occur, cancellation by per[illegible]

and initialled by the writer and

Superior Officer. Alterations

[illegible]ons are to be similarly ini

Particulars of Executors

Enclosure 2 in Confidential Circular dated 24th March 1905

Executions - Table of Drops (April 1892)

The length of the drop may usually be calculated by dividing 840 foot pounds by the weight of the culprit and his clothing in pounds; which will give the length of the drop in feet, but no drop should exceed 8 feet. Thus a person weighing 140 pounds in his clothing will require a drop of 840 divided by 140 = 6 feet. The following Table is calculated on this basis up to the weight of 210 pounds:-

Table of Drops.

Weight of Prisoner in his clothes	Length of the Drop	Weight of prisoner in his clothes	Length of the Drop	Weight of prisoner in his clothes	Length of the Drop.
	ft in		ft in		
105 lbs & under	8 " 0	127 lbs & under	6 " 7	162 lbs & under	5 " 2
106 "	7 " 11	129 "	6 " 6	165 "	5 " 1
107 "	7 " 10	130 "	6 " 5	168 "	5 " 0
108 "	7 " 9	132 "	6 " 4	170 "	4 " 11
109 "	7 " 8	134 "	6 " 3	173 "	4 " 10
110 "	7 " 7	136 "	6 " 2	177 "	4 " 9
112 "	7 " 6	138 "	6 " 1	180 "	4 " 8
113 "	7 " 5	140 "	6 " 0	183 "	4 " 7
114 "	7 " 4	142 "	5 " 11	186 "	4 " 6
115 "	7 " 3	144 "	6 " 10	189 "	4 " 5
117 "	7 " 2	146 "	5 " 9	193 "	4 " 4
118 "	7 " 1	148 "	5 " 8	197 "	4 " 3
120 "	7 " 0	150 "	5 " 7	201 "	4 " 2
121 "	6 " 11	152 "	5 " 6	205 "	4 " 1
123 "	6 " 10	155 "	5 " 5	210	4 " 0
124 "	6 " 9	157 "	5 " 4		
126 "	6 " 8	160 "	5 " 3		

When from any special reason such as a diseased condition of the neck of culprit the Governor and Medical Officer think that there should be a departure from this table they may inform the Executioner, and advise him as to the length of the drop which should be given in that particular case

H. M. Gaol, Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

Frances Knorr. aged 23

on 15th January 1894.

Height	5 ft 2 in	
Weight	11 Stone 2 lbs	1 lb lead in shirt
Length of Drop	7 ft. 6 in	
Length of Rope	42 ft	

Remarks as to Result.

death was instantaneous
on examination after being cut
down the Doctor (Shields) found
that there was not the slightest
scratch on her neck ~~which had~~
~~been~~ the spine was dislocated

R P Burrowes
Sheriff

A. S.

H. M. Gaol, Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

Ernest Knorf age 18

on 19th March 1894

Height	5 ft. 10 in
Weight	10 st 12 lbs
Length of Drop	7 ft 9 in
Length of Rope	42 ft

Remarks as to Result

Death was instantaneous

The spine was dislocated. There were the very slightest marks of abrasion on the skin of the neck

A. J

R. Bunnows

Jorenor

H. M. Gaol, Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

Frederick Jordan (a Negro)

on 20th August 1894 age 24

Height	5 ft 6 in. after being hung
Weight	135 lbs and whilst hanging
Length of Drop	7 ft 9 in it was found that he
Length of Rope	42 ft had fallen a distance of 8 ft 5 in measuring from his back on the drop to back while hanging.
Remarks as to Result	

Death was almost instantaneous - There was slight muscular contraction of the legs and hands. Dr Shields after making a most minute post mortem informs me that the Spine was neither dislocated nor fractured - although the skin of the neck was only slightly abraded yet the vertebrae pulled and all the muscles in front of the neck were crushed and broken right back to the spine - This man was a very strong & powerful and had a very thick neck & his occupation (a bumper) added to the strength of it - He did not suffer -

R J Brunoni
Sheriff

It was found after he was cut down that the body was lying on the left side with the head resting on the shoulder - the result of the drop

H. M. Gaol, Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

Martha Needle

on 22nd October 1894

Age 30

Height	5ft 2½in
Weight	8st. 6½lbs - 1 lb lead in Skirt
Length of Drop	8ft 5in
Length of Rope	42ft
Remarks as to Result	

Death was instantaneous - There was not the slightest movement of the body after she dropped - Whilst hanging a measurement was made from the floor level of the drop to her heels & it was found she had dropped 9ft. This is accounted for by the stretching of the ligaments and the forcing of the rope under the jaw

An autopsy was made and the neck was found to be broken - The skin under the rope was slightly abraded - The large muscle under the skin of the neck called Sterno-mastoid was cut thro' on the right side The windpipe & gullet were also cut through - The execution was perfect

R W Burrowes
Governor

H. M. Gaol, Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

Elijah Cockroft

on 12th November 1894 at Ballarat

Height	5ft 4 in
Weight	10 st. 5 lbs
Length of Drop	8ft 0½ inch
Length of Rope	12ft

Remarks as to Result.

