

# CORONERS ACT, 1960

25 AUG 1976  
Coroners Court

Medical report upon the examination of the dead body of—

Name: Ernest Allan HEAD (76/1282)

I, Thomas Howard Godfrey Oettle, a legally qualified medical practitioner, carrying on my profession at the Division of Forensic Medicine, in the State of New South Wales, do hereby certify as follows:

1. At 9.30 in the fore noon, on the twentythird day of June, 1976 at Sydney in the said State, I made an internal examination of the dead body of a male identified to me by Const. G.R.Cohen of No.11 division in the State aforesaid, as that of Ernest Allan HEAD aged about 44 years.

2. I opened the three cavities of the body.

3. Upon such examination I found. The body to be that of an adult Caucasian male of medium build whose appearances were consistent with his stated age. Length 180 cm, weight 71 kg. Early signs of decomposition were present externally in the mummification appearance of the fingers, toes and the mouth.

The body showed numerous stab wounds and more superficial lacerations. The forehead showed a 5 1/2 cm (2 1/4") superficial laceration with slightly jagged edges that ran from right upper across the midline and down on to the left side of the forehead 4 cm (1 1/2") above the left eyebrow, and 3 cm (1.1/8") from the midline.

A very small superficial stab wound 4 mm in length (about 3/16") was present in the nasion. Very superficial cuts were also present on the lateral border of the forehead immediately above the left eyebrow.

A 1 1/2 cm (5/8") horizontally placed deep stab wound which had a track running horizontally into the substance of the eye 4 1/2 cm (1 3/4") was present immediately lateral to the left eye.

A 1.8 cm (about 3/4") vertically placed stab wound was running down the side of the face immediately below the left cheekbone and this measured 2 cm (just over 3/4") deep and the track of this wound was running down and medially.

At the angle of the jaw on the left side was a 3 mm (about 1/8") very superficial stab wound. Blood was present in the nasal passages.

Pallor due to pressure was present over the left cheek.

On the back of the head approximately in the midline was an 8 cm (3.1/8") linear incised wound which exposed periostium at its lower limit but otherwise ran within the substance of the scalp.

A linear parchment abrasion was present on the left side at the junction of the head and the neck and this ran roughly horizontally just within the hairline.

4. In my opinion death had taken place about 5 days previously and the cause of death was.

- I. DIRECT CAUSE— Disease or condition directly leading to death ... } STAB WOUNDS OF THE CHEST AND ABDOMEN (a) (due to or following)
- ANTECEDENT CAUSES— Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause, stating the underlying condition last ... } (b) (due to or following)
- II. Other significant conditions contributing to the death but not relating to the disease or condition causing it ... } (c)

TO THE CITY CORONER, SYDNEY (Signature) [Signature] (Date) 17 August 1976.

for  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cm ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ ").

On the right side of the neck in about the middle laterally there was a very superficial 3 mm laceration.

The left ear showed a superficial  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm ( $5/8$ ") laceration of the outer border of the helix.

The skin on the anterior surface of the trunk showed early desquamative changes at the edges where it was stuck with blood to the floor.

The trunk showed the following stab wounds:

