

19 AUG 2015

Jared Nicoll
Hutt News
Jared.nicoll@fairfaxmedia.co.nz

Dear Mr Nicoll

Request for information in relation to George Englebrecht

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2015 requesting the coroner's files in relation to the death of George Englebrecht on 5 July 1979 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 28 July 2015 the Ministry advised that the time to respond to your request was being extended by 10 working days.

Following consultation with the New Zealand Police, a copy of the coronial file is released to you under the OIA and the Coroners Act 2006. Some information has been withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA as release of this information is likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. The Ombudsman may be contacted by writing to the Office of the Ombudsman at PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143, by phone to 0800 802 602 or by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Heather Baggott
General Manager Special Jurisdictions

Ref: 53905

DEPOSITION OF WITNESSES AND FINDING OF CORONERI, VEST in respect of the death of Ernst George ENGLEBRECHTThe attached depositions; of
(Full names of witnesses)Taken before
(Coroner or Justice of the Peace)

At

Date

1. William Stewart ALEXANDER ✓	Coroner	Wellington	5.11.80
2. Colin Walter WILSON ✓	Coroner	Lower Hutt	6.11.80
3. Anthony Ronsley MOORE ✓	Coroner	Lower Hutt	6.11.80
4. Paul Robert NICKALLS ✓	Coroner	Wellington	9.7.79

and written on _____ pages of paper numbered consecutively from 1 to _____ were taken and sworn/affirmed before me or the above mentioned persons at the places and on the dates shown above. The evidence not taken before me has been adopted by me as evidence at the inquest. The following persons appeared or were represented (Include names of Counsel):

Andrew David McGREGOR
Coroner

FINDING OF CORONER

I, Andrew David McGREGOR, Coroner at Wellington, hereby certify that at an inquest completed on the 6th day of November 1980, at the Courthouse, Lower Hutt, having enquired when, where, and how
(building in which inquest completed)

Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT, late of 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt
(Name, address, occupation) Retired,

came to his/her death I found:

That he died on 5.7.79 at 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt, the cause of death being:

1. Multiple head injuries with cerebral contusions
2. Inhalation of blood from facial injuries
3. Shock and loss of blood from extensive facial injuries
4. Multiple rib fractures with laceration of lung,

such injuries being inflicted by some person or persons at present unknown

Dated this at Wellington, this 6th day of November 1980.

Andrew David McGREGOR
Coroner

NOTE—This form together with the depositions and, where applicable, a certificate of registration of the death is to be forwarded to the Secretary for Justice by the Coroner completing the inquest.

THIS DEPONENT BEING DULY SWORN SAITH

My full name is Paul Robert NICKALLS.

I am a Detective Senior Sergeant attached to the Criminal Investigation Branch at Wellington.

At approximately 5.20 p.m. on Friday, 6 July 1979, I identified a male body lying beside a bed in a dwelling house situated at 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt.

I was accompanied by Detective CONNELL.

The deceased was Ernest George ENGELBRECHT, aged 91 years, born 11 May 1888.

He resided at 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown.

I have known the deceased for the last three years and I last saw him alive a month ago, when he was walking along Victoria Street.

He seemed to be in good health at the time.

TAKEN and sworn, this 9th day of July, 1979, at Wellington in the Dominion of New Zealand, before me, [Signature] CORONER

THIS DEPONENT BEING DULY SWORN SAITH:

My full name is Colin Walter WILSON.

I am a Detective Inspector in Charge of the Hutt Division C.I.B.

On Friday, 6 July 1979, I took charge of a homicide investigation relating to the death of Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT, whose death had occurred the previous day, 5 July 1979.

Detective Senior Sergeant MOORE, the previous witness was appointed Officer in Charge of the Scene and has given detailed evidence relating to the scene examination and reconstruction.

The investigation revealed that the deceased was born in Germany in 1888 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1904.

After the First World War he began Market Gardening in the Hutt Valley and eventually took up residence at 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown in 1950.

Following his wife's death in 1973, the deceased who was 85 years old then, developed into a recluse and because of some eccentricities became a very lonely man.

Because of a frugal and thrifty background the deceased developed a habit of hoarding large sums of money in his house rather than depositing the monies in Banks.

This situation came to the notice of the Police several times in the last four years of his life and steps were taken to ensure the money was deposited in the Bank.