Dr Jordan reports :- Cockroft died instantaneously the cause being luxation and fracture of the cervical vertebræ

H. M. Gaol, Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

Arthur Buck age 28

on 1st July 1895

Height	5 ft 9¼	It was found on measurement after hanging that the body had stretched 7 inches i.e 5 ft 4 in
Weight	13 Stone	
Length of Drop	7' 9"	
Length of Rope	42 ft	

Remarks as to Result.

Death was instantaneous there was not the slightest movement of the body after it fell. An autopsy was made and Dr Shields found fracture of the neck joint of the vertebra being fractured (split) vertically in the upper part from above downwards about half way through the vertebra the front of it. The muscles in front of the spine (of the neck) were cut through along with the windpipe & gullet but not the skin which was only grazed and showed the mark of the rope

A. J

R. Bennett
Governor

H. M. Gaol, Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

Arthur Buck (continued)

on 1st July 1895



This is a photograph of the 2nd cervical vertebra. The dark transverse line at indicates the course of the fracture.

A. Shields

2 vert

H. M. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the execution of

Emma Williams - age 27

on 4th November 1895

Height	5ft. 2 in
Weight	10 st. 2 lbs
Length of drop	8 ft. 1 in
Length of rope	12 ft

Remarks as to result. Dr Shields states. That on making a post mortem examination he found complete dislocation of the neck. The skin (in front) the windpipe and the gullet were entirely divided, and also one vertebra (or joint) was completely severed from the other

|| The drop was a little too much for the weight

A. J.

R. P. Brunowes
Governor

H. M. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the execution of

Charles Henry Strange - age 22
on 13th January 1896

Height	5ft 7¼	The distance from floor
Weight	12st 2	of drop to heels after
Length of drop	7ft 10½	hanging was found to
Length of rope	42 ft-	be 8ft. 6¼ ins.

Remarks as to result. The execution was perfect death being instantaneous -

Dr Shields at post mortem found the skin in the front and sides of the neck incised but not cut. Beneath the skin the windpipe and gullet were both divided. The neck was fractured

A Shields

R Brunows
Foreman

H. M. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the execution of

Charles John Stall

on 13th September 1897

at Bendigo

Height	5ft 4in
Weight	11st. 12lbs
Length of drop	7ft 10½in
Length of rope	42ft.

Remarks as to result by Dr J M Cadie

"Slight abrasion of the neck on right side extending from median line anteriorly to about three inches posteriorly. On incising the skin, I found that both windpipe (Larynx) and gullet (Oesophagus) had been severed - I could find neither trace of dislocation or fracture of cervical vertebrae Note. When fixing the drop the weight given was 12 Stone. and they usually increase in weight instead of decrease. so that there must have been a falling off in this case or some mistake in the original weighing. as some tumor was noticed

H. M. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the execution of

Charles John Hall continued

~~Height~~
~~Height~~
~~Length of drop~~
~~Length of rope~~
~~Remarks as to result~~.

on the leg after he dropped and as neither dislocation nor fracture of the neck was found it is evident that the drop was not sufficient - two more inches would have been better.

A. Thirlby

R/B

H. M. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the execution of

Alfred Archer on the
21st November 1898
Melbourne Gaol

Height	5ft- 6 inches	Death instan-
Weight	9st- 7lbs	taneous; result
Length of drop	8ft- 4 in	fracture of the
Length of rope	36 feet	neck (cervical ver-
Remarks as to results-		tebrae) - A Shields

On measuring the rope after hanging the length exactly corresponded to that allowed by the executioner viz. length of drop 8ft- 4 inches. All the arrangements for the execution were carried out satisfactorily and death appeared to me to be instantaneous.

W. H. Cody
Governor.

Wagner. Thos Ryall Kirwan
Executed at Assn 11-56
26th March

The above Particulars of
Little Footscray Sheriff.

H. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the execution of

William Robert Jones.

