

77  
1302

P. 79A

U.S. G. & F. + cc

18 JUN 1977

REPORT OF DEATH TO CORONER

Manly Police Station  
17th June, 1977

The Coroner, SYDNEY

SUBJECT: Death of Paul Edward RATH. Age 267 old.  
 Marital state Single Address [redacted] Pittwater Road, Manly.  
 Time and date of death: Between 5pm on 15.6.77 and 7.20am on 16.6.77.  
 Place of death: Rocks at foot of cliff at Fairy Bower, Manly.  
 By whom found: Alfred BARRETT Address: [redacted], Beacon Hill.  
 By whom reported to Police: Alfred BARRETT Address: As above.  
 By whom last seen alive: Gregory RATH (brother) Address: [redacted], Manly.  
 When last seen alive: 5pm on 15.6.77.  
 Deceased a native of (County and District): Sydney, N.S.W.  
 Occupation: Pensioner. Authorities informed.  
 (If pensioner state type and include whether appropriate authorities informed)  
 If Military or Invalid pensioner, state disability: Invalid. (Nervous condition).  
 Name and address of nearest relative and relationship: Catherine Mary RATH (mother) [redacted] Pittwater Road, Manly.  
 Name and address of identifying person: Peter Gregory ROWAN (brother-in-law) [redacted] North Manly.  
 Police present when deceased identified: Sen. Const. Parry.  
 Did deceased leave a will? No.  
 By whom burial or cremation is being arranged: Unknown at this stage.  
 Property and clothing found on and with the deceased. (Attach inventory if space insufficient):  
1 suit, 1 jumper, 1 shirt, 1 pr. socks, 1pr. shoes, 1 pr. underpants, 1 singlet.

Miscellaneous Property Book Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
 How property and clothing disposed of and on whose authority: Destroyed on authority of mother Catherine Mary RATH.

Circumstances under which death took place. (If any previous illness, and deceased seen by doctor, particulars should be given. Where treated by a doctor a note should be obtained giving particulars of treatment from such doctor):

At about 7.20am on 16.6.77 Alfred Barrett, a fisherman, was walking around rocks at the base of cliff at Fairy Bower, when he observed the body of deceased wedged between rocks. Police attended and found the deceased suffering extensive injuries, in a sitting position, wedged between rocks, head slumped forward, with trousers partly down. He was directly below a high peak on the clifftop. The Rescue Squad attended and recovered the body which was conveyed to Manly District Hospital where life was pronounced extinct by Dr. Jones. Body was then conveyed to the City Morgue. Det. Sgt. Ezart of the Chatswood Scientific Branch attended the scene and due to the fact that this area is frequented by homosexuals and the deceased trousers were partly removed a precautionary anal swab was taken by Dr. Fletcher on the 16.6.77 at the City Morgue. On searching the body of the deceased a small piece of prose, written on paper and signed by the deceased, was found in his pocket. No other notes were found.

The deceased had been suffering from a nervous condition for a number of years and was under regular treatment from a Dr. O. Reichard, Psychiatrist, of Pennant Hills. (unable to be contacted). He was last seen by his younger brother at his home and appeared quite normal and stated he was going for a walk which he normally did in this area. **NO SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Signature: R. Parry  
 Rank: Sen. Const.  
 Annual leave from Aug. to 77

NOTE:

- (1) This form should be prepared in quadruplicate in all cases where a death is reported to the Coroner. The original and two copies should be forwarded to the Coroner. All statements in duplicate should be lodged with the Coroner at least 7 days before the date of the inquest.
- (2) The full name and address of all persons and the registered number of all motor vehicles concerned should be indicated.

17 JUN 1977  
ST 5427  
Identified to G.M.O.

POISONING—

- (a) Was death apparently from (i) poison, (ii) drug \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Name poison or drug (if known) \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Apparently administered by whom? Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Date and time \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/19\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.
- (e) When symptoms first showed \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/19\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.
- (f) Detail symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_
- (g) State recently prescribed medicine: \_\_\_\_\_
- (h) Prescribing Doctor: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- (i) When prescribed? \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/19\_\_\_\_ (j) Quantity prescribed: \_\_\_\_\_
- (k) How much remains now? \_\_\_\_\_ (l) Dispensing chemist: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

GAS POISONING—

- (a) Did gas come from coal-gas supply, brazier, or car? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Where in building was body found? \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) In what position was body found? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) State appliance gas had escaped from: \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Was gas still escaping? \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) If room sealed, how? \_\_\_\_\_
- (g) Was food being prepared? \_\_\_\_\_
- (h) Who in Gas Company notified? Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ELECTROCUTION—

- (a) What had caused shock? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Where in building was body found? \_\_\_\_\_ (c) Position? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) State appliance "shock" received from: \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Was appliance still "alive"? \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) Detail any burns: \_\_\_\_\_
- (g) Who in Electricity Commission of supplying Authority notified? \_\_\_\_\_

UNIDENTIFIED CASES (The following information should be furnished)—

Sex, Age, Height, Build, Complexion, Hair, Eyes, Nose, Face: \_\_\_\_\_

Peculiarities, marks, scars, tattoos, deformities, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

What steps have been taken to establish identification (Referenc. to \_\_\_\_\_ Departmental file): \_\_\_\_\_

REPORT OF INQUEST  
(or Magisterial Inquiry)

Date and place of Inquest: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Coroner or Magistrate: \_\_\_\_\_

VERDICT:

INQUEST NOT HELD

Inquest disposed of on: \_\_\_\_\_

By whom: \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg'd No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_