

## Albert Edmond Preville (1902-1933)

A wretched way to be part of history

On January 18, 1932 Mrs. Exima Prescott Mondor was murdered in her home in St Damien PQ. Albert Preville and his brother Alphonse were held jointly for that murder after the coroner inquiry.

The investigation conducted by captain detective Louis Jargaille and witnesses reported the Albert and Alphonse Preville went to Mrs Mondor's home and Alphonse came out after a while followed by Albert who held a knife in his hand. Mrs. Mondor was found laying on the floor of her bedroom. She has been shut with 3 bullets of .38 caliber and 9 knife wounds were found on her body. It was proved that some of the knife wounds and the wounds caused by the firearm were inflicted after death. Alphonse has been hurt to his left thigh by a .38 bullet during those events. This squalid affair brought to light a love triangle in which Albert and his younger brother were rivals for the loved woman he killed...

On October 4, 1932 a jury found Albert Preville guilty and Mr Justice Louis Cousineau sentenced him to die on January 13, 1933. Evidence demonstrated clearly that on the morning of January 18, 1932 he entered the Mondor home, found Mrs Mondor alone with his brother Alphonse, attacked her after shooting his brother through the thigh and left her body on the floor, its throat cut from ear to ear with nine other knife wounds and three bullet wounds in it.

As an aggravating fact, Albert was out on ticket-of-leave for an attempt of murder which took place some years before and for which he was sentenced to 10 years but has been released after serving 4 years. In that previous case it was also the result of Albert's jealousy!

In her thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for degree of doctor of philosophy in 1996, Miss Elisabeth M. Elliott quoted a part of the Memorandum for the Honourable Minister of Justice. From the Deputy Minister of Justice in Ottawa on January 3, 1933, (10 days before Preville's hanging) we can read that the Judge wrote :

*"Albert Preville is a born murderer. The murder he committed is one of the most atrocious in our criminal annals ; and his crime was coldly planned and premeditated. Albert Preville is far from being insane, quite to the contrary; but he is a coward and as such has become almost a genius in the art of hypocrisy and dissimulation. Should Preville be interned as insane he would kill even in the asylum, and should he succeed in ever escaping woe be to those who brought about his conviction....Preville is one of the most dangerous men in this country."*

Albert Preville died at the age of 31 by hanging on January 13, 1933 in the penitentiary of Joliette Qc.

Note : This story is partly derived from the Montreal Gazette, of January 25, 1932 and of October 5, 1932 and also from Mrs. Elliot's thesis