26th March 1900

Melbourne Gaol.

Weight	5 ft, 9 inch
Weight	11st – 3½ lbs
Length of drop	8 ft – 1 inch
Length of rope	36 ft
Remarks as to result.	Death instantaneous; result, dislocation of cervical vertebrae & division of spinal cord by rope, as under.

N.B. Jones' Weight on Monday 26th March 11st 5lbs. Jones' Weight on day of execution was 11st 3½ lbs, Back & Shoulders stripped.

Post Mortem Exam.

The knot was behind left ear. The skin in front of the neck was divided for about 4½ inches transversely. The larynx, oesophagus, and muscles of the neck were cut through; also were also the vessels and nerves on each side of the neck.

The axis was divided from the 3rd cervical vertebra and separated from the latter by a space of 2½ inches. The spinal cord was completely severed at this spot, the rope having evidently passed between the 2 bones, and the body had been suspended by the skin and muscles of the back of the neck.

C Elworthy Medical Officer.

T. J. Gaughan
Governor

H M Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of Execution of

Albert Edward Mc Namara (act 39 yrs)

on 14th April 1902

Height	5 ft 1 3/4
Weight	9 st. 3 1/2
Length of drop by previous execution	8 feet 2 in
Length of rope	42 ft
Length of drop after execution	
to top of knot →	8 ft 4 1/2
Ditto " to centre of noose	8 ft 9 1/2
" " furthest point of noose	9 ft
Drop from heel to heel	9 ft

Death instantaneous.

Lesions of neck:— Skin quite unbroken; only slightly creased. Some of the smaller muscles and minute vessels divided. Larger vessels only compressed.

Death was caused by fracture of transverse process of 2nd cervical vertebra & dislocation backward of body of dit

About 1/2 hr before execution prisoner knocked his head against gaol wall & cut scalp in several places.

Post mortem Exam. Death was caused by the instantaneous pressure & crushing of spinal cord by the body of 2nd cervical vertebra (separated from its arch by fracture), the odontoid process being forced round so that

its apex became anterior to the column & at right angles to same.

The length of dens appears to have been as nearly perfect as possible, to allow of instant death without cutting or tearing of tissue.

W. W. Haughs
Governor

Clarence Cooper
Med Officer

Dates	Weight.
10 · 1 · 02	8 st 9 lbs
26 · 2 · 02	9 " 4 "
10 · 3 · 02	9 " 2½
20 · 3 · 02	9 " 1 "
24 · 3 · 02	9 " 4½ "
27 · 3 · 02	9 " 8 "
3 · 4 · 02	9 " 2 "
8 · 4 · 02	9 " 2 "
11 · 4 · 02	9 " 3½ "

2nd Cervical vertebra



W. W. Haughs
Governor

H. M. Gaol - Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

August Tisler aged 25 years

on October 20th 1902

		Details
Height	5ft 4in.	Death was instantaneous.
Weight	12st. –	The arms slightly contracted
Length of drop before execution	7ft 10in	relaxed a few seconds later,
" " " after execution:-		due to reflex muscular action.
To top of knot →  =	3ft 2½in	The skin of the neck was
To circumference		unbroken but compressed.
of nose →  =	3ft 4in	On making a post mortem
		examination, the muscles
Drop from head to head after execution	8ft 7in.	were crushed but not divided.
Size of noose round neck before exec[n]	13 inches	The jugular veins were torn +
" " " after "	11⅓ "	some of the arteries. The larynx
Length of rope used	30 ft	was divided, - the cricoid from
Circumference of rope used.	2½in	the thyroid cartilage.
Nature " "	New Manilla	

The specimen shows that the 2nd cervical vertebra was fractured at the junction of the body with the arch of the bone + resultant compression of the spinal cord by the body of the vertebra (fracture-dislocation).

I consider the amount of drop allowed was exactly sufficient
to cause instantaneous death without lacerating the internal
tissues. ~~Was the case unexpected~~

T. B. Hughes
Coroner

Clarence Wood Jury Med. Officer

Weights at different dates

Date	Weight.
11. 8. 02	10st 0 lbs
6. 9. 02	10st 8 "
13. 9. 02	10 " 9 "
20. 9. 02	11 " 0 "
25. 9. 02	11 " 2 "
1. 10. 02	11 " 8½ "
8. 10. 02	11 " 11 "
17. 10. 02	11 " 13½ "
Increase	1 " 13½ "



2nd cervical vertebra

T. B. Hughes

H.M. Gaol. Melbourne.

