

Government Shorthand Writer's Office

Melbourne, 28 / 3 / 19 44

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing typewritten pages, numbered as under, are a correct transcript of the Shorthand Notes of Evidence of—

	<i>Page</i>
VICTOR KING, recalled ...	62 - 64.
---	
LILIAN KING ...	72 - 75.
GERTRUDE CRAWFORD ...	76 - 89.
---	
EVERETT RANDALL MAGNUS, recalled.	118 - 119.
---	

taken by me at Melbourne on the 24th day of MARCH 19 44

at an Inquest { upon the body of a woman whose body was found near Albury,  
New South Wales, on the 1st September, 1944.  
~~into xx fire xx~~

  
Licensed Shorthand Writer.

Government Shorthand Writer's Office

Melbourne, 28 / 3 / 19 44

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing typewritten pages, numbered as under, are a correct transcript of the Shorthand Notes of Evidence of—

Page

EVERETT RANDALL MAGNUS, recalled 65 - 71.

---

LESLIE SAMUEL WOODS ... 90 - 100.

MARGARET McGRATH ... 101 - 106.

GEORGE KEMPFE ... 107 - 117.

---

taken by me at Melbourne on the 24th day of March 19 44

at an Inquest { upon the body of a woman whose body was found near Albury,  
New South Wales, on the 1st September, 1934.  
~~into xxxxxxxx~~

*Geo. S. Clarke*

Licensed Shorthand Writer.

THIRD DAY

RESUMED

INQUISITION

held at

THE CITY MORGUE - MELBOURNE

on

MONDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1944.

BEFORE :

A. C. TINGATE ESQ., P.M.,  
City Coroner.

-----  
UPON THE BODY OF A WOMAN WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND NEAR ALBURY,  
NEW SOUTH WALES, ON THE 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1934.  
-----

MR. A. L. READ appeared to assist the Coroner.

MR. J. V. BARRY, K.C., and MR. R. V. MONAHAN appeared on  
behalf of Janet C. Rutledge.

MR. W. A. FAZIO appeared on behalf of Agostini, the man in  
custody.

THERESA SHAW on her oath said: -

My name is Theresa Shaw and I am a married woman residing at No.6 Flat, Grosvenor Court, 31 Elizabeth Bay Road Darlinghurst. My maiden name was Theresa Morgan. About the year 1928, I met a girl named Linda Platt. Linda Platt was introduced to me by either Mrs Dunn or Mrs. McPherson who were then Miss Davis and Miss Cole. We were altogether at 88a Darlinghurst road and I met Linda when she visited the girls. I was born in Wales. I became friendly with Linda Platt. She told me she was from London. I gathered that she had a mother and sister but I did not hear her speak of any other relations. At that time, she was living at San Jose, Kelletts rd, Kings Cross, where she had a little flat of her own. I visited her at that address. On one of my visits there, Miss Platt introduced me to a man named Tony Agostini. Some little time after that, we were walking down the street one day - I think Miss Cole and Miss Davis were there, - and she said "I have done the job today." I gathered from that she had got married. Subsequently to that, I visited her again at San Jose in a different flat in that building. She was then living there with Mr. Agostini. At that time Mr. Agostini was employed at Romano's. At that time he was working chiefly at night. I visited Linda Agostini and she visited me quite frequently. In the beginning, when I first knew her, I saw quite a bit of her but later on, when I got married and went to live at Coogee, I did not see much of her. The next time I saw her she was living in William street; I met her in the street one day. I saw her after she came back from England. I think we all went round to the place one night. She told me she had been to England. That would be the end of 1929 or 1930, although I am not quite sure of the date. I then moved to Wollongong and was residing there for some time. On my return to Sydney, I met Linda Agostini in William Street one day by accident and I went to her flat and had tea with her. The flat was at the end of

