

as brother in the fullest sense of the word I shall be happy
and live for you and your welfare and good
If not, well I will not for one moment think it
Impossible, still I am only speaking for myself, with my love
29

My dear Ben

Meriden P.O. Harry
July 15th 19

Last week one of better disappointment, Tuesday
Wednesday, Thursday I called at P.O. no letter I was
depressed, I thought some thing had happen
I could not get in touch by wireless telegraphy until
Friday night and again on Sunday.

On Friday afternoon I had a phone ring to say
your wire had come through its contents were read
out to me. Needless to say I was more than over
glowing with joy that you were not seriously
hurt in any way. One thinks all kinds of things
in a case of silence like this, you might
dear Boy have caught Influenza and died
Before I knew any thing about it. Thank God
its not so. Very sorry you have been ill, Trust
you will soon be well again. So take great care
of your self for my sake even if we are only friends.

Monday night received your letter Monday
why not say what is the matter with you, what
is the cause? you are young and ought to
be strong and healthy, what brought this illness
on? The journey from here to city is great - 8 a m
till 11 p m Monday & Tuesday only. I may leave any
day unless I hear you are better. I have said
all I can in my previous letter to make you
happy and set your mind at rest that I will be
in Cobber, this if you desire it, ought to help you
overcome your self and look on the bright side of
it - ever your experience that may not be pleasant
to have a plain talk with you without the
reservation. This will clear up many points that
troubled my mind during the last week or two, we
that take our peace holiday even if only for a
little. I think we are destined to come together

all better

31

Murben P. O. Victoria

Wednesday night July 23rd 19

My dear Ben,

I can feel you to night very plainly, & for an embrace
yes it will latte on. I received your promised letter yesterday
12 15 you would know by your own feelings, I thank
you for same, I am very happy I know you will do
what you promise, I shall not reply to it just now
later on perhaps not for a week or so. I take it that
you are well again now be careful and look after your
health don't go out at night another month or so
and then spring will be here when we can have great
times together. My last letter posted Thursday arrived in City
Friday 4 o'clock. Peace day no delivery so you could not
get it before Monday. Your reply to this letter will I
think be the last I hope to return next week
end or early the next. I shall stay at the Federal Coffee
Palace the 1st night then at Glenfern House Hawthorn
for a time. I have a small camp in H. St. But its
a cold for winter month. I want to probe your ~~innermost~~
soul first, before deciding upon any thing very
definite all depends upon you, I had thought of going
away from Victoria, then your first letter came
offering me your ~~heart~~ heart soul and hand, how
yes how could I refuse you after pouring
out your troubled soul to me, I know you were
pretty bad, sick I mean with the best life for you to again write
me, I also think you will know that I had a kind soul with
in me, I will not dwell here the past is gone we are
in the present and going on to the future with hope
joy and peace. When I see you and talk matters
over you will say that our experience during the past
7 years has tended to one end, that it brings us together
again all my love, trust you are happy will
Harry

Murbeen Via Mildura
July 31st. 19

Dear Ben,

Your letter of 28th inst- to hand today, why this delay? my
letter of 23rd posted 24th ought to be delivered Saturday morning
when was it delivered?
My letter of the 15th was delivered on the 21st or ought to
have been. You have not yet replied to it, why?
Can you point out one letter of yours that I
have not replied to at once.
I remember in one of your letters you said "that you hated
letter writing", I ask you "why" letter writing is the only
means we have of conveying our thoughts one to the other
with me it is a great pleasure, it is not a form
or an act of courtesy, but it pouring out of one's
innmost soul to one who he loves.
I do not know when I shall return, I may be another
week or two, I think it best for me to see you after
I get home, I have no decent clothes with me, only
working "togs" you would not know me, not care
to be seen with me, any how that my dear
every thing up here is very rough not only the living
but the people. The Spirit, the climate and the
The Land is all right still I hope to finish
soon and leave like a white man
I will write you before leaving.

