

2

14th June 1917 19

482 ✓

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

Hector Henry Porter.

at Melbourne Morgue.

Received at the City of Melbourne Law Offices,

C. I. O. 19

✓

R. H. Cole. *Coroner.*

LB237.

RECEIVED
19 JUN 17
G. M. O.

INQUISITION.

VICTORIA, }
TO WIT. }

AN INQUISITION for our Sovereign Lord King George V., taken at the Morgue, Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, the 14th day of June A.D. 1917 in the eighth year of the reign of our said Lord the King, by me, Robert Hodgson Cole, gentleman, a Coroner of our Lord the King for the Central Bailiwick of the said State, upon the view of the body of Hector Henry Porter then and there lying dead.

Having inquired upon the part of our Lord the King, when, where, how, and by what means the said Hector Henry Porter

(1) His or her.

came by¹ his death, I say that

on the 7th day of June 1917

(2) Here state cause of death, if known; if unknown, doubtful, or no evidence, state the fact accordingly.

at: North Carlton Melbourne in the Melbourne Hospital Hector Henry Porter died from injuries caused by an Electric tram car in Riggan Street Carlton on the same day. I decide that he died by his own act. There is evidence of mental unsoundness at the time. No blame is attachable to the Motor-man of the car

In witness whereof I, the aforesaid Coroner, have to this Inquisition

put my hand, this 14th day of June

A.D. 1917

Robert H. Cruikshank

Coroner.

VICTORIA POLICE.—(47.)

City Morgue, Russell Street Station

Melbourne

Police District

8th June 1917 191

REPORT of Const Watson 4778.

Relative to Death of Henry Porter at Melb. Hosp.

Dr Hurley reports the death of Henry Porter aged 63 years, late residing at 648 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy. He was admitted at 4 p.m on the 7th inst suffering from fractured base, fractured clavicle and abrasions to head caused by being knocked down by an electric tram at the corner of Lygon and Pattersons Street Nth Carlton

He died at 6 p.m. yesterday from the result of the injuries

The North Carlton Police have been instructed to forward a report for the information of the Coroner.

A. Watson

Dr Cole.

Const 4778

Coroner.

VICTORIA POLICE.—(47.)

CARLTON NORTH

Station

MELBOURNE

Police District

8th June

1917

No 1 Division

REPORT of C. P. Hunt Const. 5421

Relative to Accident to a man name unknown, at Lygon and Paterson Sts. Carlton Nth

UH

I have to report for your information, that a man name unknown was knocked down by an electric tram at 3-30 pm yesterday, in Lygon Street near Piddons Street; it was ^{evidently} a case of attempted suicide as he had to be put off the line by two previous riotmen, prior to the one which knocked him down.

This man was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital at 4 pm and he died at 6 pm last night.

I have made inquiries re the accident; and I cannot find out the names of any persons, who witnessed it.

Statements are being obtained from the employes of the Coburg Tramway Trust in connection with the accident.

Sen. Const. Felsenthal }
Carlton North }

C. P. Hunt
Const. 5421

For the information of the Coroner.

Const. Watson }
Morgue }

(590/17)

Mr. Felsenthal
S^r Const. 3872
8. 6. 17

CORONER'S INQUEST.

No. 5.

VICTORIA. TO WIT.

This Deponent*

OSCAR ROLAND

PORTER

on his oath saith, I am a

PRESSER

residing at

648 NICHOLSON STREET FIYZROY.

*Christian and Surname in full.

I saw the body of the deceased at the morgue and I identified him on the 8th He was named Hector Henry Porter He was aged 63 years He had no occupation I last saw him alive on the morning of the 7th inst and he was rational and said that he expected to be arrested that morning He has been suffering from nerves and was also suffering from insomnia and would wake up about 2 am and would call out as if affected by nerves He appears to have been wandering about lately and people have told me that they have seen him and moved to him and that he had ^{not taken} any notice. He had spoken of ~~suicide~~ suicide and I caught him one morning with a steel and knife He had been under 7 doctors and I wanted him to go away from a trip. He used to do funny things and was always speaking about the Detectives.

RM

O R Porter

Taken and sworn before me the 14th day
of June 1917 at Melbourne
Robert H. Cru
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

No. 5.

VICTORIA. TO WIT.

This Deponent* ESTHER KINGDOM

on her oath saith, I am a MARRIED WOMAN

residing at SYDNEY ROAD COBURG &

*Christian and Surname in full.

On the 27 thinst about 3.30 PM I was on a car going towards the City. I was sitting on the back of a car facing a car coming along and I saw a man crossing the road from the East side. The car was travelling very slow and he had got over the rail and then he saw the car and did not seem to see a motor cycle and he stepped back and the car hit him. He seemed to run across the front of the car. He got in front of the car. He could not get across for the motor cycle and stepped back right in front of the motor cycle. I could not say whether he did it on purpose.

