

S2 E. R. RIDGWAY

RIDGEWAY

1952

1947

CAPITAL
CASE

52/2892

52/2892

Ridgway

Penal and Gaols Department,

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Telephone F 0234

SPRING STREET, MELBOURNE C 1



10th. June, 1952.

Secretary,
Crown Law Department,
MELBOURNE.

Supplementary Report
re Esbert Robin Ridgway

The delay in this report is due to the fact that Ridgway is at Cooriemungle Prison Farm and although I interviewed him there any recommendation would be of little consequence at this stage as he is due to be discharged in a few weeks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Williams".

Inspector-General.

IM.

52/2892

Ridgway

Am

The Inspector-General of
Penal Establishments,
Melbourne.

8th May 1952.

re Prisoner Esbert Robin Ridgway (No. 45023).

Mr. Whatmore is informed that the Attorney-General desires a supplementary report regarding the conduct and industry of the above-named prisoner and also an expression of opinion as to the prospects of the prisoner's reform.

Ridgway was convicted at the Supreme Court, Melbourne, on 16-2-1948 on a charge of manslaughter and was sentenced to be imprisoned for six years with hard labour.

. Previous report was furnished on 8-11-1948.

Copy depositions *is* enclosed for perusal and return.

52/2892.

Secretary to the Law Department

[Signature]

52/2892

Ridgway

CROWN LAW OFFICES,
459 Lonsdale Street,
Melbourne.

7th May 1952.

Dear Mr. Dawnay Mould,

With reference to further representations made by you for the release from custody of prisoner Esbert Robin Ridgway, I desire to inform you that I have called for fresh reports concerning this case and will advise you of my decision as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Attorney-General.

W.R. Dawnay Mould, Esq., M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

52/2892.



2892



PARLIAMENT HOUSE,

MELBOURNE, C.I.

6th May, 1952.

50
7203

The Hon. T. F. Mitchell, M.L.A.,
Attorney-General,
Crown Law Department,
Lonsdale Street,
MELBOURNE. C 1.

Dear Mr. Attorney,

Re Esbert Ridgway.

Some time ago I made representations, having as its objective, the release from custody of the above man, serving six years sentence for manslaughter. At that time it was not possible to arrange what was so earnestly desired, particularly by his aged parents.

I understand he is now at the Corrimungal Prison Farm and that his behaviour record is good.

Will you, now, please inform me whether it is possible for clemency to be extended to permit this young man to try and start again.

Yours faithfully,

W. R. Dawney-Mould
W. R. DAWNEY-MOULD.

1. Ask
2. Obtain Supplementing
report from JG 16

[Signature]
7/2/52

1. See Jm 7/5/52
2. Asked for in 8/5/52

50/7203

Ridgeway

9/11

CROWN LAW OFFICES,
459 Lonsdale Street,
Melbourne.

22nd November 1950.

Dear Mr. Dawnay-Mould,

re Prisoner Esbert Robin Ridgeway.

I have again looked carefully into the file regarding the abovenamed prisoner but cannot in view of the reports obtained vary my previous decision conveyed to you on the 13th instant.

I feel that anything that Detective Inspector Curren informed you was before the trial Judge, who would take it into consideration when he imposed sentence. That being so, then it is not a factor that I could take into consideration when determining whether I should recommend to His Excellency the Governor that the Royal Prerogative of Mercy should be extended to the prisoner.

I would remind you that this prisoner was sentenced to six years imprisonment on the 16th February 1948 so that he has not yet completed one-half of the sentence imposed, and that it is only in very exceptional circumstances that a prisoner is released so early in the period of his detention.

Further, before I could be justified in taking any steps to release this prisoner, the reports from the Gaol would have to be much better than they are at present.

