

CONVICTS' TESTIMONY

The testimony

of the

residing at

in 1897 - In one case one of the little ones of the

portion of a building. No girl was ever lost for the

location in those places in the factory. I remember the

happened being a thing in one of the revolving cylinders

of steam-boilers so as with the explosion of powder.

To Mr. Powell - To minimize the risk of explosion we propose to make

up brick in a separate room, to have the filling done in the room

done down in the room and the pressing and

strapping down in another room and to have no other examination in

the room where this is done. I think the explosion was far from

it would have been because of the intense heat generated by the

location of the steam-boilers in the mill and in the

room although the worst case could be the first explosion of

the steam.

(Signed) A. W. White.

Witness

Witness

INQUISITION.

VICTORIA, }
TO WIT. }

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at
Footscray

Victoria, the *24th 8th 10th 21st 26th 28th* day of *September, October*
1st 10th 16th and 19th and *and November*
A.D. 189*7* in the *Sixty-first* year of the Reign
of our said Lady the Queen, before me *Samuel Curtis*
Candler

Gentleman, a Coroner of our Lady the Queen

for Victoria, upon the view of the body of

(1) Jurors' Christian
and surnames in full.

and Henriettaabella
Fitzpatrick

alice W^m Lord,
Elizabeth Greenham
then and there lying dead, upon the oaths of¹

Richard Pearce
Charles Fraser
Samuel Frainger
Thomas Irving
Willis. W. Johnson
Otto W. Lickner

good and lawful men of

Footscray

in Victoria,

who being duly sworn and charged to inquire, upon the part of our Lady the
Queen, when, where, how, and by what means the said

(2) His or her

(3) Here state cause
of death if known;
if unknown, doubt-
ful, or no evidence,
state the fact accord-
ingly, using the
words of the verdict
of the Jury

Henriettaabella
and Fitzpatrick

came by *their* death, do say upon their

oath that³ *On the 23rd of September 1897 at*
at the works of the Colonial Ammunition
Company at Footscray, they died from
shock from burns caused by an explosion
of gunpowder.

We find that the explosion
occurred at the Hoisting Machine work

worked by Alice McLeod, ~~but there is~~
~~no sufficient evidence before us to show~~
~~it took place.~~ and that the said machine
was defective.

In our opinion the room
marked No 1 on the plan
was made a danger building
by the nature of the
operations carried out in
that room, also that the
Government should have
more direct control over
the bombing works.

In witness whereof as well the aforesaid Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid
have to this Inquisition put their hands and seals, on the day and year and at the
place above mentioned.

C. Canby

Coroner.

(1) Here let each
Juror sign his own
name, or make his
own mark, and affix
or acknowledge his
seal.

Richard Pearce

Charles Casey

Samuel Greenfield

Thomas Irving

Willis W. Johnson

Otto Miller

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* _____

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at _____

To the Jury - In one case one girl had her hand a little burnt by an explosion of a cartridge. No girl has every lost her fingers by an explosion in those machines in our factory. I remember the girl Mc Donnell losing a finger in one of the revolving machines run by steam: nothing to do with the explosion of powder.

To Mr. Bryant - To minimise the risk of explosion we propose to make up blank in a separate room, to have the filling done in the powder house and the turning down and the pressing and ~~crimping~~ crimping done in another room and to have no other ammunition in the room where that is done. I think the explosion was larger than it would have been because the intense heat generated by the explosion of the blank communicated to the ball cartridges in the room although the worst damage was done by the first explosion of the blank.

(Signed) Asa Whitney.

Taken and Sworn before me the Sixteenth day
of November 189 7 at Footscray.

C. Canoler

Coroner

Fortruay

7th Oct 1847

Dear Sir

I am afraid that
Mr P Barnett - the foreman on
tomorrow's inquest - will be unable
to be present as he received a
nasty injury to his foot this week
having his leg in splints at the present
time. He expressed a wish to me to
say to let you know.

Yours sincerely
John Box

Footscray

Station. Melbourne

Police District.

No 3 Division

23rd September

1894—

REPORT OF M^{rs} Constable Douglas (3456)

Relative to Explosion by powder at the Ammunition Works Salt Water River Footscray at 9.30 am 23.9.94, With the result of the loss of one life, and two persons bodily injured.