William Street, but I cannot remember the number. It was over a garage. I gathered from her that she was learning hair-dressing or had learnt hair dressing. I am not quite sure whether she had learned or was learning. I think I only saw her once or twice in William Street. I think the next time I saw her she was living in Rybrook Flats, Hughes Street, Potts Point. I went and saw her there two or three times. The last time I saw was, I think, when we went to Tom Ugly's point and called on the Kings. I ~~had~~<sup>have</sup> not seen her from that day to this. When I went to Serg. King's house, Mr. Agostini was driving the car. I think it was either a red or a maroon Fiat. I remember subsequently meeting Mrs Agostini in Hughes Street, Sydney with my husband. My husband and I went there one night to see Linda. Linda had been drinking a bit that night. Mr. Agostini was not there. She asked my husband if he knew where he could get her some whisky. He said "No", it was rather late. She rang up someone and I am not sure whether she got it or whether someone brought it to the place. We all had a drink and my husband and I left. She had quite a bit of the whisky that night. I am not really quite sure whether Mr. Agostini had left his employment at that time and gone to another place of employment. I think he had some idea, at that time, of joining a newspaper, but whether he had done that or not at that time, I do not know. At that time, at Tom Ugly's Point, Linda told me they had ideas of going to Melbourne. I gathered it was something to do with this newspaper employment that Mr. Agostini was Hoping to obtain. I gathered it was some Italian newspaper. I do not think I ever heard the name of it, if I did, I do not remember it. During the time I knew Mrs Agostini, before she left for Melbourne, I believe she did a few trips on, the Aorangi as a hairdresser. I think she did several trips to and from Vancouver. In about August, of 1934, my husband's place of business was moved to Albury. I was in Albury when I heard of the discovery of a body in a culvert on the Albury-Howlong road. Some time after that, my husband was moved to

Perth. We came to Melbourne and stayed at Carlyon's Hotel. While in Melbourne, I thought I would like to have Linda and Tony for lunch. I went around to the Italian Consul's office and saw a man by the name of Borci, whom I had known in Sydney. He gave me Tony's telephone number and I rang him up and invited him to lunch. When he came next day, he told me Linda was in Sydney. I gathered she was there on holidays. When I rang Agostini up on that occasion, I asked him if he and Linda would come and have lunch with us. He accepted and I am not sure if he told me then that Linda was away. I know I asked him next day and he said she was in Sydney. I said "What a pity, I would like to have seen her." or something to that effect, and I did not mention anything more about Linda. I had lunch with Mr. Agostini that day, and a few days later he returned the lunch. I think it was at Mario's - I am not quite sure - but it was an Italian place. My husband and I went to Western Australia and, I think, about two years later, I saw him. On this occasion, I think I saw him in St George's Terrace, W. Australia. It was a few days, or a day or two, before leaving for New South Wales. I said "Hello, how is Linda?" He said that he and Linda had been away from each other for over two years, that they were not together when I saw him in Melbourne. I think I said "Bad luck", or something. I did not say anything else about it. I cannot remember anything else about that conversation in Perth. As to whether anything was said concerning her present whereabouts, I gathered from the way he spoke they had just separated, and I did not like to intrude. On that occasion, he told me he was working for an Italian newspaper. Some two or three years ~~after~~ after that, in about 1939 or 1940 I bumped into him again in Sydney. I think it was in Darlinghurst road. I had dinner with him. It may have been in the "Arabian" where I met him. I know I met him there two or three times after that. I think I asked him if he had ever heard of Linda. He told me "No." I think I said "She seems to have disappeared!" He just shrugged his

M/ECL.

SHAW.

shoulders and I do not think he said anything about that. I think he told me the police had interviewed him regarding the body of the Pyjama girl and asked him if it was his wife, and I think he had gone to see it but I do not know what he said to the police. I did not ask him. At about 10.40 a.m. on the 4th March 1944, I went to police headquarters where I was shown the body of the deceased. When that body was shown to me, Detective Sergeant Rogers and other police officers were present. I looked at that body. I only saw the head and the hands of the body and by certain features ~~ix~~ of the face, the chin, nose and one visible eye, and the largness of the hands, I would say it was Linda Platt. Looking at the chin, the nose, the one visible eye and the largness of the hands, I would say they are those of Linda Platt. I have again viewed the body at the City Morgue, Melbourne. That is the same body.

MR. FAZIO: I spoke ~~ix~~ of an occasion, when, although she was then under the influence of liquor, she asked for a bottle of whisky. She got a bottle of whisky. My husband and I had a drink with her, I think two drinks, but I think Linda drank the rest of it while we were there. As to whether I observed any other occasion of drinking or being under the influence of liquor, I have seen her a few times, not drunk or anything, but under the influence of liquor. Asked whether I agree with the other witnesses that Agostini was a mild man, I would say I have always found him very courteous and kind and always a gentleman in my dealings with him.

