

Police obtained the following statements from witnesses and relatives of Mr and Mrs Straw:

Name	Sex	Age	Address	Relationship to victim	Statement
Joel Hardingham	M	40	52 Lillywood Avenue	Neighbour	<p>Shortly after going to bed I heard a three load bangs like a gun going off. I looked out into the street but it was deserted. About 20 minutes later I heard a car engine starting. I remember looking at the clock and noticing that it was nearly 11.30pm. I didn't think much of it at the time, but had trouble getting back to sleep. Half an hour later I went downstairs to get a glass of water. I immediately sensed something was wrong. When I looked outside I could see flames coming from next door. I rang triple zero and went out to see if there was anything I could do.</p> <p>As I approached the burning building, I saw that the front door was wide open. I went inside calling out to see if Mr and Mrs Straw were still in there, but there was too much smoke for me to get past the hallway. I left the house and waited for the emergency services to arrive.</p>
Mary Tailworth	F	62	55 Lillywood Avenue	Neighbour	<p>I was woken from my bed just prior to Midnight. My husband Maurice was still asleep. I heard some shouting from across the road, so I woke Maurice and asked him to go and check what was happening. I thought at first it was Mr Straw arguing with his wife, but they had never done so in the middle of the night before. When Maurice finally got up, he said that 'the Staw's house is on fire!' I immediately went and called 000 while Maurice got dressed and went outside.</p>
Maurice Tailworth	M	64	55 Lillywood Avenue	Neighbour	<p>My wife woke me at about Midnight. I saw that number 54 across the road was ablaze. I went out and found Joel was already there. He was coughing and spluttering and I got the impression that he had just come out of the burning house. When I asked him what happened, he said that he had tried going in to see if Jack or Elaine was in there, but there was too much smoke. I tried going around the back to see if I could see another way in, but the back door was locked.</p> <p>Shortly after the first Fire Engine arrived and we were told to keep back. By that time the whole street was awake.</p>
Jessica Straw	F	31	Flat 2, 30 Dirk's Road, Mornington.	Sister of Jack Straw	<p>I last spoke with my brother over the phone at 6.00pm on the evening of the 22nd. I had rung to ask why he had decided not to go on the hunting trip he had planned with Mike and Richard, Elaine's brothers. He seemed very agitated and told me to mind my own business. It wasn't at all like Jack, and I had planned to try and ring him again the following day.</p>
Helen Boyce	F	30	44 Cramford Avenue, Toorak.	Married to Mike Boyce (Elaine's brother)	<p>Mike has gone on his hunting trip with Richard and as far as I know Jack went as well. The three of them had been planning the trip up to Canada for weeks. I do not know anything about a change in plans and I have tried contacting Mike but I can not get through to his Mobile.</p>
Karen List	F	33	12 Lillywood Avenue	Friend of Elaine Straw	<p>Elaine had told me that she was not happy with how her marriage with Jack was going. She did not like Jack going off on the hunting trip with her two brothers and she told me that she had planned to 'have it out with Jack' that afternoon before he left. That was the last time I saw her.</p>

Police have been unable to make contact with either of Elaine's brothers Mike Boyce (39 years old, married to Helen, two children) and Richard Boyce (37 years old, single), but obtained a statement from Mike's wife Helen which indicates that the two men went to Canada on a three week long camping trip. They had originally intended to go with Jack Straw, but a statement from Jack's sister, Jessica indicates that the plans may have changed at the last minute.

Police have also been unable to contact Jack's younger brother Talbot Straw since the fire. Talbot is 34 years old and lives alone in Mornington.

The two bodies found at the scene of the crime were considered likely to be Jack and Elaine Straw, but the conflicting information from relatives has given some doubt to this. The Police have been unable to contact either Jack Straw (39 years old) or Elaine Straw (34 years old) since the fire.

Emergency services recorded two phone calls alerting them to the fire at 52 Lillywood Avenue, the first at 11.55pm on the 23rd, from a Male caller who would did not leave any name or

details, the second at 12.07am (on the 24th) from Mary Tailworth of 55 Lillywood Avenue.