

HOTEL GUEST IS FATALLY SHOT BY 'UNLOADED' GUN

Arthur Barnes, Former
Bluecoat, Shot Through
Heart by Night Clerk

John Denner Held in \$2500
Bail to Await Action of
Coroner

The old story of "I didn't know it was loaded" was told following the fatal shooting of Arthur Barnes, 41, of Lewes, Del., a resident guest at the Chester Arms Hotel, who was fatally wounded when a .45 automatic revolver he was being shown by the night clerk, John Denner, 25, years old, accidentally exploded.

Denner, who was arrested following the shooting, was released in \$2500 bail yesterday by District Attorney William J. MacCarter, to await the action of the coroner's jury.

The shooting occurred at 8:15 Saturday evening, when the downtown section was crammed with shoppers and theatre goers, who swarmed around the hotel entrance following the sharp report and a rumor that a hold-up was being staged. The victim, who was shot through the heart, died on the operating table of the Chester Hospital, where he was removed in an automobile by Hykel Sarkis, 218 Townsend street.

The body was taken home today for burial, from the private morgue of E. F. White, Third and Norris streets. It was removed to the morgue by Deputy Coroner White, Saturday night.

The gun in the fatal shooting is similar to the army service revolver. Denner was standing behind the counter in the lobby of the hotel, chatting with Barnes, when the accident happened. Denner, who is unfamiliar with firearms, removed a clip loaded with bullets and was playfully fingering the revolver when there was an explosion and Barnes dropped unconscious, a stream of blood oozing from the wound in his chest.

Other guests ran to the aid of Barnes and police were called. The victim was placed in an auto and Motorcycle Martin stood on the running board and cleared traffic while the machine sped to the Chester Hospital.

The victim was a former Wilmington patrolman and later was chief of police at Newark, Del. At the time of his death he was employed at the Ford plant, this city.

Superintendent of Police Black, of Wilmington, Del., yesterday located the victim's father, who is a pilot on the Delaware Bay, and also a sister living at Chincoteague, Va.

According to police of this city, Barnes exonerated Denner of blame before he expired and asked that the youth be released.

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pmartin793

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