

80/
12640

①

Date Dec 14th
Reg. No. 1/84

Edward Kelly
Gleuranan

Gives statement of his murders of Serjts.
Kennedy & others & makes other threats.

Edward Kelly
Post at Fenrowan
Date Dec. 14.

T 12/64⁰ (2)

P-A
Dear Sir,

Register m' 1880

Take no offence if I take the opportunity of writing a few lines to you wherein I wish to state a few remarks concerning the case of Trooper Fitzpatrick against Mrs Kelly W. Skillion & W. Williamson and to state the facts of the case to you. It seems impossible for me to get any justice without I make a statement to some one that will take notice of it as it is no use in me complaining about anything that the Police may choose to say or swear against me and the public in their ignorance and blindness will undoubtedly back them up to their utmost. No doubt I am now placed in very peculiar circumstances and you might blame me for it but if you knew how I have been wronged and persecuted you would say I cannot be blamed. In April last an information was (which must have come under your notice) sworn against me for shooting Trooper Fitzpatrick which was false and my mother with an infant baby and brother-in-law & another neighbour was taken for aiding and abetting and attempting

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to murder him a charge of ^{see} 3
they are as purely innocent as
the child unborn. During my stay
on the King River, I run in a wild
bull which I gave to Lydcher, who
afterwards sold him to Carr & he killed
him for beef. Some time afterwards I
was told I was blamed for stealing
this bull from Whitty. I asked Whitty on
Moyhu racecourse why he blamed me
for stealing his bull he said he had
found his bull and he never blamed
me for stealing him. He said it
was Farrell who told him that I
stole the bull. Some time afterwards
I heard again I was blamed for
stealing a mob of calves from Whitty
and Farrell which I never had anything
to do with and along with this and
other talk I began to think they
wanted something to talk about.
Whitty and Burns not being satisfied
with all the picked land on King
River and Boggy Creek and the run
of their stock on the certificate found
free and no one interfering with them.
Paid heavy rent for all the open ground
so as a poor man could not keep any
stock and impounded every beast
they could catch even off government
roads if a poor man happened to
leave his horse or bit of a poddy calf
outside his paddock it would be
impounded. I have known over 60 head

of horses to be in one day impounded by Whitty and Burns all belonging to poor men of the district they would have to leave their harvest or ploughing and go to Oley and then perhaps not have money enough to release them & have to give a bill of sale or borrow the money which is no easy matter & along with all this sort of work Farrell the Policeman stole a horse from George King and had him in Whitty and Jeffery's paddocks until he left the force and this was the cause of me & my stepfather George King stealing Whitty's horses and selling them to Baumgarten and those other men the pick of them was sold ^{at Howlong and the rest was sold} to Baumgarten who was a perfect stranger to me and I believe an honest man. No man had anything to do with the horses but me and George King William Cooke who was convicted for Whitty's horse had nothing to do with them nor was he ever in my company at Peterson the Germans at Howlong. The brand was altered by me and George King and the horses were sold as straight. Anyman requiring horses would have bought them the same as those men and would have been potted the same and I consider Whitty ought to do something towards the release of those innocent men otherwise there will be a collision between me & him as I can to his

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satisfaction prove I took Melcher's black mare and the rest of the horses which I will prove to him in next issue & after those horses had been found and the row being over, then I wrote a letter to Mr Swannell of Lake Rowan to advertise my horses for sale as I was intend^{ed} to sell out. I sold them afterwards at Benalla and the ~~last~~^{rest} in New South Wales & left Victoria as I wished to see certain parts of the country and very shortly afterwards there was a warrant for me and as I since hear, the Police Sergeant Steel, Straghan & Fitzpatrick and others searched the Seven Mile & every other place in the district for me and a man named Newman who had escaped from the Wangaratta Police for months before the 15th of April. Therefore it was impossible for me to be in Victoria as every schoolboy knows me and on the 15th of April Fitzpatrick came to the Seven Mile and had some conversation with Williamson who was splitting on the hill seeing my brother and another man he rode down and had some conversation with this man whom he swore was William Skillion this man was not called in Beechworth as he could have proved Fitzpatrick's falsehood as Skillion and another man was away after horses at the time which can be proved by eight or nine