Particulars of the execution of

James Williams aged 20 years

on September 8th. 1964

		Details
Height	5ft 9in	
Weight	12st 10lb	Death in this case was
Length of drop before execution	7ft 9in	absolutely instantaneous.
" " after execution.	8ft 7in	There was not the slightest
Total Increase after "	10in	quiver or tremor of a muscle.
Heel & Neck after "	8" 5½	After hanging it was found
Size of nose round neck before execution	12½in	that the skin was quite
Size of nose after execution (measured along outer circumference from Knot & Knot-	11½in	unbroken although bruised & crushed. Not a drop of
Platform to lowest point of nose after execution	3ft 2¼	blood nor mucus escaped
Circumference of rope used	2½in	from the mouth or tissues.
Material of " "	New Manilla	There was no ejaculation of semen. (In all 3 previous cases there was.



Post mortem examination showed that the neck muscles were crushed up but not divided and the large vessels were similarly affected. Some smaller vessels were broken. The larynx was cut through, just ~~below the "pomum adami"~~ above the cricoid cartilage.

The 2nd cervical vertebra (axis) was fractured at

the junction of the body with the arch, near the posterior margins of the articular surfaces. The fractured parts were completely separated. The odontoid process (with the body of the vertebra) was tilted backward, crushing the spinal cord (fracture dislocation).

The amount of the drop allowed in this case was as nearly perfect as possible, & exactly suspected to cause instant death, without laceration the tissues.

Clarence Rodman
Medical Officer

Date	Weight.
	St. lbs.
19. 7. 04	11 – 10
5. 8. 04	11 – 11
17. 8. 04 *	11 – 13½
25. 8. 04	12 – 12
6. 9. 04	12 – 11

* Sentence of Death passed.

Sketch of fractured bone. (upper surface.



(The specimen was destroyed accidentally before it could be photographed.

W. E. Bracht

H. M. Gaol Ballarat

Particulars of the execution of Charles Henry Deutschman aged 41 years on June 29th 1908

		Details
Height	5 ft 6 in	
Weight	154 lbs	At the P. M. examination it was found that there was no discharge from the mouth or nose, the tongue protruded, the noose had made only a slight sulcus round the neck, it caused no abrasion of the skin, the larynx and trachea were quite uninjured. There was no laceration of the muscles, there was luxation but no fracture of the vertebrae. Death was instantaneous.
Length of drop before execution	7 ft 6 in	
Length after execution	8 ft 1 in	
Total Increase	7 in	
Heel to Heel after execution	8 ft 1 in	
Outer circumference of noose from Knot to Knot before execution	11 in	
Platform to lowest point of noose after execution	8 ft 1 in	
Circumference of rope	2 ½ in	
Nature of rope	Hemp	
Trade name	Europe	

Thos Sale
Governor

H. Jordan Medical Officer
Ballarat Gaol

Date	Weight.	
	Stone	lbs
14 - 4 - 08	9	- 11
5 - 6 - 08	10	- 7
15 - 6 - 08	10	- 10
18 - 6 - 08	11	- -
24 - 6 - 08	11	- -

Sentency of death passed 4th June 1908
Thos Daly
Governor

H. M. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the execution of
Joseph Victor Pfeffer Aged 33 years
on the 29th April 1913

Height	5 feet 6½ inches	Remarks
Weight	146½ lbs	Death was absolutely
Length of drop before execution	7 ft 10 in	instantaneous. Time
Length after execution	8 ft 10 in	50 seconds after falling.
Total increase	12 in.	One muscular twitch
Heel to Heel after execution	9 ft 5½ in	was observed in the leg
Outer circumference of rope from Knot to Knot before execution	12½ in	muscles, lasting for one second. The knot ran round to the back of the neck, tilting the head forward. The tongue was slightly protruded. There was no breaking of skin on the neck; nor even a bruise. No blood or mucus exuded from mouth No ejaculation of semen.
Platform to lowest point of noose after execution	6 ft 5½ in	
Circumference of rope	2½ in	
Nature of rope	Brl Manilla	
Trade name	Europa	

Post Mortem examination showed an undulation of the skin of the neck, crushing of the Sterno-

R Patterson
Governor.