Quedugas
K. Robinson

(Continued)

6/11/80

In 1978, the deceased was the victim of a burglary and robbery of his house; the offenders; all of whom were arrested and prosecuted, being motivated by the belief that a large sum of money was in the deceased's house.

In latter years, the deceased developed a daily habit of walking the streets of Alicetown, collecting bric a brac and odd items of interest.

He was prone to converse with strangers and tell them spontaneously of his financial security and financial habits.

He was a regular patron of a nearby Hotel, which he frequented in the hope of companionship.

Enquiries revealed that during the late afternoon of Thursday, 5 July 1979, he had been at the Hotel.

Indeed he was last seen alive at 5.40 p.m. on that day, outside his home after returning from the Hotel.

Soon after that the deceased had his evening meal and reconstruction shows that he retired to bed.

The investigation revealed that a reliable witness observed a Polynesian man leaping over the front fence of the deceased's property in Victoria Street at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday, 5 July 1979.

Investigation
Thames (continued) 6/11/80

3.

Extensive enquiries further revealed that a similarly described Polynesian man had been seen loitering about the deceased's house on many days, up to two weeks before the deceased was killed.

At 8.30 p.m. on the murder night a next door neighbour heard banging sounds coming from the deceased's house.

Reconstruction of the scene demonstrated that those sounds were consistent with the noise generated by the attack, which killed the deceased.

The Polynesian male seen at the deceased's property half an hour before the murder and who is considered to be identical with the Polynesian was seen loitering in the vicinity for two weeks prior has not been identified, or located - nor has he come forward.

A wide ranging and very extensive homicide investigation involving enquiries both in New Zealand and overseas has not yet identified the person or persons responsible for the murder of Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT on 5 July 1979.

James Edgar
Coroner

[Signature]
6/11/80

THIS DEPONENT BEING DULY SWORN SAITH:

My full name is Anthony Ronsley MOORE.

I am a Detective Senior Sergeant stationed at the New Zealand Police College, Trentham.

I previously worked under the direction of Detective Inspector WILSON in the Criminal Investigation Branch at the Lower Hutt Police Station.

On Friday, 6 July 1979, at approximately 3.40 p.m. I was instructed by Detective Inspector WILSON to go to an address at 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt.

I arrived at that address at approximately 3.50 p.m. and became officer in charge of the Homicide Scene.

The address of 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown, is that of an old style house, which is actually sited on the corner of Victoria Street and Te Mome Road; on the north western corner of that intersection.

The house concerned actually borders on to the footpath of Victoria Street and Te Mome Road and the section on the western side borders with a residential section and a park like area on the northern extremity. In general the section was over grown and was covered with an accumulation of rubbish and vegetation. There was a garage type structure on the property and behind it a number of small shed type constructions.

REFER...

I refer to photograph number 1 of the booklet of photographs, which has been produced to the Court to illustrate the house and its location.

Anthony Ronsley Moore
Colonel

(Continued)

A. R. Moore

The house concerned is that which was formerly occupied by Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT.

It is by road, a matter of a few hundred yards from a tavern known as the Valley Inn.

I entered the address at 101 Victoria Street from an entrance off Te Mome Road, this entrance actually faces the western boundary of the property at the southern end.

Although this door was at the rear of the house, it lead into the lounge of the premises and was obviously the main entrance to the house proper.

The door I have referred to was substantially a wooden door on the lower section and the upper section of it in the main consisted of a circular lead light glass area.

None of the glass in this door had been broken.

To the right of the door was a wood panelled area, slightly wider than the door itself and above that wood panelled area there was another area of leadlight glass.

My examination of this area, which is depicted in photograph 2 of the booklet of photographs produced to the Court, depicted the classic signs of a burglary.

REFER...

I established to my satisfaction that some person had punched through the leadlight glass above the panel I have mentioned, reached through the opening and then unlocked the door adjacent to it by manipulating a Yale type lock on the inside of the door.

Quincy
Carson

J. R. Moore

(CONTINUED)

My conclusion was that an intruder had broken and entered the premises through that point.

I subsequently made a detailed examination of the interior of the premises and reconstructed the events which led to the death of Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT.

I doing so I spent in excess of ten days examining the property in detail.