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witnesses the man who the trooper swore was Skillion can prove Williamson's innocence besides other important evidence which can be brought on the prisoners behalf. The trooper after speaking to this man rode to the house and Dan came out he asked Dan to go to Greta with him Dan asked him what for and he said he had a warrant for him for stealing Whitty's horses. They both went inside Dan was having something to eat. The trooper was impatient & Mr. Kelly asked him what he wanted Dan for and he said he had a warrant for him. Dan said produce your warrant & he said he had none it was only a telegraph from Chiltern. Mr. Kelly said he ^{need not} go unless he liked without a warrant. She told the trooper he had no business on her premises without some authority besides his own word. He pulled out his revolver and said he would blow her brains out if she interfered in the arrest. Mr. Kelly said if Ned was here he would ram the revolver down his throat. To frighten the trooper Dan said Ned is coming now. The trooper looked around to see if it was true. Dan dropped the knife and fork which showed he had no murderous intention. Clapped Keenan's rug on him took his revolver and threw him and part of the door.

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outside and kept him there until Skillion and Ryan came with horses which Dan sold that night the trooper left and invented some scheme to say he got shot which any man can see it is impossible for him to have been shot. He told Dan to clear out that Serpant Steel or Detective Brown would be there before morning as Straughen was over the Murray trying to get up a case against Dan and the Loyds as the Germans over the Murray would swear to any one, and they will lag you guilty or not. Next day Skillion, Williamson and Mr. Kelly with an infant were taken and thrown into prison and were six months awaiting trial and no bail allowed and was convicted on the evidence of the meanest man that ever the sun shone on I have been told by Police that he is hardly ever sober. Also between him and his father they sold his sister to a Chinaman but he seems a stopping & rather genteel looking young man & more fit to be a starcher to a lander than a trooper, but to a keen observer he has the wrong appearance to have anything like a clear conscience or a manly heart. The deceit is too plain to be seen in the white cabbage-hearted looking face. I heard nothing of this transaction until very close on the trial I being then over 400 miles from

beta. I heard I was outlawed and £100
 pound reward for me in Victoria and
 also hundreds of charges of horse stealing
 was against me besides shooting a
 trooper. I came into Victoria and
 enquired after my brother and found
 him working with another man on
 Bullock Creek. Heard how the Whites
 used to be blowing that they would
 shoot me first & then cry surrender.
 How they used to come to the house when
 there was no one there but women and
 Superintendent Smith used to say
 see all the men I have out to day I
 will have as many more tomorrow
 and blow him into pieces as small as
 paper that is in our pens and they used
 to repeatedly rush into the house revolvers
 in hand upset milk dishes empty the
 flours out on the ground break tins of
 eggs and even throw the meat out of the
 cask on to the floor and dirty & destroy all
 the provisions which can be proved
 and shove the girls in front of them into
 the rooms like dogs & abuse and insult
 them. Detective Ward & Constable Hayes
 took out their revolvers and threatened
 to shoot the girls and children whilst
 Mrs Skillion was absent, the oldest
 being with her. The greatest murderers
 and ruffians would not be guilty
 of such an action. This sort of cruelty
 & disgraceful conduct to my brothers
 and sister who had no protection

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coupled with the conviction of my mother and those innocent men certainly made my blood boil as I don't think there is a man born could have the patience to suffer what I did. They were not satisfied with frightening & insulting my sisters night and day and destroying their provisions and lapping my mother with an infant baby and those innocent men but should follow me and my brother who was innocent of having anything to do with any stolen horses into the wilds where he had been quietly digging and doing well neither molesting or interfering with any one, and I was not there long & on the 25th of October I came on the tracks of Police horses between tabletop & the bop I crossed them and went to Bruce Swamp and returning home I came on more Police tracks making for our camp. I told my mates & me and my brother went out next morning and found Police camped at the Shingle hut with long firearms and we came to the conclusion our doom was sealed unless we could take their firearms, as we had nothing but a gun and a rifle, if they came on us at our work or camp we had no chance only to die like dogs as we thought the country was woven with Police & we might have a chance of fighting them if we had firearms as it generally