TO MR. BARRY: I first saw the body of the Pyjama girl on the 4th March of this year. I had not viewed it at any other time. If you suggested I was not in a position to do so, I would ask you what you meant. I have been in Sydney for the last eight years. I was in Sydney during the time the body was kept at the University. I agree, I did not have any idea that the body of the Pyjama girl was that of Linda Agostini. I know Miss Crawford, Sergeant King and the other

witnesses who have given evidence here concerning the identification of Linda Agostini and who knew her in life. I did not keep in contact with them over the last eight years in Sydney. I have seen Miss Crawford, that is all, and I think I saw Miss Davis once, by accident. As to whether I ever discussed with them whether the body of the Pyjama girl was possibly that of Linda Agostini I had a discussion with Miss Crawford once and with Miss Davis. That was some time ago. It was, perhaps two years ago with Miss Crawford and some considerable time later with Miss Davis. Miss Crawford told me she had been to see the body, on, I think, two occasions, and she said there was a lot for and a lot against. She said she had seen it under very unfavourable conditions. That did not awaken any interest in my mind. I have no morbid interest about those things, and I would not go and see a dead body unless I was pretty sure it was the body of someone I knew. That did not awaken any idea in my mind that it was Linda Agostini. On the 4th March, I was asked by the police to go to police headquarters in Sydney. I was asked to do that about 9 o'clock in the morning. When I arrived at police headquarters I saw Miss Crawford and others. As to my realising then I was being brought there in connection with the identification of the body of the pyjama girl, I was asked to go down and see if I could identify the body. I was told it was believed to be the body of Linda Agostini. After I had seen Miss Crawford and others assembled at Police Headquarters, I went down to see the body. When I went down I was not accompanied by Miss Crawford or the others. I knew there was a strong belief entertained by the police that the body was the body of Linda Agostini. I would not quite say that it was with that knowledge in my mind that I viewed the body. I went because I was asked to go. I do not see what effect other people's opinions would have with my viewing the body. I would be able to decide for myself. I have told you, before I saw the body I knew it was believed to be the body of Linda Agostini. That is quite true. When I saw it, the face of the body had

make-up on it. I agree, there had been some attempt at repairing the injury on the forehead. There was sticking plaster over it. The hair was straight. It was not curled. Linda used to curl her hair and the hair on the body was perfectly straight. I think it was brought forward, hiding the ears. That was the way Linda used to do her hair in life, always over her ears. I never saw her ears. I never heard her make any remark about her ears. The first I knew anything about ears as being important in her identification, was when I was sitting at the inquest since it commenced on last Thursday.

Linda's eyes were a light ~~blue~~<sup>brown</sup>. I would not say they were a bluey grey. If I were told Exhibit "E" gave <sup>as</sup> the official description, circulated in November 1934, that the eyes in the body were blue-grey, or, in life the person had blue-grey eyes, I would ~~not~~ say I do not agree with that in connection with Linda's eyes. To me, the body did not look to have bluey-grey eyes. I could only see half an eye but I would say definitely it was a brown colour. It has some real colour in it. If it were suggested Mr. O'Brien said it was blue, I would not say it was blue. I would not say the eye I saw was blue, it was more brown than blue. It is not blue at all. One of the features that assists me in the identification of the body is my recollection of Linda Agostini's eyes, and the colour of the eye that is now to be ~~seen~~ in the body. That is only one of the features. That was the first feature I mentioned today in giving evidence. I would say the existing colour of the body's eye is identical with the colouring of Linda Agostini's eyes. I mean that. I am quite conscious of what you have asked me; I am not stupid. There was nothing peculiar about Linda's chin. She had a round chin. The whole of her features were regular. She had a straight nose and a medium sized mouth. Of course, the mouth on the body of the deceased is distorted. The teeth were overlapping. I would not be quite sure whether the chin has or has not got a dimple in it/ I remember she had a round chin, but I do

shaw.

not remember whether she had a cleft or dimple in it. I agree, round chins are not peculiar. She had a straight nose, perfectly straight and fairly long. I do not think there was anything else peculiar about it. I do not know that the ~~body~~<sup>nose</sup> of the body has been broken. It is a straight nose. As to whether it is long, it does not look long, lying down, but it is hard to tell the length when lying down. There was a slight overlapping in the model of the teeth which is like Linda's. I compare those to the memory of Linda's teeth. As to whether I am assuming that the model produced in Court is a model of Linda Agostini's teeth; it looked like hers. When I say I compared those teeth with Linda's, I mean as I remembered her teeth. I say the teeth overlapped slightly/ Linda's teeth overlapped, and it seemed in the model as if the teeth overlapped slightly. As to whether the top teeth overlapped ~~at~~ the bottom, the bottom teeth would not overlap the top. The ~~tip~~ top plate, or rather the top teeth - - - I started to say top plate because the teeth are on the plate or palate whether original or not. Linda Agostini did not have artificial teeth. Linda did not have a plate. Her top palate overlapped over the bottom one/ As to what in the world a plate has to do with this, I said plate because I have a plate myself, and, I suppose, I am so used to saying plate myself. As to which teeth overlapped, her top teeth overlapped her bottom ones like my own do, only mine is an artificial plate, her's was not.

(Signed) THEREAS SHAW.

TAKEN AND SWORN BEFORE ME AT MELBOURNE THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH 1944.

