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MURDER CONFESSION ALLEGED

AMAZING STORY OF PROSECUTION TOLD IN COURT

Adelaide: John Balaban told police that he murdered Zora Kusic last December because she was a prostitute, it was stated by the prosecution in the Adelaide Police Court today.

He also confessed to Det.-Sgt. Blyth that he did not believe in God. "I'm an atheist" he is alleged to have said.

Balaban (29) a Rumanian industrial chemist, was charged before Mr. Clarke, P.M., with having on December 5 murdered Zora Kusic, 29-years-old Yugoslav, in the tin shack in which she lived at the rear of a Torrensvile boarding house.

Mr. P. N. Wage appeared for Balaban, who was neatly dressed in a double breasted grey suit. He appeared worried.

The public gallery was crowded, with women predominating.

The Assistant Crown Prosecutor (Mr. E. B. Scarfe), in his opening address, said that it was the second information to be laid against Balaban, alleging that he had murdered Zora Kusic.

"Balaban appeared before Your Honor in January, and after several days the charge was dismissed said Mr. Scarfe.

"Your Honor held, and quite rightly, in my opinion,

that there was insufficient evidence against Balaban to put him on trial, so you set him free.

"However, Balaban was never acquitted, as was generally believed by the public. Balaban could not have been acquitted as he was not tried before a jury."

Continuing, Mr. Scarfe said that the evidence given on the first occasion was entirely circumstantial and showed only that Balaban was the last person to be seen in the company of Kusic shortly before she was found with her throat cut and her body mutilated.

"When Balaban was questioned by the police after the murder he falsely denied that he had known Kusic.

"A taxi driver gave evidence that he had driven Balaban and Kusic to her shack on the afternoon of the murder, but apart from that there was no evidence implicating him in the crime.

"The missing link in the chain of evidence against Balaban was supplied by himself, when he admitted that he was the killer, after his arrest on April 12 on a charge of having murdered his wife (Theima Joyce Balaban, aged 30), at her Sunshine Cafe, Gouger Street, in the early hours of April 12.

Balaban, said Mr. Scarfe, told Det.-Inspector Gully and Det.-Sgt. Blyth that he cut Kusic's throat and slit open her stomach with a knife he found in her room.

Asked the reason why he had killed her, Balaban replied: "I killed her because she was a very ordinary prostitute and I am very much against them."

Mr. Scarfe said that Balaban admitted to the police that he had lied to them regarding his movements when he was originally questioned in order to "mix things up for them".

POLICE TOLD OF MURDER

Mr. Scarfe said that at 4.30 a.m. on April 12 Balaban made a confession at the detective office.

"Balaban was asked, 'Did you murder Zora Kusic?' and Balaban replied, 'Yes.' He told them, continued Mr. Scarfe, how he had murdered her.

He said that he had drunk beer with her in her room.

In his confession Balaban said he had met Kusic for

the first time on the afternoon of the murder at the Royal Admiral Hotel and then had hired a taxi and gone with her to her shack.

Balaban said that Kusic had asked him for £5, but he had refused.

"When I killed her she was undressed and I was clothed in singlet and underpants," said Balaban in his confession. "In the room I found a penknife with which I killed Kusic.

"I later washed my hands in a bowl of water, in which I subsequently left the knife. There was no blood on my clothes, but it was all over my hands."

After committing the murder, Balaban said, according to Mr. Scarfe, that he went to the Southern Cross Hotel.

Mr. Scarfe said that Balaban was questioned again on April 13, and he admitted that the confession he had made the previous day was correct.

Balaban also said that several factors pointed to his wife being like a prostitute. He again stated that he was very much against prostitutes.

Balaban said: "I was prepared to give Kusic two or three pounds when she requested £5, but it was the way she asked me that made me refuse her and subsequently kill her."

Mr. Scarfe said that Balaban admitted to the police that he had searched Kusic's room after he had murdered her.