I have to report that—Alice McLeod 19 years of age of 26 Regent Street Footscray, Yarraville, and Elizabeth Greenham 19 years of age of Southhampton Street Footscray, and Henrietta Fitzpatrick 17 years of age and residing at Nicholson Street Footscray, was seriously injured by the explosion of powder at the Ammunition Works at 9.30 am on 23rd 9.94, the Girl Alice McLeod was found in the debris, dead. It appears from inquiries that the three girls went to work at 9 am, in an out house, 30 x 20 and made of galvanised iron, which is situated, detached from the main building about 10 feet. The woman McLeod, Deceased, was pressing the blank cartridges at a machine, and then putting them through a hole in the bench into 3 casks, the amount of Cartridges in this portion of the Building was 2000 blank. The girl Elizabeth Greenham was filling cartridges with bullets at another bench situated East in the same Building. The Girl Henrietta Fitzpatrick was pressing the bullets into the Cartridge case. They had been in this particular employment for 5 years. It also appears that at about 9.26 am a Miss Amelia Leoules forewoman was in the same room, and left everything appearing all right, and went into another Building where the Steam Engine was working, about 14 yds from the other building, where the explosion took place. She came out of this place and was struck on the side of the head with a piece of glass. She then noticed a great flame and a second explosion. Captain Whitney came and saved the girl from the smouldering building, named Fitzpatrick,

Supt-Comptroller
Footscray

and

And took her to his office, the girl was very much burnt - A.
Henry Bennett, who was working in the main Building
of 141. Little Buckley St-Footscray, found the girl Granham
and took her to the same office. The horse was then applied
to the Building, and a man named Thompson of David
Street Footscray, noticed the body of Alice McLeod, in the Vicer's
and with the assistance of others was conveyed to the main
Building, Captain Whitney, then immediately dispatched
a man on horseback for Drs. McCarthy & New, who arrived shortly
afterwards, and pronounced life extinct in the case of McLeod
and that the girls Granham & Fitzpatrick was severely burnt
and suffering from shock. As much so, that they could
not possibly live. Henrietta Fitzpatrick in answer to
questions in the presence of Constable Stephens said that
she was 20 years of age, and that there was no fire about
in the room that she was putting bullets into Cartridge cases
she heard a noise and then fell on the floor. Alice McLeod
was working where the explosion took place there was
two girls in the room besides myself. and no loose powder
there, Arthur Hannford of 12 Plegun St-Footscray
and employed at the Cartridge Works stated that
at 9.30 am. He was on top of the hill, behind the Cartridge works
he heard a noise, as of Thunder, he then saw a portion
of the roof of the Cartridge works go up into the air. At
present the immediate cause of the explosion is unknown
But it is thought that the explosion or its cause originated
from something that the deceased McLeod was doing,
the body of the girl, McLeod is now in charge of the Police
in a room at the Works awaiting the Coroner's inquest.

R. B. Douglas
Mag. Court-375

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Asa Whitney

on his oath saith, I am a

Manager of the

residing at

Colonial Ammunition

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

Company situate at
 Sutherland. Yesterday at ^{between} ~~about~~
 half past eight and nine
 o'clock AM. I was on the
 premises of the factory.
 I had just gone into
 my office when I heard
 a noise like ^{a series of} small
 explosions. I rushed to
 the 2nd door and I
 heard another noise
 as of the expansion of
 air a noise like throwing
 a flash of spirits on a
 fire. I said "the boiler
 has burst." I met several
 of the work girls coming
 out from the room
 adjoining the one which
 was wrecked. I called to
 the leading hand to follow
 me. I went to the building
 where Mr. Leod and others
 were. I found Elizabeth
 Penhoun who was in
 flames, later on my men
 found

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

on h & oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

Alice W^cLeod and
 Harrietta Fitzpatrick.
 There were no other
 persons in the building.
 The girl W^cLeod was
 dead, the other two
 were living and died
 later in the day.
 Miss Greenham died
 at 2.30 and Miss
 Fitzpatrick at 4.30
 Remark: nothing

Taken and Sworn before me the 24th day
 of September 1897 at Wellbourn
C. Candler
 Coroner.