Yours faithfully,

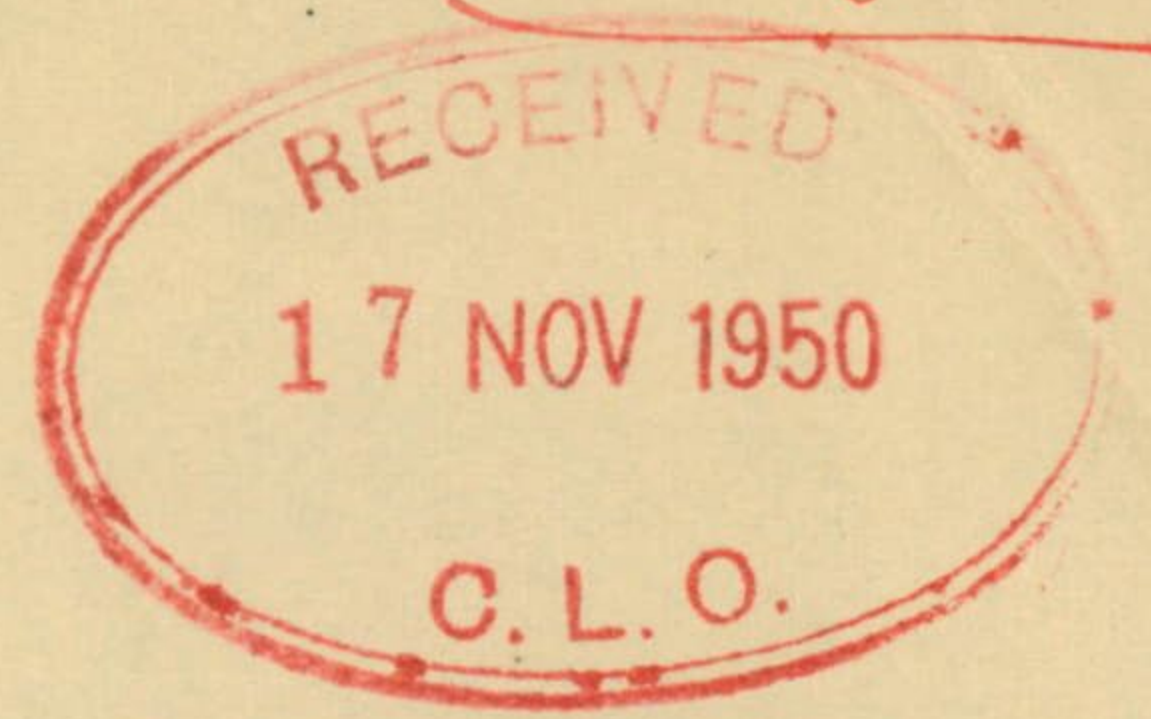
Attorney-General.

W.R. Dawnay-Mould, Esq., M.E.A.,
&c., &c., &c.

50/7203.

50/7203

Ridgway



PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

15th November, 1950.

The Honourable
T. W. Mitchell, M.L.A.,
Attorney-General & Solicitor-General,
Crown Law Offices,
Lonsdale Street,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I have received from the Secretary to the Law Department advice to the effect that you do not feel justified in recommending to His Excellency the Governor that one, Esbert Robin Ridgway, be released from custody.

In view of the very strong opinion held by Detective-Inspector Curren, who was in charge of this case, at and preceding the trial, and is so very much in favour of his release, I would again plead with you, on behalf of this boy's mother and family, that you should re-consider your decision.

Yours faithfully,

(W. R. Dawnay-Mould).

Robert Ridgway

Dawson - murder

(murder)

John Bain & Company

File S.C.V. 4 98
25
Da



GT. 15

50
7203

Person Robert Redgway
(Hunter)

Portrait file

On

10/11/50



PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

10th November, 1950.

The Honourable T.W. Mitchell, M.L.A.,
Attorney-General,
Crown Law Offices,
Lonsdale Street,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I refer to my communication of the 26th September,
concerning the release from custody of Mr. Esbert Robin
Ridgeway.

