

Neild GILLIES

17/02/2016

Neild or Neil GILLIES

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ?

Rank: Constable

Stations: ?

Service: From ? to ?

Awards: ?

Born: ?

Died on: ?

Cause: ?

Age: ?

Funeral date: ?

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: ?

Memorial at: ?

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

*Is often referred to as Neild Gillies in the news paper
articles but Ancestry.com has a number of 'hits' from entries
in NSW Police Gazettes up to 1930 with the first name being
NEIL.*

Evening News (Sydney)

Thursday 23 September 1920 p 7 of 10

Constable Fired At

GEORGE'S RIVER CASE

George Thomas DAVISON. 66, was charged on remand at the **Central Police Court** to-day with shooting at **Constable Neild Gillies**, with Intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The evidence for the prosecution was that about **5.45p.m.** on the **15th instant**, the constable went to the accused's residence, **Castle-street, George's River**, a lonely spot

surrounded by bush and scrub. **Davidson** was in a paddock about **30 yards** from the house, and as **Gillies** approached he hurried inside and closed the door. The Constable knocked and called loudly, "Mr. Davison, I want to speak to you." Getting no response he turned away, and when about **eight yards** from the house he heard the door open. Looking back he saw the accused standing with the door partly open, and in his hand a **double-barrelled gun pointing in his (Gillies) direction. Almost immediately** an explosion occurred, and a shot passed close to the constable. Gillies ran back, and accused attempted to close the door, but he was overpowered, and the gun taken from him.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/117708087>

Evening News (Sydney)

Friday 24 September 1920 p 4 of 8

Constable Fired At

GEORGE'S RIVER MAN ACCUSED

George Thomas Davison. 66. who was charged with shooting at **Constable Neild Gillies** with Intent to do him grievous bodily harm, was to-day committed for trial at the **Central Police Court**. The alleged shooting, it was stated, took place at accused's house at **George's River**, a lonely spot surround by bush and scrub.

Sergeant Gorman stated that when the accused was brought to the **Kogarah Police Station**, **Constable Gillie**. said "This man nearly shot me." Accused replied, " You nearly shot me in the kitchen."

Constable Kincade said that about **January 16**. he had a conversation with the accused, saying to him, " I hope we will have no further trouble In reference to the **oyster lease notice boards**." Accused replied, " I have not had justice in reference to that matter. According to the decision of an

English court of law, I would be **justified in shooting any person who even trespassed on my property.**"

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/117704639>

Examiner (Launceston, Tasmania)

Friday 2 November 1928 p 8 of 14

QUEER APPLICATION

An **extraordinary application** was made by **George Thomas Davison**, an elderly man, of **Kogarah (N.S.W.)**, in the **Full Court, Sydney**, yesterday. **Davison** applied for a **writ of mandamus**, calling upon the **Prime Minister of the Commonwealth** requiring him to cause a **referendum** to be taken to ascertain whether the people of Australia would prefer **military forces** to be **substituted for the police**.

Three carefully written affidavits were filed by the applicant, who declared that a **criminal in the police force** had **molested him** to an alarming extent, that they had **kidnapped him** from his **home and lands**, and unlawfully imprisoned him in **Kogarah for 14 days** ; that the **New South Wales police** had held up a **sure cure for cancer**, and that the **'keep to the left'** by-law was an absurdity.

The **Chief Justice (Sir Philip Street)**, after reading the affidavits informed the applicant that the court had **no jurisdiction** to entertain his motion.

Mr. Davison then announced his intention of applying to the **High Court**.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/51509461>

Evening News (Sydney)

COURT HABIT

MAN WITH GRIEVANCE AGAINST POLICE

George Thomas Davison, a grey haired old man, has become a **familiar figure** In the **Banco Court** when the **Full Bench** is sitting. He appeared **again** to-day, armed with a bundle of legal-looking documents, and once more secured the attention of the **Full Court** for the consideration of a grievance which he has brought before the court on several occasions. **Mr. Davison's** trouble is that he can not persuade the **Full Court** to grant him a writ of mandamus to compel the **Premier** to take a **referendum** on the questions of whether the **military should be substituted for the police**, and that the soldiers should be given land instead of increased pay, the money thus saved to be devoted to providing profitable work for the people.