Date	Weight
16. 2. 12	10 Stone 2 lbs
23. 2. 12	10 " 2½ "
1. 3. 12	10 " 4½ "
15. 3. 12	10 " 4 "
22. 3. 12	10 " 5 "
29. 3. 12	10 " 8 "
5. 4. 12	10 " 5½ "
12. 4. 12	10 " 6 "
19. 4. 12	10 " 6½ "

Physical Description of Prisoner.
Sturdy build; athletic looking. Muscles of neck not bulky but wiry.

muscles & lips, vessels of neck, but no breaking through of these structures; the lower part of larynx was broken. Thyroid bone was fractured & dislocated as shown in photo. The tip of the odontoid process was broken off, & the latter was crushed into the spinal cord. The remainder of the fracture of the bone in all previous cases is noticeable.)

2nd cervical vertebra



The length of drop was apparently as nearly perfect as possible, and can be taken as a guide for future executions.

H. M. Jail Melbourne

Particulars of the execution of
John Jackson Aged 57 Years
on the 24th January 1916

Height - 23-1-16	5ft. 3 3/4	
Weight - = 23-1-16	141 lbs	
Drop - Before	7.11 1/2	(7.6. ~~or dead~~ dead?)
" After = from	9.9	
Platform to heel of outside circumference after execution	7 1/2 inches	

In this case death was absolutely instantaneous there was not the slightest fluctuation or tremor of the limbs. The skin in front of the neck was extensively lacerated (cut through) & the subcutaneous tissues underneath completely severed in front of the anterior aspect of the vertebral column. The vertebra was broken & dislocated. The lengthening or stretching of the cord was markedly pronounced. The tissues of the neck were evidently cut away by the prolonged reaction due to the injuries from which he

Date	Weight		
30 · 11 · 15	10 Stone	1 lbs	
6 · 12 · 15	10 "		
14 · 12 · 15	10 "		
20 · 12 · 15	10 "		
24 · 12 · 15	10 "		
31 · 12 · 15	10 "	4 "	
7 · 1 · 16	10 "	3 .	
14 · 1 · 16	10 "		
21 · 1 · 16	10 "	1 "	

had happened. although every precaution was taken (it is evident) the amount of drop given was the least. Compared with former occasions it may be seen the length approximated closely to the drop allowed; in such instances. It may be seen also the length of drop after fall was extremely great. It was unable to remove the portion of the vertebra & did not wish to draw from posterior aspect.

(The above are Dr O'Brien's notes)

W. Clark

Governor

H. M. Jail. Melbourne

Particulars of Execution of

Albert Edward Budd.

age 39 on the 29th Jan.y 1918

Height. 5, 8 inches.

Weight 10st. 4 lbs.

Drop allowed 6. 10 inches

" after Execution 7. 2

Circumference of

noose after Execution 9½ inches

Diameter - after " 2½ inches

Material of Rope used

Cream c. 2½ inch Best Hemp

Best rope

(Increase of 4 inches)

W. H. Hughes

In this Execution the drop allowed was by far the smallest of which there is a record in this prison. Got a gaping wound about 4 inches long was subsequently found on the anterior surface of the neck - severing (? above) the larynx - & the subcutaneous tissues back to the anterior portion of the spinal vertebra. The fact that an attempt at suicide by cutting his throat prior to his admission to the Jail may amongst other causes have contributed to the

causation of this laceration

Capital punishment remains on the Statute, - as previously pointed out a radical change in the arrangements - still existent - at this prison is urgently necessary, and as stated the changes should be in compliance with the instructions forwarded by the Home Secretary.

At present the arrangements - at this prison do not permit of this. (The above are Dr. O'Brien's notes)

W. Clark

Governor

MEDICAL
VICTORIA

H. M. Gaol. Melbourne.

Particulars of the Execution of Arthur Aldring Age.

on the 15th April 1918

Height-	5 ft. 8 inches
Weight-	156 lbs.
Length of drop allowed	7 ft 6 inches
Length of drop after Execution	8 ft 5"
Total measure of drop	11½ inches
Diameter of hose before execution	3 inches
Diameter of hose after execution	3 inches
Length of rope below line of Platform to Middle of hose before execution.	2 ft 6 inches
Length of rope from beam to Middle of noose before execution	10 ft 6 inches

Weights

Date		st	lbs
Feb	23rd	10.	10
March	4th	10	.13
"	11th	10	.13
"	18	11	. 0
"	25	11	0
April	1st	11	. 3
"	8th	11	4
"	14th	11	. 2

Death was absolutely instantaneous the last execution I witnessed

H. H. Hughes
Hos. Secretary

Nature of Rope. Hemp. Bolt-Rope 2½ inches in Circumference 3 ft 1 hands

It was found after the execution that the rope had stretched 11½ inches. 3¾ inches of this was caused by the Knot tightening around the beam. The mark placed on the rope in a line with the beam before execution was found 3¾ inches below the beam after the execution "

