

E

EXHIBIT "H" Knife sheath.

Sen. Det. Donnelly said "Is this your sheath?" He said "No, it belongs to my brother Wally". Sen. Det. Donnelly said "What is it doing in your room?" He said "I had it on tonight, I put it on the machine when I came home, and it must have fallen on the floor. Sen. Det. Donnelly said "Where is the knife belonging to ^{the} sheath". He said "I don't know." I was in a brawl at a cafe, and I lost it on my way home." Sen. Det. Donnelly said "Will you get dressed and accompany us to the Detective Office." He said "Yes". He then got dressed, and as he did so, he put on the shirt, produced, and also the suit of clothes, produced. Sen. Det. Donnelly said "Is that the suit and shirt you were wearing tonight?" He said "Yes." There were three buttons missing from the front of the shirt, and Sen. Det. Donnelly said "What happened to the buttons?" He said "I must have done them in the fight tonight." I then took possession of the shirt and he put another one on. We then left this room and we were joined in the yard by Detective Hume, Constables Bird and Bryant and Walter Thomas Ridgway, who came from a sleepout in the same yard. Walter Thomas Ridgway then accompanied Constables Bird, Bryant and myself to Russell Street Detective Office, where I was later joined by Sen. Det. Donnelly. Later at the Detective Office, Sen. Det. Donnelly said to Walter Thomas Ridgway, "Do you know what we want to see you about?" He said "Yes, about the fight at the hamburger's tonight; is it right that he is dead?" I said "Yes, he was stabbed." He said "That's bad business, but anyway I will tell you all I know about it." I said "You know who this belongs to", at the same time showing him the knife sheath produced. He said "Yes, it is mine. I brought it home from Japan; it is a Yankee Marine Jungle knife. I ~~bring~~ brought the knife home in it." I said, "Where is the knife now", He said "I don't know, the last time I saw it was about 6 o'clock last

D/GB.

CURRER.

night, and it and the sheath were in the drawer in my dresser." I said "Were you carrying it last night?" He said "No." I said "What was the fight you say took place in the hamburger's?" He said "My brother Bert, Allan Trinder and I went to a dance at the Caulfield Town Hall last night, and we came back to the hamburger's for something to eat. We were all pretty full. We ordered our steak and eggs, then Quinn and Jack Trinder came in and Jack Trinder introduced us to Quinn, who started to pick on my about my nose. Bert struck up for me and we got into it, and the man in the shop asked us to go outside. I dragged Quinn out of the door, and we got into it in the street again. Bert joined in and someone was trying to pull us apart. Near the end of the fight, I hit Quinn a couple of heavy blows and Bert hit him about twice." I said "Did Bert have anything in his hand at the time?" He said "I can't say, I think ~~that~~ ^{if} he had a knife I would have seen it." I said "Was there anything further happened after this?" He said "Yes, I don't like telling you this, but I want to tell the truth. I put the boots into him a couple of times while he was on the ground. I am ashamed to tell you this, I should go off beer for life." I said "What happened then?" He said "Bert and I ran as someone was going for the police." I said "What clothes were you wearing last night?" He said "This suit", at the same time pointing to the suit he was wearing. That is the grey suit now produced. I said "Were you wearing that shirt?" He said "Yes." There was what appeared to be blood stains on his shirt sleeves and right coat sleeve, and also spots on his trousers. There was also a patch of what appeared to be dry blood on the skin of his right forearm. I said "You are not obliged to answer any further questions or make any statements unless you wish, but whatever you do say, it will be taken down in writing and may be used as evidence. Do you wish to make a written statement about this matter?" He said "Yes, I had no idea that he was

badly hurt. Bert came out to my sleepout and woke me up and told me that Quinn had died, but I thought he was only joking and I went to sleep again." He then made the statement produced, which I took down on the typewriter and at the conclusion of the statement I handed the original statement to him and said "I want you to read this over." I then read the carbon copy to him, whilst he read the original. I then said "Is that statement true and correct?" He said "Yes". I said "Will you add something in your own handwriting to that effect?" He said "Yes". He then wrote at the bottom of the statement "I am aware that to my knowledge this statement is perfectly true in all detail", and he then signed the statement "W. T. Ridgway." The statement reads -

WALTER THOMAS RIDGWAY STATES -

I am a student and I reside at 21 Bruce Street, Bentlyigh.

At about 8.45 pm on Saturday the 19th day of April 1947, I left my home with my brother Bert and a mate named Allan Trinder. We went to a dance at the Caulfield Town Hall. We first went to the St Kilda Town Hall and the doorman refused us admittance, and we then went to the Caulfield Town Hall.

We stopped there until the dance finished at about 11.45 pm. and the three of us then returned to Bentlyigh by tram and bus. We got to Centre Road, Bentlyigh, at about five past twelve, and we were then all pretty full.

We then went to the Hamburger Shop in Centre Road, and there was a big crowd in the shop. The three of us ordered supper, and stood near a table.

While we were standing there, Jack Trinder, another fellow and Quinn came in, and Jack Trinder introduced us to the man and Quinn.

We were all talking about the races. Quinn started to pick on me about my nose, and then said; "I'll have a go at you". I resented his attitude, and he wanted to fight me.

My brother stuck up for my side of the argument and Quinn then wanted to have a go at Bert.

Quinn opened up on me and hit me couple of times about the head. The Cafe proprietor came up and asked us to leave. The young lad working at the Hamburgers tried to usher us out and an argument then occurred between him and Allan Trinder. In the meantime I was dragging Quinn towards the door of the shop.

He was raining blows upon me, and I finally got him outside the door. I punched him a solid blow on the head and he appeared to stagger. He exchanged blows with me outside the shop, and he got two good blows in on me. Bert was out there with me.