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takes 40 to one. We approached the spring as close as we could get to the camp. The intervening space being clear, ~~clear~~ we saw two men at the top they got up & one took a double barrel fowling piece and one drove the horses down and hobbled them against the tent and we thought there was more men in the tent those being on sentry. We could have shot those two men without speaking but not wishing to take life we waited. M^cIntyre laid the gun against the stump and Lonigan sat on the log. I advanced my brother Dan keeping M^cIntyre covered. I called on them to throw up their ~~hands~~ ^{hands}. M^cIntyre obeyed and never attempted to reach for his gun or revolver. Lonigan ran to a battery of logs and put his head up to take aim at me when I shot him or he would have shot me as I knew well. I asked ~~him~~ who was in the tent. M^cIntyre replied no one. I approached the camp and took possession of their revolvers and fowling piece which I loaded with bullets instead of shot. I told M^cIntyre I did not want to shoot him or any man that would surrender. I explained Fitzpatrick's falsehood which no policeman can be ignorant of. He said he knew Fitzpatrick had wronged us but he could not help it. He said he intended to leave the force on account

of his bad health his life was insured
the other two men who had no firearms
came up when they heard the shot fired,
and went back to our camp for fear
the Police might call there in our absence
and surprise us on our arrival. My
brother went back to the spring and
I stopped at the top with M. McIntyre,
Kennedy and Scanlan came up, McIntyre
said he would get them to surrender, if
I spared their lives as well as his, I
said I did not know either him Scanlan
or Kennedy and had nothing against them
and would not shoot any of them if they
gave up their firearms and promise
to leave the force as it was the meanest
billet in the world they are worse than
cold blooded murderers or hangmen. He
said he was sure they would never
follow me anymore. I gave him my
word that I would give them a chance
McIntyre went up to Kennedy Scanlan
being behind with a rifle & revolver.
I called on them to throw up their
hands. Scanlan slewed his horse
around to gallop away but turned
again, and as quick as thought fired
at me with the rifle and was in the
act of firing again when I shot him.
Kennedy alighted on the off side
of his horse and got behind a
tree and opened hot fire McIntyre
got on Kennedy's horse and galloped
away. I could have shot him if I

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choose as he was right against me but rather than break my word I let him go. My brother advanced from the spring Kennedy fired at him and ran as he found neither of us was dead. I followed him he got behind another tree and fired at me again. I shot him in the arm-pit as he was behind the tree he dropped his revolver and ran again and plumed round and fired with the gun again and shot him through the right chest as I did not know he had dropped his revolver, and was turning to surrender, he could not live or I would have let him go. Had they been my own brothers I could not help shooting them, or else lie down and let them shoot me which they would have done had their bullets been directed as they intended them. But as for handcuffing Kennedy to a tree or cutting his ear off, or brutally treating any of them, is a cruel falsehood. If Kennedy's ear was cut off it has been done since. I put his cloak over him and left him as honourable as I could and if they were my own brothers I could not be more sorry for them with the exception of Donigan I did not begrudge him what bit of lead he got as he was the flashiest and meanest man that I had any account against for him Fitzpatrick Sergeant Whelan constable O'Day & King the bootmaker

once tried to handcuff me at Benalla
 and when they could not Fitzpatrick
 tried to choke me. Donigan caught
 me by the private and would have
 killed me but was not able Mr.
 McInnis came up and I allowed him
 to put the handcuffs on when the Police
 were bested. This cannot be called
 wilful murder for I was compelled
 to shoot them in my own defence
 or lie down like a cur and die. Certainly
 their wives and children are to be pitied
 but those men came into the bush with
 the intention of shooting me down
 like a dog and yet they know and
 acknowledge I have been wronged. And
 is my mother and her infant baby and
 my poor little brothers and sisters not
 to be pitied more so who has got no
 alternative only to put up with the
 brutal and unmanly conduct of the
 Police who have never had any relations
 or a mother or must have forgot them.
 I was never convicted of horsetealing
 I was once arrested by Constable Hall
 and 14 more men in Greta and there was
 a subscription raised for Hall by
 persons who had too much money
 about Greta in honour of Hall arresting
 Wild Wright and Gunn. Wright and Gunn
 were hotted & Hall could not hot me
 for horsetealing but with the subscription
 money he gave £20 to James Murdoch
 who has recently been hung in Wappa Wappa

