

## **CARLTON MURDER.**

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### **SEARCH FOR ASSAILANT.**

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### **TRACING STOLEN GOODS.**

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#### **Night Watchman's History.**

Efforts to establish the identity of the murderer of William Fitzgerald, who was shot dead in a factory in Rathdown street, Carlton, on Friday night, are being made by the detectives. One important fact which the police are hopeful will assist them in their inquiries is that only recently the factory was broken into and goods valued at £70 stolen. The police think that these goods are being disposed of in the city, and by that means they may be able to trace the man for whom they are searching, as certain facts of which they have become possessed indicate that the man who was in the building on Friday was familiar with the premises, and had presumably been there before. Silk stockings bearing the Perfection Knitting Mill's mark, an electroplated office clock supported on an easel, and £6 9/ in cash were stolen from the factory.

On the occasion of that robbery S. Bradsworth, an employee of the Perfection Knitting Mills, found that padlocks had been wrenched off the door leading to the street, and an inner door leading from a vestibule to the factory. The dead watchman recommended that the outer door

should be protected by a stronger padlock, and a suggestion was also made that the door should be kept closed while the night shift employees were in the factory.

### **Three Men Questioned.**

Early on Sunday morning a message was received at police headquarters that a man whose actions were regarded as suspicious had been loitering in a lane for some time. Senior Plain-clothes Constable Herbert, with members of the No. 2 night motor patrol intercepted the man, and questioned him. It was thought that he might have been connected with the shooting of Fitzgerald, and he was taken to lodgings which he shares with two other men. The answers of the men as to their movements were satisfactory, and they were not detained.

In response to a broadcast message a cousin of the dead man, who lives at Barooga, via Cobram (V.), called at the detective office yesterday afternoon at the request of the police, to make arrangements for Fitzgerald's burial and the disposal of his property.

The post-mortem examination made on Saturday showed that the bullet penetrated the dead man's heart. From the appearance of the wound it was evident that the shot had been fired at close range. The bullet apparently entered the body in a slanting position, which substantiates the theory that the intruder was standing on the steps leading from the vestibule to the factory when he shot Fitzgerald.

### **Was to Have Sold "Round."**

William Fitzgerald, who was aged 28 years and six months, a year ago purchased his night watchman's "round" from Mr. J. Johnson. His health was not good, and he was negotiating for the sale of his "round" to another night watchman at the time of his death.

After visiting Fitzgerald's lodgings in Princess street, Carlton, the detectives learnt many facts concerning his personal history. He was born in Waimate (N.Z.), and served with the New Zealand forces in the Great War. As the result of war injuries his health was affected, and he could undertake no hard work. About three years ago, after being attached to the New Zealand police force for some time, he came to Australia, but returned to New Zealand for a holiday. Among his possessions were found a military pension certificate and a passbook of the State Savings Bank of Victoria, showing a credit balance of £520 16 7.

One of Fitzgerald's sisters is a nun in the Convent of St. Joseph, Gisborne (N.Z.), while another lives at Waimate.

On Saturday, Mr. William Aitken, night watchman, who lives in Lonsdale street, called at police headquarters and told Detective Carey that he was a friend of Fitzgerald. On account of his ill-health Fitzgerald had intended to live with Aitken and his wife, so that he could receive the attention which was necessary to him. He contemplated changing his place of residence within the next few days.

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## CARLTON MURDER

### Another Watchman's Story

MELBOURNE, Feb. 18.

Police officials are hopeful of early developments in connection with the murder of Patrick Fitzgerald, night watchman, who was shot dead on the premises of the Perfection Knitting Mills, Rathdown Street, Carlton, on Friday night. Detectives Carey, Harding, O'Keefe, and Lacey are engaged on the case, and are understood to be following a definite line of inquiry.

Fate appears to have been against the dead man. He usually worked in company with William Aitken, night watchman, of Little Lonsdale Street, guarding about 50 or 60 buildings in Carlton. Friday night, however, was Aitken's night off. Had he been on duty with Fitzgerald, a different story might have been told. Aitken told the police this morning that he last saw Fitzgerald alive at 4.50 yesterday afternoon. He said several of the employees of the mills worked until about 1.30 in the morning, and always left one of the doors open. The watchmen had complained about it on numerous occasions, but nothing had been done.