There was a big scramble outside and Bert was mixed up in it.

When I was dragging Quinn out the door, Quinn was throwing punches at both Bert and me. I am not sure whether any of his punches connected with Bert.

When I was fighting Quinn outside, everyone seemed to be trying to pull us away or join in, I dont know which.

Near the end of the fight I struck Quinn a heavy blow on the head with my fist. Just after this, I remember that Bert struck Quinn a couple of times. I cant say where the blows landed. I cant say whether Bert had a knife in his hand at that time. I did not see any knife in his hand, and although I was busy fighting, I think I would have noticed a knife if he had had one in his hand.

I think that I hit Quinn a couple of times after Bert had hit him, and it was then that he staggered across the footpath and fell in the gutter. At the time I thought he collapsed as a result of my blows.

While Quinn was lying in the gutter, I kicked him about twice in the vicinity of the ribs. I then saw the young chap

in the white coat who works at the Hambergers running in the direction of the Police Station. Immediately I saw this, I told Bert that the chap was heading for the Police and that we had better go. Bert and I then ran up Centre Road, and towards the Railway, and then veered off at an angle to the right, got through the fence of the Railway line and crossed the line. We came out on the other side and turned up the first or second street to the left off Centre Road, over the Railway, and then walked home.

We did not go through the open Railway gates for fear of being followed by some of Quinn's supporters.

On arrival at home, Bert and I discussed the matter. He gave me no indication of the seriousness of the brawl, that is in respect to the man being hurt. He said; "They will be down here after us tonight, watch yourself and lock your door."

While Bert was in my sleepout, I loaded my rifle (produced) to be used as a means of self defence if called upon. Bert went to bed and I locked my door and also went to bed.

I was awakened some time later by a voice at my door which said that Quinn had died. I do not know whether it was Bert's voice or not. The voice also said; that someone had rang up and told him of the death of Quinn.

I immediately rejected this as piffle and went to sleep. The next thing was that I was awakened by the Police.

I dont know how I got the blood on my clothes, or arm or shirt.

The metal knife sheath (produced) is my property. I brought it and the knife that fits into it from Japan. It is an American Marine Jungle knife.

I last saw the case with the knife in it inat 6 O'clock on Saturday. It was in the drawer of the dresser in my sleepout. I saw it there when I went to the drawer to get some tobacco.

I did not know that the knife or sheath was missing from my

room until I saw it at the Detective Office.

I did not stab Quinn, and I did not know that Bert was carrying my knife that night.

I was completely ignorant of the seriousness of the injury to Quinn until informed by the Police.

I am aware that to my knowledge this statement is perfectly true in all detail.

W. T. RIDGWAY.

Statement taken by me this 20th day of April 1947, and signature witnessed in the presence of Snr. Detective H. R. Donnelly 7740.

Cyril Currer

Exhibit J Detective 1st Constable 8369. *Statement of W.T. Ridgway.*
He was later charged with the murder of Quinn. With Sen. Det. Donnelly I then interviewed Esbert Robin Ridgway, who had been left with Constable Bird. Sen. Det. Donnelly said "I understand you already know that Vincent Quinn is dead." He said "Yes, Allan Trinder rang me up and told me." Sen. Det. Donnelly said "Were you concerned in a fight with Quinn at the hamburgers in Centre Road, Bentleigh, early this morning?" He said "Yes, I was the one who stabbed him." Sen. Det. Donnelly said "Are you prepared to tell us what happened?" He said "Yes, we had been at a dance, and after the dance we went to the hamburgers for supper! I said "Who was with you?" He said "My brother, Wally and Charlie and Allan Trinder." I said "What happened?" He said "The four of us were waiting for our supper at a table when Jack Trinder came in with two or three others, and he introduced Vin Quinn to us, and Quinn started to have a shot at Wally about his nose. They got heated and came to blows. I tipped the table up and started to give Wally a hand. Someone smacked me in the mouth and I picked up a chair and hit a fellow. Someone pulled the chair off me, and the hamburger man grabbed me and put me out of the shop. When I got outside, Wally and

D/GB.

CURRER.

Quinn were fighting. Others joined in and I hopped into them. I could see we were getting beaten and I done my block, and went for the knife and stabbed the first one in front of me; it happened to be Quinn. I made a couple of ~~jabs~~ jabs at him and stabbed him once that I know of at the top of the chest, and he fell to the ground. Someone called out "You had better go", and Wally and I then ran home." I said "What did you do with the knife after the stabbing". He said "I either put it in my hip pocket or side pocket", indicating his right side trousers pocket, "and it must have fallen out on the way home." I then made an examination of his hip and right side trousers pocket, and there appeared to be blood stains on the linings of those pockets. I said "Where did you get the knife from". He said "It was in Wally's tobacco drawer in his room, and I got it at tea time. He brought it home from Japan with him, I think it is an American Jungle knife". I said "How were you carrying the sheath and knife during the night". He said "I had it buttoned on to my braces here". He then pointed to a brace strap on the right side of the trousers. He then said "It was under my coat". I said "Why were you carrying the knife". He said "I have been attacked previously and I carry it to protect myself." I said "You will be charged with the murder of Quinn, you are not obliged to answer any further questions or make any statement unless you wish; whatever you do say will be taken down in writing and may be used in evidence. Do you wish to make a written statement about this matter". He said "Yes, and I will give ^{go off} the booze (away) for life after this". He then made a statement which I produce, which I took down on the typewriter and at the conclusion of the statement I handed him the original and I read a carbon copy to him while he read the original. I then said "Is that statement true and correct". He said "Yes". I said "Will you write something on it to say that it is true". He then added in his own handwriting "This is the whole truth stated by me", and he then signed it "E.R. Ridgway". The statement reads:-

Accused (Statement)

"ESBERT ROBIN RIDGWAY - STATES:

I am a truck driver and I reside at 21 Bruce Street, Bentlyigh.