In his **affidavit in support** of his application Mr. **Davison** declared that "Cancers have caused thousands of deaths to people and stock since 1902, **through the stupidity and dishonesty of the N.B.W. police**, who also 'aided and abetted unbearable molestations against me, which the **Premier** did not reply to my complaint. So I hereby, for the safety and peace of all honest people of N.S.W, call upon the **Premier** and the **N.S.W. Government** to show cause in this Honorable Court within eight days of the filing of this affidavit, why a mandamus should not issue ordering that a referendum be placed before the people so that they may vote : Should the military be substituted for police or not."

NO JURISDICTION

Mr. Justice James said the Court had no jurisdiction to deal with such a matter. "We have no power," added his Honor, "to grant mandamus calling on the **Premier** to take a referendum. You will have to put it before them as an election issue. That is the only course I can suggest'

And Mr. Davison, gathering up his papers, left the Court.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/118783864>

John COADY

17/02/2016

John COADY

New South Wales Police Force

Sub-Inspector

**Stationed at: Wingham – 2 years, Taree –
9 years,**

**Kempsey – 6 years, Scone until 1906 –
Retired**

late of Woollahra

Joined NSW Police Force – Mounted Police

83 old

Died 1920

**Laid to Rest in the Vault, with his wife,
at Waverley Cemetery.**

OBITUARY.

Sub-Inspector John Coady.

On the 12th ult., at his residence, 26 Edgecliffe-road, Woollahra, John Coady, late Sub-inspector of Police, Scone, passed to his reward, at the age of 83. He was only six days ill before his death.

The late sub-inspector was a native of Freshford, County Kilkenny, Ireland, and came to New South Wales in 1860, allured thither by the gold fever of those days.

He spent several years on the Gulf diggings at Moruya, and afterwards joined the mounted police. From the Sydney depot he was sent to Wingham, Manning River, as senior-constable in-charge. After, two years he was transferred to the charge of Taree. There he remained nine years, and was promoted to Kempsey; and, after six years in Kempsey, was transferred to Scone, where he remained until 1906, when he retired from active service, and lived ever since at Woollahra.

He had an honourable and striking record of service well rendered, and of duty well fulfilled. He had many thrilling stories to tell of encounters with bush rangers and notorious criminals – notably, the famous Fred Ward, the bushranger (known as Thunderbolt), the Dora Dora blacks, the Breelong

blacks, and others. As a bushman, the late sub-inspector was famous, and it was largely due to his close pursuit that Thunderbolt had to quit the coast districts of the Manning and Hastings rivers, and confine his operations to the tablelands, where he was finally captured, at Guyra. On one occasion, the ex-sub-inspector tracked Thunderbolt to Tomalla Tops, the plateau whence the Hunter, the Manning, the Barrington, and other rivers take their rise. On that occasion he captured the camp of the bushranger, but Thunderbolt made good his escape. The ex-sub-inspector was often heard to tell how he'd have caught the bushranger, too, but his mount was too slow on the mountain side. Thunderbolt was remarkable for the splendid horses he always rode. On that occasion 13 horses were taken at the bushranger's camp and brought to Taree, where they were sold by public auction.

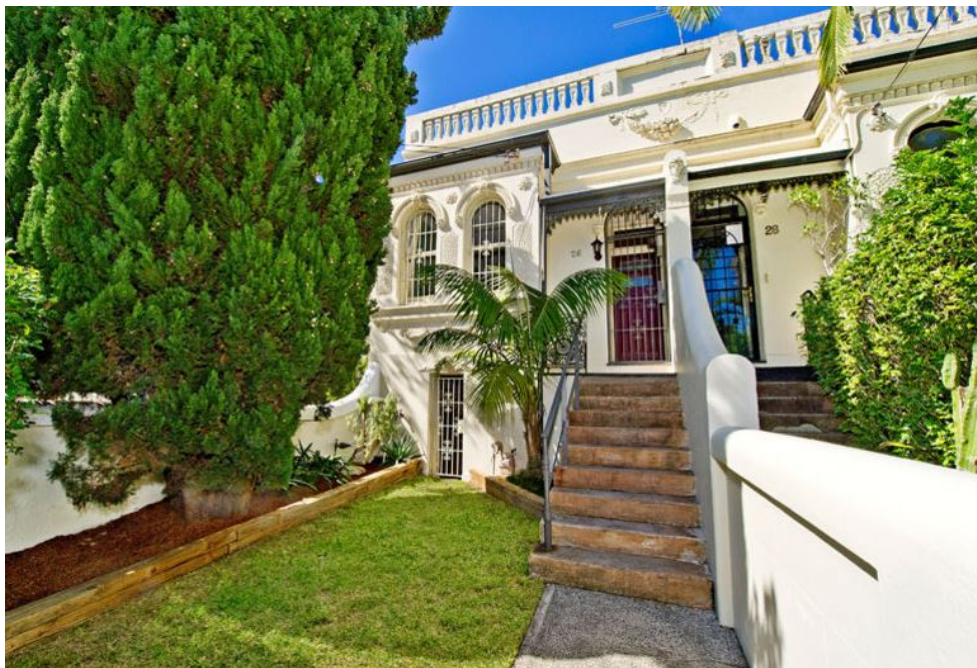
The deceased was the father of a large family. His wife predeceased him by two years. His son, James, died some years before, as also did his daughter, Sister Mary Ignatius, who died at Moree three years ago. He leaves three sons and four daughters to mourn their loss. They are Rev. Father J. J. Coady, P.P., Taree. Rev. Mother Francis, Brigidine Convent, Cooma; Sister Mary Francis, superior of the Convent of Mercy, Narrabri ; and Sister Mary Raymund, Dominican Convent, Strathfield ; Mary and Vincent, Woollahra ; and William, Queensland.

