

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

George Searle.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

on his oath saith, I am a

painter.

residing at

Chewton Post Office.
~~4 Queen Victoria Street Ballarat.~~

At 7.35 pm on 3-1-1937 I was in Main.

Street near Bendernere Street. I saw a man running in a westerly direction along Main Street coming from direction of Lyon Street. He was dressed in a dark suit and grey hat. similar to one produced. I noticed he was bleeding from the head. The blood was running down his face. He was running. He did not speak. He went over Ripon Street. I last saw him when he crossed pleasant street and continued straight on - I did not know him.

To Coroner.

I watched him because he was bleeding and in such a bad way.

Taken and sworn before me the 31 day
of January 1937 at Ballarat
W. R. R. R.
Deputy Coroner.

George Searle

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Clarence Calman.

on his oath saith, I am a

traveller.

residing at

812 Stuart Street, Ballarat.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

Between 7.30 and 7.45 pm on 3-1-1917 I was seated in my car between Pleasant Street School and the lake. I saw a man dressed in blue suit run out of Main Street. He ran on to the path at the side of the lake. He seemed to intend to run west along edge of lake. He stopped and ran back east. I lost sight of him then. He appeared in a terrific hurry. I noticed no blood about his face or head. He wore a grey hat similar to that produced. He was holding the front of his coat or his body. The police pointed out a spot to me at the lake. It is where I last saw him.

Taken and sworn before me the

28th

day

of

January

19

37

at

Dunoon

W R Reid

DEPUTY

Coroner.

Clarence Calman

DEPOSITION OF A WITNESS.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

John Thompson

on his oath saith, I am a

Constable of Police

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

stationed

residing at

Ballarat South Police Station

At about 7³⁰pm on the 31/1/37 I was on duty in Sturt Street when I noticed people looking north in Lyons Street, I inquired and learned that what sounded like six shots from a gun had just previously been fired. I went to a lane at the rear of Sam Ballist's Garage off Lyons Street. I there saw a girl who I recognised as Merle Moss lying on the ground bleeding profusely from the head.

The ambulance arrived shortly after and I accompanied the injured girl to the Ballarat Base Hospital, where she died about three quarters of an hour later.

After death had been announced I made arrangements and had the body removed to the City Police Mortuary to coroner.

I had met deceased Moss before day in

question.

On 1-1-1937 at about 12 midnight I saw Merle Moss and a man standing at the front gate of Dr. Salter's residence. As I walked past them I heard Merle Moss say, "You will have to let me go now, Constable. make this man let me go". I turned and as I do so Merle Moss walked around the man and into Dr. Salter's house. I said "That's going on here." The man did not answer me. He said "Just a minute Merle, but she did not stop." and he walked east ~~into~~ ⁱⁿ Sturt Street. As he walked away I said "You will have to look after yourself young man or you'll get into trouble." Deceased Moss never told me he had a revolver in his possession.

Taken and sworn before me the

28th

day

of

January

1937

at

Ballarat

W. R. Reid

DEPUTY Coroner.

John Thompson
Rt Hon 7732

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * John Thompson

on h ✓ oath saith, I am a

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at

the man appeared sober when I spoke to him
that night.

Taken and sworn before me the 28th day
of January 1937 at Balmain
W R Reid
DEPUTY Coroner.

J Thompson
PC Const 7752

DEPOSITION OF A WITNESS.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * Kitt William Pyleon his oath saith, I am a Constable of Police* Christian and
Surname in
full.residing at stationed at Ballarat.

at about 7.45 pm on the 31/1/37 I went to a lane off Lyons Street North, and behind Sam Ellis & Sons Garage which is situated at the corner of Lyons and Sturt Streets. I there saw blood on the ground where it was alleged the deceased Moss was shot. On making a search of the lane I found, near where the deceased Moss had been lying, the revolver produced.

It is a "Young American" 22 Cal. and capable of holding seven Bullets.

