

MAN SHOT DEAD

AUSTRALIAN FROM CODFORD CAMP ARRESTED

A shooting tragedy took place at Lower Castle-street, Bristol, on Monday evening, as the result of which an Australian soldier named Frederick Hereward Hauraki Maning is detained by the police on a charge of murder.

Maning and the victim of the tragedy, Arthur John Tankins, about 30 years of age, of 58, Eugene-street, St. James's, had both been in the Castle and Ball public-house in Lower Castle-street, where, it is stated, they were talking amicably. When the house closed at half-past nine the two were standing outside on the pavement when Tankins made some remark to Maning. The latter is alleged to have drawn from his pocket, without the slightest warning, a large-bore Colt automatic pistol, with which he fired at Tankins, the bullet entering his mouth and lodging in the head. Tankins was conveyed to the Bristol Royal Infirmary by the St. John Ambulance, but was found to be dead on arrival there.

Maning, who is 30 years of age, is a soldier in the Australian Imperial Force, and is believed to be on leave from Codford, the return half of a leave warrant being found in his possession. The dead man is said to be a discharged soldier, and was in the Regular Army prior to the war, and who has seen considerable service during the war.

ABOUT TO SAIL FOR HOME

The terrible position in which the accused is placed is all the more sad as he was on his final leave from Codford prior to embarking for his home in Australia. He had come away with the First Division of Anzacs, and had fought for over four years in different parts of the world. His comrades are overwhelmed at the tragedy, and they cannot understand in the least how it happened. Their comrade, they say, was one of the kindest of men—well educated, refined, and a splendid athlete.

OPENING OF THE INQUEST

At the Bristol Coroner's Court on Tuesday afternoon the Coroner (Mr A. E. Barker) opened the enquiry concerning the death of Arthur William Tankins, aged 29 years, of 58, Eugene-street.

Mr. E. J. Watson, who was present, said he was appearing on behalf of the accused man, who, acting on his advice, would not be present.

William Tankins, a deal porter, living at 58, Eugene-street, said the deceased was his son, who lived with witness. The deceased had also been a deal porter since his discharge.

The Coroner said they could not deal with the case that day, that was quite patent: and he proposed to adjourn it until Thursday week, April 24th, at three o'clock.

(*Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* – 23 April, 1919)

THE BRISTOL TRAGEDY

AUSTRALIAN CHARGED WITH MURDER CAME OVER WITH THE FIRST DIVISION

There was a crowded attendance at the Bristol Police Court yesterday, when Frederick Stewart Hauraki Maning was charged with the willful murder of Arthur John Tankins. The accused is an Australian soldier, 30 years of age, and his aspect as he entered the dock indicated acute mental dejection. The magistrates were Mr J. Curie and Mr W. S. Paul.

A police constable stated that at 9.35 the previous night whilst on duty at the bottom of Old Market Street, in consequence of some information that had reached him, he went to Lower Castle Street and saw the prisoner being held by two men, one of whom said, "he has shot a man." Prisoner said nothing, and appeared to be dazed. He had been drinking, but was not drunk. He was taken to the police station, and searched, and in his pockets were found two live cartridges, £1 4s 9d, and various foreign coins, a wallet, papers, and a return ticket to Codford. He was subsequently charged with the murder, and in reply, said "I don't know what to say."

Mr E. J. Watson said he appeared for the accused. He understood a remand would be asked for, and, of course, he should raise no objection.

The Deputy Chief Constable asked for a remand of eight days, and this was granted.

THE DECEASED

We are informed that the deceased, Arthur John Tankins, had been discharged from the Army since August last, having seen long service with the Gloucesters. He was a man of fine physique.

ABOUT TO SAIL FOR HOME

The terrible position in which the accused is placed is all the more sad as he was on his final leave from Codford prior to embarking for his home in Australia. He had come away with the First Division of Anzacs, and had fought for over four years in different parts of the world. His comrades are overwhelmed at the tragedy, and they cannot understand in the least how it happened. Their comrade, they say, was one of the kindest of men—well educated, refined, and a splendid athlete.

(*Western Daily Press*, Bristol – 16 April, 1919)