I knocked off work at about 12.30 p.m. on Saturday the 19th. day of April 1947, and I went to the Moorabbin Hotel and had about 12 glasses of beer. I left the hotel at about half past one and went home. I had my dinner and got changed and my brother Wally and I left home at about 3 o'clock and went to the Mentone Hotel. We stopped there drinking until about half past four, and we then went to the Carrum Wine Saloon. We there had two glasses of wine each and bought four bottles wine. There were three other men besides my brother and myself. We drank the four bottles along the road.

I was pretty boozed and my brother and I went home. I do not know whether I had any tea or not.

Wally and I left home again at about eight o'clock that night. Charley and Allan Trinder were with us. The four of us went to the St. Kilda Town Hall, but they would not let us in, so the four of us then went to a dance at the Caulfield Town Hall. We had either one or two bottles of gin there.

The dance finished at about half past eleven and we then went by tram and bus to the Hamburger Shop in Centre Road, Bentlyigh. We all went into the shop and ordered supper. While the four of us were sitting at a table waiting for our order, Jack Trinder came into the shop with either two or three other men. He introduced me to one of the men and said his name was Win Quinn. I knew Quinn by sight but had not previously met him. He did not introduce me to the other man.

I sat down again and my brother Wally was still standing up, and Quinn started to have shots at my brother about his nose. I could not hear what exactly was said, but they started to get very heated, and the next thing I knew was

they were fighting.

I jumped up and tipped the table over and started to give my brother a hand. Someone smacked me in the mouth and I picked up a chair to hit a fellow. Someone pulled the chair off me and the man at the Hamburgers grabbed me around the waist.

At this time Wally and Quinn were still fighting, and they both went out the shop and onto the front footpath. The man that hold of me then put me out of the shop.

When I got outside, Wally and Quinn were fighting and a number of other men had joined in the fight. I joined in and a couple had a go at me and I hopped into them. I don't know who they were.

X I could see that we were getting beaten so I drew a knife out and stabbed the first one that was in front of me, and it happened to be Quinn. I made a couple of jabs at him and I struck him once that I know of, and that was somewhere about the top of the front of the chest. He was standing up when I stabbed him. He fell to the ground and the crowd yelled out "You had better go".

XX Why I stabbed Quinn was, I first pulled out the knife to frighten them, and when I saw them coming at me, I plunged it into the first one near me, and that was Quinn.

?
Here he says he thinks Quinn was coming towards him.
XX My brother was fighting Quinn when I stabbed him, and the brother had his back towards me. They were on my right, and the two men who were coming at me were on my left. I think they were friends of Quinn, but I am not sure. In the excitement, I went out of my mind with rage or I would not have done such a thing.

I saw the young chap from the Hamburgers going for the Police and Wally and I then ran along Centre Road, through the Railway fence and across the line, back into Centre Road, and then up either the first or second street, and then home.

As we started to run away from the Hamburgers, I put the

knife in either my hip pocket or the right hand side trousers pocket, and when I got home it was not there. I must have lost it on the way home.

I did not realise at the time that Quinn was badly hurt, but some time after I got home, I received a telephone message from Allan Trinder, who said; "Quinn is dead and you had better pack your bag and piss off".

I said "No, I cant do that". He said "The Police will be up, I have just come from the Police Station with Jacky." I said "No, I will stop and see the Police". I then went back and told Wally and then went to bed.

The knife and sheath that I had belonged to my brother Wally; he brought it from Japan with him, and I think it is an 'American' Jungle Knife.

When I came home for tea on Saturday night, I got it out of his tobacco drawer in his chest of drawers, and buttoned the sheath with the knife in it onto my braces on the right hand side. It was covered by my coat. I carried the knife this night because I had been attacked previously and I carried it to protect myself. I had worn it all the evening at the dance.

When the Police came to my room early the following morning, the sheath was lying on the floor at the bottom of my bed. I had taken it off my braces when I went to bed, and it had fallen there.

When I went to bed I ^clocked the door of my room which is on the back verandah, and I also told Wally to lock his, in case the Quinn brothers came up looking for us.

I now remember that early in the argument, Quinn called me a Dago but I did'nt take much notice of it and laughed it off.

This is the whole truth stated by me.

E.R. Ridgway.

Statement taken by me this 20th. day of April 1947, and signature witnessed in the presence of Snr. Detective H.R. Donnelly 7740.

Cyril Currer,
Det. Lst. Const. 8369.

EXHIBIT "K".

Statement of Esbert Robin Ridgway.

He was later charged with the ~~murder~~ murder of Vincent Quinn. The trousers produced are the ones in which I found the blood stains in the pockets. At about 10 a.m. the same day I went to the City Watch-house, where I gave both Walter Thomas Ridgway and Esbert Robin Ridgway a change of clothing. I took possession of the grey suit and shirt (produced) worn by Walter Thomas Ridgway, and the blue suit (produced) worn by Esbert Robin Ridgway, and I later handed this clothing to Senior Detective Donnelly. On the 21st. April 1947, the clothing of the two Ridgways and the clothing of the deceased Quinn were handed to Mr. Wignall, Analyst, by Senior Detective Donnelly.

TO MR. DUNN: Both of the accused were apparently completely frank.

(Signed), Cyril Currer.

TAKEN AND SWORN BEFORE ME AT MELBOURNE THIS 15th. DAY OF MAY, 1947.