In the execution death was absolutely instantaneous. & there was not any tremor when the drop opened & the body fell. The skin of the neck was unbroken. & the noose tightened to 3 inches - & what was allowed prior to the Execution. ~~It~~ It is to be noted that the Executioner who is deaf & old. did not ~~tell~~ tighten the rope on the neck prior to pulling the lever. & it was only by attention being drawn to it that the Assistant did so. As the Executioner did not place the condemned man (in the exact centre, but too far back - in pulling, the hand struck the trap causing an abrasion. The rope too, which keeps the trap door from swinging past the pulley, to allow (to alter opinions previously expressed re the arrangements as they are not in compliance with the regulations received from the Home Office. By comparing present weights & measurements with others it may be seen the necessity of complying with the regulation to which reference is made.

(The above are Dr. O'Brien's notes)

W. Clark
Governor

VICTORIA

H. M. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of
Colin Campbell Ross on the
24th April 1922 Age.

Height—	5ft 7.	Weights at Date		
Weight—	10st 13½	Date	St.	lbs
Length of Drop given	Footboard	27. 2. 22	11	0
" " Drop after Execution	8 ft 5	6. 3. 22	11	0
Total increase of Drop.	11 in	12. 3. 22	11	0
Diameter of hose before Execution to measure Drop	3 inches	19. 3 22	11	0
		26. 3. 22	11	1
Diameter of hose after Execution	4 inches	2. 4. 22	11	2
		9. 4 22	11	3½
Length of rope from line of Beam to Middle of hose before Execution	10. 7	16. 4 22	11	0
		23. 4 22.	10.	13½
Length of rope below line of Platform to Middle of hose before Execution	2. 7			
Circumference of Rope	2½ inches			
Nature of Rope. Used. (4 Strands)	Hemp			

A four stranded rope was used for the first time. Never use it again. Important

H. M. Hughes
Hon Secretary

* Notice
was taken last. no drop. H. M. Hughes
Expected between 6 & 7 to the 3 inches

H. M. Gaol - Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of Colin. C. Ross (Contd)

In this execution, death was apparently instantaneous, (although the arms flexed + released three times at elbows, and legs were simultaneously slightly drawn up, the intervals being about 3 seconds each time). The rope was somewhat less pliable than usual, and the knot was unnecessarily large. The noose did not run freely and was found to have only contracted to 4 in. diam. instead of 3 in. The neck was not abraded. It was found that both eyes became blackened - like ordinary "black eyes", - and bursted, after execution. One slight seminal emission; & evacuation of faeces. Tongue was found to be protruded.

It was found that the rope, recoved round the beam, had "given" the extent of 4½ inches. This apparently indicates that the rope itself stretched ultimately 9½ inches.

The drop allowed was apparently correct to ensure instant death and no laceration, but probably a rope without a centre would have been more satisfactory.

* The axis was packed across the transverse processes.

C. Cullfey
Govt Med Officer

H. M. Gaol Melbourne

Particulars of the Execution of

Angus. Murray

on the 14th April 1924 Age - 41 yrs

Height-	5 ft 10 inch	Date	Weight-
Weight-	9st. 10 lbs	22.3.24	9st 8 lbs
Length of Drop Given	8 feet	28.3.24	9st 10 lbs
" " " After Execution	9 feet	3.4.24	9st. 11 lbs
Total increase of Drop	12 inches	11.4.24	9st. 10 lbs
Diameter of hoose before Execution	3 inches		
" " " after "	3 inches		
Length of Rope from line of Beam Before.	10 feet 10 inch.		
after	12 feet.		
Length of Rope between line of Platform to Middle of hoose before Execution	2 feet 10 inch.		
Diameter of Rope	1 inch		

Nature of Rope. 3 Strand. Europe. 1 Hemp. 3 inches in Circumference.

Death was Absolutely instantaneous. The drop was Perfect-.

W. A. Hughes

R. Angus Murray (Cont'd)

In this execution, the details were carried out in such a way as to approximate perfection as regards instantaneous death and freedom from impedimenta. There was no muscular movement of the body except localised flickering (of a pluriform character) of groups of muscles, for a few moments after dropping. The length of drop was apparently exactly the required amount. The type of rope used was different to that of the previous execution, being soft and very pliable, and it is desirable to always use this type of rope (3 Strand Europe rope).

