

8 February 1938
Death of Searlait Gaetane Cloutier
Safir Hotel, Room 12

Body found in bath full of water.

Found in bath in room by maid, Cheba Zahouania this morning as she went in to clean room.

Bottles of alcohol in bedroom and bathroom, bloody razor blade on bathroom floor.

Small amount of blood in bathroom. Appears to have drowned. Carbon copy of telegram on table in bedroom.

Handbag on table with passport, purse, bearer bonds inside. 300 Francs in notes in purse.

Background

Arrived at hotel on 24th December; stayed for approx 5 weeks Sharing room with friend, Theresa Northmoor

Maid, Cheba Zahouania has been working at the hotel for 3 years, she is the niece of the owner.

Miss Cloutier was last seen by Mr Khan, the receptionist on 7th February at approximately 10pm. She had been out to a bar with friends.

Other guests report that Miss Cloutier and her friend often had noisy arguments. They also said that they were woken by loud noises of other kinds in the night

Miss Northmoor checked out of the hotel on the 6th February and left for the aerodrome in a taxi. Aerodrome confirm that she flew on 6th February and has not returned.

Carbon copy of telegram to Hotel Rive Gauche, Paris

Terry, I kept hoping that you'd come back last night, but you haven't. I know you didn't want to stay here in Algiers and I know I didn't want to leave, but if it means that I get to stay with you, I'll go wherever you want. I promise I won't get in the way; you can fly as far as you like as long as you come back to me. I'm so sorry I tried to tie you down, I don't want to clip your wings. Just please come back. Searl

Provisional Report

The deceased appears to have intended to commit suicide. Whether her death was actually suicide or accidental is unknown. No other persons are implicated in her death. Circumstances are not suspicious. No theft or robbery has taken place.

Recommended action

Contact next of kin.