TO MR THOMPSON: I was about 15 yards away from the man at the time. The car was travelling very slowly. I didn't take much notice of the distance. I could not say that the man turned and ran in front of the car. It all happened very quickly.

TO ME BRENNAN. To me the deceased seemed to cross the road I was not observing very closely.

Esther Kingdom

Taken and sworn before me the 14th day of June 1917 at Melbourne
Rona H. Cro
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* **HAROLD SHARKEY**

on his oath saith, I am a **CLERK**

residing at *629 Nicholson Street, North Carlton.*

*Christian and Surname in full.

At the time of this accident I was riding a push bicycle in a Northwesterly direction in Lygon Street and I crossed the intersection of Richardson Street and went about 180 yards further North. I noticed the deceased approach from in front of a team of ~~east~~ horses travelling North. The deceased appeared to me to be speaking to the driver and then he half ^{turned} ~~turned~~ and then stepped back in an Easterly direction in front of the car. He appeared to be in a confused state.

I did ^{not} ~~not~~ recognise the deceased although I have known him for 17 years. I do not think that the motorman was in any way to blame for striking the deceased. The two trams were travelling from 80 to 100 yards distant and were travelling at about 10 miles an hour.

TOMR THOMPSON The deceased came from a team of horses. I would contradict that the man was walking along the track and was walking to an angle to the track. I was close to the lorry and was right level with the car when the accident happened. In my opinion he turned to speak to the ~~driver~~ driver of the lorry and he had apparently stepped in front of the tram. He appeared to take a half turn and took about 8 steps with his back to the car. The car was right on him when he finished his steps backward and the car pulled up right on the spot. I heard the gong sounded.

TO MR BRENNAN. When he was going toward the car with his back to the car he was crossing my front. I was travelling North and the tram South and the man was travelling East. He turned to the West and stepped backward to the East. He actually stepped backward in front of the tram. The tram gong sounded.

Taken and sworn before me the

14th day

of

June 1917 at Melbourne

Robert H. Cro

Coroner.

Harold Sharkey

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

SYLVIA ALVE FRASER

on ~~her~~ oath saith, I am a

MARRIEDWOMAN

residing at

163 Richardson Street North Carlton

*Christian and Surname in full.

At this time I was standing at the corner of Lygon and Richardson Street ^{and was ~~waiting~~ ^{waiting} for a tram} I went to the middle of the road to see if a tram was coming I saw a man standing in the middle of the road as I thought waiting for a tram. I went out twice after that and the man was still standing there and the last time I went out there were two cars coming along I went out and waited for the first tram and as it passed the man I thought it would not wait for me and I kept my eye on the second tram. The first tram was stopping for me I took my eyes off the second tram and the next time I looked the man was lying on the ground and he rolled clean under the tram. The first tram passed him as he was standing there. I did not see him make any attempt to get in front of that tram. There was no stop mark where he was.

TO MR BRENNAN. He was about 70 or 80 years from the stop mark. I did not know the man. He made no attempt to signal to the first tram as far as I saw. From the time I saw him first he was standing in the middle of the road alongside the line., and was there each time I went out. I did not see a cart of any sort.

Sylvia A. Fraser

Taken and sworn before me the

14th day

of

June 19 17 at Melbourne
Rmst H. Tru

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* JOHN PATRICK HUSSEY

on his oath saith, I am a REVENUE CLERK . Melbourne,
residing at TRAMWAY TRUST , 431 SYDNEY ROAD COBURG.

*Christian and Surname in full.

Handwritten initials

At the time of the accident I was ~~at~~ in the vicinity of Queensberry Street. I boarded the 2.50 car at ~~Box~~ Street and when about 250 yards from Park Street at about 3.10 I felt the car pull up slow and I looked out the East side and previously that I had heard the gong ringing. I saw a man on the road facing South and he began to walk South. When I looked out he was standing about two feet from the car. I did not know the man. He was about 5 feet 6 inches high and elderly and was dressed in a grey suit or pepper and salt suit. The man seemed to be wandering. I now think it was the deceased and he appeared to be wandering about and was not at a stopping place. He was not a quarter mile from where he was struck.

Handwritten signature: Hussey

Taken and sworn before me the 14th day of June 1917 at Melbourne
Robert H Cro
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* RAYMOND PHELAN

on his oath saith, I am a FISH MONGER

residing at 12 ROSE STREET COBURG

*Christian and Surname in full.