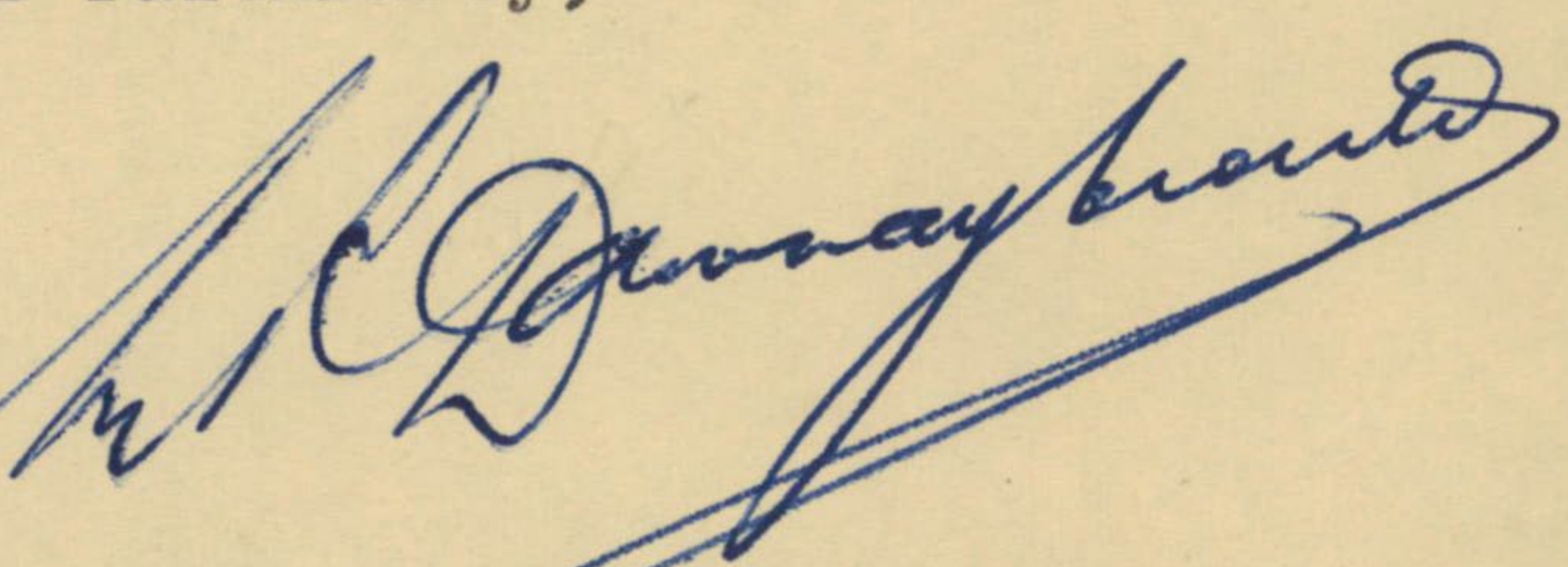
I have an interim acknowledgment dated 2nd
October, but have heard nothing official since.

I am enclosing a letter from the Managing
Director of the Australian Knitting Mills Ltd., from which
it will be seen that his old employers are happy to take
him back as soon as he is released.

I anxiously await your further advices.