*Admiral*  
.....  
C o r o n e r.

M/ECL.

SHAW.

ISABELLA BLAND on her oath saith:

My full name is Isabella Bland, and I am a widow, residing at 91 Macleay street, Potts Point, Sydney. In 1927 or 1928 I was the proprietress of a cafe in Sydney. The name of the cafe was the "Cocee Cafe." For 12 months the cafe was in Wilmot street, and then after that for about 15 years it was in Pitt street. While I was the proprietress of that cafe I met a girl named Linda Platt. I met her while I was in Wilmot street. At the time that I first met her I knew where she was employed; she was at Hoyts picture show as an usherette. I saw a good deal of Linda, quite a lot. We became very friendly. In the early days when I first knew her she was very amiable and bright; she was very attractive in appearance. Sometime about 1928 or 1929 I also met Mr. Agostini. He told me where he was employed at that time; he was at Romano's. In, I think, about 1929 Linda went to England. She told me she was going. I saw her in 1930 after she returned. She told me where she had been. She told me she had been to England to see her mother. Later in that year she told me she had married Mr. Agostini. I think that at that time they were living in San Jose in Killatt street, Kings Cross. I visited Mr. and Mrs. Agostini on quite a number of occasions at their flat. I was there when ~~they~~ she came back from England. I would not visit them a great deal, I was in business. It might be about once a month that I would visit them. As to whether I noticed anything about Linda after they had been married for some little while, she drank quite a bit. I do not think her husband liked her drinking habits; but he never resented them ~~never~~ in my presence, because he was working. After they finally left Kings Cross they went to Melbourne. Mr. Agostini told me the purpose of them going to Melbourne, he was going on the Italian newspaper. I was in Melbourne in

1934 to witness the Melbourne Cup. While I was here for the purpose of the Melbourne Cup, I had a telephone conversation with Mr. Agostini. I rang Tony and told him I was in Melbourne and I would like to see Linda. He said she was out of town visiting some friends. I left my telephone number, but I did not hear from him. That was in November, 1934. In 1935 I went to the Sydney University and viewed a body that was there lying in a formalin bath. As a result of my examination of the body that was in the formalin bath I was not able to say who it was; I thought it was Linda's body and hands, but I asked the sergeant in charge could anything be done about the bust becoming rigid after death, and he said "No." I said "Well, that is not Linda's bust." At about 11.15 a.m. on the 4th of March, 1944, I went to Police Headquarters, Sydney, and I was there shown the body of the deceased. Detective Sergeant Rogers was there when I viewed the body. I have since seen that same body lying dead at this Morgue here. That is the body of Linda Agostini.

TO MR. FAZIO: When I saw Agostini and his wife together they appeared to get on all right together. He appeared to treat her in a gentlemanly way; in a very kindly manner. On the occasions that I saw her under the influence of liquor they were occasions when Agostini would be at work.

TO MR. BARRY: In 1935, having viewed the body, I was not able to say it was the body of Linda Agostini. I know Miss Crawford, Mrs. Shaw, formerly Miss Morgan, Miss Davis, and Sergeant King and Mrs. King. I do not see Sergeant King quite frequently, I do not see him at all. I have not learnt from Sergeant King that I was taken to see the body on the 4th of March of this year at his suggestion. It would be about 12 or half past 12 on the 4th of March this year when I saw the body. I was not aware that I was being taken to see a body which was believed to be that of Linda

Agostini; I think they said the Pyjama Girl. I do not think that Linda Agostini's name was mentioned. No-one told me before I saw the body that I was wanted to see it in order to say whether in my opinion it was the body of Linda Agostini; I do not think Linda Agostini's name was mentioned, it was just to try and identify the Pyjama Girl. I saw Miss Crawford at the Police Station. I saw Sergeant King at the Headquarters. I saw Mrs. Shaw, and Miss Davis. I saw all of them there. They all knew Linda Agostini. I saw them before I saw the body; we did not discuss the body though. Having seen them before I saw the body as to whether it occurred to me that their presence at the Police Headquarters suggested that perhaps the purpose of my seeing the body was to enable me to say whether it was Linda Agostini, I do not think we discussed Linda Agostini at all, it was just a body. As to whether before I saw the body I had arrived at the conclusion, whether on right or wrong grounds, that the belief was entertained it was Linda Agostini's body, we could not say that until we viewed the body. Seeing assembled all Linda Agostini's friends I did not think "Apparently someone thinks this is Linda Agostini's body." Asked whether this may be recorded as my answer, that I went in and saw that body without any notion as to whom it might be, I say oh, no, I thought they would think it would be Linda, but we did not discuss Linda. We had not seen each other for years, and we talked about old times. As to thinking that other people thought it was Linda Agostini, we were asked to come there and see the body of the Pyjama Girl. As to whether when I went in to see the body of the Pyjama Girl I had in mind that other people thought it was Linda Agostini, I thought the police might have it in mind to call us down there. As to whether the only person who possibly may have ~~xxx~~ been the body and who I knew was Linda Agostini, that is the only