8th October 1891

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * CECIL NAPIER HAKE

on h^{is} oath saith, I am a _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at _____

To the Coroner - I am the Chief Inspector of Explosives under the Explosives Act . I have not completed my examination of the premises and material found there - one week will be sufficient for me to complete it . I believe the examination of the debris will be finished by Wednesday - it is necessary for me to have that time before I can come to any conclusion as to the cause of the explosion.

To Mr Box - I am sure I will be ready by this day week. I do not think it will be necessary to keep the police in charge of the place any longer . I have collected all the debris I require - the premises can be handed over to the company.

C. Napier Hake
(Signed)

Taken and Sworn before me the 8th day
of October 1897 at Fort St. Vrain
C. Canoler
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* JAMES RAMSAY WEBB

on his oath saith, I am a _____

residing at _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

To Mr Box - I am a legally qualified ^{medical} practitioner residing in Footscray.

I was called to the Colonial Ammunition Company's place on the 23rd of September between Half past Nine and Ten in the morning - there had been an explosion there . In consequence of that I went down - Dr McCarthy was there when I arrived . When I got there I saw Elizabeth Greenham - she was lying on the floor of the office on an improvised couch. She was suffering from extreme shock and collapse, the result of burns, and the parts of her body that were exposed were extensively burnt, and she had an incised wound over the right eyebrow about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long . She was practically moribund at the time - they had covered her up where they had applied something - flour was sprinkled about . The burns were covered up as well as might be under the circumstances - she was left there - she died about Two O'clock the same day - as far as she was concerned she died from shock, the result of burns . They were such as I should have put down at once probably to burning powder . I also saw Henrietta Fitzpatrick; she was lying on a similar couch in an adjacent room, a sort of ante-room to the office - she was alive and was very severely shocked, suffering from very severe shock. There were also burns on her face and head and the upper and lower extremities, and very extremely burnt about the body. There were two wounds over the forehead, one over the left eyebrow and the other just over the root of the nose . She did not strike us as being quite as bad as the girl Greenham, but she was in a very serious condition, so serious that we thought it inadvisable to remove her to the hospital. She died I think later in the afternoon than Miss Greeham. From the appearances she presented the cause of her death was shock, the result of extensive superficial burns similar in appearance to those of Miss Greeham. I saw

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

(12)

the

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * _____

on h oath saith, I am a _____

* Christian and Surname in full.

residing at _____

the body of Miss McLeod lying on the opposite side of the g factory; she was dead. She was very extensively burnt all over and she was lying with all her limbs flexed in a peculiar sort of way (^{showing how} ~~describing~~) with her thighs up, her elbows flexed and her arms drawn to her side, and her tongue was protruded between the teeth. I could not say from her appearance what was the cause of her death - she was burnt - similar burns to the others. I tried to make out the quality of the dress or the material, but I could not come to a determination whether it was w^ollen or cotton material. It was a sort of wincey which I could not distinguish as ^{of} animal or vegetable material - she had some calico underclothing on.

Mr Bryant objected that Mr Box's question ~~was~~ was pointed at a breach of the regulations, that the company carried on their work under a private Act of Parliament, in no sense under the Explosives Act. There was no regulation that required any particular form of clothing.

The Coroner thought the question pertinent as to the management of the place.

Mr Bryant - But on the lines the Government laid down.

The Coroner - I go beyond the Government in the matter. What regulations they may happen to make I may question - we are bound to inquire into everything in the matter.

The witness To Mr Box - I ~~was~~ could not tell whether the dress was woollen or cotton. I saw the dress of Hettie Fitzpatrick - I did not examine it - it did not occur to me at the time to examine it. I did not examine the dress of Elizabeth Greenham - the only one I looked at was Miss McLeod's. I remember one girl had a pair of shoes - which it was I do not remember, and another had a pair of lace-up boots. I

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * _____

on h oath saith, I am a _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at _____

could not say whether the boots had iron nails in the heels . I cannot remember which girl had boots on . I think the shoes were worn by Miss Fitzpatrick, but I am not sure.

To Mr Fedden - I did not notice whether there were any boot protectors.