With love and good health

Harry

Excuse
Brieffness

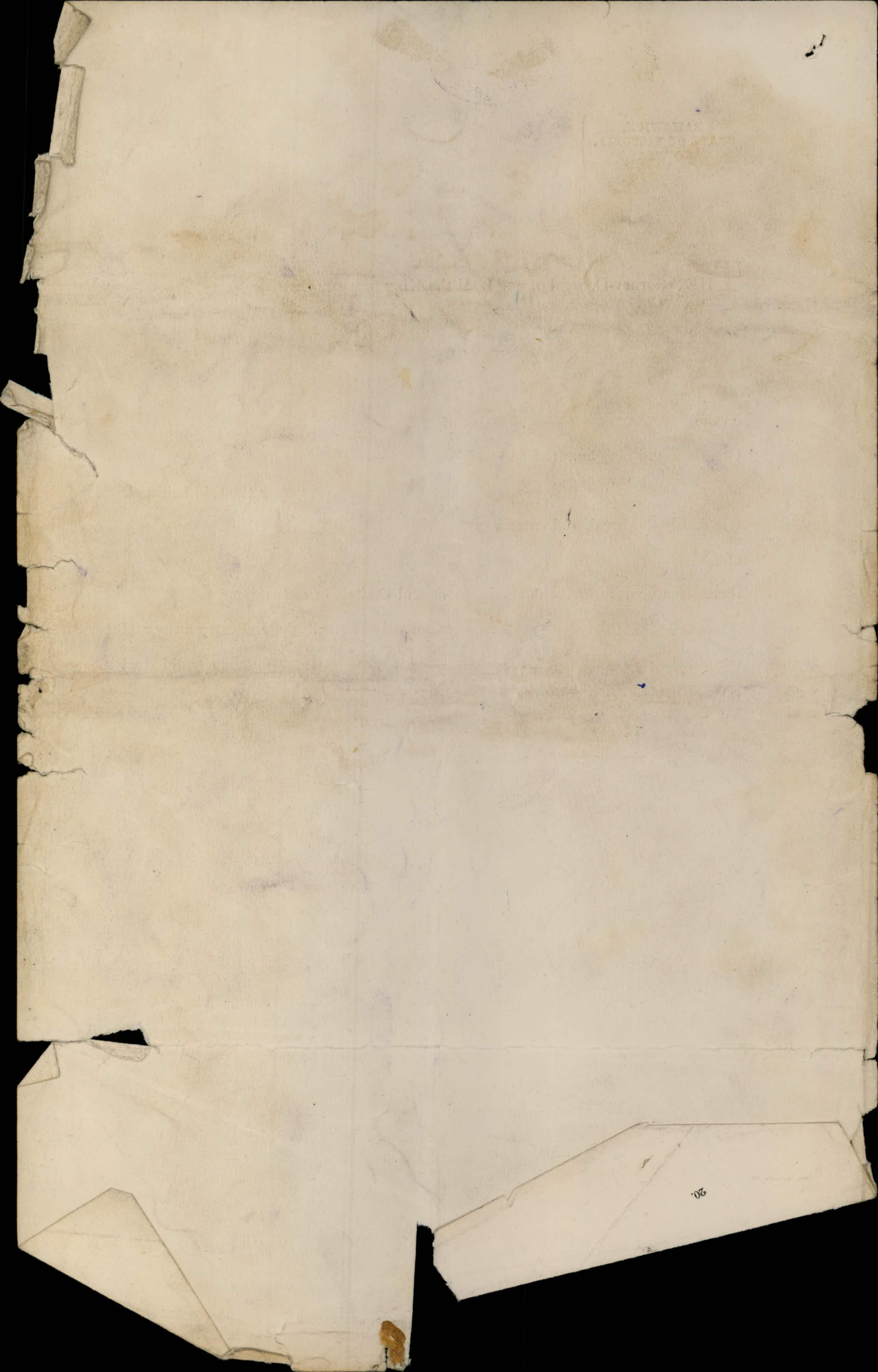
BAILIWICK,
STATE OF VICTORIA,
TO WIT.

THE Attorney-General of our Lord the King presents that

on the day of
One thousand nine hundred and
at in the said bailiwick
feloniously did break and enter the
of
there situate with intent the money goods and chattels in the said
feloniously to steal take and carry away and
then in the said feloniously did steal
take and carry away

of the	goods	chattels
of		

Prosecutor for the King.



Copy

Merbeing P/O.
Victoria.

Wednesday night
July 25th 1919.

