

McIntyre, Charles H. d. 11 Mar 1889 **R13/254**

The Evening Star, March 12, 1889

Suicide of a Marine

He Prefers Death to Life in the Barracks

He was a Young Man, Chafing Under the Discipline, and Deserted--

Being Captured and Confined in a Police-Station Cell, He Takes Poison

Just five months ago Chas. H. McIntyre, a young man, then a citizen of Charleston, W. Va., registered his name at the recruiting office of the marine corps and became a marine for five years. Like many other marines, he complained to his friends of bad treatment received and often wished that he had never entered the service. On inauguration day McIntyre, with other marines, was sent out to take part in the parade. Once when the line halted he left the ranks and went into a saloon and got a drink. For this conduct McIntyre was given five days in irons in the guardhouse. His five days had expired, and yesterday morning he was placed on guard duty at the barracks.

Desertion

He watched his chance, and when his commanding officer was out of sight he dropped his musket and went from the building, with the intention of again, becoming a private citizen. As soon as he was missed from the barracks a message was sent out offering a reward of \$10 for his capture. Acting Corporal McDonald went in search of the deserter and was with him near a house of ill-fame, on Maryland avenue, about 9 o'clock last night, when Policeman McNamara came along. McIntyre was in citizens clothes, but McDonald gave the officer the "tip," and the deserter ran into a house, but before he could get out through the back door

The Policeman Caught Him

He wanted to go upstairs, as the officer thought, to get something, probably a revolver, but the latter would not let him go and took him to the station. He was quiet when taken before Lieut. Vernon and gave up a knife, which, he said, was all he had in his pockets. He requested the lieutenant to keep in the station over night and not send him back to the barracks until this morning. The lieutenant had no objection to complying with his wish, and McIntyre was led to one of the cells in the rear. Before his arrest he told some persons that he would

Kill Himself Rather Than Return

to the barracks. When questioned by the station clerk, the prisoner had but little to say and showed no signs of intending to injure himself. When placed in the cell he asked for a cup of water and requested the officer in charge to allow the cup to remain in his cell. The request was not an unusual one and the cup was left in the cell with him. The station clerk and officer took their seats behind the rail, and were waiting the arrival of another prisoner or to receive a telephone message. Hardly had fifteen minutes elapsed before Clerk Voss was attracted to the cell room by the dropping of a tin cup. He went to the marine's cell, where he saw the prostrate form of the young man lying upon the concrete floor.

He Was in Convulsions

and his appearance indicated that he had but a few minutes to live. The cell door was opened and a policeman sent for a physician, but before he arrived the young man expired. Beside him on the floor lay a small bottle which was broken. From this bottle, labeled poison, the prisoner had taken a deadly drug. News of his death was sent to the barracks and a number of his comrades called during the night to see his body. Some of the corroborated the statements made by McIntyre, before his death, concerning the treatment he had received. The coroner investigated the case today and gave a certificate of death from suicide. The body was subsequently turned over to the government officials.

What is Said at the Navy Yard

Marine officials at the navy yard state that the deceased joined the post only on the 20th of February, and that his short career there was anything but creditable. Immediately after coming there he was given liberty, but did not return until 9:20 the next morning, 14 hours and 20 minutes over liberty. For this he was given ten days in double irons and forty days' restriction. He was released from imprisonment just in time to take part in the inaugural procession, but left the ranks without permission, handing his gun to a comrade. For this act of insubordinate he was given five days on bread and water. The day after his release he deserted, so that

Name

Birth/Death

Age

Range/Site

out of eighteen days' service in Washington he served fourteen in the guard-house. He appeared morose and sullen, and the officers are inclined to believe that his mind was not well balanced.