To Mr Bryant - I understand by boot protectors small elliptical iron plates driven into the sole or heel of the boot - I did not observe any of them. When I saw those girls ,as far as Greenham and Fitzpatrick were concerned,an attempt had been made to cover up the wounds. I mean that the whole surface of the body in the case of two of the girls with the exception of the upper parts of the trunk were extensively burnt. To dress such burns in really a thorough manner is a task of enormous difficulty - they had not done that but had done their best with the resources at their command,with flour and oil . *The limbs and the burns* were so covered up with it that I could not see the wounds . I did not see any marks of powder driven into the flesh. The difference between an ordinary burn produced by burning timber and a burning by powder is that around a burn produced by powder you generally find some of the material that enters into the composition of powder more or less changed ,perhaps charcoal . I saw a good deal of scorching around and a deposit of carbon - that would be produced by burning timber that had fallen on them . I saw no wounds that might not have been caused by ordinary fire . They were such as might have been produced by any *ordinary* burning material . There was nothing in the appearance of the burns to indicate that they had been caused by an explosion of powder . In the case of Greenham and Fitzpatrick death was caused by shock as the result of burns.

In McLeod's case she was very badly burnt. I saw her in the main

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 at _____
factory

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * _____

on h oath saith, I am a _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at _____

factory . From the fact that her tongue was protruding it might indicate that her death was due to suffocation - it is an uncertain indication ,but it points to suffocation as the cause of death. I do not remember having treated any of those girls before . I do not think I have treated Alice McLeod - I cannot say. As to the wounds on Greenham's forehead over the right eyebrow that was not serious enough to cause death - that would be caused by contact with some hard body, pretty violent contact . I know the building was locked . The wound referred to was such as might be caused by timber falling on her ,anything falling and striking her violently on the eyebrow . The same thing applies to the wounds of Fitzpatrick on the eyebrow and nose.

To Mr Box - There was ^{the} ~~an~~ appearance of carbon or charcoal - the appearance is black. I cannot say whether it was caused by burning timber or an explosion of powder - it might have been caused by either. There was nothing distinctive of either forms of burning.

To the Coroner - As to the wounds on the girls they might have been caused by anything striking them on the forehead with great violence ,very considerable violence - anything hurled against the forehead, any rough body. The wounds were rather incised, not quite clean cut - not contused wounds . I think that is consistent with their being caused by falling timber - that might be the case about the head - very often that is the case with wounds about the head . It occurred to me as to ~~the~~ ^{the bullets} : I think from the appearance of the wounds that they had not ^{caused them} ~~not~~ . I saw some wounds caused by ball cartridges and they had not the same appearance . Captain Whitney had some scratches on his hands . The wounds were not sufficiently grooved to have been caused by ball.

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* _____

on h oath saith, I am a _____

residing at _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

To the Jury - I cannot say I remember seeing buttons or metallic sub-
stances about the dress, but of course I have no doubt they were
there.

Taken and Sworn before me the 20th day
of October 1897 at Footscray.

Signed Ramsay Webb.

C. Cantley

Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *CHARLES LOUIS MC CARTHY

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and Surname in full.

To Mr. Box - I am a legally qualified medical practitioner practising at Footscray. On the 23rd. of September last I went up to the Ammunition Factory shortly after half-past Nine. I was the first medical man on the scene. When I first went I saw the girl Fitzpatrick. She was lying in a room next to the office of the Ammunition Works in the main factory. I examined her and I found that she had extensive burns on the head, face and neck and the arms and legs. She also had wounds on the face and forehead. The burns were covered over to some extent by flour by some of the female attendants in the place. The girl was in very great pain, calling out and I could see that she was suffering acutely from shock and that she could not possibly last. I waited for sometime hoping that Dr. Webb might arrive with some morphia but as he did not come I went home for that and gave her an injection as soon as I arrived on the second occasion. That was about one hour after my first seeing her. It was useless to attempt to do anything to the burns as they were so extensive and my opinion was that any attempt to interfere with her would only aggravate her condition. Her dress was scorched very considerably. She died later on in the day. I was not present. I stayed with Dr. Webb about a couple of hours. In my opinion she died from shock the result of severe burns and other injuries. Her appearance was that of a person who had been in an explosion of powder. The face was considerably blackened, showing that carbon had undoubtedly pigmented the skin. The burns were of a uniform depth and