My dear Ben,

I can feel you tonight very plainly. O for an embrace. Yes. It will be later on. I received your promised letter yesterday, 12.15. You would know by your own feelings. I thank you for same. I am very happy. I know you will do what you promise. I shall not reply to it just now. Later on perhaps. Not for a week or so. I take it that you are well again now. Be careful and look after your health. Don't go out at night. Another month or so and then spring will be here when we will have great times together. My last letter posted Thursday, arrived in City, 4 o'clock Friday, Peace Day no delivery so could not get it before Monday. Your reply to this will be the last I think to return, I hope next week end or as early the next. I shall stay at the Federal Coffe Palace the night, and then at Glenferrie House Hawthorn for a time. I have a small camp in H. street but its too cold for winter months. I want to probe your innermost soul first before deciding upon anything definate. All depends upon you. I had thought of going away from Victoria, Then your first letter came offering me your heart, sould and hand. How, yes How ^{soul} indeed can I refuse you after pouring out your troubled ~~heart~~ to me. I know you were pretty bad(sick I mean with the fast life) for you to again write to me. I also think that you will know that I had a kind soul within men. I will not dwell here. The past is gone. We are in the present and going on to the future with hope joy and peace. When I see you and talk matters over you will say that our experience during the past two years, has tended to one end, that of brings us closer together. Again with all my love, trust you are happy and well.

Harry.

all my love, that you are happy and well.

joined to one end, that of things as closer together. Again with you will say that our experience during the last two years, has with more joy and peace. When I see you and talk matters over that is gone. We are in the present and going on to the future that I had a king soul within men. I will not dwell here. The for you to again write to me. I also think that you will know to me. I know you were blessedly sad (sick I mean with the last time) indeed can I refuse you after bringing out your troubled ~~heart~~ ^{soul} letter came offering me your heart, soul and hand. Now, yes now you. I had thought of going away from Victoria, then your letter that before deciding upon anything definite. All depends upon too cold for winter months. I want to know your innermost soul Hampton for a time. I made a small camp in H. street but the at the Federal Coffee Palace the night, and then at Clementine House to return. I hope next week end or as early the next. I shall stay it before Monday. Your reply to this will be the last I think city, 4 o'clock Friday, because day no delivery so could not get exact times together. My last letter posted ~~Friday~~ ^{Thursday}, arrived in another month or so and then spring will be here when we will make carefully and look after your health. Don't go out at night. Not for a week or so. I take it that you are well again now. Be you promise. I shall not reply to it just now. Later on perhaps I thank you for same. I am very happy. I know you will do what letter yesterday, 12.12. You would know by your own feelings. embrace. Yes. It will be later on. I received your promised I can feel you tonight very brightly. O for an

My dear Ben

July 24th 1890.
Wednesday night
Victoria.
Melbourne B.O.

Copy

Merbein P.O.

Victoria.

Wednesday night.

July 25th 1919

My dear Ben,

I can feel you very plainly tonight. O for an embrace. Yes it will be later on. I received your promised letter yesterday 12.1. You would know by your own feelings. I thank you for same. I am very happy. I know you will do what you promise. I shall not reply to it just yet. Later on perhaps. Not for a week or so. I take it you are well again now. Be careful and look after your health. Don't go out at night. Another month or so and Spring will be here, when we will have great times together. My last letter posted Thursday arrived in ~~Mildura~~ ^{Friday} city arrived 4 o'clock. Peace Day, no delivery, so ~~had to~~ ^{wait} could not get it before Monday. Your reply to this will I think be the last to return, I hope next week-end or as early the next. I shall stay at the Federal Coffee Palace the first night and then at Glenferrie House, Hawthorn for a time. I have a small camp at H-street, but is too cold for the winter months. I want to probe your inmost soul first before deciding upon anything definite. All depends on you. I had thought of going away from Victoria, then your first letter came offering your heart, soul and hand. How, yes how indeed can I refuse you after pouring out your troubled soul to me. I know you were pretty bad. Sick I mean with the fast life to write to me. I also think that you will know that I had a kind soul within me. I will not dwell here. The past is gone. We are in the present and going towards the future with hope and joy and peace. When I see you and talk matters over, you will say that our experience during the past two years has tended to one end, that of bringing us closer together. Again with all my love, trust you are happy and well.

Harry.

Copy

Merbein.
via Mildura,
July 31st 1919.

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I remember in one of your letters that you said that you hated letter writing. I ask you- /Why? Letter-writing is the only means we have of conveying our thoughts one to the other. With me it is a great pleasure. It is not a form or an act of courtesy, but a pouring out of one's inmost soul to one he loves.