.....
CORONER.

HUGH RUPERT DONNELLY, on his oath saith:

My full name is Hugh Rupert Donnelly, and I am a Senior Detective at Melbourne. At about 2.30 a.m. on the 20th of April, 1947, I was at the witness E Hewitt's cafe at 309 Centre Road, Bentleigh, when he found the button produced on the floor of his shop. I took possession of it. I was then present with Detective Currer, when he made observations, and later when Walter Thomas Ridgway and Esbert Robin Ridgway were seen at their home, and interviewed at the detective office, and made written statements. I have heard Detective Currer's evidence, it is true and correct. I later handed to Mr. Wignall, Analyst, the clothing of the Ridgway brothers and the deceased Quinn.

(Signed) H.R.DONNELLY.

TAKEN AND SWORN BEFORE ME AT MELBOURNE THIS 15TH DAY OF MAY, 1947.

.....
CORONER.

STATEMENT OF A PERSON IMPLICATED :- "No Sir"

Taken before me at Melbourne in the said State the day and year first above mentioned.

J. W. MARWICK,
Coroner.

EXHIBITS

- "A" Two photographs
- "B" Two photographs
- "C" Plan of locality
- "D" Clothing
- "E" Button in envelope
- "F" Pea rifle
- "G" Bullet
- "H" Sheath
- "J" Statement of ^{Walter}Ridgway (See pages 101-104.)
- "K" Statement of Esbert Ridgway (See pages 106-108)

DEFENCE

- "1" Statement of Hewitt

JOHN FREDERICK HEWITT, States :- I am a Cafe Proprietor at 309 Centa^{al}
Road, Bentleigh and I reside on the premises. At about 12-30 a.m. on
Sunday the 20th. of April 1947 I was cooking hamburgers near the
window in/front of my shop when the two Ridgways and two other men
came into my shop - they each ordered steak and eggs. The shop was
full at the time but shortly after they came in, two men and girl
got up from a table nearest the refrigerator and the two Ridgways and
the other men went to this table and some of them were seated - some
few minutes later I heard an argument at this table and a brawl
commenced between Bert Ridgway and the deceased Quinn. I could not
hear what they were arguing or fighting over. I left my cooking and
went to this table - as I did so Bert Ridgway and Quinn rushed at
each other knocking the table over. Bert Ridgway then grabbed a stool
from near the counter and near the table - he raised this above his
head and was about to strike one of the two men who were then lying
on the floor not far from the table - apparently they had already been
knocked to the floor but I did not see them. I grabbed the stool from
him and then caught hold of him and bungled him out the front door.
I did not see what became of the other men from the table but I believe

they had already gone out the front door. I then returned to pick up the tables and straightened up the place and I then returned to the front of the shop and I then saw the two Ridgways and deceased Quinn scuffling towards the railway gates from my shop near the spot where Quinn finally fell - it was immediately before Quinn fell that I came out and as soon as he fell I saw one of the two men who were fighting him kick him more than once. I could not see exactly whether he was kicked by the other person scuffling with him or not as the two of them were right against him and it all happened so quickly. About 30 or 40 people were congregated about them at the time. As soon as one of these men finished kicking Quinn, they ran towards the railway gates along Centre Road. Quinn was crumpled in a heap on the ground when I saw him kicked and I am unable to say what parts of his body the kicks struck. Quinn did not rise from the position where he fell. I instructed one of my employees Robert Harold Hovell to go for the police. I did not see any knife or sheath on Bert Ridgway when he was in my shop.

J. F. HEWITT.

Statement taken and witnessed by me on the 21st. of April 1947.
H. R. DONELLY
S/Det. 7740.

- - - - -

"2" Statement - Hovell.

ROBERT HAROLD HOVELL, States :- I am a grocer and reside at 291 Centre Road, Bentlyigh. On the night of the 19th. of April 1947, Saturday, I was employed by Mr. Hewitt at his Cafe at 309 Centre Rd., to assist in his Hamburger shop. At about 12-30 a.m. on Sunday the 20th. of April the two Ridgways, one of the Trinders and another man came into the shop - they all ordered steak and eggs as they came in and moved down to the back of the shop near the milk bar and 3 of them sat at a table nearest the milk bar from which 2 chaps and a girl had just left. There was only 3 chairs at this table and the 4th man with the two Ridgways and Trinder asked me to get him a chair to sit at this table. I told him there was none available and he then said "Get me one from out the back" I refused his request. These 4 men were very boisterous and were speaking loudly. Shortly after these men arrived the deceased Quinn came in with another chap, there could have been others come in with him as the shop was crowded. He went to the table where the Ridgways, Trinder and the other man were

sitting and I heard him being introduced to the 4 men at the table. About 5 to 10 minutes after the introduction I heard loud voices and an argument at this table. I could not catch what the argument was about as I was taking orders from customers. Bert Ridgway took his coat off to fight Quinn. I told them to quieten down and Bert Ridgway put his coat on and they appeared to be alright for a while, then I saw Bert Ridgway and Quinn fighting. I did not see which one struck the first blow, Mr. Hewitt intervened with me and as I did so someone grabbed me from behind and threw me on the floor. I got up, then some one else went down to the floor. Bert Ridgway then picked up a stool from the counter near the water urn and raised it over his head before Mr. Hewitt caught hold of it and took it off him - he then caught hold of Bert Ridgway and pushed him out of the shop - in the meantime some of the men were fighting near the front door. I rushed there to protect the glass doors - they were fighting against the door. I got them out and I came out of the shop and I saw the men still fighting against the windows and I took it to be Quinn and the two Ridgways - they got on to the roadway during the fight - there was about 30 men about watching and I could not see too clearly because of them, what was going on but finally Quinn fell in the gutter and I saw one of the men who were fighting Quinn kick him in the head with his boot - this appeared to be a severe kick. The two men then ran towards the railway gates. I then ran for the police to the Police Station near the railway line, and as I ran along near Crooks the grocers which is about 150 yards from the Hamburgers I passed the two men who had been fighting Quinn. I then recognised Bert Ridgway as he turned his face towards me and the light, to see who it was running. I did not take any notice of the other man with him. A girl later rang Russell Street and the ambulance with me. After Quinn fell to the roadway he was gurgling and bleeding from the mouth.

