

The Men Who Solved the Chinese Mystery and Forced the Guilty to Confess



MAJOR RAYMOND W. PULLMAN,

Superintendent of Police, who has worked sixteen hours a day untying the Chinese mystery. Pullman himself worked as a detective, personally running down clues and doing the regular work of a plainclothes man.

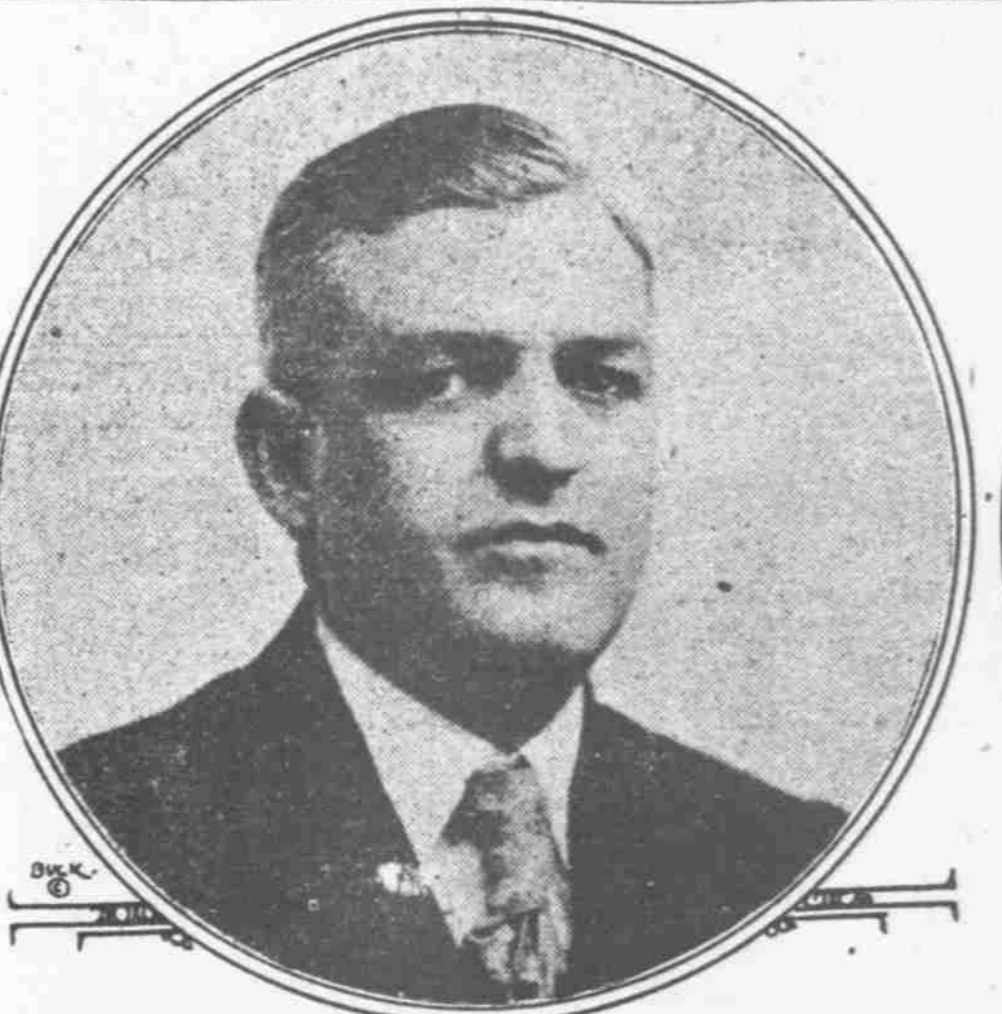
Only thirty-five years old and one of the youngest police heads in the country, Pullman has gained nation-wide recognition for his efficient direction of the Washington police. He was appointed superintendent in 1915. His men say of him: "He never stops until his task is completed—and then he begins on something else." He lives at 55 Ivy street southeast.



INSPECTOR CLIFFORD L. GRANT,

Chief of detectives and Major Pullman's right-hand man, won fame as a detective years ago, but the case just solved is one of his biggest successes.