During the last 13 years he was a familiar figure at the Holy Cross Church, Bondi Junction. He was always at morning Mass, and was a daily communicant. His death was as holy as his life. The Rev. Father Smith administered the last Sacraments several hours before he died, and he was conscious right to the end. His remains were laid to rest in the **vault** at the **Waverley Cemetery**, where rests the remains of his late beloved and faithful **wife**.— R.I.P.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/105968754?searchTerm=s%20ub%20inspector%20james%20smith&searchLimits=l-australian=y>



Home of John COADY – 26 Edgecliff Rd,
Woollahra, NSW



Home of John COADY – 26 Edgecliff Rd,
Woollahra, NSW

Frederick William MITCHELL

17/02/2016

Frederick William MITCHELL

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 'Q' 9212

Rank: Constable 1st Class

Stations: ?, Moss Vale

Service: From 31 March 1911 to 17 December 1920 = 9
years, 8 months, 16 days Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: ? ? 1890 at Newtown, NSW

Died on: Friday 17 December 1920

Cause: Shot – Murdered

Event location: Bowral, NSW

Age: 30

Funeral date: Monday 20 December 1920

Funeral location:

Buried at: Moss Vale General Cemetery, Berrima Rd, Moss
Vale, NSW

Grave: Catholic Section, Row 1, Plot 14

[codepeople-post-map]

Memorial location:



Constable 1st Class Frederick William MITCHELL



WILLIAM MITCHELL

(1883-1920)

WAS SHOT DEAD

IN THE LINE OF HIS DUTY

OCTOBER 17th 1920.



GOVERNMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
TO CONSTABLE (FIRST CLASS.)
WILLIAM MITCHELL
WHO WAS SHOT DEAD
WHILE IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTY
ON TRK 17th DECEMBER 1920.







FREDRICK IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance

On the **evening** of **Friday 17 December, 1920** neighbours rang **Moss Vale police** to say that they could hear **shooting** coming from **Major Thomas La Barte's** house, "**Old Castle**"□, near **Bowral**.

Sergeant Mackie then rang **La Barte**, and asked him if anything was wrong, however all the major would say was, "I've gone over the line, I've gone over the line!" Suspecting that something serious was occurring, or had occurred already, the sergeant quickly sent **Constable Mitchell** out to the house on a **motor cycle** while he (Sergeant Mackie) followed on a **push bike**. On the way to the house **Constable Mitchell** met **Constable Edward Charles Finch** of **Moss Vale police**, and they both went out to La Barte's home together.

At the dwelling, which appeared quiet and deserted, the **three policemen** consulted for a few minutes and then decided to search inside. They crept up to the front bedroom window, and looking through, could see **Mrs La Barte** lying on her back on the floor. The police then separated, with **Mitchell** going to the **back door** and the other **two going** to the **front door**. **Constable Mitchell** then **entered the house** through the door and into a hallway. A few moments later a **shot** was heard, followed by a heavy thud on the floor. **Fearing** that Mitchell had been shot, **Sergeant Mackie** immediately ran in through the **back door** and, reaching the end of the hallway barely escaped being shot in the head when **another shot** dislodged plaster from the wall near his head. Although both **Sergeant Mackie** and **Constable Finch** made several attempts to enter the hallway they were driven back each time by the unseen offender.

