

**YOUNG SOLDIER ACCUSED OF MURDER
DRAMATIC SCENE IN TINY CHARGE ROOM
Magistrate Stands While Hearing Police Statement
CROWD WATCHES OUTSIDE**

Private George Thomas Pople (22), of the 2nd Battalion South Wales Borderers, stationed at Portsmouth, was last night charged at Burford Police Station with the murder of Mrs Matthews, the 56-years-old Gloucestershire woman, who was found dying on the roadside near Burford on Saturday. There was a dramatic scene in the tiny charge room of the police station when Pople faced the magistrate. The room was so crowded that everyone present, with the exception of the Clerk of the court, had to remain standing during the proceedings. Outside the building a silent crowd waited, gazing up at the lighted room on an upper floor. After evidence of arrest had been given by Detective-Inspector Rippington, Pople was remanded for eight days. He was taken to a cell, but later left for Oxford Prison. Meanwhile the inquest on Mrs Matthews has been opened and adjourned indefinitely.

ROADSIDE TRAGEDY COTSWOLDS

POPLE is accused of murdering Mrs Mabel Elizabeth Matthews, the 56-year-old wife of a miller living Windrush Mill. Gloucestershire, who was found dying the roadside near Burford (just over the county border in Oxfordshire). Her bicycle was found nearby. According to Sir Bernard Spilsbury who made a post-mortem examination, the woman had been bludgeoned to death. was reported yesterday that a man had been questioned by the police at Brecon in South Wales, and for hours crowd waited outside Burford police station the hope of witnessing his arrival. Shortly after nine o'clock last night a police car drew up before the doors of the building and young soldier in uniform was taken inside. He was accompanied by Detective Inspector Rippington who had gone to Brecon fetch him and behind them came a constable with a bicycle which he lifted from the car.

MAGISTRATE HASTILY SUMMONED.

A magistrate Mr H. G. Piggot was hastily summoned and as there is no light in the court room on the first floor of the police station the charge room was used as petty session. The clerk to the Oxford magistrates, Mr. J. M. Eldridge, had been waiting and. after hasty consultation between Detective-Inspector Rippington and Captain Arbuthnot Chief Constable Oxfordshire, the man in soldier's uniform was brought in and formally charged with murder and remanded for eight days. The charge room was so small that the magistrate Mr Piggot stood at a desk, while the clerk to the justices was the only man who had a seat. Pople stood to attention while Detective- Inspector Rippington gave evidence.

Detective-Inspector Rippington said: "At 4.30 to-day I saw the accused being detained Brecon police station, and told him who I was and was investigating a case of wilful murder at Burford in Oxfordshire.

AN ALLEGED STATEMENT.

"I produced articles of clothing and other property. I asked him if they were his. He said ' Yes.'" and made a short statement which I do not propose to put in now. I then told him I should bring him to Burford, where he would be charged with the wilful murder of Mabel Elizabeth Matthews the 19th of December. " I brought him to the station, and on arrival I charged him. I asked him understood the charge, and he replied 'Yes.' "I then cautioned him, saying: ' You are not obliged to say anything unless you choose, but anything you do say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence.' He made no reply. The magistrate (turning to Pople) said: Do you want to ask any questions? Pople, in a low, cultured voice, replied, " No, Sir"

STOOD WITH EYES AVERTED.

Detective-Inspector Rippington then asked for a remand until to-day week. Dec. 30. Pople, a fair complexioned young man of medium height, kept his eyes averted to the floor while the inspector was giving evidence, and when the court proceedings finished he clicked his heels smartly to attention and strode from the room. He was taken to a cell, and transferred later to Oxford Prison. Pople's home is at Brecon. For a long time afterwards the crowd, which had swarmed into the police and stood outside the charge room while the proceedings lasted, remained in the vicinity. The inquest on Mrs Matthews as open at Burford Police Court yesterday, and after evidence of identification was adjourned indefinitely.