I do not know when I shall return. I may be another week or two. I think it best for me to see you after I get home. I have no decent clothes with me, only working togs. You would not know me, would not care to be seen with me. Anyhow that is my view. Everything up here is very rough; not only the living but the people. The fruit, the climate and the land is all right. But still I hope to finish soon and leave like a white man. I will write to you before leaving.

Copy

Merbein.
via Mildura,
July 31st 1919.

My dear Ben,

Your letter of the 28th inst to hand today. Why this delay? My letter of the 25rd. posted on the 24th ought to be delivered Saturday morning. When was it delivered? My letter of the 15th was delivered on the 21st or ought to have been. You have not yet replied to it. Can you point out one of yours that I have not replied to at once?

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I ask you-
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Copy

Merbein P.O.

Victoria.

Wednesday night.

July 25th 1919.

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Harry.

16th February 1920.

1357

1657

THE KING

V

-----I n d e x----- page

Annie Smith 1, 2 & 3
 Thomas Coonan 3 & 4
 Hector Perrin Smith 5
 Exhibits 6 to 10

HARRY HARDY BRUIN and
 BENJAMIN MORRIS

} Bail

Bugging

ANNIE SMITH

24

Sworn States:-

I am a married woman at 26 McGregor Street Middle Park.

I know accused Morris. I have known him about 18 months. He was in the habit of visiting at my place to go out with my son. About end of September last I had some conversation with him in consequence of what I had been told. He said "I want to get away, will you go out and see Mr Bruin". He accompanied me with my son. Before that accused Morris told me accused Bruin had committed an unnatural offence upon him on many occasions. He said "I first met Bruin in Snowden Gardens, I was taken to the pictures by him and then visited him at Auburn where Bruin committed ~~committed~~ unnatural offences upon me. He gave me money at the commencement and later on fruit and he also promised to give me a diamond ring. I said "I will tell your mother and father if you go there again". He - "Will you return these two books to Mr Bruin?" (handing me two books, one of ~~these~~ which was Oscar Wilde and the other was about boys). I went to Mr Bruin's accompanied by accused Morris and my son. I knocked at Bruin's gate. Accused Bruin answered. I said to him "Are you Mr Bruin?" He "Yes". I - "Benny Morris wished me to return these two books" (handing him the two I had received) and to let you know your relations have been found out, also your letters and telegrams have been given up by Morris. The letters and telegrams produced (Ex. "A") are those I referred to. He said "Oh my goodness where is he? Is he at home?" I - "No". He - "Where will I find him?" I - "You will find that in the book". He - "Who might I be speaking to?" I - "That also you will find in the book as Benny Morris has put it there". He - "I will be in the city to-morrow at 3 and I will call and see him". Later

I told Benny Morris that Mr Bruin would call next day. The boy did not hear my conversation with accused Bruin. Accused Morris had just a name and address in one of the books. Accused Bruin never came to that address. Ben said "I will send a telegram to Mr Bruin". He wanted to get away because he ~~xxxx~~^{feared} me. Later Morris accompanied me to the Detective Office where we saw Detective Coonan. Previous to that I had handed in a bundle of letters now produced (Ex."A"). Morris informed Det. Coonan that unnatural offences had been committed upon him by Bruin. He wanted to make a statement. He refused. He said "I know I am over the age and it would go against me". Detective Coonan asked him to give it 2 or 3 days consideration and come again on Friday night. Morris said "I am afraid". I said "I will accompany you". I rang him up on Friday morning when he said to me "I am not going to the Detective Office, I intend to drop everything". I said "Don't be foolish". On the Friday afternoon Morris came to my place between 2 and 3 o'clock. I said "Not working Ben?" He said "No I got the afternoon off". He then stated "I will go with you tonight". He left for the City about 3 o'clock promising to return to tea, my son accompanied him. I did not see them again until they were in trouble in Sydney. There I said to Morris "Will you make a statement now?" At first he said "No - one thing at a time. Let me get back to Melbourne". I then had a conversation with Morris's brother. Subsequently a statement was handed to me by a Detective at Milson Point Sydney. I handed that statement to Detective Coonan at my house.