person who was missing. I knew that I was taken along to see the body, as a person who knew Linda Agostini in life. When I went to see the body I went to see whether it was Linda Agostini's body, to try and identify it. As to whether in 1935 as a result of viewing the body and as a result of what the sergeant said I was satisfied it was not Linda Agostini's bust, as a result of what the sergeant said. He said that he had expert advice, and I would not put my layman's ideas against a medical opinion in a thing like that. I am a layman, and if a medical man said the bust would not become rigid after death there was nothing more to be said. The sergeant said he had expert opinion, and they said the bust would not become rigid after death, and this bust was rigid. Linda Agostini's breasts were drooping. They were not large. They were not fairly large. A medium size bust, I would say a 34 bust. I heard Mr. Kempfe give evidence the other day. As to whether I heard him say that 34 was the bust measurement, I am 38, and she was much smaller than I am. As to them being well developed breasts which hung down, in these days when the brassieres are different you would not know they hung down, but that was 10 years ago. In these days one would not know whether they were drooping breasts or an uplift. She had drooping breasts. I did not thereafter view the body. As to what other physical characteristics I found about the body I viewed on the 4th of March which I remembered were peculiar to Linda Agostini, the long body and the short legs, and the piece out of the ear - I had only seen the one ear, the right ear - which she always said a monkey had bitten as a child. She had very large hands. She had a long body and short legs, a peculiar ear - I only saw the right ear - large hands, and light brown eyes. I should think she would take a five in a shoe, but a wide broad fitting. As to whether that operated on my mind -

the size of the feet - and assisted me in the identification, one foot was missing when I saw it at the University, it had been so burnt. I did not identify it at the University. I do not remember whether both feet are there now. On the 4th of March when I identified the body I was not assisted in the identification by the size of the feet; I did not notice the feet. I do not know if the feet were visible; I removed the sheet, but I do not remember seeing the feet. I asked the police to remove the sheet. I wanted to see the length of the legs and the body. As to whether the size of the feet were not apparent to me on the 4th of March, I did not look. They did not help me to identify the body; the length of the legs were more important to me. As to noticing whether the legs had been contorted as a result of the burning, they were short legs. On the 4th of March I saw that the one visible eye was light brown - as much as I could see. I do not think they were wide open. As to not agreeing with the official description circulated in 1934 that the eye was blue gray, Linda never had blue eyes, Linda had light brown eyes when she was alive. I did not look at the eye in 1935; the face was terribly distorted. I cannot say whether in 1935 the eye was blue gray or not; after the sergeant said that I did not bother looking at anything further. In 1944, I saw the eye which to my way of thinking is light brown. I have no ~~xxxx~~ knowledge as to how far the present colour of the eye is due to long immersion in formalin; I have no idea. I do not know whether the present colour of the eye is a faded colour from a blue eye; but the expression - I could see the expression of Linda in the face. I am very serious about that. I do not know what expression I saw on the face; if you know a person very well there is always an expression. I do suggest that the cadaver outside has a recognizable expression on it. Asked whether there is an expression of

BLAND.

GC.BH.

a kind that I recognize as similar to an expression I saw on Linda in life, I say, yes, I do. I just could not explain what kind of an expression it is, but I saw it the minute I walked in. I was not assisted in seeing it be the make up on the face. It was the actual expression. I remember as I walked in I said "Oh, Linda." I could see her quite plainly. As to suggesting that the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ face was smiling or sombre, I think the eyes were smiling. I thought the eyes were smiling. When Linda smiled her eyes almost used to close, and I could see that expression quite plainly. There is only one eye showing. As to whether a moment ago I said the eyes were smiling, I could see the expression there. When Linda smiled her eyes used to nearly close up, and I could see that quite plainly. Her face would all wrinkle up and her eyes almost close. I could see that expression there. I could see on the face of a body, one eye of which was destroyed, an expression of both eyes closed up as if the subject was smiling. I tell His Worship that. I am not romancing at all. I very often saw Linda Agostini's ear in life. She was not sensitive to me about it. As to whether she would allow me to see her ear, she would often point it out to me. She always had her hair over her ear. I never lived with her, but she stayed at my flat many a night before she was married. She did not sleep in the same room as I, she used to sleep with Miss Cole. They had a double bed, and I had the sleepout. She has shown me her right ear many a time. I would not say it was ugly, it was just a nick out of it and a flat top. The effect of her ear on me was not an unpleasant one. As to the official description in 1934 being "The ears are peculiar. Part of the edge or Helix being imperfect, and there is very little if any lobe present, the whole giving a very distinctive and unpleasant shape", I say it would not be unpleasant to me. I did not regard it as unpleasant. As to whether she ever evinced any sensitiveness about the ear, she