R. H. HOVELL.

Statement taken and witnessed by me on 21st. April 1947.

H. R. DONELLY,
S/Det. 7740.

- - - - -

"3" Statement - Dalton.

ERNEST DAVID DALTON, States :- I am a gas employee and reside at Prince St. Moorabbin. I knew the deceased Vincent Patrick Quinn. I had been in his and Jack Trinder's company during the afternoon and

evening of Saturday the 19th. April 1947. In the evening we were again in the company of Jack Trinder. About 12-30 a.m. on the Sunday 20th. April 1947 the 3 of us went to the Hamburger's shop in Centre Road, Bentlyigh. On entering the shop we found it was crowded I saw the two Ridgways, Charlie and Allan Trinder at the table near the milk counter - Allan Trinder and the two Ridgway brothers were seated at the table. The deceased Vin Quinn walked over to them and Jack Trinder and I stood near the big counter. I noticed that Bert Ridgway had a sheath with the handle of a knife sticking out of it - his coat was back off it at the time and it looked to me more like a baton then I heard Bert Ridgway having an argument with Vin Quinn who was saying to Ridgway; "I don't know why you want to carry a knife At this stage Bert Ridgway took his coat off to fight Vin Quinn. I then saw that Bert Ridgway still had the sheath and knife. I could see it quite plainly. As soon as I saw Ridgway take his coat off I went across to Vin Quinn and said "Come on Vin, we will go" and at the same time I took him by the arm. Vin pulled away from me, then Walter Ridgway stood up and joined in the argument. Almost immediately Bert Ridgway punched me a severe blow on the jaw - this caused my face and mouth to bleed and it knocked me to the floor where I was dazed. I also had the skin knocked off my right ear but I don't know whether the puch or fall caused this. When I got up to my feet I saw Vin Quinn and the big Ridgway (Walter) making for the front door. The last I saw of Bert Ridgway was when he knocked me down and I did not see him again until a few minutes later when I had picked myself up and collected my cap and went outside where I saw Vin Quinn lying in the gutter a few yards west of the shop - he was then covered with blood - ^{at} ~~at~~ the same time I saw the two Ridgways about 30 yards from Vin Quinn running towards the railway line. Vin Quinn and I had been drinking during the day and evening and although we had a good lot of liquor we were not hopelessly drunk and knew what we were doing. Walter Ridgway did not hit me at any time during the argument. The Ridgway Brothers appeared to me that they had had liquor but they appeared to me to be sober enough.

E. D. DALTON.

Statement taken and witnessed by me
on the 22nd. of April 1947.

H. R. DONELLY.
S/Det. 7740.

"4" Statement (Graham)

THOMAS DESMOND GRAHAM, States :- I am a painter and I reside at 13 Primrose Crescent East Brighton. On Sunday the 20th. of April 1947 with Laurie Antonio, Clive Spencer and Reg Morrison I went to the Hamburgers at 309 Centre Road, Bentleigh where we arrived at about 12-15 a.m. We had supper. Between 12-30 a.m. and 12-45 a.m. I saw Bert Ridgway, his brother Wally Ridgway and two other men come into the shop - they went to a table at the far end of the shop near the Milk Bar. They were a bit rowdy. They then started to drink gin which they had in a bottle from cups which were then on the table apparently left by the last customers. After they had been there about 5 minutes I saw Vin Quinn come into the shop with another man in a cap (Dalton) Vin Quinn stood near the counter and was called over to the table where the Ridgways and the two other men were seated and he was introduced to the Ridgways by one of the men present. Quinn was talking to them for a while and during this time I could hear Bert Ridgway using bad language. I heard Quinn say to him "If you want to swear go outside" Bert Ridgway appeared to resent this but prior to this Bert Ridgway had taken his coat off and put it on the counter. I then saw that he had a sheath on his right side - it was attached about waist high. I could see the handle of a big knife in the sheath. Bert Ridgway put his coat on after this and it was following this that the table was tipped over by someone - it struck Quinn and he fell to the floor where a couple of men punched him. I cannot say who these two men were because of the large amount crowd who were in the shop. Before Quinn went down on the floor Hovell tried to stop the fight and he slipped over on to the floor. When the table went over the dishes which were on it went on to the floor. My mates and I then went outside to get away from the fight. We were in the street for a couple of minutes when Quinn, the two Ridgways and others came out. They were bundled out by the Cafe people. Wally Ridgway and the two other men were fighting Quinn near the gutter but Quinn appeared to be doing well and holding his own with them - at the same time Bert Ridgway was fighting the man with the cap (Dalton) near the window of the shop. Bert appeared to fall over and as he was getting up he looked across to where Wally and the other two men were fighting Quinn and it looked then that Wally was getting the worst of it. Bert got up on to one hand