Fitzgerald was at one time a member of the New Zealand Police Force, and had been night watchman at Carlton for about two years. He had recently been in ill health, and had intended going to live with Aitken. Aitken said Fitzgerald was the "best cobbler" he had ever had. "He was a clean living white man," said Aitken.

## WATCHMAN'S DEATH.

### Assailant at Large.

MELBOURNE, Feb. 19.—No arrest has yet been made in connection with the murder late on Friday night at Carlton of William Fitzgerald, a night-watchman. Fitzgerald surprised a burglar who was standing in the vestibule of a building in Rathdown-street, Carlton, and before he had time to draw his revolver he was shot through the heart from a close range.

Detectives investigating the crime attach considerable importance to the fact that the premises of the Perfection Knitting Mills, in front of which the tragedy occurred, was robbed of goods worth £70 recently. It is thought that the murderer had a knowledge of the building, as he was apparently hiding in the vestibule awaiting the departure from the premises of several workmen. Should the recent theft and the murder have been committed by the same man it was thought that he would endeavour to dispose of some of the stolen goods in Melbourne, and by that means the police would be able to trace him.

During their inquiries the detectives learned that Fitzgerald came to Australia from New Zealand about three years ago. He acquired the watchman's round about a year ago, and at the time of his death he was negotiating with another watchman for the sale of it. He had an account for £520 with the State Savings Bank.

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**FITZGERALD.**—On the 17th February (suddenly), **William Fitzgerald** (night watchman), of 17 Princes-street, Fitzroy, formerly of the New Zealand police force and **A.I.F.**, the esteemed friend of Mr. and Mrs. William McKenzie Aitken, aged 40 years. Requiescat in pace.

FUNERAL NOTICES

**FITZGERALD.**—The Friends of the late Mr. **WILLIAM FITZGERALD**, Night Watchman, of 17 Princes-street, Fitzroy, are respectfully notified that his funeral will leave the Memorial Chapel of the Funeral Service Company of Victoria, 28A Blyth-street, Brunswick, **THIS DAY** (Monday), 20th February, at 2 o'clock p.m. for the Fawkner Cemetery.

**CHAS. P. FRILAY PTY. LTD.**, 201 Lonsdale-street (op. Melbourne Hospital), and 28 Blyth-street, Brunswick. Phones, Central 5420, Brunswick 446.

## A MELBOURNE TRAGEDY

NIGHT **WATCHMAN** SHOT.

(Press Association—By Telegraph—Copyright.)

MELBOURNE, February 18.

(Received Feb. 19, at 5.5 p.m.)

A night **watchman** named Patrick **Fitzgerald** was shot dead while engaged in his duties. It is believed he disturbed an intruder in the building.

## Victim to be Buried To-day.

Pursuing their inquiries into the murder of **William Fitzgerald**, night watchman at Perfection Knitting Mills, Carlton, on Friday last, Detectives Carey, Harding and O'Keefe visited several houses in northern suburbs yesterday. Developments are expected within the next few days.

The body of the murdered man will be interred in **Fawkner Cemetery** this afternoon.

## **WATCHMAN'S DEATH**

### **MURDERER ESCAPES**

(Received Feb. 22, 10 a.m.)

MELBOURNE, Feb. 2.

Two sisters of Fitzpatrick, the night-watchman who was found murdered on February 17, communicated with the police, offering to pay the funeral expenses.

Deceased was a **watchman** in the Perfection Knitting Mills, Carlton, and apparently discovered a burglar on the premises, who, finding himself trapped, shot **Fitzgerald** through the heart before he had time to defend himself, and then escaped.

Some of the departing employees, who heard a cry, remembering that burglars had entered the place before, went back and found **Fitzgerald** dead.

So far no arrest has been made.



## SHOT BY BURGLAR MURDER IN MELBOURNE

(Received 22nd February, 1 p.m.) .

MELBOURNE, This Day.

Two sisters of the late John **Fitzgerald**, resident in South Canterbury, have communicated with the police offering to pay the funeral expenses. The deceased was a **watchman** at the Perfection Knitting Mills, Carlton. He apparently discovered a burglar on the premises, who, finding himself trapped, shot **Fitzgerald** through the heart before he had time to defend himself. He then escaped. Some of the departing employees, who heard the cry, remembering that burglars had entered the place a week before, went back and found **Fitzgerald** dead. So far no arrest has been made.



## MURDER OF WATCHMAN

NO ARREST SO FAR.

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MELBOURNE, February 21.

(Received February 22, at 1.30 a.m.).

