

Richard O. Melton, Jr.

(- 9 Dec 1936)

Melton, Richard O., Jr. Suddenly, on Wednesday, December 9, 1936, Richard O. Melton, Jr., beloved husband of Edith E. Melton. Funeral from his late residence, 2211 31st st. s.e., on Saturday, December 12, at 8:30 a.m.; thence to St. Peter's Church, 2nd and C sts. S.e., where mass will be offered at 9 a.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, December 10, 1936, p. 22

Veteran Suicide In Office Building

Richard O. Melton, Jr., Had Been Under Medical Treatment

Richard O. Melton, jr., 49, Customs Bureau accountant and past commander of Ace-Rasmussen Post, Disabled American Veterans of the World War, shot himself through the heart late yesterday a few minutes after he had finished work in the Washington Building, Fifteenth street and New York avenue.

Police, summoned by Clarence H. Hill, 1315 Park road, a fellow worker, found an old-fashioned .41-caliber single-shot pistol beside the body in the wash room on the seventh floor of the building, Hill said he was in the room and heard the shot fired.

A note left by Melton, police reported, read:

"I alone am to blame."

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald issued a verdict of suicide.

Melton was gassed and shell-shocked in France, where he spent 21 months in the Army during and after the World War. He was under medical treatment as a result of his war injuries, and also had been worried about the condition of his father, R.O. Melton, who is ill. He had been employed by the Government, first in the Loans and Currency Division of the Treasury Department and later in his present post, since his discharge from the Army in May 1919.

Widow at Funeral

His widow, Mrs. Edith Melton, an employe of the Potomac Electric Power Co., had been attending the funeral of a friend and learned of her husband's death on her return home, according to friends.

Funeral services will be conducted in St. Patrick's Church at 9 a.m. Saturday. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery. Besides his father and widow Melton is survived by five sisters, Mrs. Franklin Monroe, Miss Anna May Melton, Miss Nora F. Melton, Mrs. N.H. Robbins and Mrs. H.O. Grack. He lived at 2211 Thirty-first street southeast.