toronto for scientific examination.

A fund has been opened here for the relief of the murdered man's widow and two children.

It is understood that Mrs. Edwards was left practically destitute.

Bullet Found.

Earlier today it was reported that police, working under direction of Inspectors Cousins and Wannell, had found the bullet which killed Edwards. It was found in the snow some 25 yards from the scene of the shooting.

Police believed that with the help of ballistics experts, the bullet might provide a key to the two-day old mystery.

Provincial Police officers refused to go into details of their find, but it was believed the lead slug was fired from a heavy-calibre revolver.

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This would fit into the police theory that the killer may have been riding in the front seat of the taxi with Edwards and placed the gun against the victim's forehead.

Fired at such close range the slug would tear through Edwards' head, through the left-hand window of the cab and fall spent into the snowbank at the side of the road.

Police at once began a check of all calibres of revolvers in Pembroke and district. They will begin comparing the scorings on the bullet with those on the inside of the barrels of the weapons collected.

Should police find the murder gun, ballistics experts will have no difficulty matching the scorings on the barrels with those on the bullet.

No Apparent Motive.

As far as can be learned there was no apparent motive for the crime. The 26-year-old Edwards, following the practice of local cab drivers, was carrying only a small amount of change — less than \$15. He had not been robbed.

Leonard Murphy, owner of the taxi company by which Edwards was employed, told The Journal his men were instructed to carry only sufficient funds to make change for passengers and lessen the likelihood of robbery.

He said that as far as he knew Edwards owed no one money and any money owing him could only be a small amount.

Ontario Provincial Police this morning questioned a Westmeath man who supposedly was in Edwards' debt. He was allowed to return to his home after less than half an hour's questioning.

Edwards was killed in his cab Sunday night on a road which is virtually dead-end. His body was found shot through the head and slumped down in the front seat of his taxi parked at the east side of the Pembroke Westmeath road. This road leads only to two crossings of the Ottawa river, at Spotswood, several miles beyond Westmeath, and at LaPasse. Both crossings to the deserted Quebec shore could lead only to Fort Coulonge.

The taxi was found five miles in from the junction of the Westmeath road and Highway 17. This is the main highway linking Pembroke with other Ottawa Valley towns.

Walked Away.

The man who shot Edwards, if on foot, faced a walk of four or five miles to Westmeath or to the highway. If he left the road he would either have cut across the snow-drifted surface of Allumette Lake or have taken to the fields, whose only eventual outlet is Highway 17.

The death car was parked just 200 yards from the junction of the Westmeath road and a cut-off to Beachburg. This road again leads only to LaPasse on the shores of the Ottawa or Highway 17 at Cobden.

The Westmeath Road is well travelled Sunday evenings and in the early hours of Monday, when men, whose homes are in Quebec, are returning to work in lumber camps up Highway 17 as far as Mackey, Des Joachims, or Chalk River.

Many people speculated on the possibility that the killer had a get-away car parked in the vicinity of the filling station at the junction of the two roads.

It is believed Ontario Provincial Police found the murder bullet embedded in the crusted snow approximately 25 yards to the west of the roadway. Edwards' car was stopped facing towards Westmeath on the right side of the road.

He had been shot from the right. The bullet apparently entered the temple just behind the right eye, and came out in the same position on the left side of the head. When the car was found the left hand front door glass had a two-inch bullet-hole in the centre, and the safety glass around it was shattered.

Police have not yet divulged the calibre of the bullet.

Parked Car Speeding Taxis Murder Clues

PEMBROKE, March 17.—(Staff)—The story of a Westmeath man who passed the scene where 35-year-old James Edwards, Pembroke taxi driver who was murdered sometime between 10.30 and 11.10 p.m. Sunday, and who passed a parked automobile farther down the Westmeath road just before 11 o'clock the same evening, was told to police investigating the slaying just after noon today.

Ontario Provincial Police here were told the story by County Constable James Valliant of Westmeath who himself heard the story from Robert Vizena of Westmeath.

No Car at 10.30.

"Vizena told me he left Pembroke about 10.30 Sunday night to drive to his home in Westmeath. He said there was no car parked at Chaffey's Corner when he passed by, but about a mile down the road he passed a parked car.

"A man wearing a grey hat was sitting behind the wheel and the car faced Highway 17. Just after he passed the car, he met two taxis 'going like the wind'. Vizena told me he arrived home at 11 o'clock", Constable Valliant concluded.

After Constable Valliant had related the story Vizena told him, to Provincial Police here, preparations were immediately made to go to Vizena's home to question him further.

This morning Inspector Robert Wannell, of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of the Provincial Police, and District Inspector T. W. Cousans returned to the scene of the slaying to investigate further and spent several hours quizzing drivers and friends of Edwards.

Police however said that while they are exhausting every angle in the murder mystery, they were unable to report much progress towards the solution of the crime.

Awaiting Reports.

While attempting to narrow the case down, police here are awaiting reports from RCMP headquarters in Ottawa regarding fingerprints taken at the scene of the murder early Monday morning, and from Toronto regarding analyses made of the blood-stained taxi floor mat.