My reconstruction showed that the intruder responsible for the breaking and entering of the deceased's home at 101 Victoria Street had, after effecting entry, had gone almost immediately to the deceased's bedroom. This particular room is referred to as bedroom number 2 as shown in photograph ~~Plan 4 of the photographs produced.~~ *which is attached to the current*

I satisfied myself that this person had entered through the door referred to, crossed the area of the lounge, walked down the passageway to the deceased's room, which was the second door on the left going down the passage from the lounge.

I illustrate to the Court, the path of travel on ^{the}~~the above~~

REFER... photograph *H. plans*
Sgt H. Ford

From my examination of the scene and subsequent reconstruction, I am satisfied that the deceased, Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT was in his bed, when he was attacked by an intruder.

WITHHELD

— 2nd regt
Cavalry

J. R. Moore

(continued)

WITHHELD

REFER...

Sgt. A. J. ...

The position of the deceased when I viewed the scene initially is shown in photograph number ⁴5 of the photographs produced to the Court.

Further examination showed conclusively that the intruder made a limited search of the room

WITHHELD

The search carried out by the intruder was consistent with a burglary.

In the course of my examination of the premises, small amounts of cash were found in a variety of places.

James J. ...
... ..

(Continued)

S. R. ...

5.

A total of \$72.00 was found in a paper bag, which was located in a wardrobe in the room in which the deceased died; \$1.00 was found in a spectacle case in the same wardrobe; \$37.00 was found folded between a sheet of newspaper in one of the drawers in the bureau, this particular paper was well covered with an accumulation of rubbish; \$146.00 was also found in a wallet hidden in a kitchen cupboard.

Other small amounts in coins were found in a variety of places throughout the house, however, all of the money found was hidden in such a way as it would have been an insurmountable task to find it in a short space of time.

I arranged the searching of clothing in the room and found that the only item of clothing that contained any money was a pair of trousers lying at the eastern side of the deceased's bed.

There was a two cent piece in one of the pockets of these trousers.

Other observations I made during the course of my examination of the premises were that there was a partly consumed meal in an aluminium container sitting above the coal stove in the kitchen and a similar container sitting on a box outside the door which provided access to the house from Te Mome Road.

Police inquiries established that the meal sitting above the coal stove in the kitchen had been delivered at about noon on Thursday, 5 July 1979 and the meal in the container, outside the door I have mentioned, was delivered at about noon on Friday, 6 July 1979.

*Grand Jury
Verdict (Continued)*

J. R. Moore

These meals were supplied by the organisation, Meals on Wheels and it was common practise for such meals to be delivered to the deceased's door - the Te Mome Road entrance to the house.

My reconstruction of the events that took place prior to and immediately after the attack on the deceased was such that I am satisfied that the intruder responsible for the attack left the house by retracing his original steps, he travelled up the passageway of the house, through the lounge area and out of the door through which he had initially gained entry.

He closed the front door behind him and then left the property by way of the gate on to Te Mome Road.

From my overall examination of the premises and reconstruction of the events that took place prior to the death of Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT, I am of the conclusive opinion that the deceased's house was the subject of a criminal burglary between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. on the night of Thursday, 5 July 1979; that the perpetrator's motive was clearly to steal money and that it is probable that the deceased Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT was awoken by the presence of a burglar in his room.

He was then attacked and he endeavoured to courageously defend himself, which led to a great deal of force being used on him, resulting in his death.

Notwithstanding Ernst George ENGLEBRECHT's death, the burglar continued his mission to complete his original purpose, to search for and steal money.

Dr. J. J. J. J.
Colonel

A. R. Moore

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



Plan of 101 Victoria Street
Allicetown Huff Valley
Surveyed by B. Owens 10th-23rd July 1979
Scales 1:25
1cm = 25cms
B. Owens
Registered Surveyor

Photograph No. 1	shows	101 Victoria Street, Alicetown
Photograph No. 2	shows	101 Victoria Street, Alicetown
Photograph No. 3	shows	Rear door of 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown
Photograph No. 4	shows	George Ernst ENGELBRECHT, the deceased in bedroom No. 2 at 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown
Photograph No. 5	shows	George Ernst ENGELBRECHT at the Wellington Hospital Mortuary
Photograph No. 6	shows	Identikit portrait

J. R. Moore

Engelbrecht
Witness

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Photograph No. 1 shows 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown

Photograph No. 2 shows 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown

Photograph No. 3 shows Rear door of 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown