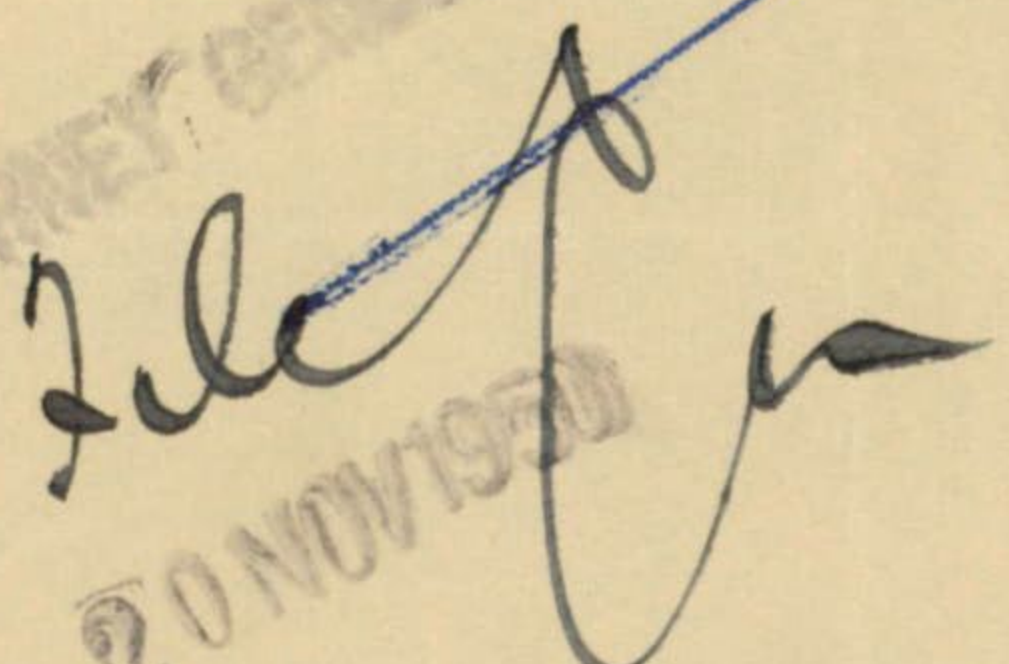
Yours faithfully,

*Our letter of 13/11/50
crossed off
12/11*



(W. R. DAWNAY-MOULD).

Enc.



ATTORNEY GENERAL
20 NOV 1950

SPINNERS
OF
WORSTED
AND
COTTON
YARNS

AUSTRALIAN KNITTING MILLS LIMITED

LN.RF.

REGISTERED OFFICE:
19-39 STEWART STREET,
RICHMOND E.I., VICTORIA,
AUSTRALIA

MANUFACTURERS
OF
"GOLDEN FLEECE"
AND
"KOOKABURRA"
UNDERWEAR
& OUTERWEAR
"GOLDEN RAY"
TAILORED
LINGERIE
"GOLDEN RAY"
FULL FASHIONED
HOSIERY
"KLINGTITE"
SWIM SUITS

27th October, 1950.

W.R. Dawnay-Mould, Esq.,
161 Abbott Street,
SANDRINGHAM.



Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as I understand you are interested in obtaining the release of Bert Ridgeway who was employed by this Company prior to his conviction.

We are prepared to re-employ him whenever he is released. During the time he was with the Company he gave us every satisfaction and we were most distressed when we heard of his trouble.

Yours faithfully,

AUSTRALIAN KNITTING MILLS LIMITED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. H. Walker".

Director.

50/7203

8 R. Ridgway

IM.

13th November 1950.

Dear Sir,

Adverting to your representations of the 26th September last, on behalf of Mrs. I. Fraser of 21 Bruce Street, Bentleigh, for the release from custody of prisoner Esbert Robin Ridgway, I am directed by the Attorney-General to inform you that after carefully considering all the facts of the case he does not feel justified in recommending His Excellency the Governor to interfere in the matter.

I return herewith, as requested, Mrs. Fraser's letter.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to the Law Department.

W.R. Dawnay-Mould, Esq., M.L.A.,
&c., &c., &c.

50/7203.



Ridgway

Crown Law Offices,
459 Lonsdale St.,
Melbourne, C.1.

8th Novr. 1950

Dear Sir,

With reference to my communication of the 4th ultimo, I shall be glad if you will furnish at an early date your report regarding prisoner Esbert Robin RIDGWAY (No. 45023).

Yours faithfully,

C. S. Kyngho
Secretary to the Law Department

The Inspector-General
of Penal Establishments,
Melbourne.



50/7203.

Reps forwarded this day.

A. Clarke

Inspector General

9/11/50

Jm

80/7203

PENAL AND GAOLS DEPARTMENT,

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Telephone F.0234

SPRING STREET, MELBOURNE, C. 1

November 8, 1950

No. *interference* *[Signature]*

RECEIVED
19 NOV 1950 MLF
137/4/50

ATTORNEY GENERAL

13 NOV 1950

W.R. Dawson - if found by in fact

Secretary to the Law Department

re 45023 Prisoner Esbert Robin Ridgway

In reply to your memorandum, the following report on the above named prisoner is submitted.

Esbert Robin Ridgway was born in Gardenvale Victoria on the 22nd June 1922.

His parents are Thomas Ridgway, railway employee, and Fanny Gertrude Ridgway, household duties, of 22 Bruce Street Bentleigh.