- 1 A  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm ( $5/8$ ") stab wound with both ends being sharp was present  $11\frac{1}{2}$  cm ( $4\frac{1}{2}$ ") from the midline immediately below the right clavicle and 145 cm from the right heel. A track ran upwards superficially for 5 cm ( $2$ ").
- 2 A  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm stab wound with a 5 cm track running horizontally and laterally lay in the anterior chest wall 7 cm from the midline and 129 cm from the right heel.
- 3 Immediately below the above wound lay the third stab wound almost in the midline and 122 cm above the left heel and also measuring 1.5 cm in width. This ran to the seventh costal cartilage which it cut half through and then ran on through the diaphragm, the pericardial sac and into the posterior wall of the left ventricle and on into the cavity of the left ventricle of the heart. (18 cm or 7" track length)
- 4 A  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm laceration 120 cm from the left heel with a track running up and into the liver medially. This track measured  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cm in length ( $1\frac{3}{4}$ ").
- 5 A 2 cm stab wound with an omental plug in the substance of the wound. This wound penetrated the wall of the abdomen and went into the posterior wall of the abdomen horizontally. This wound was 110 cm from left heel.
- 6 In the lower abdomen on the left side 5 cm from the midline was a 1.8 cm stab wound 103 cm from the left heel. From this entry wound a track ran straight through the anterior wall of the abdomen and into the posterior wall of the lower abdomen.
- 7 A  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cm stab wound 14 cm from the midline, 114 cm from the left heel, with a superficial laceration running medially and horizontally. This stab wound showed a track which ran down and into the abdomen laterally and to the descending colon and into the posterior wall of the abdomen  $9\frac{1}{2}$  cm in length ( $3.5/8$ ").
- 8 A 3 cm vertical stab wound with a superficial distal extension 125 cm from the left heel with a track that ran up and through the seventh costal cartilage 8 cm from the midline and through the diaphragm into the liver. This track measured 11 cm or  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ".
- 9 On the left side of the anterior chest wall  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cm from the midline and 135 cm from the left heel a 1.8 cm stab wound showing a track which ran for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cm superficially, upwards and medially in the substance of the muscle.
- 10 A 1.2 cm laceration in the anterior axillary line from which a track ran straight in underneath the third rib and penetrated the lung, track length 9 cm ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ ").  
Superficial linear lacerations were present over the anterior chest wall.  
A  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm stab wound was present in the medial aspect of the left thigh



in its mid part with an 11 cm long superficial extension running upwards.  
The stab wound track depth was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm and the track ran straight into the muscle.

Immediately under the left knee was a  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cm laceration exposing bone and a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm stab wound immediately above it on the medial limit, also exposing bone.

Over the left buttock was a series of scrape abrasions which had characteristics of nail marks.

A very superficial 2 cm laceration was present over the back of the left thigh immediately above the left knee in its medial aspect.

The left arm showed eight lacerations.

A 2 cm stab wound with a 2 cm deep track running straight in was present in the left upper arm posteriorly immediately below the junction of the arm with the chest.

In the lateral aspect of the left arm in its mid section was a 3 cm stab wound with a track that led 3 cm straight in.

Immediately above the left elbow was an 1.8 cm stab wound which penetrated 3 cm straight in.

Over the left forearm there was a 3 cm stab wound exposing the muscle only. Minor very superficial lacerations were present across the flexor aspect of the left forearm.

A  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm stab wound was present on the radial border of the hyperthenar eminence of the left hand on its palmar surface.

A V shaped laceration 3 x 2 cm in extent was present on the inner aspect of the left upper arm with the apex pointing distally.

A further 1 cm stab wound was present in the axilla and this was superficial.

A 1.6 cm stab wound was present on the lateral aspect of the left thigh and this ran 1 cm deep.

An 0.8 cm very superficial laceration was present on top of the last phalanx of the right first toe.

The brain was soft and weighed 1440 gm. The vessels were healthy. On section the brain showed no remarkable features.

Blood was present in the air passages but nil was present in the oesophagus.

The left lung showed some collapse and 600 ml of blood and blood clot were present in the left chest cavity. The stab wound ran into the upper lobe of the left lung laterally. The left lung weighed 284 gm. The right lung weighed 345 gm and showed no remarkable features.

The pericardial sac was filled with blood arising from a stab wound in the posterior aspect of the heart into the left ventricle.

The heart showed some fatty infiltration in the myocardium posteriorly.

The coronary arteries showed scattered areas of atheroma. The valves were healthy.

The heart weighed 368 gm.

The stomach contained a little partly digested food which extended to the ileocaecal valve and halfway along the colon.

The liver was pale and showed two stab wounds. The liver weighed 1261 gm.

The gallbladder contained a moderate amount of bile and appeared healthy.

Both kidneys showed marked pallor of the cortices and some papillary fibrosis.

The right kidney weighed 166 gm and the left kidney 144 gm.

The bladder was full of clear urine.

The spleen weighed 136 gm and was a little soft.

The anus was patulous and showed some skin tags. The penis was not circumcised.

Swabs were taken of the anus and a penile swab for biological examination.

Blood sent for grouping.

Blood was sent for the estimation of alcohol via Const. Z. Stengelis.