I took possession of the revolver and I later handed it to P. C. 1st. Const. Raper.

The revolver was smeared with blood when I found it. There were shells in the chambers.

to Coroner.

I had ^{seen both} deceased in the streets.

Taken and sworn before me the 28th dayof January 1937 at BallaratW. R. D. Esq.

DEPUTY Coroner.

K. W. Pyle.
Const. 8764

CORONER'S INQUEST.

5.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * Francis Ronald Henry Raper

on his oath saith, I am a Main clothes First Constable of Police
residing at Stationed at Ballarat

* Christian and Surname in full.

At about 7.30pm on the 3rd January 1937 information was received by me at the Ballarat Watch-house that a girl had been shot, in in a lane off Lyons street, at the rear of Sam Ellis & Son's garage. In company with First Constable Loyd I went to the scene of the shooting, and there saw the deceased Merle Maud Moss lying cross-ways in the lane about six paces from the entrance to Lyons street. She was bleeding profusely from wounds in the head. I instructed Constable Thompson to take deceased to the Hospital in the ambulance. From inquiries made a search was then made for the deceased Sydney Gordon Smart, who had been seen running from the scene of the shooting, north along Lyons street and then West along Main street.

In Lyons street about 130 paces north of the shooting, I found the overcoat (exh) produced, which was later identified as the property of the deceased Smart.

I returned to the scene of the shooting at about 8pm and Constable Gyle handed me the revolver (exh). It is a "Young American" 22 cal, and contained seven empty 22 short shells. It was ascertained that deceased Smart had left his bicycle at the rear of the Town Hall Hotel.

Taken and sworn before me the 28th day
of January 1937 at Ballarat
W. A. Raper
DEPUTY Coroner.

F. R. H. Raper
F. C. P. Const 7063

CORONER'S INQUEST.

2

5.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * Francis Ronald Henry Raper

on his oath saith, I am a Plain clothes Trust Constable of Police
residing at Stationed at Ballarat.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

Armstrong Street Ballarat. Police were detailed to watch the bicycle, and also to watch the home of deceased Smart at Durham Road, but deceased did not return for the bicycle or to his home.

At about 9.45 am on the 4th January 1937 in company with Trust Constable Loyd and other Police, I was walking along the edge of Lake Wendouree on the south side just rear of the Pleasant Street School, when I recovered the hat (exh) lying in the edge of the water.

I obtained a boat and on rowing round to a spot about 12 fathoms opposite where I had found the hat I recovered the body of deceased Smart which was lying in about 4 feet of water. There were two apparent gun shot wounds in his head. The body was removed to the Police Mortuary.

When the revolver was landed to me it was smeared with blood and contained seven .44 short shells.

It appeared to have been recently discharged.

When I found deceased Smart's body it was cold and seemed to have been in the water for some time.

To Coroner. There is no record of deceased Smart having a permit to carry the revolver. I would say the

revolver is not an old gun.
that cannot be registered

The gun is 1/2 caliber.
It could not have been
legally acquired during
last two years.

Taken and sworn before me the 28th day

of January 1937 at Ballarat

W R Raper

DEPT 4 Coroner.

F. R. H. Raper
J. C. P. Constable

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Joseph Lloyd

on his oath saith, I am a

Just Constable

residing at

*Ballaarat.** Christian and
Surname in
full.*At about 7.40 pm on 3.1.1957 in**company with plain clothes constable Raper I
went to a lane off Lyons Street where deceased Merle
Maund Moss was lying. Also on 4-1-1957 I**went to the lake with Constable Raper. I was present
when deceased's smart body was taken from
the lake. I have heard Raper's evidence & it is**true and correct. I have nothing further to add.**I knew neither deceased*

Taken and sworn before me the

28th day

of

January

19

37 at*Ballaarat**W R R. Esq.**DEPUTY* Coroner.*J Lloyd
J. Constable 6175*