Photograph No. 4 shows George Ernst ENGELBRECHT, the deceased in bedroom No. 2 at 101 Victoria Street, Alicetown

Photograph No. 5 shows George Ernst ENGELBRECHT at the Wellington Hospital Mortuary

Photograph No. 6 shows Identikit portrait

WITHHELD

WITHHELD

J. R. Moore

*James
Gordon*

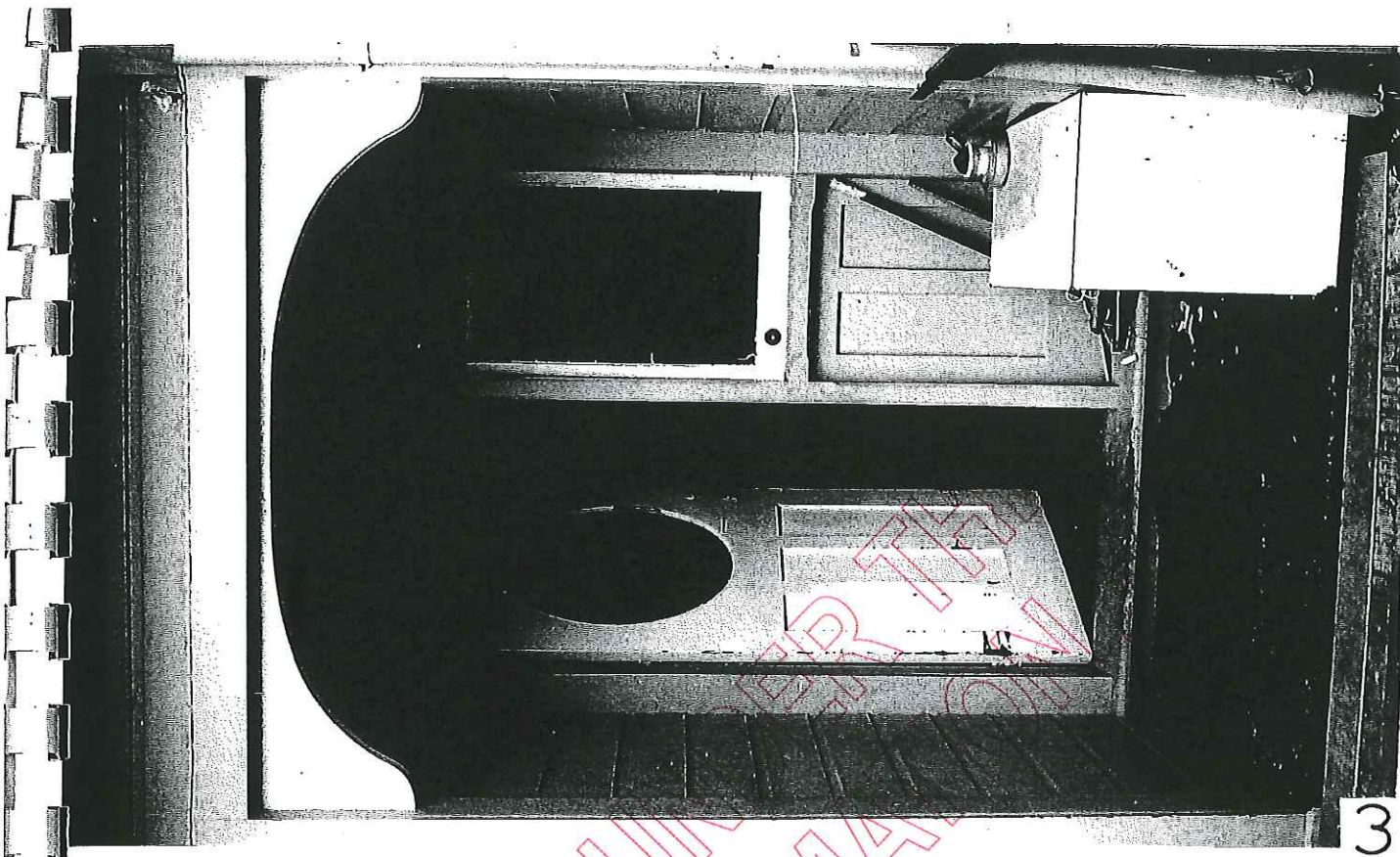
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