Grant is fifty-four years old and lives at 62 Bryant street northwest. He was appointed to the police force in 1892. In 1907 he was assigned to the district attorney's office. In 1915 he was appointed chief of detectives. His success is largely due to his ability to get information from people who do not want to talk.



DETECTIVE SERGEANT EDWARD J. KELLY,

One of the most skillful investigators in the country. Kelly started working on the Chinese murder case as soon as Major Pullman began and has made three trips to New York, returning the first two times with the two Chinamen, Wan and his brother Van, and the third time bringing back important information. Kelly, who is thirty-six years old, lives at 1305 Ninth street northwest. He was appointed to the police force in 1906 and promoted to detective sergeant in 1915.



DETECTIVE SERGT. GUY E. BURLINGAME,

One of the veterans of the Central Office, who has handled some of the most difficult cases of the last ten years. Burlingame captured "Orpheum Dick" several years ago and sent to the penitentiary one of the most daring gangs of crooks that ever operated in Washington. Burlingame was appointed in 1896 and made detective sergeant in 1906. He is fifty-two years old and lives at 1419 Twenty-second street northwest.

WAN TELLS WHOLE STORY OF CRIME

(Continued from First Page.)

greeting... Almost immediately, Wu took deliberate aim and fired at Hsie. The shot went wild, and Hsie starting up in alarm, ran around the table. Wu fired again, and again missed his target. Hsie was making for the front exit of the basement when Wu took more careful aim. This shot pierced Hsie's brain. He fell in his tracks, directly where the police found him.

Wu and Wan then sat down and discussed what to do, Wan says. While they were still talking and still very excited, they heard Dr. Wong come in.

They could hear him taking off

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his outer wraps in the reception hall upstairs. They knew he would soon come down into the kitchen. They knew it was only a matter of seconds when he would inquire if his treasurer, Hsie, had returned home. They knew they had no time to conceal the ghastly sight of Hsie lying in his own blood on the basement floor.

Wu Then Shot Wong.

Wu's decision seemed to come all of a sudden, Wan explains. Quick as a cat, he took up his position at the foot of the basement stairs. Almost immediately Dr. Wong started down. The moment he reached the last step, a bullet from Wu's revolver pierced his breast. He wheeled around, almost fell, regained himself and staggered blindly up the stairs. His glasses fell and broke. He gained the second floor, knocking a chair and a lamp over as he stumbled along.

Wu waited only an instant. Then, revolver in hand, he darted up the stairs and after his victim. Wan says he heard one shot and then another and still another. When he quickly followed upstairs, he saw Wan bending over the prostrate form of Dr. Wong. He had shot him clean through the heart. Together they placed over the dead man's face the overcoat he had removed only a few

moments before. It was the Celestial's last mark of respect for the dead.

Wan paused for a long time when he had reached this stage of the confession. He seemed, for the first time, to be a little overcome.

Sorry Wong Was Killed.

"Dr. Wong was my friend," he said, by way of apology. "He knew my mother and visited her in Shanghai. I feel very badly that he is dead."

With two dead men in the house, Wan and Wan then went back into the basement kitchen. Wan describes Wu as being very deliberate.

"He still carried his pistol in his hand," Wan says. "He had fired five shots. Suddenly he broke the revolver and emptied the empty shells on the kitchen floor. He then laid the unloaded revolver on the kitchen table."

Wan describes himself as being very angry with Wu for killing Dr. Wong. He says he felt the murder was altogether uncalled for and very cruel, considering Wong's wife in China, his five daughters, and his two sons.

Suddenly, he confesses, he seized the empty revolver, put in two shells, and turned the weapon on Wu. Wu started to run toward the front of the basement. Wan hit him first in the head. Wu fell in his tracks.

Held Close To Heart.

"Then I went up to him, held the revolver close to his treacherous heart, and fired another bullet into him," Wan concluded, without any show of emotion.

Insists He Was Justified.