X X D - My son had been a companion of Morris. About January of last year I knew my son was carrying on with men. I knew it then of Morris also. He continued coming to my house up to the time he was arrested about a week ago. I knew they were carrying on this business with men all the time. Money has never entered into this matter with me. I am out to help the boys by getting at the men who are corrupting them. I frequently spoke to them and their companions. The Police did not assist me owing to technical difficulties. I know a man named Watson. He was with my son on one occasion. I received money from him on behalf of my son, I think it was £9 for his fare to Brisbane. He also bought him clothes. That was about 6 weeks after my son deserted from the navy. I interviewed Watson on many occasions on behalf of my son and Morris. The first was in January 1919. I mentioned Watson's name to the Police when my son was arrested

for desertion. I told the Police about the £9 immediately after I received it. I have never received money from a man in Footscray. I have never thought of taking money ~~from~~ ^{9 Times} from accused Bruin. I have complained about 3 men to the Police. I received the letter produced (Ex."A") and handed them to the Police a day or two after. I went to Bruin in the public interest. I did not go to get money. I expected to get help for Morris from Bruin so ~~that~~ that Morris could get away. I wanted to get him away from his hateful surroundings. My interview with Bruin was not longer than 3 or 4 minutes. It was dark. I cannot say that Bruin was the man I spoke to but I believe he was Bruin. I did not say "Only money would settle it". Nothing like that was said. Ben suggested Bruin coming to my house and sent the telegram himself.

By the Bench - Watson denied having anything to do with my son but said "I will assist your son" and so gave him the £9 and clothes. I did not know then he had committed the offence. The £9 was given in January.

A. Smith.

THOMAS COONAN

Sworn States:- I am a Sergeant Detective at Melbourne. At 7.45 p.m. on 2nd October last the witness Mrs Smith brought the accused Morris to the Detective Office. She had made a complaint a few days before to the officer in charge. I said to Morris in the presence of Mrs Smith "Do you wish to make a statement and sign it about Bruin committing unnatural offences upon you?" He - "I am 20 years of age and if I sign a statement I will be charged with him". I - "Where did you meet this man Bruin?" He - "About 5 years ago outside the Snowden pictures and he has been committing unnatural offences on me since". I - "Where?" He - "I used to visit him for the week-end at his house 102 Harcourt Street Auburn but I don't want to make a statement now, I'll consider it for a couple of days and return with Mrs Smith". I - "It's Very well its a serious matter, consider it and come back again". Mrs Smith handed me the bundle of letters produced (Ex."A"). They are addressed to accused Morris and signed "Harry". I also produce carbon copies of those letters (Ex."B") They were handed to me by accused Bruin at his house on the 10th October last. I also produce letters from accused Morris to Bruin which were handed to me at the same time by Bruin (Ex. "C"). Accused Morris

and Mrs Smith then left. Morris did not return. On 10th October last in company with Det. Sickerdick I called on accused Bruin at his house. I said "Are you Mr Harry Bruin?" He - "Yes". I - "We are detectives making enquiries about a statement made by Benjamin Morris". He - "I know Benny Morris for about 5 years". I - "He alleges that you have been committing unnatural offences on him here". He - "It is not true. Morris has visited me here and stopped for the week-end". I - "Will you make a statement. Where did Morris sleep at the week-end?" He - "In bed with me there - pointing to a bunk which was the only bed in the house. Bruin then made a statement which I reduced to writing. That statement I now produce (Ex. "D") and read to the Court. I said to accused Bruin "Have you any letters of Morris's?" He ~~look~~ looked round the Bench and handed me the letters already produced (Exs. "B" and "C"). I now read those sent by accused Bruin to accused Morris. I said to accused Bruin "Have you any Oscar Wildes books?" He said "Yes" and handed me over the two produced (Ex. "E"). I asked for them to verify the statement made to me by Mr Smith concerning some books she had returned from Morris to Bruin. On 22nd November last Mrs Smith handed me a statement purporting to be made by accused Morris. On 13th inst. I obtained warrants for the arrest of accused. On 16th inst. at 8 o'clock Detective Mulfahey and I arrested accused Morris on this charge. At the Detective Office I showed him the statement handed to me by Mrs Smith. He acknowledged it as his. On 17th inst. I arrested accused Bruin. I said to him "I have a warrant for your arrest for committing an unnatural offence on Benny Morris". He made no reply. We took him to the Detective office and presented him to Morris and there I read to them the statement handed to me by Mrs Smith (Ex. "F"). I said to Morris "Is that statement true?" He said "Yes". I said to Bruin "What have you to say to that?" He - "What I said before". I - "What do you mean by that?" He - "What I said before". I - "Are you referring to your statement?" He - "Yes". He was there charged with the offence". I made enquiries at Alfred Hospital and failed to get any information of Morris being treated there. There has been no Customs office named Robinson on the wharf for some years.