always kept her ears covered, but she often showed me the ear and said "This is where the monkey bit me." When she said that I did not think she was making a statement of fact, I thought it was just frivolity on her part. I do not know whether she was born with it. As to the circumstances that gave rise to the display of the ear and the observation "This is where the monkey bit me", everybody jokes about my thin legs. I do not think that is a curious observation - "This is where the monkey bit me"; if you had a little piece out of your ear I do not think there is anything to be sensitive about it; it would not be to me. I cannot describe one occasion when this display was made of the right ear and the observation was made "That is where the monkey bit me." I cannot give any particular occasion. In 1935 when I viewed the body I do not think I had this peculiarity of the ear present in my mind. I did not even look at the face; the hair was wet and everything. I did not examine the face. In 1935 I did not recall that Linda Agostini had a peculiarly shaped right ear; I was only in there a few minutes. When I asked about the bust I was quite disinterested in the body at all when they said that. In 1935 on my way to the University I did not have it in mind "Well, if this is Linda's body she will have that peculiar right ear that she has shown to me and remarked that is ~~where~~ where the monkey bit me." I did not have the ears in mind at all in 1935. If you say that really this business about the ear is given as a result of a discussion with the other witnesses, I say certainly not.

(Signed) Isabelle Bland.

TAKEN AND SWORN BEFORE ME AT MELBOURNE THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH, 1944.

  
.....  
CORONER.

GC.BH.

BLAND.

PHYLLIS MILLAR, on her oath saith:

My name is Phyllis Millar and I am a married woman residing at 24 Davis Avenue, South Yarra. I was residing at that address in 1934. I let rooms at my home there - a few. In February, 1934, a lady came to my premises and rented a room at my home. She asked whether I had any rooms. I said "I have a room". She decided to take it. That was all that happened that day. Next day, I think, she came back with a man, she told me it was her husband. She came under the name of Miss Linda Platt. The man came along afterwards. She said he was her husband. I see that man in court, Mr. Agostini. Mrs. Agostini lived at this room at my home for some time. She was known under the name of Miss Platt. She really was not doing anything while with me; she may have gone out for a little while, I am not quite sure about that. Whilst with me I am not quite sure whether she started working; I really thought she was not doing anything while with me. She told me she had been a hairdresser on a boat running to America. Mr. Agostini sometimes came and visited her at my home, not very often. I got to know Mrs. Agostini fairly well. I used to see her several times every day. Miss Platt eventually left my place, that was about the end of July. I do not really remember if she said where she was going, she asked me to go and see her and I suppose she gave me an address, but it is a long time ago and I cannot remember that. As to her telling me she was working in the City, <sup>not</sup> in Melbourne, I am quite certain about that. I think she was working for a little while, but she seemed to be at home most of the time. About 12.30 p.m. on the 6th. March 1944, I came to the City Morgue, Melbourne and I there viewed the body of deceased. I would say that is the body of Miss Linda Platt.

TO MR. FAZIO: Mr. Agostini did not visit her very often. I saw him there perhaps half a dozen times. I think he stayed there for a night before she left. He took her away - he did not take her away, but she left; I am almost certain she

D.

went with him. I do not remember whether I saw the two of them go off together; but I remember them coming. When I say I am not certain whether they went off together, I could not say if they left the place together. As to seeing him there at night, I cannot remember that.

TO MR. BARRY: As to the first time it occurred to me the body of the Pyjama Girl might be the body of Linda Agostini, it was when I read it in the paper. I did not know anything about her being missing, because it was so long since she left my place. As to how often I saw her when alive, I saw her half a dozen times a day, roughly for about five months. As to her showing me her right ear and telling me that was where a monkey bit her, she did not; I never saw her ears. As to her bust, I think she had a small bust. I really did not see it, only in a pull-over or a jumper. It was not a large bust, ~~ix~~ it looked like a small, firm ~~bust~~ bust to me, not very big. As to it being a drooping bust, I could not tell, she would probably have a <sup>brassiere</sup> ~~braserie~~ on; she had a tight fitting jumper. I would not say she appeared to me to have drooping breasts, she seemed to me to have slightly firm breasts. She had brown eyes, most decidedly. That is the first thing I remember about her, lovely dark brown eyes. I have examined the body, but I could not see the eye very much. When I examined the body the eyes were closed. I did not see any colouration of the eye in the body to assist me in the identification. As to what assisted me in identifying the body, I noticed she was very short, exceedingly short, and I think she had big ~~ix~~ legs and ankles and large hands and feet in proportion to her height. I would describe her as having thick ankles. I was able to see those on the body. I could see the whole expression of the body, that is how I could be so positive in identifying her. As to a body having expression, it has bee-n in my mind all the time; just the whole look of her body as I knew her, that I had seen so often. I had never seen her naked, but I noticed her legs very often. They