Police reinforcements had begun to arrive by this time, and **Constable Charles Eadie** (**Bowral**) then climbed through the window of the maid's room while the other police, including **Sergeant Henry John Shailer** (**Bowral**), fired shots into the house **to distract** the offender. At this time **Constable Eadie** heard the offender call out to the police, and realizing that the voice came from the drawing room, he switched on the light

in that room and saw **La Barte** crouching under the table with a **double barrelled shotgun** in his hand. **Eadie** leapt on the offender and pinned him to the floor with one hand on his throat, and the other on the shotgun.

When the house was searched, **five revolvers and a rifle** were found. The body of **Mrs Doleen Maud La Barte**, the offender's wife, was found with **sixteen bullet wounds** to her **head and chest**, while the body of **Constable Mitchell** was found in the hall with wounds to the **head and stomach**.

*The Argus newspaper of 23 December, 1920 reported on the inquest into the two deaths, including the words of the coroner, who paid a tribute to the police for their bravery in effecting La Barte's arrest, and said, "I wish to especially bring under the notice of the authorities the conduct of **Constable Eadie**. This young officer, at considerable peril and risk, rushed into a darkened room, and although it would have been easier to have shot La Barte, he effected the capture without shooting him. He is to be commended for this, and I hope it will not be overlooked by his superiors."*

The constable was born in **1890** and joined the New South Wales Police Force on **31 March, 1911**. At the time of his death he was stationed at **Moss Vale**.

Scrutineer and Berrima District Press (NSW : 1892 – 1948),

Saturday 25 December 1920, page 2

OLDCASTLE TRAGEDY.

CORONIAL INQUIRY. WITNESSES BREAK DOWN.

The circumstances surrounding the **murder of Mrs. La Barte and Constable Frederick William Mitchell** at "Oldcastle" on Friday last were inquired into at the courthouse, **Moss Vale**, by **Mr. H. W. Taylor, district coroner.**

The small available space in the courtroom was overtaxed by persons desirous of witnessing the proceedings. **Mr. F. O Ebsworth** (Sydney) appeared for **La Barte**, and **Mr. B. H. Paine** watched the proceedings on **behalf of the police.**

Major La Barte was brought into the courtroom between two policemen. He is a fine-looking dark young man with the build of an athlete, of medium height, and he was neatly dressed, also wearing a soft shirt and bow tie. He wears a small military moustache, and his distinguishing features are his large blue eyes, set wide apart, and his well-formed lips and mouth. He sat in the dock, with one neatly shod ankle hoisted on to his knee, and he displayed a keen interest in the proceedings. Otherwise he was unperturbed, and showed no signs of nervousness.

The first witness was **William James Robb**, solicitor, of **St. Kilda, Victoria.** He said that on Sunday last at Oldcastle he had identified the body as that of **his daughter, Doleen Maud La Barte**, aged **26.** She was born in Melbourne, and was married to Thomas Butler La Barte in **July, 1919,** in Sydney.

Henry Wesley Mitchell, furniture manufacturer, Moss Vale, brother of the late **Constable Mitchell**, broke down and wept hysterically as he entered the box. Recovering, he said that at about midnight on Friday last, at **Oldcastle**, he identified a body as that of his brother, who was **born at Newtown** and a **married man, 30 years** of age. He had **no children**, and had been

about nine years in the service; the last time witness saw his brother alive was at about 5.15pm on Friday last, being then in his usual good health.

The witness, during his evidence, suddenly looked across at the prisoner in the dock and cried "*Let me at him and I will kill him.*"

Senior Sergt. Alexander Mackie, of **Moss Vale**, deposed that at about 6 p.m. on Friday last he received a message from **Mr. T. Mack**, licensee of the **Royal hotel**. After conversation with **Constable Mitchell** he rang up **Major La Barte**, who replied "La Barte speaking!" Witness inquired if he wanted to see him and La Barte answered "You had better come out; I have just gone over the line (or over the mark)." Witness asked what was the matter, and La Barte said "Oh, just gone over the line; I might be dead when you come out!" The sergeant asked, "What have you done?" and he answered, "Oh, just gone over the line." Witness then said he would go out and talk to him and settle matters alright.