He has one brother Walter Thomas, a student aged 26, and two married sisters, Irma Eleanor Fraser, residing with her parents, and Margaret Alison Page of Wallan Street, East Brighton.

He attended Elsternwick State School until fourteen years, and reached the VII grade.

He worked for Denman Robinson Pty Ltd., saw specialists, King Street, Melbourne, for eleven years and learned the trade of "saw doctor". Mr Robinson a partner in this firm is the prisoner's uncle. He left this position because of eye strain and was then employed as a truck driver with the Boston Canning Company, Moorabin, for approximately twelve months.

In June 1937 he was convicted of factory breaking at Prahran Children's Court and placed on probation for twelve months.

At Prahran Children's Court on 21st September 1938, he was convicted of factory breaking and stealing and was committed to Castlemaine Reformatory Prison for six months and at the expiration of the sentence to be detained during the Governor's pleasure. He was released on parole on the 28th July 1939.

He states that his early crimes were the result of being associated with other young delinquents, and that after his release from Castlemaine he was not in trouble with the police until convicted of manslaughter in 1947.

1948 *

He states he was a member of the St Kilda Life Saving Club for 3 years. He plays the saxophone and drums, and during the years 1939 to 1946 he played in a dance orchestra for five years, and ran his own dance orchestra for two years. He played two to three nights per week.

Prior to his imprisonment he had made arrangements to marry.

On the Saturday prior to stabbing Quinn, Ridgway states he had been drinking most of the day in the company of his brother and friends. Evidently he went home for his evening meal and before going out again armed himself with a sheath knife, but he cannot recall doing so. On returning on a tram from a dance in Caulfield he noticed the knife when his coat opened. He states that when he was getting up from the pavement in Centre Road he thought he was going to receive a kicking and drew the knife to defend himself against Quinn. He explained that a few weeks earlier he had been in a brawl and had

PENAL AND GAOLS DEPARTMENT,

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Telephone F.0234

SPRING STREET, MELBOURNE, C. 1

November 8, 1950

re 45023 Prisoner Esbert Robin Ridgway

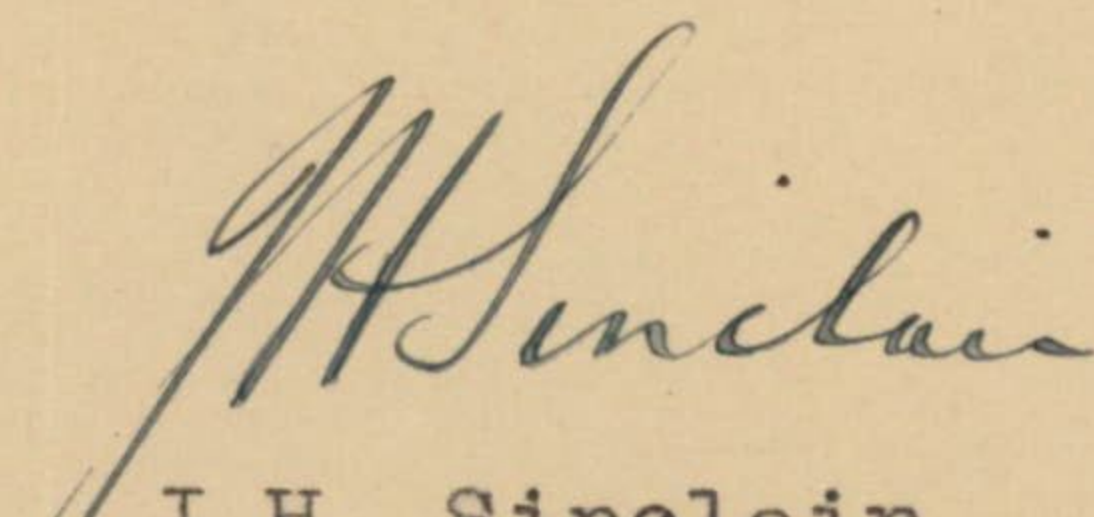
contd.

been kicked whilst on the ground.