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 _____ at _____
a-18

Coroner.

consequently

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

on h

oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

consequently they were produced instantaneously, differing there-
fore from burns from fire. I saw the wrecked building also. I gave
immediate attention to the next girl, Greenham, who was lying in
the office. Her injuries were almost identical with those of the
girl Fitzpatrick and she was suffering much greater pain apparent-
ly. Her screams were very distressing. She was burned in precisely
the same manner and the employes had been employing the same treat-
ment of flour, and I fancy oil was used. Similar cuts were on her.
I saw ~~her~~ ~~three-times~~ all three girls immediately I arrived to
see what assistance I could render. There was nothing peculiar a-
bout Elizabeth Greenham's wounds different from the other girl's. ~~He~~
Her wounds showed they were produced at the one time. She was con-
scious when I saw her. She spoke to me and recognised me. I merely
gave her the morphia. She was evidently dying, and died that after-
noon. Her case was due to the same causes, shock in consequence of
burns and injuries. I saw the body of Alice McLeod. It was lying in
the main building. She was dead when I saw her. I saw her wounds. ~~He~~
Her injuries were precisely similar to the other two girls', exten-
sive burns over the exposed parts of the body, the face and arms
and legs; and there were cuts on her. I think her death must have
been instantaneous. That is only an opinion: there was nothing par-
ticular to guide me. She was perfectly cold when I reached the place
and rigor mortis had actually set in. I reached the place between
half-past Nine and a quarter to Ten, nearer half-past Nine. The

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent * _____

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at _____

The clothing of all three was burned. I took no notice of the material nor the boots. I did not see them.

To Mr. Fedden - It was a fine day, a dry day. I did not see where Alice McLeod or the others were working. The death of Rose Greenham was caused by shock from burns and injuries which might have been the result of an explosion. She did not say anything as regards the accident, how it happened. She merely expressed her dissatisfaction that I was not giving her relief. She recognised me, and she blamed me for doing nothing for her.

To Mr. Bryant - My last answer applies to all the three girls: ~~the~~ burns and injuries they sustained might have been the result of an explosion. I heard Dr. Webb's answer to you in cross-examination. I do not ~~entirely~~ agree with his answer. There was something inconsistent in the burns with ~~the~~ burns caused by fire. They were all equal, whereas, with an ordinary fire, there would be patches of inequality in the depth of the burns. I saw nothing could be done for the girls but I examined the burns precisely. There was the usual lesion that always exists. I examined the condition closely for my own satisfaction. I went down knowing that the accident had happened. I did not know that an explosion had taken place. When I reached there I learnt that, after I saw the girls. The knowledge of the explosion assisted me as to the cause of the burns. If the explosion had taken place some feet away from ^{where} ~~Fitzpatrick~~ and Greenham were standing and the explosion had caused a fire and the timber was set alight and fell on them and they remained under

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * _____

on h oath saith, I am a _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at _____

the ~~burning~~ burning timber those burns might have been caused by the burning timber. In that case I would have expected a different condition. I do not say it is an impossibility for those burns to have been produced by burning timber. I say they might not. It is possible they might have been, but in my opinion they were produced by the explosion itself. If a barrel of gunpowder had exploded, their wounds might have been caused by that but I am not suggesting that. I did not make any inquiry as to where the girls were standing at the time of the explosion. I have had no experience with cartridges. I have had experience of explosion. If a cartridge were exploded on the table I do not suppose there would be any serious result. As to those wounds they were precisely such as would be produced by some sharp edge cuts. It is a reasonable supposition if the girls were found with fallen timber round them, that the cuts were caused by that. I cannot suggest any other supposition. I was at the works two hours at least. I was in constant attendance on the girls. I was there about a quarter to Ten and stayed till about a quarter to Twelve. Going for the morphia took about twenty minutes. I was in constant attendance on Greenham and Fitzpatrick. I went from one room to the other. My primary object was to alleviate their sufferings. I did not seek to remove the flour and oil to examine the wounds closely. That had been washed away ^{partly by} ~~from~~ serious effusion of the burns ^{as} ~~the~~ the hours rolled by. ~~The~~ The girls were covered up with blankets. I uncovered them several times to satisfy

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 at _____

d-27

Coroner.

myself

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

myself that there was no ~~file~~ bleeding or other troubles. I saw directly I went there that death was certain. In Miss Mc Leod's case death must have been instantaneous. I had attended her before. There was no heart trouble. I had attended her for some years. She was not delicate. She was a hysterical girl. I did not observe that her tongue was protruding. I was thoroughly satisfied she was dead. In her case the death was due to shock caused by burns. The protusion of the tongue was not a fact I would notice particularly, seeing that *graver* conditions were present.