He denied that he had

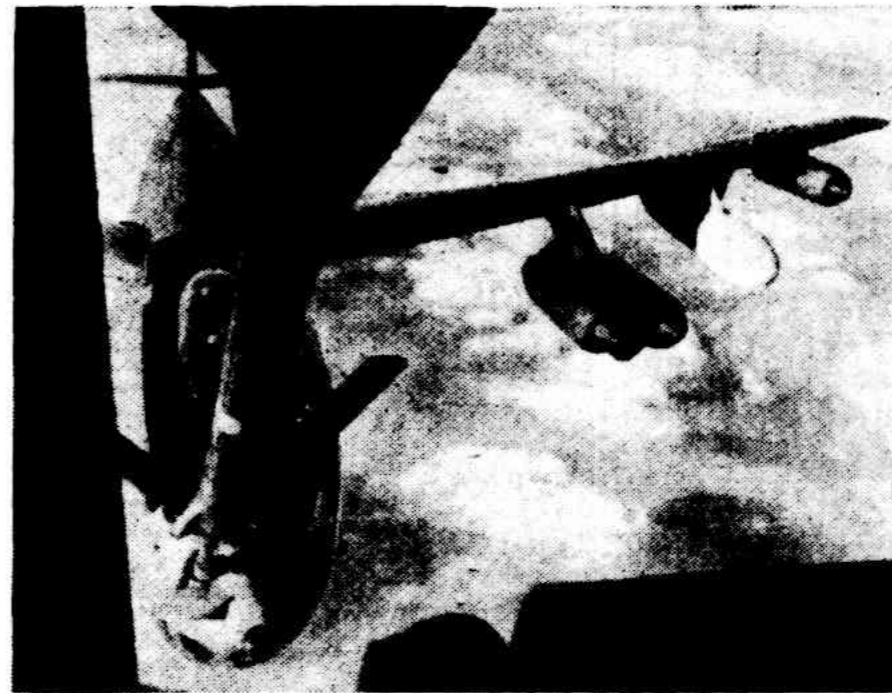
been looking for money, but she had searched the room out of curiosity, just to see what was there. He said he had taken a tobacco tin and a ball-pointed pen, which he subsequently threw away.

The prosecutor said that Balaban then asked Det.-Sgt. Blyth the condition of Balaban's mother-in-law and stepson. Both Balaban's mother-in-law (Susan Ackland) and the boy were allegedly murdered by Balaban at the same time that he murdered his wife.

Balaban told Det.-Sgt. Blyth that he wanted to make the proceedings as short as possible and added: "I do not believe in God, I am an atheist."

Mr. Scarfe said that, at the completion of the case against Balaban in respect to the murder of Kusic, the prosecution would immediately proceed against him on a charge of having murdered his wife.

(Proceeding)



MID-AIR refuelling looks like this to a crew member of a strato-freighter tanker - transport high over Kansas, US. The telescopic flying boom is shown connected to a new Boeing B47 strato-jet bomber undergoing tests. When the operation is complete the boom is withdrawn and stowed under tanker's tail.

DOCTORS MAY DECIDE FATE

Adelaide: Charged with child stealing and indecent assault, John Gault Mundy (39), laborer of Semaphore, is to be examined by two doctors to determine his mental state.

An order to this effect was made by the Chief Justice (Sir Mellis Napier) in the Criminal Court today. Mundy admitted having on April 2, at West Richmond, unlawfully, by fraud look or detained a boy aged 9 years and 8 months, with intent to deprive his mother of the possession of the child.

Mundy also admitted three charges of having indecently assaulted the child at Murray Bridge, Kingston and Mt. Gambier.

A further charge admitted by Mundy was that on February 23, at Adelaide he obtained £20 and a cheque for £175 from Harry Reginald Houseman by falsely pretending that a car was his property and that he was entitled to dispose of it. Mr. L. J. Elliott (for accused) said Mundy was released about nine months before these offences after a four years gaol term for indecency.

Guard for Footballer

Melbourne — Champion Essendon full forward (John Coleman) may get a police bodyguard when he plays football. On Saturday he was pelted with empty bottles and rubbish at South Melbourne. Several times last year on different grounds, bottles and sometimes stones were thrown at him.

Today a senior police officer said if the throwing continued pain clothes police would be placed in the crowd whenever Coleman played.

If a bottle hit a player the thrower could be charged with assault or with having caused grievous bodily harm. Both charges could mean a gaol sentence.