During his period of imprisonment the prisoner's conduct and industry have been good.

I cannot believe the prisoner's version of the stabbing entirely - on his own statement he drinks heavily on occasions and had been mixed up in brawls.

It is my opinion that the prisoner is not greatly concerned about the life he has taken, and that he is a violent man from whom the community should be protected.


J.H. Sinclair
Deputy Inspector-General

4 OCT 1950

193

MEMORANDUM.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL
OF PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS,
MELBOURNE.

Pem

re Prisoner *Robert Robin Ridgway*

In order to assist the Attorney-General in considering an application for mitigation of the sentence which the above-named prisoner is undergoing, a report is desired regarding the conduct and industry of the prisoner while undergoing imprisonment, and also an expression of Mr. ^{*Whitmore's*} ~~Akeroyd's~~ opinion as to the prospects of the prisoner's reform.

He was convicted at the *Supreme* Court
at *Melbourne* of *Manslaughter* on *16/2/48*,
and sentenced to be imprisoned for a term of *6 years H.L.*

copy of ~~Police report~~
~~Brief~~ } herewith for perusal and return.
~~Depositions~~ }

C. S. Knight
Secretary to the Law Department.

(*50 / 7203*)

50/7203

RIDGWAY.

MM

Ridgway

8th Novr.1950

Dear Sir,

With reference to my communication of the 4th ultimo, I shall be glad if you will furnish at an early date your report regarding prisoner Esbert Robin RIDGWAY(No.45023).

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to the Law Department

The Inspector-General
of Penal Establishments,
Melbourne.

50/7203.

50 / 7203

PENAL and GAOLS DEPARTMENT

Form No. 85
(2M-2.46)

Melbourne, C. 1.
October 2, 1950

Record of convictions against No. 45023 RIDGWAY, Esbert Robin



At present in Pentridge

Year of Birth 22.6.22

Remarks

Date of Conviction	Offence	Sentence	Where Convicted and Court
11.8.37 21.9.38	Factory breaking (4) Factory breaking (7)	12 months probation 6 months in Castlemaine & Refty prison Governor's pleasure.	Pahran C.C. Pahran C.C.
16.2.48	Manslaughter	6 years H.L.	Melbourne S.C. (Duffy)

182
248

*Esbert
Duff
Memo to JG
Jan 6/1950*

Due for release 15.8.52 (approximately)

W. Clarke
Inspector-General

Pending
IM.

50/7203

Ridgway

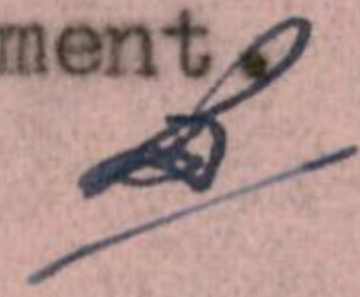
2nd October 1950.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Attorney-General to acknowledge the receipt of your representations of the 26th ultimo, on behalf of Mrs. I. Fraser of 21 Bruce Street, Bentleigh, for the release from custody of prisoner Esbert Robin Ridgway, and to say that the matter will receive consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to the Law Department

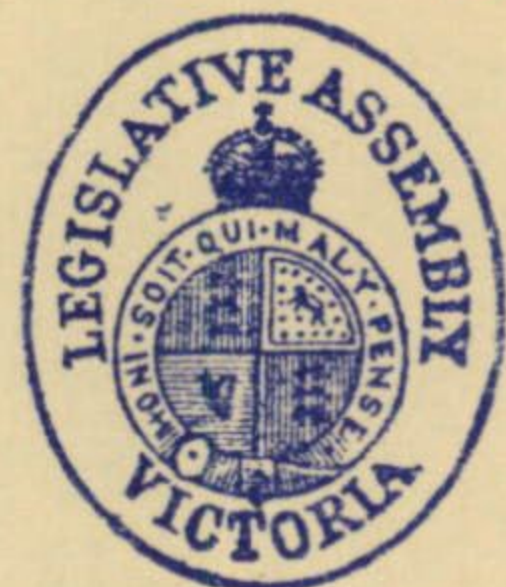


W.R. Dawnay-Mould, Esq., M.L.A.,
&c., &c., &c.