X X D - Bruin denied the offence from beginning to end.

T. Coonan.

HECTOR PERRIN SMITH

Sworn States:- I am an iron worker and reside at 24 McGregor Street Middle Park. I know both accused. About 1.30 p.m. on 3rd October last I met accused Morris in the City. We had lunch at Sargents and then went to my place at Middle Park. We went back to town and remained there till 5 p.m. and then out to Morris's place at 91 Palmerston Crescent South Melbourne. Morris packed up his clothes and we brought them into Victoria Coffee Palace where we engaged a room. During the afternoon Morris said "I am going out to Bruin's, will you come with me?" I agreed and we went out that evening about 7 o'clock to Bruin's place. He was not in so we came back to town. I made a statement in which I said he was there. That statement is not true as to the latter portion. The first part of the statement is correct. The statement produced (EX "G") is the one I made. If Morris made a similar statement it is not true as to Bruin committing an offence. I told the lie or Morris had a hold over me. I wanted to help Morris by accusing Bruin. No one except detectives have interviewed me in this matter. I saw accused Morris last night and told him I was going to tell the truth and then I walked away. I have since told my mother all about what I feared from Morris and so I can now speak the truth. I was knocking about with Morris for some time in Sydney. I there stole a suit of clothes and was arrested and convicted. My mother paid half the fine.

Hector P. Smith.

The foregoing depositions of Annie Smith, Thomas Coonan and Hector Perrin Smith were taken and sworn before me at Hawthorn this 27th day of January 1920.

S. S. Philpott J.P.

Statement of both accused

"I am not guilty".

EXHIBITS.

"A" Bundle of letters from accused Bruin to ~~M~~ accused Morris - (sample hereunder)

Merbein P/O
Victoria
Wednesday night
July 25th 1919

My dear Ben,

I can feel you to-night very plainly. O for an embrace. Yes it will be later on. I received your promised letter yesterday 12.15. You would know by your own feelings. I thank you for same. I am very happy. I know you will do what you promise. I shall not reply to it just now. Later on perhaps. Not for a week or so. I take it that you are well again now. Be careful and look after your health. Don't go out at night. Another month or so and spring will be here when we will have great times together. My last letter posted Thursday, arrived in City 4 o'clock Friday, Peace Day no delivery so could not get it before Monday. Your reply to this will be the last I think to return, I hope next week end or as early the next. I shall stay at the Federal Coffee Palace the night and then at Glenferrie House Hawthorn for a time. I have a small camp in H - street but its too cold for winter months. I want to probe your innermost soul first before deciding upon anything definite. All depends upon you. I had thought of going away from Victoria, then your first letter came offering me your heart, soul and hand. How, yes how indeed can I refuse you after pouring out your troubled soul to me. I know you were pretty bad (sick I mean with the fast life) for you ^{to} again write to me. I also think that you will know that I had a kind soul within me. I will not dwell here. The past is gone. We are in the present and going on to the future with hope joy and peace. When I see you and talk matters over you will say that our experience during the past two years, has tended to one end, that of brings us closer together. Again with all my love, trust you are happy and well.

Harry.

"B" Bundle of carbon copies of letters found at Bruin's house 102 Harcourt St.
Auburn 10/10/19. (Sample hereunder).

Merbein
via Mildura
July 31st 1919.

My dear Ben,

Your letter of the 28th inst. to hand to-day. Why this delay? My letter of the 23rd posted on the 24th ought to be delivered Saturday morning. When was it delivered? My letter of the 15th was delivered on the 21st or ought to have been. You have not yet replied to it. Can you point out one of your's that I have not replied to at once?

remember
I ~~think~~ in one of your letters that you said that you hated letter writing. I ask you why? Letter writing is the only means we have of conveying our thoughts one

~~texttexttext~~

to the other. With me it is a great pleasure. It is not a form or an act of courtesy but a pouring out of one's inmost soul to one he loves.

I do not know when I shall return. I may be another week or two. I think it is best for me to see you after I get home. I have no decent clothes with me, only working togs. You would not know me, would not care to be seen with me. Anyhow that is my view. Everything up here is very rough, not only the living but the people. The fruit, the climate and the land is all right. But still I hope to finish soon and leave like a white man. I will write to you before leaving.

With love and good health

Harry.

✓
"C"

Bundle of letters written by Morris to Bruin (sample hereunder).