The two sisters of **Fitzgerald**, who was a resident of South Canterbury, have communicated with the police, offering to pay the funeral expenses. Deceased was a **watchman** at the Perfection Knitting Mills, Carlton. Apparently he discovered a burglar on the premises, who, finding himself trapped, shot **Fitzgerald** through the heart before he had time to defend himself, then escaped. Some departing employees, who heard a cry, remembering that burglars had entered the place a week before, went back and found **Fitzgerald** dead.

So far there has been no arrest.

[A message received on February 18 stated:—A night **watchman** named Patrick **Fitzgerald** was shot dead while engaged in his duties. It is believed he disturbed an intruder in the building.]

### Shot by Burglar.

Surprising a burglar at work in the Perfection Knitting Mills, Rathdown Street, Carlton, on Friday night, Nightwatchman Patrick Fitzgerald was shot dead by the intruder, who escaped. Fitzgerald, who was an ex-policeman, had a round which included a number of factories in Rathdown Street. It is surmised that he heard a noise as he passed the knitting mills, and opened the door, flashing his torch inside.

He must have stepped inside the door and been immediately shot by the burglar, for employees at a mill opposite heard a shot, and were in time to see a man jump over Fitzgerald's body and run away into the Exhibition Gardens. At the time they did not know what had happened, and when they searched for the murderer a few minutes later he had, of course, disappeared.

Fitzgerald, it was discovered, had been shot through the heart, and died immediately. His torch, still burning, was lying beside his body, which was just inside the front door of the factory.

Despite strictest search all this week there has been no arrest, nor have police been able to obtain the slightest clue to the identity of the burglar-murderer.

## NIGHT WATCHMAN SHOT.

### ASSAILANT NOT TRACED.

#### Coroner's Open Finding.

Ten weeks ago **William** Fitzgerald, aged 40 years, night watchman, of Princes street, Fitzroy, was shot dead in a vestibule at the entrance to the premises of the Perfection Knitting Mills, in Rathdown street, Carlton. Fitzgerald was found to have died from a bullet wound in the heart. Extensive inquiries conducted by the police since his death, however, have failed to reveal the identity of his assailant. At the morgue yesterday the city coroner (Mr. D. Berriman, P.M.), held an inquest on Fitzgerald's death. Sub-Inspector Piggott appeared to assist the coroner.

Senior Plain-clothes Constable Herbert said:—About 20 minutes past 10 o'clock on the night of February 17 I and other members of the police night patrol were called to the Perfection Knitting Mills at 29 Rathdown street. We found Fitzgerald's body in a huddled position against the inside door leading to the factory of the Perfection Knitting Mills. An empty cartridge shell was found lying near him, and in his pocket I found a fully loaded revolver in a leather case.

Harry Arthur Petterd, textile machine mechanic, employed at the Perfection Knitting Mills, and living at Severn street, Box Hill, said:—On February 6 our factory was broken into and property was stolen. About 6 o'clock on the evening of February 17 I saw two men standing in Rathdown street opposite the factory. I saw Fitzgerald at half-past 8 o'clock, and told him of the two men whom I suspected. I was working in the factory that night, and the inside door leading to our rooms was locked. The main door was open. About a quarter past 10 o'clock I heard a shot fired, and heard Fitzgerald call, "Hey, Harry." Then followed the sound of a fall. I ran out to the back of the factory to obtain assistance, and a few minutes later, after the night patrol had arrived, Fitzgerald's body was found.

Briefly describing the building, Detective Carey said:—Directly in front of the main door in Rathdown street rises a stairway to the top floor, which is occupied by the Continental Suspender Manufacturing Company. The door leading to the factory of the Perfection Knitting Mills is situated on the left of the main door, at the foot of the stairway. Although the night was wet there were no footmarks on the stairway. We have made inquiries, but have been unable to find the man who fired the shot.

James Woods, proprietor of the Queen's Palace, corner of Rathdown and Victoria streets, Carlton, said:—I was standing at the front entrance to the Queen's Palace at a quarter past 10 o'clock on the night of February 17, when I heard a report which sounded like a shot and then a shout. About a minute later I saw a man running along one of the paths in the Exhibition Gardens, on the opposite side of Rathdown street. He was running away from the direction of the Perfection Knitting Mills factory.

Mr. Berriman found that Fitzgerald had died from a bullet wound in the heart, but that there was no evidence to show by whom the shot was fired.