

Goodwood Police Station
30th July 1931

Re Death of Percival John Bond, Builder, of Cromer Parade, Millswood Estate, at Cromer Parade, Millswood Estate on 30th July 1931.

Anne Theresa Bond, Married Woman, Cromer Parade, Millswood Estate states:-

30/7/31
About 11.a.m. on 30th July 1931 I saw the body of deceased in the motor shed and workshop at rear of our premises it was that of my husband Percival John Bond, he was 48 years of age and a builder and contractor by occupation. The body when I saw it was lying on ground between the motor lorry and workbench, it was subsequently removed by Police in police ambulance.

Shortly before 10.a.m. ~~this date~~ 30th July 1931 I last saw my husband in the house, he was then in the office & was getting ready to go to Unley on business, shortly after seeing him in the house I heard the sound of similar to a revolver shot or motor cycle back firing, I went outside to the tank which is near the motor shed and called out ~~xxxx~~ "Did you hear that noise" as I thought my husband was in the W.C. but did not receive any reply and I then called out "Have you gone" but did not receive any reply and I then perhaps he had gone to Unley without saying goodbye. At few minutes before 11.a.m. I was cleaning out the house and went into the office and I then saw a paper which my husband was going to Unley about I then formed the opinion that he could'nt have gone and to I went ~~into~~ the shed to see if he was there, the door was pulled to and I pushed it open and I went inside and I then saw the body of my husband on the floor I saw a pool of blood under his head and I then ran to my neighbour a few minutes later Mr Kirkbride and Mrs Beal went into the shed and later the police came also Dr Jefferies, Dr Jeffries informed me my husband was dead.

My husband was very depressed and worried, he had not made any threats against his life, he was worried about financial matters, he had not done any work for about four months, he

Mrs A T Bond Cont.

He was very much depressed because he was not able to pay some money to the Unley Corporation that was due for road making in front of our premises, that was the business he was going to Unley about. This morning before going out we were discussing things and he then said to me "I feel as if I am going out of my mind.

The revolver produced I last saw in cupboard in room which deceased used as office, it was generally wrapped in rag produced, I am unable to say when it was I last saw it in the cupboard. When I went into the shed I saw revolver on ground near my husband.

Lewis Wilmer Jeffries, Duly Qualified Medical Practitioner, 286 Goodwood Road, Clarence Park:-

At a few minutes after 11.a.m. on 30th July 1931 in consequence of telephone message received I proceed to the residence of Mr Bond, Cromer Parade, Millswood Estate, and in a workshop I saw the body of deceased, I examined it and found that he was dead, there was wound that could have been inflicted with a bullet similar to ones produced in right temple, there was a small portion of the brain protruding, the bullet did not go right through the head, in my opinion death was caused as a result of wound in head. He had probably been dead about a hour or so, although a short while he had lived/after receiving the wound. I later informed Mrs Bond of the death of her husband. I have attended the family professionally. But had not attended to deceased for some time.

Mary Bell, Married Woman, 5 Fairfax Avenue, Millswood Estate, wife of Reginald Bell, Driver states:-

My house is practically at the rear of Mr Bonds premises in Cromer Parade, at about 10.a.m. on 30th July 1931 I was in the shed at bottom of yard of our premises and whilst in there I heard what I took to be a revolver or gun shot, but I did not take much notice. About an hour later Mrs Bond called to me and said something to the effect that Mr Bond had shot himself and to come in and have a look to see if he was alive I at one ran to Mr Kirbrides along the street informed him and I then went into the shed at Mrs Bond place and I there saw the body of Mr Bond on ground between lorry and bench

Mary Bell Cont.

he was lying practically face downwards there was a large pool of blood under his head, I saw a revolver on the ground near his side, I looked at the body it appeared to be dead, Mr Kirkbride was with me at the time.

Albert Edward Kirkbride, Plasterer, 15 Fairfax Avenue, Millswood Estate states:-

Somewhere about 11.a.m. on 30th July 1931 Mrs Bell came to my house and informed me that Mr Bond had shot himself, I at once communicated per phone with Constable Homes of Goodwood Police and shortly after he arrived with Dr Jeffries.

After ringing for the police I went with Mrs Bell to the motor shed and workshop in Mrs Bonds premises and I there saw the body of Mr Bond lying on the ground, I looked at it and listened to see if he was breathing but he appeared to be dead, I did not touch the body or anything in the shed and neither did Mrs Bell, I had a look in case he was still alive. There was a large pool of blood under his head, the revolver was lying on the ground near the body, I did not touch the revolver.

Frank Homes, Police Constable, Goodwood,

At about 11.5.a.m. on 30th July 1931 I received a telephone message from Mr Kirkbride that a man had shot himself in Cromer Parade, Millswood Estate, I at once communicated with Dr Jeffries and with him~~x~~ proceeded to Cromer Parade, Millswood Estate, to residence of deceased and in the workshop lying between a work bench a motor lorry I saw the body of deceased, Dr Jeffries examined and said he was dead. I examined the body there was wound at near the right temple, there was no other wounds or marks of violence on the body, the body was lying practically face down with the head twisted to one side, the revolver produced was lying on the left side of the body on the ground and near it, there was a expended cartridge in the chamber and two live cartridges in magazine. I found the cloth and bullets produced on a tin~~x~~ on the other side of the work bench. The body was fully clothed and dressed as if he had intended to go out.

Frank Homes Cont.

I found the paper produced (Agreement) on table in small room (office) in the house, it was shown to me by Mrs Bond as one the her husband was going to Unley about and the one she saw that led her to believe her husband had not gone out. I later re moved the body to the City Morgue in the police ambulance, where I removed all clothing, there were no other marks of violence on the body.

The Acting City Coroner,
Adelaide.

F. C.
F.C.