91 Palmerston Crescent
Albert Park
Friday June 27th.

My dear Harry,

Your dear wonderful letters to hand, three of them, you can never know how I felt, I expected one from you Tuesday as usual, three days past then I received three, you can imagine my relief, my feelings, my brain was in a whirl and I felt an utter longing to sit and write you straight away. Harry how intimate we must be for me to write you like this and the weeks we have made it up, so few. I believe we are beginning to feel and know one another so closely. I am glad to know you so intimately that I can picture each hour what you are doing, think of me Harry bored and wearied to death in a stuffy old office with men of a different kind. I want you to send me your thoughts so that in time we can without knowing, help one another. If I do not express to you how greatly I enjoy your letters, please understand I am doing so now, you tell me my letters help you and you like them, my letters to you are nothing compared to your letters to me. You say I have opened my soul to you, I wish I could, and be able to let you know about myself, things I am sure you understand.

Letter writing I hate for indeed it seems to me, after I have written a letter that I have not expressed just what I have wanted to say, or I have presumed too much in writing what is in my mind, things that have a meaning for me, are quite different to other people; but you are not one of the other people to whom I refer, you can understand only too well my thought.

You ask me to explain one sentence from my letter of June 12. "It was something far back in my mind that made me write to you, I tried to put it off in the end I gave way". I wonder what I can write; many months ago I was destitute, anything and everything was out to me, there were times when I was savage with pain and times when I was exhausted from it, times when I felt so much out that even a word of sympathy from anyone brought forth a flood of tears, times when pity for myself left me incapable of realizing anything beyond my wrongs. I once told you, that once I was filled with the wildest hopes and I had outlived them. I have always thought of you Harry of the little back room in Harcourt Street of the Hawthorn Coffee Palace, of the week end with you of everything and anything connected with you and every time I do think I blame myself for being too restless, my imaginative powers, were nearly the ruin of my whole life,

I don't think you can forget our little tears together, they were the start of our friendship, they are ever fresh in my memory now, but when I try to recall you, well I don't think I could forget you. I thought often of writing to you and asking your forgiveness, but I admit I am stupid, and my thoughts ever running wild, told me it would mean me humbling myself at your feet, only to be laughed at as one of the curious stock; and after I had penned my first letter to you I thought a long time over it but, I conquered my thought and sent the letter to you; you can never know how I felt when a note arrived from you, you had written me after all, you are a friend Harry.

You will never divulge anything I write to you Harry and I thank you for mentioning it to me, I trust the interest we will find in one another will help us in any and every way, I live for you and if I could ever do you a good turn, do not I implore you belittle the possibility of a true friendship, I shall be ever helpful ever true towards you and I want you to feel the same way for me.

You say love can never die, no, love can never die, but, "is ours love", never mind love will bloom in both our hearts, for I know in re-reading your letters that there is a ring of genuineness in them.

Well Harry I do sincerely believe in this Wireless Telepathy of which you speak, it will exist between you and I and I sometimes feel that it is existing now; often I get a thought about you when I least expect it and then I think to myself, what will Harry think, is he thinking about me. I believe I am always thinking about you especially in these last few weeks of our renewal of friendship. We are friends Harry.

Next month will bring you to me, when you do come we will not dwell in the past rather we shall look to the future, ahead we go together firm in the belief that we are friends. Sometimes I feel that we are going to be very happy together. I am going to get some picture postcards with small space for writing this letter paper demoralizes me.

Yours very sincerely

Ben.

"D"

HARRY HARDY BRUIN

I am a carpenter and builder and live at 102 Harcourt Street Auburn. I am a single man and live alone. I know Ben Morris and have been corresponding with him for about 5 years. I met him about 5 years ago near the Snowden pictures on the South side of the Yarra. I had an appointment to meet a friend there between 7 and 8 p.m. on this evening and while I was waiting I got into conversation with Morris who was then only a boy. My friend did not turn up and I walked along St. Kilda Road with Morris towards his home which he told me was in Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne. In conversation I told him I was a builder and he asked me if I could make him a propeller for a small aeroplane. I said I would think over the matter and gave him my address. A few days after I received a letter from him with a sketch of the propeller he required. I replied to his letter and we then kept up a correspondence afterwards. I have kept a copy of several of the letters I write to him. He afterwards contracted a venereal disease and I took him to the Alfred Hospital where he was attended. He told me he got it from a Customs Officer named Robinson. It would be about 2½ years ago that Morris was attending the Alfred Hospital for this complaint. I have carbon copies of