50/7203.

50
7203

Ridgway



PARLIAMENT HOUSE,

MELBOURNE, C.1.

LK.

26th September, 1950.

The Hon. T. W. Mitchell, M.L.A.,
Attorney-General,
Crown Law Offices,
MELBOURNE, C. 1. VIC.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am enclosing a letter I have received from Mrs. Irma Fraser, with a footnote signed by her mother, Mrs. F. G. Ridgway, concerning one, Esbert Robin Ridgway at present serving a term of six years at Coburg.

I have very fully investigated this case, and following a discussion with Senior Detective Curren who was in charge of this case, I now would ask that arrangements be made, if possible, for this young man's release under suitable conditions, including abstinence from drink.

The family is of excellent repute, and more particularly there is a young lady of estimable qualities, who will make this man a good wife and keep him, I am sure, along the right lines in the future.

I would appreciate your early preliminary advices in this matter, particularly as the health of the mother is very adversely affected at the present time.

Yours faithfully,

W. R. Dawnay-Mould
(W. R. DAWNAY-MOULD)

ENC.

Please return letter later

*1. Ack
2. Obtain info
3. Report from
29.9.50
1. Done
2. Student asked for
3. Asked for 4/10/50*

IM.

Memorandum

Crown Law Offices,

459-461 LONSDALE STREET,

For The Inspector-General of
Penal Establishments,
Melbourne.

Melbourne, C.I., 8th May 1952.

434/51

re Prisoner Esbert Robin Ridgway (No. 45023).

Penman
Mr. Whatmore is informed that the Attorney-General desires a supplementary report regarding the conduct and industry of the above-named prisoner and also an expression of opinion as to the prospects of the prisoner's reform.

Ridgway was convicted at the Supreme Court, Melbourne, on 16-2-1948 on a charge of manslaughter and was sentenced to be imprisoned for six years with hard labour.

Previous report was furnished on 8-11-1948. *2.50!*

Copy depositions *is* enclosed for perusal and return.

Oh
52/2892.

C. F. Knight
Secretary to the Law Department.

T H E

K I N G

V.

ESBERT ROBIN RIDGWAY

(Bail)

x 2
COPY OF DEPOSITIONS

Office

The Crown Solicitor

V.

ESBERT ROBIN RIDGWAY
(Bail)

I N D E X.

QUINN, L.J. ✓	1
WALKER, H.T. ✓	2
SNEDDEN, W.S. ✓	3-4
BOWEN, K. Mc. ✓	5-10
HEWITT, J.F. ✓	11-19
HOVELL, R.H. ✓	20-29
DALTON, E.D. ✓	30-35
GRAHAM, T.D. ✓	36-46
ANTONIE, L. ✓	47-53
FELSTEAD, K.C.P. ✓	54-58
WIGNALL, H.G. ✓	59-62
HUNT, P.M. ✓	63-71
DIXON, K.H. ✓	72-78
TRINDER, A.C.	79-85
TRINDER, T.C.	86-88
TRINDER, J.H. ✓	89-94
BIRD, W.R. ✓	95-96
BRYANT, E.A.	97
CURRER, C.	98-109
DONELLY, H.R.	110
EXHIBITS &C	111-125

SUPREME COURT, MELBOURNE
17th. JUNE, 1947

T H E

K I N G

V.

ESBERT ROBIN RIDGWAY

(Bail)

I N Q U I S I T I O N

Having inquired upon the part of our Lord the King, when, where, and how and by what means the said Vincent Patrick Quinn came by his death, I say that on the 20th. day of April 1947 in the street outside 309 Centre Road, Bentleigh in the said State, the said Vincent Patrick Quinn died from knife wounds of the chest and head feloniously inflicted upon him then and there by one Esbert Robin Ridgway and I further find that in the manner aforesaid the said Esbert Robin Ridgway did feloniously slay the said Vincent Patrick Quinn. In witness whereof, I, the aforesaid Coroner, have to this Inquisition put my hand this 15th. day of May A.D. 1947.

J. W. MARWICK.
Coroner.