

Key Man in Brooklyn Gambling Ring Slain; Long Sought by Amen

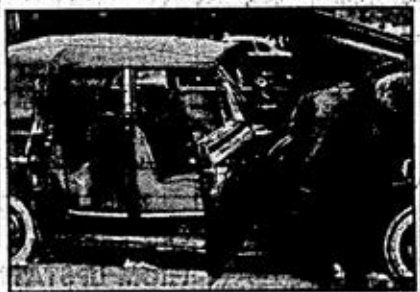
By ARNOLD FRINCH

The "key man" in Brooklyn's gambling racket, which, according to Asst. Atty. Gen. Amen, paid certain Brooklyn police \$250,000 annually for protection, was found shot to death yesterday in Brooklyn, in the auto in which he had been taken for a ride.

He was Abe Babcheck, 38, about whom little was known publicly, but whose career as a racketeer was reputed to have been as fabulous as that of the late Arnold

Texas Storm Sweeps Into Army Area

TEXAS STORM SWEEPS INTO ARMY AREA. A heavy rain storm swept across the Texas coast yesterday, bringing with it strong winds and heavy rain. The storm was particularly severe in the area around the Army base at Fort Worth, where it caused considerable damage to buildings and crops. The Army authorities are now working to clear up the damage and to provide relief for the affected personnel and families.



Shot in the back of the head, Abe Babcheck is slumped in the front seat of the car in which he was taken for a ride. Policemen check the motor number of the car. The auto was abandoned on Empire Blvd., near Albany Ave.

Rothstein. A cigaret dangling from the corner of his mouth, it was "nothing" for him to lose \$60,000 in a dice game and win back \$100,000 the next night, according to associates.

A reputed millionaire, he succeeded Abe "Kid Twist" Reles as the "policy king" of Brownsville and East New York when District Attorney O'Dwyer broke up the Brooklyn Murder Syndicate and induced Reles to become the State's principal informer against his former allies.

Shot in Head

Two bullets in the back of the head "uncrowned" Babcheck, who sometimes spelled his name Babcheck and who also was known as "Jew Murphy."

A bakery salesman found the body slumped on the right front seat of an auto, probably stolen, abandoned in front of the six-story apartment house at 675 Empire Blvd., near Albany Ave.

One theory is that Babcheck was taken for a ride by gamblers from whom he won \$30,000 in a dice game in the Mulberry section of Manhattan Tuesday night.

Another is that he was silenced to prevent him from falling into the hands of Amen.

"I have had detectives searching for Babcheck for two

months," Amen admitted yesterday.

Harold N. Cohen, his assistant, added:

"Our investigation revealed that Babcheck operated one of the largest policy banks in Brooklyn. We have been informed he did a business of between \$7,000 and \$8,000 a day.

"We are trying to determine whether his murder was the result of our investigation."

But Babcheck had another outstanding claim to "fame."

He was questioned in con-

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28 PASSENGERS OFF ON CLIPPER LISBON BOUND

28 PASSENGERS OFF ON CLIPPER LISBON BOUND. A clipper ship is scheduled to depart for Lisbon with 28 passengers. The ship is expected to arrive in Lisbon in a few days. The passengers are mostly tourists and business travelers. The ship is well-equipped and has a comfortable cabin. The captain is a highly experienced seaman. The ship is expected to arrive in Lisbon in a few days.



Racket Key-Man Slain in Brooklyn

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nection with the murder two years ago of Fireman Thomas J. Hitter, who was robbed of a \$3,500 payroll belonging to other firemen attached to an East New York station.

Detectives grilled him about a report he drove Frank Divino to commit the murder. Divino was convicted but won a new trial and is in Raymond St. jail awaiting the second trial.

The story told to detectives was that Divino borrowed a large sum from Babcheck which he was not able to repay. Finally, it was said, Babcheck warned him to "pay up or else," and Divino, seeking to save his own life, killed Hitter for the money with which to repay Babcheck.

Divino has persistently denied this.

"I didn't kill Hitter, so the story can't be true," said Divino.

A man of iron nerve, Babcheck continued his policy and loan-shark businesses even while Amen investigated alleged official corruption in Brooklyn as the special appointee of Gov. Linn.

Only recently, detectives were told, he paid \$50,000 for a "policy business."

O'Dwyer believes he was slain elsewhere and his body taken to the spot where it was found by Leon Taub, the salesman, of 701 Empire Blvd.

Babcheck was shot from behind. One slug entered the head just under the left ear and the other an inch lower.

Both trouser pockets had been turned inside out, but a \$20 bill was found in his right back pocket and a \$10 bill in his left back pocket.

A five-cent piece was found in another pocket, but his wallet was empty, save for an auto operator's license which led to his identification.

Hid Winnings

Detectives assigned to the case expressed the belief that, before being taken on the ride, Babcheck concealed the \$20,000 he won in the dice game and was killed when his assailants failed to find a large amount in his pockets.

The detectives said they were told that Babcheck was in financial difficulties several weeks ago and gave some IOU's after losing a large sum in a dice game, though he made good his losses later.

Though often questioned in connection with crimes, Babcheck had few convictions marked up against him.

He was convicted with two other men in 1938 on a charge of conspiracy to conduct a lottery and sentenced to six months in jail.

He lived at 9214 Avenue B, Brooklyn.

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