

Weird Case of Murder Snarcs Two

BLANTYRE, Nyasaland, (AP) —Two African men, one of whom claims to be a "magic crocodile man," were formally charged Tuesday with the primitive and weird murder of a young village girl three years ago.

Police said they expect to examine the exhumed body of the girl soon.

The murder charge stemmed from a strange hearing before Chikawawa native authority court—a purely tribal gathering—last week when one of them, Ellard, hailed another, called Odrick, before the court and claimed that Odrick had not paid him for a certain murder.

Payment Sought

Ellard said Odrick commissioned him to murder a village girl for 90 shillings—\$12.60—according to "crocodile rites."

Ellard demanded that the court order Odrick to pay.

Odrick, in defense, admitted hiring Ellard for the full sum of money only if Ellard killed another girl—but he failed to do so.

The court eventually found in favor of Ellard and ordered Odrick to pay him 50 shillings—\$7—and at that stage white police stepped in to investigate the case.

Ellard had told the court he dressed up in a crocodile skin and killed the girl on a bank of a nearby river in such a manner that it appeared the girl had been mauled to death by a crocodile.

I always thought it was a dispute over the actual sum of money rather than about a second victim. However, does anyone know the outcome of this affair?

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