

EFFORT TO BLACKMAIL MRS. DAY FAILS

ALLEGED AUTHOR OF NOTE CAUGHT AT P. O. WINDOW

E. D. Read of Oklahoma City Arrested at Edna for Postal Officials

\$2,000 WAS DEMANDED

Author Claims to Have Witnessed Scene in Day Home When Beck Was Slain

WRONG MAN, SAYS ACCUSED

Prisoner Only Called for "G. Daer's" Mail as an Accommodation, He Avers

Strange Coincidence In Names in Mystery

A strange coincidence appears in a comparison of the name given by the man arrested at Edna on order of the postal authorities in connection with the blackmail letter received by Mrs. Jean P. Day of Oklahoma City. The prisoner gave his name as E. D. Read and a perusal of the name signed to the letter shows it is that name spelled backward, Daer. Read asked for Daer's mail at Edna and was arrested as the writer of the letter demanding \$2,000.

By Associated Press Staff Writers.
OKLAHOMA CITY, April 19.—A plot to blackmail Mrs. Jean P. Day, wife of Jean P. Day, wealthy attorney and oil man, who recently was exonerated here of the slaying of Lieut. Col. Paul Ward Beck, army aviator, was revealed tonight with the announcement that a man giving his name as E. D. Read had been arrested at Edna, Creek county, Okla., at the request of postal authorities. Day testified at the coroner's inquest that he killed Lieutenant Colonel Beck after he returned home and found the army officer attempting to assault Mrs. Day. The testimony of Mrs. Day corroborated that of her husband. A letter was received last Wednesday by Mrs. Day from a man who demanded \$2,000 to keep silent on what he claimed he saw through the window of the Day home on the morning that Colonel Beck was slain, Mr. Day said tonight after being informed of the arrest at Edna. The letter was signed G. Daer, Day said.

Would Forget for \$2,000.
In the letter, Mr. Day said, the man declared he was passing by the Day home early on the morning and saw through the window what occurred.

Mr. Day said he immediately turned the letter over to postal inspectors.

The writer of the letter, Mr. Day said, declared if \$2,000 was sent in a package labeled merchandise, he would forget what he had seen.

The author of the letter did not say, according to Mr. Day whether he witnessed what occurred between Lieutenant Colonel Beck and Mrs. Day before Day returned home or what took place after the return of Day.

A package was sent to Edna, addressed to Daer and was claimed last night by Reed, who asked for Daer's mail. A deputy sheriff immediately arrested him.

Reed is said to have received mail at Edna under the names of G. Daer, Jim White and William S. Wilson.

Read Reported in Tulsa.
Inquiry at the Oklahoma City address given by Reed shows that E. D. Read, a civil engineer, with his family, rooms at that address. He formerly was employed by the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co. It was said he was now in Tulsa.

The owner of the house said he knew no one named Daer, White or Wilson.

The man arrested at Edna denied any knowledge of the alleged blackmail letter. He told officers he had met Daer, White and Wilson just before he went to the postoffice and at their request asked for mail addressed to them.

Special to The World.
SLICK, April 19.—A man giving the name of E. D. Read and who says his home is in Oklahoma City, was arrested at the little town of Edna, near here, last night in connection with an alleged attempt to blackmail Mrs. Jean P. Day of Oklahoma City, central figure in the tragedy which cost the life of Lieut. Col. Paul Ward Beck of Fort Sill three weeks ago.

Read was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Don Farmer when he appeared at the general delivery window of the Edna postoffice and asked for any mail addressed to "G. Daer, Jim White or William C. Wilson." The arrest was made on request of postal and police authorities at Oklahoma City, who ordered the apprehension of anyone applying for mail, particularly a package labeled "merchandise," addressed to "G. Daer."

Letter Demanded \$2,000.
Postal authorities at Oklahoma City had informed the Edna postoffice that Mrs. Day had received a letter from a man who signed his

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Read." Upon being informed there was none he asked for mail for "G. Daer, Jim White and William C. Wilson."

At a signal from the postmaster Deputy Farmer stepped out and placed Read under arrest.

Read, who denied any knowledge of any letter to Mrs. Day, said his home was in Oklahoma City. He gave 1835 West Fourteenth street, Oklahoma City, as his home address. He has been in Edna and Slick for a couple of weeks or so, ostensibly trying to sell oil leases.

Read declared that he had just met "White, Daer and Wilson" a short time before he went to the postoffice, and at their request asked for their mail. He said Daer told him to ask especially in regard to "a package labeled merchandise," which he did.

No one by the name of "Daer, White or Wilson," with the initials as given by Read, is known here.

Read is of medium height, with a ruddy complexion. He is rather roughly dressed. He is about 45 years old, slightly gray and wears glasses. He weighs about 160 pounds.

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name "G. Daer," demanding that she send \$2,000 in currency in a package to be labeled "merchandise" to him, care general delivery, Edna. The information from Oklahoma City did not disclose what threats, if any, were made in the letter to Mrs. Day but simply that it was an attempt to blackmail her out of \$2,000.

Read was to be taken tonight to Sapulpa and turned over to federal authorities.

The letter signed "G. Daer," and dated April 12, was received by Mrs. Day on the next day and was immediately turned over to the authorities, and the postmaster at Edna was promptly instructed to arrange for the arrest of any person calling for mail addressed to Daer. The result was that for the last five days Deputy Sheriff Farmer has been waiting in the Edna postoffice for someone to call for Daer's mail.

Officer in Wait for Him.

The man who gave his name as Read walked into the Edna postoffice last night just before 6 o'clock, according to the postmaster and Deputy Farmer. He asked first for any mail addressed to "E. D.