Plane Debris Found

Sydney: Two men discovered wreckage which may have come from one of the two fighter planes missing from Williamstown Air Force station, on the Northern New South Wales coast.

A Mustang and a Vampire jet have been missing since Wednesday and the air force authorities believe they collided in the air.

Pilot Officer Robert Strawbridge (24), of Ashfield, was bying the Mustang and Flt.-Lt. Peter Cooney (30), of Maitland the Vampire.

CLOUD CAUSED CRASH

Calcutta, Sunday: The BOAC jet airliner, which crashed about 25 miles from here on Saturday, killing all on board, appeared to be on fire as it dived, wingless, at a terrific speed, native eye-witnesses said today.

An American Associated Press despatch said the bodies of passengers and crew were scattered over a wide area some four miles apart.

British Overseas Airways Corporation at Calcutta said early today that 22 of the bodies were still not accounted for.

The Comet had just taken off from Calcutta on the way from Singapore to London when it crashed.

Six minutes after the take off the pilot (Capt. M. W. Haddon) made the routine signal that he was climbing on track. That was the last message heard from the airliner.

On board were 37 passengers (including 10 women, a schoolgirl of 13, and an infant) and a British crew of six. A hostess was among the crew.

Australians on board were the Victorian Opposition Leader (Mr. Trevor Oldham) and Mrs. Oldham and a Narrabri (N.S.W.) grazier (Mr. Hamish Allen Morton) and Mrs. Morton. They were on the way to the Coronation.

Heard Cries

Villagers who rushed to the scene of the crash said they heard cries coming from parts of the plane's torn fuselage, but were forced back by explosions. Then the fuselage erupted in flames, which defied torrential rain.

The remains of the plane burned all night.

The London "Daily Express" aviation expert said today that a "killer" cloud might have caused the crash.

Sudden failure of the four engines could be ruled out, as could a fuel explosion, because the Comet ran on comparatively unflammable paraffin.

That left the "killer" cloud (dangerous cumulo-nimbus), which could tear a plane apart in an instant. There were a violent thunderstorm, torrential rain, and cumulo-nimbus cloud on the course the Comet was taking.

MALIK FOR LONDON

Moscow, Sunday: Mr. Jacob Malik, the Soviet Ambassador-designate to Britain, lunched at the British Embassy yesterday with Sir Alvary and Lady Gascoigne.

It is understood that Mr. Malik will leave Moscow by train probably today on his way to London.

Patrol Hunts Killer

Alice Springs: A hunt for an aboriginal stockman suspected of having murdered an aboriginal woman was resumed at the weekend.

A lubra was killed at Curtin Springs Station, 130 miles south of Alice Springs, and a man suspected of spearing her went bush.

Native Affairs Patrol Officer Les Penhall and Constable Geoff Milligan went

after him in a wireless patrol car, but were bogged by floods after heavy rain.

At first it was reported the fugitive was heading towards Ernabella in South Australia. Now, after questioning natives, the pursuing officers believe he is

heading for the Peterman Ranges, about 300 miles south-west of Alice Springs.

They are chasing him across flat open country. The rain has washed out all tracks, but they are referring information from short-cuts along the track.

HIGH SPEED PLANES FOR QUEEN

London, Sunday — Aircraft approaching the speed of sound may soon be used to take Queen Elizabeth to Commonwealth and other countries.

The Queen has frequently said she would like to visit most of the countries of the world, but her work has precluded her from doing so.

Planes of the Queen's flight are not equipped with piston engines, but many members of the Royal Family have travelled in—and jiked—jet aircraft. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret have all flown in the Comet.

The Queen may decide to fly in it some time this year. She is already planning a big schedule of travel to follow the coronation.

73 Deg. Today

Broken Hill experienced pleasant weather today. The maximum temperature up till 3 p.m. was 73 degrees. Last night's minimum was 46.

The official weather forecast issued by the South Australian Weather Bureau at noon today for the ensuing 24 hours was: "Fine throughout; cool to mild temperature with light variable winds."

Hand Injured

James Perdike, a miner on the North mine, was taken home to Rhododite Street today after he suffered a badly bruised hand when rock fell on it.