To the Jury - The marks were black. There is a difference between powder marks and a burn by fire.

To the Coroner - Flying debris of any sort would cause such wounds. A violent explosion would not, I think, cause those wounds by itself without something being propelled as ⁱⁿ the cause of ^{an explosion} the accident. The concussion of the air, I hardly think, would cause a wound. There was no contusion about the wounds. It would be difficult to observe that because of the parched condition of the skin. They were not jagged wounds but clean cut.

Taken and Sworn before me the Twentieth day
of October 1897 at Footscray.

C. Cantley

Coroner.

Chas. L. McCarthy

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * ISAAC NEWTON STEVENSon h^{is} oath saith, I am a _____

residing at _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

To Mr Box - I am a constable stationed at West Footscray; that is about three quarters of a mile from the Ammunition Works . On the morning of the 23rd of September about Half past Nine my attention was drawn to a pillar of white smoke in the direction of the cartridge factory. I at once proceeded in that direction ,went straight to the factory. When I got there, there were a number of people standing outside and I saw the wrecked building. I found there had been an explosion - the building was a complete wreck - the roof was blown off in different directions . Portion of the floor was blown away ,and a heap of boxes at the North end of the building . The fireman called out to me and said "There is a body underhere ", and I assisted him to remove the boxes . I saw all of the roof in different parts . Half of it was blown over another building about the same size as itself ,and the other was away about forty feet in another direction . There was very little fire when I arrived . I removed the boxes with the assistance of the fireman and found the body of Alice McLeod . The place where she was lying was not on fire - the body was found near the North side of the building on the West side ,nearly the middle of the building. Looking from the factory towards the river, the body was nearer the lefthand side at the North end of the building. She was lying face downwards in a crouched position . There was a little square box 6 or 8 inches square and 3 or 4 inches deep underneath her stomach - it was a cartridge box made of wood.. The fireman's name was John Holliday. There were a number of others came round also when we lifted her out - I do not know their names - they procured a door and carried her into the main building. That was the first girl I saw - the others had been removed before I got

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

there - I did not see them removed - she was dead. I saw Captain Whitney there sometime afterwards . I may have seen him then, but I did not know till afterwards who he was - I had a conversation with him - he made a statement to me - that was the same day, about an hour and a half after I arrived there . He x said he was in the office when the explosion took place - he had no idea how it occurred - he thought it was the boiler - he rushed out and saw an explosion had taken place - he pulled one of the girls out of the debris and helped to get her into the building. He said there were about 2,500 blank cartridges there , and only three girls working there - he said blank cartridges . I asked him was there any loose powder in the room and he said "No". I had a conversation with him later on the same day. I saw the other two girls. I saw Ettie Fitzpatrick. I assisted in removing her to a cottage under the Drs', McCarthy and Webb, direction - she was alive and conscious . She had been lying in the office in the main building when I first saw her - Dr McCarthy was with her. At Dr Webb's direction we removed her . Dr McCarthy went away and came back again - we took her to the cottage on the premises - I spoke to her - she was conscious. I said "Have you any idea how the explosion occurred", she said "No". I made a note at the time (looking at his notes) I said "Did the explosion take place near you ", she said "No, I had just finished a box . I heard a noise and then I fell". I asked her "Where did that explosion take place ", she said "Where Alice McLeod was working". I said "Did you see Alice McLeod after you fell", she replied "No" - she said there were three working in the room. I said "Was there any loose powder in the room ", she said "No". That was all the questions I asked her . I had several conversations with

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * _____

on h oath saith, I am a _____

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Surname in
full.

