

OFFICE OF THE CORONER

Victoria Coroner's Office

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION REPORT

AUTOPSY NO: 03A-02492

IDENTIFIED BY: Autopsy

NAME: Unidentified

DOB: ?

AGE: 35 - 40

SEX: M

HEIGHT: 1.80m

WEIGHT: approx. 85 Kg

Coroners Report Summary

When he was found, the victim had developed early signs of rigor mortis, thereby leading investigators to place the time of death between 10.00pm and 12.00am on the evening of 23rd.

The chest is reflected revealing two bullet wounds which had punctured the right lung and causing the lung to collapse and moderate haemorrhaging into the chest cavity. These injuries would not have been fatal but could have resulted in death if left untreated.

The combination of smoke and carbon monoxide inhalation and extensive third degree burns to over 90% of her body were fatal injuries.

Additional notes

The bullet wounds would not have been fatal, although the victim would have been in severe pain. During the fire, the victim would have experienced severe discomfort and weakness, ultimately losing consciousness before dying. Immediate medical attention could have saved the victim.

The victim was officially pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. The death certificate was signed by Dr. Derek Henry at Alfred Hospital where the body arrived DOA at 2:00 am.

Toxicology Screen

Negative

Blood Drug Screen

Negative

FINAL DIAGNOSIS:

Asphyxiation due to:

A. Inhalation of smoke with presence of carbon deposits in trachea and proximal left bronchi

B. Inhalation of carbon monoxide.

C. Puncture to right lung.

D. Global burns

CLINICOPATHOLOGIC CORRELATION:

Cause of death of this male is asphyxiation due to inhalation of smoke and carbon monoxide compounded by collapsing of right lung and subsequent secondary thermal burns.

Sebastian Rowley, M.D.
Coroner

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION REPORT

AUTOPSY NO: 03A-02493

IDENTIFIED BY: Dental Comparison 26/10/03

NAME: Unidentified

DOB: ?

AGE: 30-35

SEX: F

HEIGHT: 1.73m

WEIGHT: approx. 65 Kg

Coroners Report Summary

When she was found, the female victim was in a fairly advanced state of rigor mortis, thereby leading investigators to place the time of death at 12-16 hours before she was examined. The examiner states the time of death as being anywhere from 10:00 am to 2.00pm on 23rd..

The victim had experience severe blunt trauma to the head causing fracture to the skull and severe contusion to the brain. There was bleeding beneath the skull, and in response, a large blood clot had formed. The bleeding and associated clot exerted pressure on the brain, causing some swelling. The blow that the victim had suffered could have resulted in death.

The victim had no evidence of smoke inhalation although there were extensive third degree burns to over 90% of her body. On their own, these would have been fatal.

Toxicology Screen
120mg/L paracetamol

Blood Drug Screen
Negative

FINAL DIAGNOSIS:

Cause of death uncertain at this time.

Sebastian Rowley, M.D.
Coroner