and pulled the big knife out of the sheath with his right hand. I saw the blade shining in the light - the knife appeared to be ^{about} almost 1 foot long. He then got to his feet and rushed to where Wally, Quinn and the other men were fighting. He then made a round arm swing at Quinn with the knife and struck Quinn in the chest high up. Quinn then put his hand to his chest, doubled up and staggered a little way further east along the roadway and collapsed in a driveway on the northern footpath. Wally Ridgway immediately ran over to where Quinn fell and started kicking him about the head and face. ^{He kicked Quinn about three or four times} As Quinn was staggering to the position where he fell the two Ridgways were still fighting him and the two men who had been fighting Quinn with them tried to pull the two Ridgways off. After Wally Ridgway kicked Quinn he and Bert ran east along Centre Road towards the railway gates, the two men who had been fighting Quinn went with them but one of them at least came back immediately. While Quinn was staggering after he was ^{it} stabbed the first time I heard a man's voice call out "Don't do that, don't do it" I could not say who called it out. When Quinn was lying on the roadway near the gutter I could see that he was bleeding from the head and chest very badly. The man with the cap (Dalton) and another man went to Quinn's assistance and I went home.

T. D. GRAHAM.

Statement taken and witnessed by me on 28/4/47.

H. R. DONELLY. S/Det. 7740.

"5" Statement (Antonie)

LAWRENCE ANTONIE, States :- I am a butcher and reside at 5 Hamilton Street, Bentlyigh. At about 12-15 a.m. on Sunday the 20th. of April 1947 with Des. Graham, Clive Spencer and Reg Morrison I went to the Hamburgers shop at 309 Centre Road, Bentlyigh. We had supper and about 12-30 a.m. I saw the Ridgway Bros and two other men come in (Trinders) They sat at a table near the milk bar - they were making a lot of noise and appeared to have been drinking - they had a bottle of gin and were drinking from cups which were on the table. Shortly after this I saw Vin Quinn and another man come in to the shop - they stood for a while and the next I saw of Quinn he was walking over to the table where the Ridgways and other men were, then I saw Quinn shaking hands with some one at the table. I could hear Bert Ridgway using bad language but I did not hear Quinn protest about it. I was having a

drink at this stage and we my back was partly towards them. I could hear the men at this table arguing and they were getting heated so I thought there would be trouble so I started to walk out and had only got out at the front door when I heard a fight at this table. I looked back and every one at the table seemed to be fighting. I could see Bert Ridgway and Quinn were in it fighting but who else was fighting I could not distinguish as there was a large crowd there. Within a minute or so of the fight starting several men came out the front door fighting. I could see Quinn and Bert Ridgway amongst them, a lot of others came out of the shop too. I then saw three men fighting Quinn on the roadway. Quinn was being pushed around and was trying to fight back as the other men were punching him - part of the time of the fight there was a car between the men fighting and me and it obstructed my view. When the fight had been going on outside for 2 or 3 minutes I walked around the back of the car on to the road, I then saw Quinn stagger or crumple up and fall to the roadway - then one of the men who was fighting him kicked Quinn two or three times about the head or the top of the body. Before this and as I came around the back of the car I saw Bert Ridgway stoop down and make a swing at Quinn who was on the ground with his right hand in which he had a big knife - it was downward swing. I could not see if it connected or not as Bert Ridgway was partly between Quinn and I. When I saw Bert Ridgway make the swing at Quinn, Quinn was trying to rise and was on one hand, and it was following the stabbing that he was kicked. As soon as the kicking was over the three men, including Bert Ridgway who had been fighting Quinn ran away towards the railway gates. When Bert Ridgway was running away he still had the knife in his right hand. The police arrived shortly after and some time later I left. Soon after the men ran away I saw that Quinn was bleeding badly from the head and chest - a couple of chaps held his head up and he was not moved from where he fell.

L. ANTONIE.

Statement taken and witnessed by me on 28/4/47.

H.R. DONELLY. S/Det. 7740.

- - - -

"6" Statement (Felstead)

KEVIN CHARLES PATRICK FELSTEAD, States :- I am a factory hand and I reside at 33 Mitchell Street, Bentlyigh. I know Vincent Quinn. On Saturday night the 19th. of April about midnight with Kenneth Dixon I

went to the Hamburger's shop in Centre Road, Bentleigh - it may have been about 12-15 a.m. when we arrived there - we each got two hamburgers and were playing on the machine in the shop while we ate them. At 12-30 a.m. I saw Vincent Quinn come into the shop with two other men (Dalton & Jack Trinder). Vincent Quinn went over to a table near the milk counter where there were 4 men standing. I then had arrived at the milk counter near them and ordered two malted milk^s. I then heard someone in this group introduce Vincent Quinn to the other men at the table. I drank one glass of the malted milk and then the dark hair chap who I now know to be Bert Ridgway commenced to swear and Vincent Quinn told him to stop it but Ridgway took his coat off and hung it on a hook on the wall - there was more talk and he put his coat on and about 5 minutes later the row started again and Ridgway took his coat off again but put it on again. I could not see or get what the argument was over but Bob Hovell spoke to the men at the table about being noisy then one man in a brownish suit (Alan Trinder) pushed Bob Hovell over on the floor, then the table they were at was tipped over upsetting what appeared to be steak and eggs on to the floor. I then started to leave and as I did so I saw Vincent Quinn with the other men at the table, they appeared to be about to fight so I got out of the shop. I was outside the shop for a couple of minutes when Vincent Quinn came out, two other men came out with him and they started to fight against the shop window - both these men were on to Quinn. I recognised them as the men who were rowing at the table with him ⁱⁿ outside. One was Bert Ridgway, the man who had taken his coat off and a taller young man in a grey suit. Quinn was retaliating while they were near the shop window and he appeared to be getting the worst of it. Bob Hovell then came out of the shop and pushed the three of them away from the window towards the roadway where they knocked Quinn down in the gutter. I could not distinguish which one of these two men struck the blow which knocked him down because they were both fighting him together. Quinn started to get up then I saw one of these men make a swipe at Quinn and as he did so I saw the blade of a knife in his hand flash in the light - this blow seemed to me to strike Quinn about the chest. Someone called out "Don't do it, don't do it" I took it to be the other man who was fighting Quinn who called it out. Quinn did not get up but seemed to raise his head up - one of the two men who were fighting him then kicked Quinn on the face about the forehead.