RH I work at Lygon Street and about 100 yards from the scene of this accident, of this accident. I saw the deceased standing waiting for the tram. I did not notice the time. He was standing on the middle of the road. As the car approached him he seemed to lurch forward when the team was nearly on him and he fell in front of the tram. I was nearly 100 yards away from him.

TOO MR BRENNAN. It was quite impossible for the motor man to have avoided the accident.

Raymond Phelan.

Taken and sworn before me the 14th day
 of June 1917 at Melbourne
 Ross H. Co. }
 Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* THOMAS BIRCH WALDING

on his oath saith, I am a CHAIR MAKER

residing at 464 LYGON STRET CARLTON.

*Christian and Surname in full

At the time of the accident I was travelling into Town on the tram car in front on the back of the preceding car.

I saw a man standing on the road He was just off the path a little I saw a tram coming and the man seemed to wait till the car got right up to him and as soon as it did he seemed to get right in front of it.

It seemed to me that he jumped right in front of the car and he seemed to wait till the car got right up to him.

TO MR THOMPSON: The tram was not going very fast and it seemed to pull up dead. The ~~grip~~ motorman and the conductor were on the road at once.

J. Walding

Taken and sworn before me the 14th day

of

June 19 *17* at *Melbourne*
Robert H. Co

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

WILLIAM

SMITH Smith

on his oath saith, I am a

MOTOR MAN

residing at

81 BELL STREET COBURG.

*Christian and Surname in full.

On the 7th inst a little before 3 p.m I was on an Albion Street car running to Queensberry Street On the 2.26 trip there was a man standing close to the line opposite Patterson Street It was not a stopmark but as he was close to the line I slowed down and sounded the gong I heard my conductor call to the man "This is not the stopping place it is at Pigdon Street" He then turned round and stepped aside That was at about 2.45. pm when I left Albion Street at 2.54 he was still there on the up line I slowed down again as he was close to the line and I ^{heard} my conductor call out again to him. When I left Queensberry Street at 3.12 he was in the centre of the line between the two lines. I saw the man three times and he was in the centre last time. From what I heard after I think it was the deceased.

William Smith

Taken and sworn before me the

14th day

of

June 1917 at *Melbourne*

Ronald A. Cro

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* ALBERT VICTOR ATKINSON

on his oath saith, I am a TEAM CONDUCTOR.

residing at 220 GLENLYON ROAD EAST BRUNSWICK

*Christian and Surname in full.

On the 7th inst I was conducting on an Albion Street car on the 3.18 up trip as we were nearing Patterson Street I heard the motor man sound the going. When I heard the gong I looked through the front of the car and saw the deceased walking in a southerly direction ^{about} three feet from the up track and the tram then was about 5 yards from him. As the car approached him the motor man was sounding the gong and the man was about 5 feet off the track. Just as the motor man was about to pass the man suddenly turned round and ran to the centre of the track. He was facing the car and appeared to me to stoop when he ran into the car. I felt the brakes applied and it was that sudden that I was thrown from the back door to the front. I consider that from the time the brakes were applied the car stopped in 5 feet. The man appeared to me to step in front of the car. I saw the man on the down trip in the same locality on the opposite track.

A. V. Atkinson

Taken and sworn before me the

14th day

of

June 1917 at *Melbourne*

Robert A. Cro

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* ERNEST WILLIAM HORE

on *h^o* oath saith, I am a MOTORMAN

*Christian and Surname in full.

residing at 229 GLENLTON ROAD EAST BRUNSWICK.

About 3.30 on the afternoon of the 7th inst I was driving a car along Lygon Street in southerly direction. There was another car running about 75 to 100 yards ahead of me. As I was near Patterson Street I noticed a man walking in the same direction as I was going about 75 yards ahead of me. He was walking on the outside of the up track I was travelling at about 12 miles an hour. I sounded the gong and he ~~walked~~ slightly further off the track but still in the same direction. As I was about to pass him he turned and took two or three quick steps which took him almost to the centre of the up track. He turned facing the car and put head down and came straight at me. By this time he did this I was on top of him and did not have to travel very far to meet him. I was coasting at the time and was allowing the other car to get away from me. I had a clear view and there is not the slightest doubt in my ^{mind} but that the act was deliberate. He did not step backwards at all but he was knocked backwards when the car hit him. Mr Sharkey

R.H.

is quite mistaken in his evidence. ~~The xxx was xxx was xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx~~

R.H.

~~from~~ TOMR THOMPSON! I had seen the man before that day and I had seen him and I had eased up as I thought that he wanted to

R.H.

board the car and he would step away. He was ^{injured} ~~injured~~ at the top of the head and the right side of the face.

E. W. Hore

Taken and sworn before me the 14th day

of

June 19/17 at *Melbourne*
Ross Hore

Coroner.