Constable Mitchell went to **Oldcastle** behind a man named **Howard** on a **motor cycle**, and he (witness) followed on an **ordinary bike**. When he rode up to the house he saw **Constables Mitchell** and **Finch** coming from the rear of it. "*Constable Mitchell and I,*" continued witness, "*looked through the window of Mrs. La Barte's bedroom and saw a woman lying on the floor apparently dead. We then went to the rear of the house, placing Constable Finch at the front of the house where he could watch if anyone left, Constable Mitchell* meanwhile walking around to the back. As witness followed and entered the back passage he could hear **Constable Mitchell's** footfalls in front; when about two yards from the main hall he heard a shot. **Constable Mitchell** cried, "*Oh, my God!*" and witness heard a **fall**. Witness went on to state that he was just stepping from the passage into the main hall when **another shot** was fired, which must have passed very close to him, as some plaster fell around where he was standing.

Constable Finch then came running up to him. A curtain hanging in the main hall obstructed their view and the person who fired the shot and **Constable Mitchell** were both on the opposite side of it. He got down on his knees and tried to see who fired the shots, but all I could make out was the muzzle of a gun rising slowly from the floor and just as he drew back **another shot** was fired. He then took **his boots off** and decided to get through a window, but as he was approaching it **two shots** were fired and he was forced back; a mattress on the verandah near the wall obstructed him. He then went out and found the man **Howard**, who went and **procured assistance**, and **six civilians** from **Moss Vale** arrived and surrounded the house to prevent anyone escaping; about **9 o'clock** **Sergt. Shailer** and **Constable Eadie** arrived from **Bowral**; witness and **Constable Eadie** went to the window of the maid's room, and **fired three shots** in with the intention of locating the person inside; there was no response; he left **Constable Eadie**, and he and **Sergt. Shailer** went round to the opposite side and fired **two shots** into the lighted room, and immediately **La Barte** called out, "*Come in, I have no firearms*" – he was in the **dining room** next to the lighted room. **Sergt Shailer** then went into the room and witness followed. Just then **Constable Eadie** called out, "*I've got him.*" They went in, and saw **La Barte** lying on his back on the floor and **handcuffed**.

Altogether, some **30 shots** were fired, from the passage and windows. The **dead body** of **Constable Mitchell** was **lying near the telephone**.

He had a **large wound** in the **groin**, and part of the **left side** of the **head** was blown away. His **regulation revolver**, **loaded in five chambers**, had **never been taken out** of the pouch.

In **Mrs. La Barte's** room witness saw the dead body of **Doleen Maud La Barte**, who was lying partly on the left side, and dressed only in a nightdress. There was a **large wound in her head**. Near the body on the floor was lying **the rifle** produced. It had **jammed**, and was not fit for use. It contained **four live**

cartridges and **one empty** shell The **revolver** produced was found in **Mr. La Barte's** room. It had also become jambed, and contained **three live** cartridges.

At the police station **La Barte** suggested sending a wire to his uncle. When asked what he wanted in the wire, he said: *"Arrested for murder; no excuse; must have gone mad!"*

While **Constable Mitchell** and witness were in the passage, he heard a voice at the telephone say: *"I want the police station. Send out the police. I want to kill them all."*

In all **about 30 shots** were fired at Oldcastle from the passage and windows of the house, while **Constable Finch** and witness were there.

Every time they attempted to look down the passage a shot was fired.

When **La Barte** was arrested he was **drunk – stupidly drunk**. *"Otherwise,"* added witness, *"we should all have been shot, I reckon."*

Dr. F. C Stevenson described the injuries received by the two dead persons; the **constable** died from the **gunshot wound in the skull** and **Mrs. La Barte** from a **bullet wound through the skull**; there were **sixteen bullet wounds** in various parts of **Mrs. La Barte's** body; in some instances the entry and exit of the same bullet accounted for two wounds.

When witness was at **Oldcastle** on Friday night **La Barte**, lying on the floor, opened his eyes, and said *"Hullo, is that you, doc?"* Witness said, *"Yes."* Prisoner said, *"How much strychnine would it take to knock a chap out?"* Witness said, *"Oh, you're alright."* **La Barte** spoke quite rationally.

Sergt. Mackie: Could you say anything about his sobriety.