I only saw the one kick. I looked away as soon as I saw Quinn stabbed and when I looked back I saw him kicked - he could have been stabbed again and kicked again while I was looking away. Immediately after Quinn was kicked both the men who had been fighting stabbing and kicking ran along centre road towards the railway gates. There was not any other persons fighting outside the shop other than the three of them. A few seconds later Bob Hovell ran along Centre Road in the same direction as the two men took, to get the police. When the two men ran away two men who were there held Quinn's head up until the Police and Ambulance arrived.

K. C. FELSTEAD.

Statement taken and witnessed by me on the 23rd. April, 1947.

H. R. DONELLY. S/D.7740.

- - - -

"7" Statement (Hunt)

PETER MATHEW HUNT, States :- I am 13 years of age and a school boy. I reside at 37 Bendigo St. Bentlyigh. On Saturday night the 19th. of April 1947 I had been to the pictures at Glenhantly and we walked home. I had met the boys Dixon and Felstead on the way to the pictures and we walked home together. On arrival at Centre Road, Bentlyigh the 3 of us went to the Hamburgers there. I bought a hamburger and ate it - we were then playing on the machine in the shop and after a while I heard someone singing at the table near the milk counter. I looked around and I saw it was the smaller of the two men whom I now know to be Ridgways - this one was in a blue suit - there were 3 or 4 men at his table. Shortly after the singing I saw the boy Quinn standing at the table with them. I could hear some swearing and I looked and saw it was the boy Ridgway who was in the blue suit (Bert Ridgway) who was swearing. The boy Quinn seemed to be trying to stop him from swearing. By this time I had arrived at the milk bar not very far from them and got a malted milk. The two Ridgways were then arguing with Vin Quinn. I could not catch what the argument was over but they were all heated. Bob Hovell who works in the shop then went over to them and tried to quieten them. The big Ridgway who was in a grey suit said to Quinn "If you want fight I will give it to you" When I was walking to the Milk counter the smaller Ridgway took his coat off but after a while he put it on again. I finished my malted milk and started to walk back to the front of the shop when I saw the smaller Ridgway take his coat off again but put it on again, then the taller Ridgway in the grey suit

punched Quinn on the chin and Quinn fell back and hit his head on the wall near the table on the east side - he straightened up, then the smaller Ridgway and some of the other men at the table joined in and I saw Bob Hovell try to pull them apart. I could see there was going to be a brawl so I went outside - the shop was fairly full at the time and a lot of the men there came out, too. Two or three minutes after I went outside Quinn came out the front door way, then the taller Ridgway, then the other Ridgway and they started fighting on the footpath near the shop window - both the Ridgways were fighting Quinn there and Bob Hovell pushed them away from the window and they continued to fight on the roadway near the shop - the Ridgway in the grey suit was punching Quinn and the Ridgway in the blue suit was also punching Quinn when he was on the roadway. Quinn was fighting them back. Quinn then fell on his back on the roadway and he started to get up when the Ridgway in the grey suit kicked him in the face knocking him back on the roadway. I then saw the smaller Ridgway in the blue suit lean over him and stab Quinn in the chest just below the chin with a knife which he had in his right hand. I could only see the blade of the knife - it was a fairly wide bladed knife and from what I saw of the blade it appeared to be about 6 to 8 inches long. I only saw Quinn stabbed the once and that was when he was on the ground. I had not noticed the knife in Ridgways hand up to this time. As soon as Quinn was stabbed both the Ridgways run away towards the railway gates along Centre Road. I was watching the fight from about 10 feet away and there was no one between me and the Ridgways and Quinn when he was stabbed. I did not see what Ridgway did with the knife after he stabbed Quinn but he did not drop it there. The two Ridgways were the only two men fighting Quinn outside of the shop with the exception when Bob Hovell pushed them away from the shop window. I had a look at Quinn while he was on the ground after he was stabbed and the blood was pouring out of his mouth. I waited until the police came along and then went home.

P. HUNT.

Statement taken and witnessed by me on the 26th. of April, 1947.

H. R. DONELLY. S/Det 7740.

"8" Statement (Dixon)

KENNETH HOWARD DIXON, States :- I am a stable hand and I reside at 2 Milton Ave, Bentlyigh. Sometime about midnight on Saturday the 19th.

