

BROUGHT HER POLISH FRIEND TO BIRCHINGTON

"Having a wonderful time," Miss Allen told friends

Up to last (Thursday) night, detectives, led by Det. Supt. R. L. Vivian of Notting Hill Police Station, were not expecting any immediate developments as a result of their enquiries into the death on Saturday morning of Shirley Marguerite Allen, aged 24, of Alpha Road, Birchington.

Police found miss Allen dead from stab wounds in the basement flat adjacent to the bed-sitting-room she had been occupying for the past three months at Leinster Square, Bayswater, S.W.

Lying nearby with severe injuries was a Pole 24-year-old Gunther Wiora, with whom she had been seen at Birchington over the Easter holiday, and the caretaker of the block of flats, Mrs Doreen Dally, a 50-year-old widow.

Both were rushed to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. A Japanese sword removed from the premises is being kept at Notting Hill Police Station. The Isle of Thanet Gazette understands that although Mrs Dally has been discharged she is still seriously ill. At the inquest opened on Monday by the St Pancras Coroner (Mr W. Bailey Purchase) Miss Allen's Father, Mr Walter James Allen of "The Oaks", 124 Alpha Road, Birchington, said he last saw his daughter at Easter and the previous Friday had spoken to her on the telephone. The hearing was adjourned until 1 June, after Det. Supt. Vivian had told the Coroner the police wanted the issue of the burial certificate delayed.

The coroner said he would issue the certificate to become effective when convenient. Dr R. E. Camps (pathologist) attributed death to shock and haemorrhage following a stab wound in the chest, which penetrated the heart. The tragedy was revealed when someone in the flats made two urgent calls for an ambulance. The first was at 8.07am. Fifteen minutes later a man telephoned. "Come quickly; there's been a stabbing." Early risers heard the screams and a tenant opened his flat door to find Mrs Dally outside. Miss Allen last visited her parents at Birchington at Easter and Wiora also stayed in Birchington that weekend. Then Shirley, an only child, told a friend, "I am having a wonderful time."

Talented

Miss Allen went to London about two years ago to work as a wall-paper designer. So far as is known, she moved to the Leinster Square address only a few months ago.

A reserved type she was, nonetheless, known to a number of Birchington residents. Her two great loves were art and animals. She learnt textile designing at Thanet School of Art, Margate, after leaving Clarendon House School Ramsgate and was considered talented.

Shirley was nearly always seen with her two magnificent red setters, whom a Margate dog expert described as "extremely well trained". Often she would go to kennels in the district and spend hours sketching the animals. Before moving to Alpha Road, she lived with her parents in Westfield Road Birchington.