residing at _____

Captain Whitney at the works - it was about the explosion - it
 was principally as to the fire . I did not ask any questions, only
 as to insurance - he replied that they had no insurance on the
 building. I searched through the debris. I found a lot of bullet
 cartridges, sporting cartridges and blank cartridges . Most of the
 bullet cartridges were not exploded, nor the sporting - nearly all
 the blank cartridges were . I have no idea how many were there -
 they were scattered all over the place - there must have been tens
of thousands of them. I saw some being gathered together , but I
 was not on duty at that time . When I was there on the day of the
 explosion, no one was walking about collecting things together -
 they were merely relieving the sufferings of the girls . None of
 the hands were employed at anything about the building - everything
 was left just as it was . The police took charge of the place - I
 was there and there were other police - we did not formally take
 charge of it until Mr Hake arrived - there was a policeman station-
 ed there . I was there four hours every day . Constable Waddell of
 Footscray relieved me - there was a constable stationed there day
 and night. The other constable was Maxwell. I saw Mr Hake when he
 came down first ; that was the day after the explosion I think. The
 explosion was on the Thursday - I think he came down on the Friday.
 I met him at the station and went down with him . Mr Hake had some
 men there from the Defence Department to collect the debris - they
 collected it . Before Mr Hake's people began at it, there was noth-
 ing done to the debris. The girl McLeod had boots on - I did not
 examine them - her clothing was all more or less burnt - if you
 touched it it broke. Where she was, the building was not on fire, but
 just behind her the joists were ~~by~~ blazing up a little - six or

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eight feet away from her - she was lying with her head towards the middle of the building. I saw her bench where she had worked - her feet would be about 3 feet away from the bench and her head lying further away still, as though she had turned round in falling on her face . The end of the building next the main factory was all blown to pieces ,the floor as well. The joists that supported the floor were broken and blown away in some places altogether. The house blown away was immediately at the end of the factory - there was a similar building to the right. The windows of that were broken - the roof was dented inwards . The ridgepole of the roof seemed to be broken:half of the roof of the building that was blown up may have fallen on that one and slid off on to the other side .

To Mr Fedden - The material of the building was wood and galvanised iron, *corrugated* iron on the roof and side . There were windows in the building . Alice McLeod was working at the North end of the building. There is a window near where she worked - I cannot say whether the sun would be shingⁱⁿ through that window - the explosion was about Half past Nine - I do not think the sun would be shingⁱⁿ in that window then . Where she was working would be on the West side . They showed me the machine she had been using - it was made of iron or steel. There was a boardposted up with some printed matter on it - it was blackened with smoke or powder. From my inquiries my opinion as to the cause of the accident was the machine that Alice McLeod was working, by pressing the cartridge wrongfully and exploding it . I did not assist in collecting the bullets from the cartridges . I did not notice the girl's clothing ~~near~~^{nor} her boots .

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To Mr Bryant - Those notes in my book were written on the day of the explosion. "Alice McLeod, found dead, pressing blank cartridges. Elizabeth Greenham, putting in bullets in cases. Henrietta Fitzpatrick, fixing bullets in cases", I got that information from some of the employes. "68 grains to the cartridge", Captain Whitney gave me that. "Amelia Reuter. 2,000 blank cartridges" — four girls employed in that room, Miss Reuter gave me that information (The witness pointed out the position of the body on the photograph of the room taken after the explosion). Her feet were three feet from that bench (pointing) at right angles to the end of the bench. I saw a few of those boxes removed - they were empty boxes. I noticed the appearance of the wall behind where the boxes had been. There was a clean spot, ~~not~~ not very clean, but not so black as the rest, just at the end of the bench as though there had been a box in the road. Somebody had explained the nature of the work that McLeod did and I formed my opinion from what I was told. The roof of the the No. 2 building was a gable roof - from its appearance part of the other roof had fallen on it and slid over. The windows on No 2 building on the North side were damaged - I think everyone was broken out - I am not sure of that.

Mr. Bryant
By the Coroner - That is a photo showing the condition of the building after the explosion - that shows that the windows on that side are scarcely damaged at all. ^{The witness} They look all to be blown out - I did not examine the fastenings of the windows. When I got there there was very little fire - they were pouring on water when I arrived there - they might have been at work ten minutes before I got there. ————

To Mr. Boe
~~Mr. Boe~~ - After I saw the smoke it did not take me more than ten minutes to get there.

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