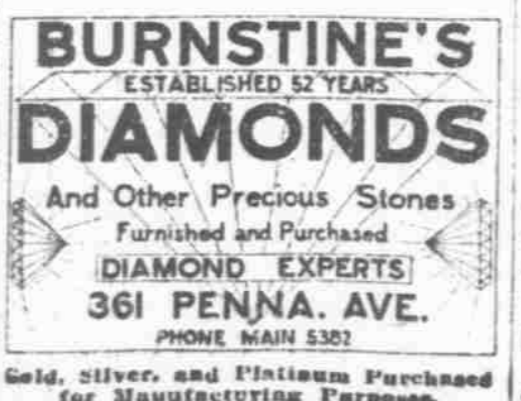
Wan insists the killing of Wu was justified. He says he did not cover Wu's face in death because Wu had committed a crime. The faces of both Dr. Wong and Hsie were covered. The circumstance that care had been taken to cover the faces of two of the dead men, in accordance with Chinese custom, and that Wu's face remained uncovered, which had been puzzling the police, is thus explained.

Wan declares his one idea from the moment he murdered his friend Wu, was to get money enough to



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Major Pullman Reviews the Unraveling of the Mystery

By MAJOR RAYMOND W. PULLMAN,

Superintendent of Police.

"The investigation in connection with the great triple Chinese murder was perhaps the most intensely interesting case to occupy the attention of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police or, in fact, the attention of any police department of the United States for many years. It was the first time in this country that a very important crime had occurred in the circles of Chinese of the refined and highly educated class. There are comparatively few members of this class in America. This greatly restricted our source of information and made our investigations exceedingly difficult.

"For a week it was a case of members of the Police Department having to match their wits with the wits of cultured Chinese, who have been educated in the best schools and colleges of America and Europe and who have back of them thousands of years of the wonderful civilization of China. But as is always the case, the men having any connection with the crime make mistakes, and prove the old truism that even the desire to commit a crime is evidence of stupidity.

"The main piece of evidence in this case was the handwriting in the check stub from which was torn the check which was presented at Riggs Bank. It was on this little piece of evidence which we found two days after the discovery of the crime that step by step the two Chinese were themselves convinced that their plea of an alibi was futile, that their attempt to tell a half dozen stories, proven false, about their movements, was foolish. In all of the work of questioning the men who came here as friend and brother of the friend of Mr. B. S. Wu, and who later made suspects of themselves by telling things which we knew to be untrue, we realized that the task before us was like working low content gold ore; we had to labor hard and spend a great deal of time to get the small but important connecting facts in the great story.

"The Chinese had their own ideas about interviewing which we had to indulge, or we would not have gotten anything. When they wanted to talk about the peace conference or some other unrelated subject we had to talk on that subject, and when they were anxious to talk crime naturally we were willing to listen intently. All of us who have had a part in the questioning, Inspector Grant, Detective Sergeants Burlingame and Kelly and myself, I am sure have keenly enjoyed their philosophy and views of life and events.

"I greatly appreciate the co-operation which has been given to the police by law-abiding Chinese; by citizens of Washington, and by most of the newspapers in the careful handling of facts and for not publishing information which the police knew would retard their work and perhaps kill the case. This co-operation has been almost perfect. To Mr. Frank P. Fenwick, proprietor of the Dewey Hotel, who extended the hospitality of his establishment to the friends of Wu and the former guest of the mission, I cannot express too hearty thanks. It was a great demonstration of public spirit of the finest kind, and his tact and the care of members of his staff in keeping the matter secret was the only thing that made possible the careful police investigation, and the courtesy is one which the police and the people of the whole city of Washington must surely appreciate.

"I also greatly appreciate the courtesy and co-operation of officials of the Riggs National Bank. Had it not been for their alertness and care in handling the forged check for \$5,000 and promptly notifying the police as soon as this crime was discovered, we would have missed a very important piece of evidence on which to proceed with our investigation.

"The interest taken in the case, too, by Mrs. Mary K. Harris, proprietor, and Mr. Charles Linkins, attorney of the Harris Hotel, where Wan had registered during part of the same period when he was a guest at the Chinese Educational Mission, is also greatly appreciated by the police.

"To Inspector Grant and the six or eight men who have worked day and night on the case, especially to Detective Sergeants Burlingame and Kelly, who were sent out on the midnight train on the day of the discovery of the murder and who promptly located Wu's friends before 9 o'clock the next morning, I want to extend commendation for their tact, great patience and efficiency, especially for their patience."

Major Pullman said that the "premature" publication of the fact that Wan and Van were being held at the Dewey Hotel was responsible for the actual arrest of the two men two days earlier than was planned. He charges an afternoon newspaper (NOT THE TIMES) with violating the confidence of the police, and breaking an agreement joined in by all the newspapers not to disclose the location of the two Chinese suspects.

ke himself and his younger brother back to China.