MILLAR.

were not always clad in stockings, sometimes she would have sandals on, and short dresses. I am not drawing on my imagination, I am speaking from memory. When I saw the body it was covered with a sheet. I saw the body, the sheet was withdrawn and the body was exposed to my view. The body was then nude. That body had some expression about it to me. It had an expression about it that was identical with my recollection of Lina Agostini's body in life. I am conscious of what I am saying. I said that the first day I saw her. I am quite content that it should be written down in my deposition, that there is an expression about this cadaver outside which enables me to recall the expression of Linda Agostini's body as seen by me ten years ago. As to the formation of the body, it is both the expression and formation of the body; in addition to the expression, the formation of the body I viewed is the formation of Linda Agostini's body. I know the body was exposed to very intense heat, it is very obvious, by the condition of the body. I did not volunteer to the police to give evidence. They came out to see me, about four days after it was in the paper. I had communicated <sup>to</sup> ~~with~~ the police I knew Linda Agostini. I communicated with them after the arrest of Mr. Agostini, charged with the murder of his wife. I communicated with the police and told them I knew Linda Agostini. As to there being any mystery about it, I do not find any difficulty in answering your question. I knew at the time I inspected the body on the 15th. March that Agostini had been arrested and charged with the murder of his wife. As to knowing it was claimed a considerable number of witnesses, usherettes from Hoyt's had identified the body as the body of Linda Agostini, I did not read that. I read the "Herald" but I did not read that. As to reading everything about the Pyjama Girl in the drain that I could find, after Agostini's arrest, I read it in the "Argus" next morning. As to whether I had in mind on the 15th. March a lot of other people had said this was Linda Agostini's body, as to

MACKAY.

*Millan*

D. ✓

knowing that, I suppose I did. As to whether I did or did not know that, I did not really, that people had identified the body. As to not knowing on the 15th. March that people had identified the body as that of Linda Agostini, I had not read it. As to saying, whether I read it or not, that I did not know on the 15th. March other witnesses had identified the body as the body of Linda Agostini, I did not know that. As to knowing when I went in to see the body that the belief was entertained in official quarters that it was Mrs. Agostini's body, I knew that. I knew I was going in to see a body that the police considered was Linda Agostini's body. At the time I saw the body, the face was made up.

(Signed) P. Millar.

TAKEN AND SWORN BEFORE ME AT MELBOURNE THIS 27th. DAY OF MARCH, 1944.

  
.....  
CORONER.

D.c

MILLAR.

(At this stage Mr. Barry tendered a photograph produced from the custody of the police as being a photograph of Linda Agostini handed to them by Miss McGrath. )

EXHIBIT "F".....

Photograph of Linda Agostini handed to police by Miss McGrath.

OLIVE BERESFORD on her oath saith:

My name is Olive Beresford and I am a married woman residing at No. 16 Railway Terrace, Williamstown. About the end of 1933, or early in 1934, I was working at Ferrari's Hairdressers, Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne. I was the manageress of the establishment. If I were asked whether at some time during that period a woman whom I knew as Linda Agostini came and sought employment, I would say Mr. Ferrari knew her and she came to work for us about the end of 1933. She came to work at Ferrari's as a hairdresser. She only came there as a temporary hand. I think she left early in March or at the end of February. She came there under the name of Miss Platt, but we knew she was Mrs Agostini. I knew her husband, Mr. Agostini. I see him in Court. I visited them when they were living in Swanston Street, Carlton. I cannot remember the number but it was up the end of Swanston Street, near Queensberry Street, on the left hand side going up - that would be the west side. I went with Mr. and Mrs. Agostini for trips on Sundays in the car. I cannot remember what sort of car it was. It was a small car. From what I could see, Mr. Agostini appeared to adore his wife absolutely; he made a terrible fuss of her and she appeared to return it. I only went to the place in Swanston street once and I do not know whether or not I saw her after that. The Centenary celebrations were coming along about then, and I

M/ ECL.