letters which I have written to Morris. After he was cured of his complaint I never heard from him till the first week in June last. I had been away at Mildura for some time. When I first met Morris I often took him to the pictures in the City. I returned from Mildura about the 16th August last. While I was at Mildura I received a letter from him and when I was returning to Melbourne I sent him a telegram asking him to meet me on my return at the train. He did not turn up. I then wrote a letter to him asking him to come to my house at Auburn on the 20th August 1919. He came out and stopped with me for about an hour and a half. He came to my place again on Saturday evening 23rd August 1919 and I took him to the Camberwell pictures. We returned to my house that evening and he slept with me that night. He remained with me the next day and left at 7.30 p.m. I did not commit any offence on him that night or at any time and if he says I did it is not true. As regards the wording in my letters to Ben of love and other endearing remarks I wrote as I felt for I loved him and wanted to be his friend. ~~I~~ I only slept with him one night, and that was when I returned from Mildura. He had visited me at my place when I first made his acquaintance. On the 30th September 1919 a woman called on me about 8.30 p.m. She brought back two books which Ben Morris borrowed from me. One is Chamides Poems by Oscar Wilde and the other "De Profundus" by Oscar Wilde. She said to me "Ben Morris is in a bad way and must be got away". I said to her "Whom am I speaking to?" She said "My address is in one of the books and if you like to come out and see him you may". She did not say anything about money. Next day I received a telegram from Morris asking me to come and see him. I did not go but went to Cawsey and Ward of the Australian Detective Agency and asked them to make some inquiries as I thought an attempt was being made to blackmail me. Mr Cawsey afterwards told me it was a matter for the Police. The foregoing statement has been read over to me and it is true and correct. I do not wish to sign it.

Witness. T. Coonan
Sgt.

"E" Two books by Oscar Wilde.

"F"

North Sydney Police Station

18/11/19.

Benjamin Morris states:- I am a clerk lately residing at 91 Palmerston Crescent South Melbourne. I am desirous of making a statement against a man named Harry Bruin, a builder of Harcourt Street Auburn, Victoria. In October last Bruin gave me the sum of £15 to leave Melbourne as he Bruin had been committing unnatural offences on me, and knew that Detective Coonan was desirous of getting a statement from me as he had the matter in hand. I have known Bruin for about 5 years and during that time he has committed unnatural offences with me on various occasions, the last time being in October last at his residence in Auburn when he handed me the money to leave Melbourne. Since coming to Sydney I have seen and spoken to Bruin but havenot kept his company. Hector Smith of 24 McGregor Street Middle Park Melbourne accompanied me to Bruin's residence and saw Bruin commit an unnatural offence upon me on the night prior to

leaving for Sydney. I wish to state that I have made this statement of my own free will.

Signed - Benjamin Morris

Witness - Thomas E. White.
Const.

18/11/19.

"G"

State ~~Prison~~ Penitentiary
Long Bay Sydney
23rd Dec. 1919.

HECTOR PERRIN SMITH States:-

I am a houseman and waiter and at present living at Long Bay. I formerly lived at Middle Park Victoria. I left Victoria in the ~~middle~~ beginning of October this year in company with Ben Morris and Jimmy Stowers and came to Sydney. I know a man named Harry Bruin. I have been at his place once or twice. I went to Bruin's place in company with Ben Morris, the night before we left for Sydney. The place is a kind of workshop but it has a bed there. Morris got on the bed and took down his pants and Bruin committed an unnatural offence on him. I was present and saw all that took place. I saw Bruin give Morris £15 afterwards. We both told Bruin we were going to Perth. After we arrived in Sydney we met Bruin here in the street one day. Only a few words passed between Morris and Bruin and we then parted and I have not seen him since. I make this statement of my own free will and I am prepared to give evidence in the Court if required against Bruin.

Hector Perrin Smith.

Witness - W. E. Truskett
Det. Sgt.

100
Supreme Court Melbourne

16th ~~February~~ 1920.

March

THE KING

V

HARRY HARDY BRUIN and

BENJAMIN MORRIS

Both Bail

BRIEF for the Prosecution.

W Macindoe

Opinion written

H. G. Macindoe

10.3.20

Cor. Mr. Arthur J.

Hohe entered.

H. G. Macindoe

15.3.20

Guinness

Crown Solicitor