Dr. Stevenson: *No, I could not.*

Lily Drain, cook and housekeeper at Oldcastle, said that at **5 30 p m.** on Friday she heard a bell ring; this was followed by screams from **Mrs. La Barte,** and her voice calling "*Tammy's shooting me.*"

Witness went into **Mrs. La Barte's** room; **Mrs. La Barte** stood near the bed, facing her; **La Barte** had his back to witness. **Mrs. La Barte** cried out, "*Lily, he's shooting me.*" **Two shots** were fired rapidly. The room was darkened. **La Barte** appeared to be holding his wife with his **left hand** and a **revolver** was in his **right hand.** (Witness at this stage broke down). Continuing, witness said that she ran out of the house into the yard, calling to the men to go quickly for the police, as **Mrs. La Barte** had been shot.

Mrs La Barte had not been well that day, and had remained in bed, with the exception of a few minutes at lunch time, when she heard **La Barte** say to his wife, "*Are yo happy, Nooks?*" She said, "*Certainly not, Tammy – not for the next 24 hours.*" Later, **Mr. La Barte** took his wife a hot water bottle and told witness not to disturb her and to watch the telephone; he subsequently left the house; he was addicted to whisky drinking.

James McKay, farmer, employed at **Oldcastle** said that when **Lily Drain** gave the alarm he went out looking for the **saddle mare;** he found her **near the garage,** ready saddled. As he went to mount **a shot** rang out and the **mare fell.** Witness saw **La Barte** on the **verandah** with a **revolver in** his **hand.** Witness ran, and **three shots** were fired – one struck the ground before him and another just behind him; he did not know where the other one went.

La Barte drank whisky a good deal, but it was difficult to tell when he was drunk; his eyes looked peculiar that afternoon before he went to **Moss Vale.**

Constable Edward Finch said that after **Sergeant Mackie** left

him in the passage after **Mitchell** had been shot, whenever he tried to look into the passage where **Mitchell** lay a shot would be fired. Then **La Barte** went to the telephone and called the police station and said, "*Send more policemen, I will shoot them all.*" Shortly after he again called the station and said "*La Barte here; I have shot one policeman ; I will shoot them all ; leave La Barte alone, he is all right.*" Later he saw **La Barte** crawling along the passage with a gun in his hand. Immediately witness showed himself **La Barte** fired at him. Witness **fired twice** and **La Barte** fired again. Witness fired **once more** and **La Barte** crawled away into the room, where he was later caught by **Constable Eadie**.

The **constable** added that he had been in conversation with **La Barte** and his wife the **previous day**, when the latter invited him to take shelter at **Oldcastle** from the **storm**; **La Barte** then appeared quite rational.

Constable Charles Eadie, of **Bowral**, said that after he was left alone outside **La Barte's** room he heard **three shots** from the other side of the house. When the last were fired he heard someone say "*Come in ; I'm not armed.*" He then got into **La Barte's** room and locked the door of the left-hand room. He then went to the door leading to the hall, and flashed his **electric torch** up and down the hall and across into the dining room, as both the rooms were in darkness. As a result he saw **La Barte** lying under the table with a **gun in his hand**.

Witness rushed into the room and caught the gun in one hand and seized **La Barte's** throat with the other. He took a **double barrelled breech-loading gun** from him, which contained **one live** and one empty cartridge. In his pockets he found **20 loaded cartridges**. He called out, "*I've got him,*" and, with the help of **Finch** and **Shailer**, **handcuffed** him.

Under the table where **La Barte** was lying was a decanter about half full of **whisky**.

With **Sergeant Shailer** witness took **La Barte** to **Moss Vale** police station, where he was placed in a cell.

La Barte said nothing further to witness. His conversation was rational. He was stiff in the legs and under the influence of drink.

To the Coroner: He could have shot **La Barte**; but thought discretion the better thing and arrested him.

Sergt Henry John Shailer generally corroborated **Constable Eadie**'s evidence. He asked **La Barte** if he had realised what he had done and the prisoner replied "*Don't mention it, sergeant; I don't want to talk about it.*" He was groggy and unable to stand properly.

EVIDENCE OF DRUNKENNESS

Edward C. Bradbury, chemist, gave evidence concerning the purchase of two bottles of the best perfume at his shop by **La Barte**; he handed him the parcel, together with some medicine for his wife, which **La Barte** promised to take home; he dropped the parcel and one bottle broke on the floor; he was under the influence of drink, but witness noticed nothing peculiar about him, except that he was not as chatty as usual.

Edward Breen, laborer, of **Berrima**, corroborated the chemist's evidence re the breaking of the bottle of perfume. **La Barte**, he added, was drunk, swaying from one side to the other in front of the counter.