P.M. It was found that the neck was contused but not lacerated; the neck was broken across the axis (but the bones were not removed for exam.). The base of the skull was fractured on the right side across the occipital bone; the dorsum also the cella turcica was broken off. (The knot was under the left mastoid process.) The stomach was catarrhal and had some almost healed ulcers at the cardiac end.

The amount of drop was exactly what was required to ensure instantaneous death without laceration of external tissues.

MEDICAL
VICTORIA

O'Malley
G.M.O. 14/4/24

David Bennett. Executed on 26.9.32 (Methodist Chapel Coburg)

Age 59 yrs.

Height	5' 3½"
Weight	10 st 1 lb
Length of drop	7' 10"
Mark on rope at beam dropped	1"
Beam to centre of noose after execution	12' 5"
Centre of noose to trap level before execut.	4' 10"
" " " below trap " after execut.	3' 7"
Increase	7"
Heel above floor before Execut"	3' - 2"
" " " after Execut"	2' - 3½"
Noose to chin"	3"
Beam to trap level	8' 10"
Trap level to ground	11' 0

3 Strand manilla untarred rope 2½" circum. well pitched and pressed before use

Death was instantaneous there being no movement whatever of body & limbs: 10 minutes after the faintest reflex movement (scarcely visible on very close view) of knee muscles slight fluid ejaculation from penis

P.M. No tearing of skin & other structures of neck & practically no extravasation: bony & cancel was broken

Dislocation of 2nd with 3rd cervical articulation & total compression of Sp. Cord (Separation could not be ascertained owing to difficulty of dissection of the neck): Bones were healthy for his age: there was a fracture through right pedicle & centrum not quite complete across the latter. No separation. Nothing to do & cause of death.

This is the first execution in the new portion Yard and the other prisoners were removed into cells removed from the drop: there was not a sound during & after the execution

The condemned ~~was a~~ spoke for 9 mins. on the drop.

Vertical Fract. of body of 5th vert. not complete across

John Thompson -

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICER VICTORIA

Arnold Sodeman

age 36

Executed 1-6-36
at 8 A.M.

Height	5'.4
Weight	9.9
Length of drop	7.11" ~~5'.4"~~
mark on rope at beam dropped	2"
Beam to centre of noose (p.m)	12:6"
Heel above floor (Calc and measured)	3'.1"
" " " after exec.	2.1½
Noose (beam)	0-3"
Total stretch of rope	0-9½"

Death was instantaneous: there was no movement of any kind: no abrasions of neck or tearing of tissues
The rope was a tarred 3 ply (without core) manilla 2½" circ.
The drop given was exactly what was required
for instantaneous death & laceration of tissues
Slight penile erection: tongue slightly protruded

P.M. R. pulse continued irregularity for 15 min (P.M.)
L. pulse " " " " " 18 " (")
varied from 50 to 150
gradual & weaker then becoming
imperceptible

Made by Drs Allan & Beacham

well nourished: Congestion of face & neck: No abrasion or contusion of neck externally:

Brain showed leptomeningitis over cerebra: intense congestion of the menbs & punctate hæmorrhages: 4th Vent. clear and shiny Ependyma: excess of C.S.F. Some adhesions of Brain Membranes along longitudinal fissure

Lungs right showed some organised adhesions at apex

Liver Enlarged and tough (Sclerotic) perihepatitis (slight)

Spleen - small & tough

Kidneys tough on section: capsule peeled fairly Easily

Heart slight atheromatous patches in aorta

There was a fract. dislocation of 3rd Cerv. Vert.

Cause of Death Fract. & dislocation Cervical spine

Dr Anderson

29 M

Edward Cornelius

Age 29 yrs.

Executed 22.6.'36
at 8 A.M.

Height	5'.9"
Weight	11.9
Length of drop	7'.6"
Mark on Rope at beam dropped	
Beam to centre of noose (p.m.)	
Heel above floor (A.M.)	
" " " (P.M.)	
Noose drain (p.m.)	39/11"
Total stretch of rope	

There was were muscular contractions, fleeraleed and local
for finger; movements were por the shoulders down to gymnastics
The trap door did not fall as in the other cases being stopped and
this reduced the actual drop: The swing of the door should
be prevented by some mechanical stop after it falls
The beam could be better placed & regas in relation to the
drop: it is not central. The a special part of the Establishment
should be set apart for executions, - away from the ordinary part of the jail

Yarred 3 strand manilla rope, circum. 2½" -used

MEDICAL OFFICER
VICTORIA

Thmas W. Johnsm

Age 40

Executed 23-1-39
At. 8 A.M.