of April 1947 I went to the Hamburger shop at 309 Centre Road, Bently with Kevin Felstead. We had a couple of hamburgers and we were playing on the machine in the shop. This machine is in the corner of the shop near the window. There was a large crowd in the shop. I saw the two Ridgways and two other men sitting at a table in the corner near the milk counter - they were calling out "When is the tea coming" and making a fair amount of noise. While I was still at the machine I saw Vin Quinn come into the shop with one of the Trinders and Roger Dalton. I saw Quinn go over to the table where the Ridgways and the other two men were seated, leaving Roger Dalton and the Trinder boy who was with him, standing a short distance away. Quinn was talking to them for a short time and I then walked down to the milk counter near where they were seated and ordered a malted milk. Kevin was with me and had got his malted milk. The Ridgways and the other two men at the table with them were making a lot of noise and Bob Hovell who works at the shop asked them to keep quiet. I heard Quinn and Bert Ridgway start arguing and Quinn said "Come outside and I will fight you" I saw Bert Ridgway take off his coat and hang it on the hanger on the wall, then put it on again and then do the same thing again. A fight started in the shop between the Ridgways and Quinn. I did not see who struck first blow. Whilst the fight was going on in the shop Bob Hovell tried to stop it and Alan Trinder pushed him over on the floor. Alan Trinder was one of the two men who were seated at the table with the two Ridgways. I did not see what Roger Dalton was doing while it was going on. I saw one of the Ridgways and Quinn struggling out the front door. I can't say which one of the Ridgways it was. I went out the front door and I saw Quinn and one of the Ridgways fighting near the shop window. This is the window on the left side of the shop as you walk out the front door. The other Ridgway then joined in and they were both fighting Quinn. I did not see anyone else apart from the two Ridgways fighting with Quinn. During the fight they were pushed away from the window by Bobby Hovell and they went onto the roadway. The Ridgways were still fighting Quinn and at that stage Quinn appeared to be fighting back. I then heard a man call out in a loud voice "Don't do it, don't do it" I do not know who it was that called out. I then saw Quinn's legs go up in the air and he fell on his back to the roadway. The

Ridgways were standing over him and I saw one of them kick Quinn on the body while he was lying on the ground. I could not see which one of the Ridgways it was but it was one of them. They were the only 2 people near Quinn. Quinn started to vomit and made a gurgling noise - there was blood coming from his mouth. Immediately after kicking Quinn the two Ridgways ran east along Centre Road towards the railway gates. Bobby Hovell also left immediately to go for the police. No one attacked Quinn after the two Ridgways ran away and Roger Dalton and one of the Trinders held Quinn's head up until the police and ambulance arrived. I did not see any knife but some of the time they were fighting, there was a yellow car parked nearby which was between them and me. I am positive that no one else apart from the Ridgways attacked or hit Quinn while they were outside the shop.

K. DIXON.

Statement taken by me this 23rd. day of April and signature witnessed Sr. Det. Donnelly 7740 present.

CYRIL CURRER.
Det. 1/C. 8360.

"9" Statement (Trinder, A.C.)

ALLAN CLARENCE TRINDER, States :- I am a maintenance worker and I reside at 5 Lindsay St. Moorabbin. (A.C.Trinder) On the 19th. of April 1947 with my brother Charlie I went to 21 Bruce St. Bentleigh and picked up Bert and Wally Ridgway at between 8 p.m. and 8-30 p.m. We then went to the St Kilda Town Hall where we were refused admittance We then went to the Caulfield Town Hall where we attended a dance until 11-45 p.m.. We then returned to the Hamburgers in Centre Road Bentleigh. We had had liquor while at the dance and arrived at the Hamburgers at about 12-30 a.m. We all ordered steak and eggs and went to a table at the end of the shop furthestmost from the door. I think there was only 3 chairs at this table - as Charlie did not have a chair to sit on the rest of us sat down at the table. We were at the Cafe about 15 minutes or less when Vin Quinn came in with my brother Jack and Rodger Dalton. Vin Quinn came over to our table and I introduced him to the two Ridgways - my brother Charlie knew him. Dalton and my brother Jack stood over near the long counter. Wally Ridgway and Vin Quinn were talking together when Bert Ridgway took off his coat and hung it on a hook, then Wally Ridgway and Vin Quinn started to exchange blows. I tried to stop the fight and the young chap from the Hamburgers jumped on my back. I was trying to shake him

off. When I did get rid of him I walked out the front door. Bert and Wally Ridgway and Vin Quinn had already gone out. When I came out the front door I saw Bert, Wally and Quinn fighting. I am not sure whether there was anyone else fighting with them. At this stage I saw a knife flash about shoulder high in the group who were fighting - it was in someones hand and was swung from the right to the left. I did not see whether it struck anyone or not. Immediately I saw Vin go to the ground and lay there he started to bleed badly. As Vin Quin fell to the ground Wally and Bert Ridgway ran away towards the station. I did not hear Vin Quinn calling out "Don't do it, don't do it" I then ran to get a Doctor, my brother Jack and Rodger Dalton were attending to Quinn when I left. When I returned from trying to get the Doctor I saw that Vin was dead. I then rang Bert Ridgway at his home and told him that Quinn was dead and for him to pack a bag and that he had better leave before the police came. I am a constant visitor to the Ridgway's home and about 3 months ago I was in Wally Ridgway's sleepout and he showed me a jungle knife in a sheath - he told me that he had brought it home from the islands. I had a good look at the knife and sheath. The knife I saw flash in the hand of one of the men in the brawl outside the hamburgers was similar to this jungle knife but I cannot say it was the same one. I did not see the knife after the stabbing on this night. Vin Quinn appeared to have had a few drinks on this night. Something was said to Wally by Quinn. I did not hear what it was and immediately Wally seemed to get excited and the fight started.

A. C. TRINDER.

- - - -

"10" Statement (Trinder T.C.)

THOMAS CHARLES TRINDER, States :- I am a carpenter and reside at 5 ⁱ Lonsay Street Moorabbin. At about 8-45 p.m. on Saturday the 19th. day of April 1947 I went with my brother Allan to the Ridgways place at 21 Bruce Street, Bentlyigh. Bert Ridgway, Wally Ridgway my brother Allan and myself when went to a dance at the Caulfield Town Hall. We all left the dance when it finished and on the way home on the tram someone produced a bottle of gin and the four of us had a drink. We left the tram at the terminus of Hawthorn Road and Point Nepean Road and I found that the last bus to Moorabbin had gone so the four of us then decided to go to the Hamburger shop in Centre Road, Bentlyigh.