A man named **J. Egan**, from **Exeter**, prevented prisoner from riding his horse afterwards **into the shop**. **La Barte** told him to leave the horse alone and said, "*If you come on to the street I will fight any one of you!*" **Egan** replied "*I could not fight a paper bag,*" and advised **La Barte** to go home like a good man, when prisoner left.

Leslie Edward Wallis, a drover, said he met **La Barte** at the

sale yards on Friday last, who stated that he was pleased with the **bull** witness had sold him. After more conversation respecting cattle he muttered something and then asked witness to go with him to the hotel and "*have a wad.*" Subsequently, **La Barte** appeared to witness to be drunk.

The evidence concluded at 4 p m.

The **Coroner** returned a verdict that **Mrs. La Barte** and **Constable Mitchell** had been murdered by **Major Thomas La Barte**, whom he committed for **trial** at the **Central Criminal Court, Sydney**, on **March 21, 1921**.

The **Coroner** paid a tribute to the police **for their bravery** in effecting **La Barte's** arrest, and said: "*I wish to especially bring under the notice of the authorities the conduct of **Constable Eadie**. This young officer, at considerable peril and risk, rushed into a darkened room and, although it would have been **easier to have shot La Barte**, he effected his capture without doing so. He is to be commended for this, and I hope it will not be overlooked by his superiors.*"

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article124752967.txt>

Scrutineer and Berrima District Press (NSW : 1892 – 1948),

Wednesday 8 June 1921, page 2

Moss Vale Tragedy.

It is announced that the **charge of murdering Constable Frederick William Mitchell**, upon which Major Thomas la Barte was remanded to the next sittings of the Criminal Court, **will not now be proceeded with.**

The constable was one of the victims of a tragedy which occurred at Moss Vale on December 17 last. After a trial for murder lasting two days la Barte was sentenced to **seven years' hard labour**, the verdict of the jury being that he was guilty of **manslaughter** in relation to the **death of his wife**.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article124751058.txt>

The Friends logo is derived from the female figure that forms part of the impressive Robb monument, located to the left upon entering the cemetery from Dandenong Road.

An inscription on the pedestal of the monument refers to **Doleen Maude La Barte**, the only daughter of W J and E M Robb who was **murdered** by her husband, **Major Thomas Butler La Barte** on **17 December 1920** at their home at Moss Vale, New South Wales.

The Argus newspaper of 20 December 1920 told the tragic story:

*Details of the shooting of the wife of **Major Thomas Butler La Barte**, the shooting of **Constable Frederick William Mitchell** and the arrest of **Major La Barte** near Mossvale on **Friday** night give a story of grim tragedy. **Major La Barte** is the son of the Rev. T. La Barte, formerly of Brighton. Major La Barte, who was educated at the Brighton Grammar School, is **34** years of age. He served with distinction in **France** in the **Royal Field Artillery**, gaining the M.C. Mrs La Barte was well known in Melbourne. She was the only daughter of Mr. W. J. Robb, and was **27** years of age.*

***Major La Barte** was in Mossvale on Friday, and, according to the police account, was **drinking heavily**. Not long after his return home at about **6 o'clock**, the cook at the house was*

summonsed by her mistress's bell. When the cook got to Mrs. La Barte's bedroom she saw Major La Barte holding his wife by the wrist. Mrs. La Barte cried out "Oh, he's shooting me!" Two reports from a revolver followed, and Mrs. La Barte sank down, shot in the head and chest. The neighbours telephoned to the **police station at Mossvale, about two miles distant.**

Constable Mitchell left for La Barte's on a motor-cycle, and was followed by **Sergeant Mackie, Mounted-constable Finch** and **Constable Eadie**. Constable Mitchell entered the house at the front, when shots were heard, and Mitchell fell. He must have died instantly.

When darkness came on, Constable Eadie, who had an **electric torch**, climbed through the window of the maid's room, while the other constables fired at the adjoining windows. Eadie walked into the living room, and found Major La Barte crouched beside the table, with a gun in one hand. With a leap Eadie reached La Barte, gripped him by the neck, and warded off the gun. While they were struggling other constables rushed in. La Barte was disarmed, and taken into custody.

After reaching the police station, Major La Barte spoke of having pains in his head, but said nothing further. The **funeral of Constable Mitchell** was largely attended. He left a **young widow, but no children.**

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