Seating himself at the kitchen table, with hands trembling in spite of himself, Wan confesses he forged the check, which called for \$5,000 of the mission funds.

Brother Innocent.
"My brother is absolutely innocent," he repeats over and over again. "He had no part in the killing. He knew nothing of it. He was only my tool in attempting to pass the forged check."

Immediately following the full confession by Wan, a formal charge

charged with being an accomplice after the fact.

"It is up to a jury to decide whether Van was also guilty or not," the police say.

Pullman Is Satisfied.

Upon learning from Inspector Grant of the confession, Major Pullman declared himself confident that Wan was telling the truth.

"Every detail of his confession fits into the facts we have uncovered," he declared to The Times. "Wan has nothing to gain by naming Wu, because he is just as bad off with a confession of one murder against him as he would be with three. I am certain the mystery is solved at last and that further elaboration of Wan's confession will clean the thing up before night."

Coolness Existed.

The police know that a coolness existed between Ben Sen Wu and C. H. Hsie, the man Wan claims Wu shot. They have learned there was quite a little jealousy between the men. They have also learned that Wu led more or less of a "gay" life, and did many things which he concealed from his patron and employer, Dr. Wong.

If Wu was a traitor to the men with whom he lived, the police claim that many heretofore perplexing points will be explained. They have been amazed from the start that no one of the three murdered men were able to escape or give the alarm, especially if there was only one assailant involved. They say they know that Wu must have been at least a party to the murder if not an active participant.

The start of Wan's confession came last night.

Taking Inspector Grant aside last night, Wan declared he wanted to tell him a "secret."

After a long preamble, in which Wan said he had had certain matters "on his soul" which he had not wanted to discuss with the police, he told something of his newest and most startling version of the triple crime. As a result, Inspector Grant decided to again re-enact the murder with Wan.

Wan declared "he had held out so long" for the purpose of protecting the name of another man. He explained that it is the Chinese custom never to talk of a crime or reveal how it happened after its commission. He said it was the Chinese theory that once a murder had been committed, it was best to say no more, since the dead could not be recalled. He said this tradition was all the more imperative if one's good friends are involved.

He claimed his long silence and

conflicting statements came through his desire to shield Wu's name.

Corroborates Van

He insists his brother was not with him and did not even know where he was. This corresponds to Van's own claim, that he spent Wednesday evening in a picture house. When asked how long he had stayed there, he said he did not know exactly but that he saw the show "over and over."

Wan explains the filling out of the check stub, after the check had been forged, by the statement that he wanted everything to look "regular." When it was explained to him that it was this check stub which led to the knowledge of the forged check, he said that it was his intention of concealing the forgery by filling in the stub, so as to make it appear that Dr. Wong had done it in the usual way. While the blank check was stolen before the shooting, the forgery according to Wan, did not take place until afterward.

Wan's Many Theories.

Wan's confession comes after a desperate effort on his part to mislead and confuse the police. He has racked his brain to provide "theories" to account for the killing. It was Wan who first suggested to them that Dr. Wong might have been killed by political enemies. The police investigation showed that the educator

had no political aspirations or connections.

Then Wan suggested that it might have been a disgruntled student. A police search failed to show that any student ever threatened the director of the mission or had any reason to desire his death.

Then Wan spoke of the Chinese laundryman, who did Dr. Wong's work. He told the police that Dr. Wong had had words with the man, had told him he did not want him to come inside the house because he was "too dirty looking." The police discovered that the laundryman was perfectly harmless and could account for himself on the night of the killing.

As a fourth theory Wan told the police of Wu's many women friends, insinuating that he had a great many he would never have cared to introduce to his employer, Dr. Wong.

Helen Wong, the bereaved daughter of the dead director of the mission, was told of the arrests in the case late yesterday.

"It is a great relief from suspense," she said sadly when she had learned briefly of the evidence against the two men. "The uncertainty, the mystery, the fear that my father might have had powerful enemies was very distressing. I shall be glad to see the guilty men brought to justice. Whoever did this crime held life terribly cheap, and my father's life was so valuable to the country and to my mother and us children."

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