Sociology Professor, Reporter Shot By Natives In Indonesia, Scene Of Cultural Research
Killers Stop Jeep On Lonely Road, Make Javan Villagers Bury Victims

by Dennis F. Strong

Professor Raymond Kennedy was shot to death yesterday noon on a lonely road near the village of Tomo in West Java. He had been studying the influence of western civilization on native culture.

According to Radio Jakarta (Batavia), Mr. Kennedy had been travelling by jeep with Time and Life correspondent Robert Doyle, heading for Jogjakarta, the capital of Indonesia. They were stopped by "four or five armed men in uniform," taken to a clearing in the forest and shot. They later forced the local villagers (Tomo) to bury their victims.

The group then commandeered a sedan and drove towards Cheribon. Authorities believe that this happened Thursday noon (11 P.M. Wednesday New Haven time). As soon as the villagers reported the incident, an Indonesian army unit exhumed the bodies. Positive identification of Doyle was made immediately; the fact that Kennedy was not identified until much later has led the Associated Press to believe that the bodies may have been mutilated.

Parotic Moslem bands of the Darul Islam movement have operated in these mountainous regions in the past. This might prove to be a clue to the murders.

Mr. Kennedy always drove his own jeep, and Mr. Doyle was travelling with him for the purpose of interviewing natives along the route. His assignment was "what Indonesian peasants thought of the current situation in the Islands." Mr. Doyle was a graduate of the Institute of Far Eastern Languages at Yale, where he took an intensive course in the Chinese Language.

A Professor of Sociology since June of 1947, Mr. Kennedy left New Haven last June to spend 15 months in the Pacific. His trip had been planned for several years. Purpose of the trip was to study the influence of western civilization on native culture.

"Jungle Jim" began his career 20 years ago by selling automotive products in the Dutch East Indies. He was married in 1939 to Ruby Jo Reeves, now a member of the Sociology Department at Connecticut College in New London.