

# **The Islington Daily Gazette and North London Tribune**

## **GERMAN HAIRDRESSER'S SUICIDE**

### **PAINFUL HOLLOWAY STORY**

#### **A VICTIM OF THE RIOTS**

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Walter Schroeder, Coroner for Central London held an inquiry at the Islington Coroner's Court into the circumstances concerning the death of Albert Emil Sieler, aged 39 years, a hairdresser, who carried on business at 502, Hornsey road, Holloway. He committed suicide by cutting his throat.

Mrs. Wilhelmine F Sieler, the widow, stated that he was a German art by birth and had been in England 19 years. For the last seven years he had been in business at Hornsey road and had always enjoyed good health. He had no worries till the war broke out.

The coroner asked if they had made their permanent home in England.

The witness said they had. They had five children<sup>1</sup>. The business was doing very well and he was happy and cheerful until Monday last. On Tuesday morning at a quarter to eight he got up and had his breakfast and then did some business. Between nine and ten she went out. He intended to close the shop altogether for a time and they were going away for a holiday. When she left he was nursing the baby. She returned soon after eleven o'clock. When in the kitchen she heard a scream, and going into the shop saw him lying on the floor with his throat cut. She did what she could to save his life and called assistance at once.

A doctor came and attended to him but he died in about twenty minutes.

The coroner asked if he had ever threatened his life, or said that he was tired of his life?

The witness replied that he had never done so.

The coroner asked if she saw anything to suggest that anyone had injured him? The witness said that no one could have got into the shop because the shop door and passage door leading to the shop were closed at the time. She afterwards saw a razor in one of the basins. He was a very sober and honest man.

On a mirror in the shop he had written: "Long live England." There was other writing on the mirror that she could not understand.

In answer to the Coroner, she said that last week, owing to the rioting, they had their windows broken. He had worried about it. He had been threatened.

The coroner asked what was the nature of the threats.

The witness said she did not know. He wanted to hand over the business for a time to an assistant, but witness did not agree to this course.

Charles William Selicimann, of 16 Paths-hull road, said that he had been an apprentice to him for the last twelve months. Last week a window was broken with a hammer. This upset his employer and since then he had closed the business earlier. He was told that it would be better for him to get his wife and children away and this increased his worry. On Tuesday morning he did not open the shop early because some factory girls passing the shop called him names. Just before nine o'clock he closed the shop. Mrs. Sieler,

who had been out, returned and two minutes later she heard a scream. She afterwards found that he had cut his throat.

The coroner asked if there were any thing against England on the mirrors.

The witness said that there was nothing of such a character.

Edmund Windsur, a hairdresser of Hungerford road said that he had known the deceased for 17 years. He went to see him and was told that he and his wife were out. He went into the kitchen and soon after Mrs. Sieler returned. Whilst they were conversing there was a sudden scream. They rushed down into the kitchen and saw him lying on the floor with severe injuries to the throat. There was blood in a basin and on the floor and a razor on the floor by his side.

By a the coroner - He had been excited since the outbreak of the war and more so since his windows had been broken.

Augustave Burkner, a hairdresser, of 57 Durham road Holloway, another friend, stated that on Tuesday morning he called and was informed that Sieler was out. He went up into the kitchen to wait for his return. He repeated the story already told.

James Phillip Sullivan, of 54, White Hart Lane, Tottenham, a hairdresser's assistant, said he was in the employ of Sieler until Sunday. Sieler had refused to take his advice, and against his opinion he opened the business. The reason that he at last closed the business was that he feared there would be some demonstration and this worried him.

By the coroner - He at first suggested that witness should take the business over entirely and assist him and his wife and children. He agreed to do so but afterwards Sieler changed his mind.

Police constable Harry Hawkes 670Y stated that he was called to the shop and found the man lying in the passage with a wound to his throat. He at once sent for a medical man. On going into the shop he found a razor lying in a basin in which there was blood. Sieler had his coat off. There was nothing to suggest there had been any struggle or that anyone had injured him.

The coroner asked if he spoke.

The witness said the lips quivered but he did not speak. There was writing on three mirrors. On the first mirror they could not make out what the words were. The second mirror was "Long live England! I leave my family to Jim". On the first was "Long live England! Love to \_\_\_\_\_" The other words could not be made out.

Dr. Richard Thomas Young of 20, Hornsey rise said that he was called to see the man and found him unconscious. There was a severe and deep wound in the throat. The wound had missed the windpipe but had gone into the gullet. He died about a quarter of an hour later. There was no doubt the wound was self inflicted. Death was due to syncope and shock caused by the self inflicted injuries to their throat.

The jury returned a verdict that he committed "Suicide whilst of unsound mind."

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<sup>1</sup> Albert Emil, Louisa Martha, Gertrude Elsie, Minnie Martha Bertha & George Frederick