BERESFORD.

asked her if she would like to come up and have a look at the Duke from the windows of the Manchester Unity Building. She said she would. I asked Mr. Agostini to also come along. I do not remember seeing her any more. At about 11 a.m. on the 16th March, 1944, I came to the City Morgue and viewed the body of the deceased.

TO MR. FAZIO: We only employed her temporarily while one of our employees was away on holidays. I think she was there from the end of November until the end of February or the beginning of March, 1934, but I am not quite certain. I did not notice any intoxicating liquor upon her, but she was very jealous. We have been out together and had a drink but I have not seen her under the influence of liquor.

TO MR. MONAHAN: At the time of the discovery of the body of the pyjama girl, I did not see any of the likenesses published in the press. We were so very busy with the Centenary celebrations, I do not remember even reading about the Pyjama girl. I never saw the photographs of the body, not even up to now. I had never seen the body itself. I saw a photograph of Linda Platt in 1938. The detectives came to see me in 1938 and brought me a photograph of a group of girls. They asked me if I knew Linda Platt and whether I could pick her out of this group of girls. I picked her out. That was Detective White, a Melbourne detective. I was in Melbourne at the time. As far as I believed, it was then the Victorian police who were pursuing those inquiries. This photograph was of Linda in a group. There was one published in one of the papers - just Miss Platt on her own - and I should imagine that was one taken out of the group. She was taken on the end of a group of girls, the way I indicate, with one hand in her pocket. The one in the press seemed to resemble the clothes she wore in the group. That appeared in the press just recently, in 1944. It was a photograph taken when she had on a white hairdresser's uniform.

I should imagine it would be a photograph taken while she was at Darrell's ~~the~~ Hairdressing school where she learnt hairdressing. I did not ask Mr. White what his purpose was in showing me this photograph. I was working at Manton's at the time and he asked me did I know Linda Platt. I said "Yes." He said "Did you employ her at any time". I said "Yes." He said "Would you know her at any time if you saw her." I said "Yes." He said "Can you pick her out of this photograph or is she in it." I did pick her out. He said "Do you think you would know her if you saw her now, after all this time." I said "Definitely, she had so many peculiar features that one could always remember." ~~He~~ He said "You have heard of the Pyjama Girl." I said "Yes." He said "Would you be willing to go to Sydney and view this body and see if you think it would be her." I said "Yes." "I feel quite capable of doing that. Why ask that." He said "There are people in Sydney that are suggesting it is Linda Agostini." I heard no more about it. I offered to go and I said I had a good mental picture of Linda Platt and all I know is my offer was not accepted. I said she had so many peculiar features about her. The one uppermost in my mind was her very long body and short legs. That is the most significant one. As to whether there was anything else, she did have peculiar ears because we have seen them many times in the hair dressing business. She was not at all sensitive about them, not in any way. She did not tell me a monkey or a pig bit them. She did not feel under any necessity to excuse herself in connection with her ears ; she would not have to. I did many face massages for her and on those occasions I would put a towel around the head and the ears would be quite plain. I had my ears pierced and she often said she would like to have her ears done. I said I did not think earrings would fit on because there was insufficient lobe surface. That is what I recall about her ears. I did not notice anything in regard to the ears, only the lobes were a bit short of space. I did notice they

were flattened around the part called the helix. I said the lobes and a piece off the top. I agree the lobe is the piece that carries the earring. I agree, the peculiarity regarding the helix has nothing to do with the earrings. I claim having remembered saying it was flattened. I mentioned the peculiarity of the lobes and the tops of the ears. I am positive I said that. I remember something of the hairdressing style of that day and I know it has changed a lot in the meantime. I remember the set of her hair. She had it marcelled over her ears. She had a part sometimes, and sometimes she did not. In a hairdressing saloon, every day the girls have their hair washed and it is changed every time. I agree, there is a natural side on which an individual's hair falls into a part. I cannot remember which was her natural part. Mostly in the business, she wore it straight back off her face, not parted at all. Looking at the four photographs of Linda Platt (Exhibits 16, 17, 18 and 19) - I have seen her with her hair done like that many times. In all four of those exhibits, I see she has a definite part and it is always on the right. As to whether I want to stick to my earlier answer to you, I said, in the business, she nearly always had it done straight back. After finishing work, she very often changed her hair style to go out in the evening. Out of the business, I have never seen her with her hair done straight back. In the business, she would change her style. In the business, she would usually wear her hair straight back, but not always. For the most part, she wore it brushed back in the business. On the same day, after business hours, she might have her hair done differently. That is what I mean, she changed her hairdressing style according to whether she was working in the business or not. I have often seen that. I never saw her hair in any way but in the natural colour. She never had tinting on her hair when she came to my place. She used to use a camomile rinse which most fair people used, which is not a dye.

M/ECK.

BERESFORD.