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and on Murdock's evidence I was found guilty of receiving knowing to be stolen which I. Wright W. Ambrose J. Ambrose & W. Hatcher & W. Williamson and others can prove I was innocent of knowing the mare to be stolen & I was once accused of taking a hawk, of the name of McCormack's horse to pull another hawk, named Ben Gould out of a bag. Mr. Gould got up in the morning to feed his horse, seen McCormack's horse and knew he had strayed sent his man in with him about two miles to where McCormack was camped in Greta. Mr. & Mrs. McCormack came out and seen the waggon bogged and accused him of using the horse. I told Gould that was for his good nature Mrs. McCormack turned on me and accused me for catching the horse for Gould as Gould knew he was wicked and could not catch him himself. Me and my uncle was cutting and branding calves and Ben Gould wrapped up a pair of testicles wrote a note and gave it to me to give to Mr. McCormack McCormack said he would fight me I was then 14 years of age, I was getting off my horse and Mr. McCormack hit the horse he jumped forward and my fist came in collision with McCormack's nose who swore he was standing 10 yards away from another man and the one hit knocked the two men down, however,

ridiculous the evidence may seem.
 I received 3 months or 10[£] fine for
 hitting him and 3 months for delivering
 the parcel and bound to the peace
 for 12 months. At the time I was taken
 by Hall and his 14 assistants, therefore
 I ~~did~~ dare not strike any of them as
 Hall was a great cur, and as for Dan
 he never was tried for assaulting a
 woman Mr. Butler P.M. sentenced him
 to 3 months without the option of a
 fine and one month or two pounds ^{fine} for
 wilfully destroying property a sentence
 which there is no law to uphold and
 yet they had to do their sentence &
 their prosecutor Mr. D. Goodman since
 got 4 years for perjury concerning the
 same property. The Minister of Justice
 should enquire into this respecting
 their sentence and he will find a
 wrong jurisdiction given by Butler P.M.
 on the 19th of October, 1879 at Benalla, and
 these are the only charges was ever
 proved against either of us therefore
 we are falsely represented. The report
 of bullets having been fired into the
 bodies of the troopers after their death
 is false & the coroner should be
 consulted I have no intention of
asking mercy for myself of any
mortal man, or apologising, but I
wish to give timely warning that if
my people do not get justice and
those innocents released from prison

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and the Police wear their uniform I shall be forced to seek revenge of everything of the human race for the future. I will not take innocent life if justice is given but as it is the Police are afraid or ashamed to wear their uniform therefore every man's life is in danger as I was outlawed without any cause and cannot be no worse & have but once to die & if the Public do not see justice done I will seek revenge for the name and character which has been given to me and my relations while God gives me strength to pull a trigger. The witnesses which can prove Fitzpatrick's falsehood can be found by advertising and if this is not done immediately horrible disaster shall follow. Fitzpatrick shall be the cause of greater slaughter to the rising generation than St. Patrick was to the snakes and frogs in Ireland. For had I robbed, plundered, ravished & murdered everything I met my character could not be painted blacker than it is at present but thank God my conscience is as clear as the snow now in Peru and as I hear a picked jury amongst which was a discharged Sergeant of Police was empanelled on the trial and David Lindsay who gave evidence for the Crown is a shanty-keeper, having no license

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& is liable to a heavy fine and keeps
a book of information for the Police
and his character needs no comment
for he is capable of rendering Fitzpatrick
any assistance he requires for a
conviction as he could be broke any
time Fitzpatrick chose to inform
on him. I am really astonished to
see members of Legislative Assembly
led astray by such articles as the Police
for while an outlaw reigns their
pocket swells 'tis double pay and
country girls. by concluding as I
have no more paper unless I rob for
it, if I get justice I will cry a go.
For I need no lead or powder to revenge
my cause, and if words be louder,
I will oppose your laws. With no
offence (remember your railroad) and
a sweet good bye from Edward Kelly
a forced outlaw

L. C. M. 10