Height	5' 3"	
Weight	163 lbs	
Length of drop Before	6 ft	
" " after	6' 6"	
Neck Before	16 1/2"	
" after	16 "	
Length of Rope Beams to neck	14'-9	after drop

This execution was carried out with precision and skill by one who was familiar with all the details of his work. For the first time a special rope with a fixed eye to form a loop instead of knotting the rope was used by the executioner who brought his own equipment from N.S.W. This rope and the various Strappings were in accordance with those suggested

by the Home Office, London, in 1905 and cleverly make
for precision. The same equipment should be
supplied and adopted in Victoria. A further departure
from the usual procedure adopted here was that
the condemned man was asked by the Sheriff
in his adjoining cell whether he had any final
statement to make, instead of waiting until he
was on the scaffold platform and unnecessarily
hold up a procedure which should be carried
out with as little delay as possible. Johnson had
nothing to say; smoked his cigarette to the last and
submitted calmly to his doom.

Death was instantaneous. There was a reflex drawing
up of the legs which commenced about one minute
after the drop. This occurred about 4 times at
½ minute intervals and finished with two smaller
movements. At each movement the pulse rate increased
to about 120 then gradually subsided. At each convulsion
there was a noticeable intake of air which should
the medullary centre had not been ~~paralysed~~ paralysed. The
pulse continued to beat for about 9 minutes, and
for the last 3' was steady at about 88 per min.

Heart could be faintly heard for 1" longer
than the pulse

The appearance at post-mortem showed a good deal
of cyanosis of the face. The body was well-nourished
and much fat on the abdomen &c. The muscles were
hard & firm and the skin of abdomen tough
He had a thick muscular neck and shoulders.
The scalp was tough and the skull very thick,
being $\frac{1}{2}$" thick near the coronal line.

The organs generally were tough and fibrotic.
The stomach was normal and practically empty but for fluid
The coronary ateries appeared small but no valvular
disease was present. Some atheroma of aorta The brain showed congestion
and there were patches of haemorrhagic with
atheroma in places & a thickened fibrotic
dura mater. There was emphysema of the neck
tissues extending down into chest. The lungs were
partially engorged showing there was some degree of
asphyxia. There was a fracture of the neck as
low as the 4th cervical vertebra, but the cord
appeared to be intact. The Right Hyoid bone
was fractured and also the cricoid cartilage

As this man had such a thick muscular
neck & shoulders the length of the drop could have
been a few inches longer. No tearing of skin or neck
structures was present. Death was due to fracture of the neck
(4th cervical

J Kennyson Allan
G.M.O

have confessed to the crime and I wish to deny this".
He was strapped and was composed as he was led to the scaffold. With the least delay possible the Lawyman expeditiously released the trap door, and Green dropped cleanly to his doom. Death was instantaneous. There was the usual reflex spasms but to a less extent. The knot was under the R. side of the chin & the head was bent well back suggesting fracture of the neck.

There was no asphyxial appearance. The noose did not tighten on the neck and air entry was possible, & this was apparent by Cheyne Stokes type of breathing. The pulse beat continued for about 15 minutes, alternately strong & weak with the spasms. The heart beat could be heard by Stethoscope for about 1" longer. The pulse varied from about 120 during inspiration or convulsive beat to 90-100 during intervals. Finally steadied to about 80 before ceasing. Post-mortem showed fairly well nourished body without blemishes. There was a deep impression but no tearing of tissue mark under R. side of chin from knot pressed of rope.

The genital organs were well-developed & above average in size. The eyes showed evidence of old

GREEN George

Age. 42.

EXECUTED 17-4-39

Penteridge Gaol

AT. 8 A.M.

HEIGHT	5'- 5½"
WEIGHT	153 lbs
LENGTH OF DROP BEFORE	7 ft.
Feet above floor (after drop)	2 ft.
LENGTH OF DROP AFTER.	
MEASUREMENT OF NECK Before	15"
MEASUREMENT OF NECK after	

The hanging of Green was carried out by the same hangman who performed these duties on Johnson in January last, using similar equipment to that used on the last occasion.

To expedite the hanging the prisoner was asked by the Sheriff in his adjoining cell whether he had any final words to say. Green said "Yes, I understand the papers say I

have confessed to the crime and I wish to deny this".
He was strapped and was composed as he was led to the Scaffold. With the least delay possible the Lavyman expeditiously released the trap door, and Green dropped clearly to his doom. Death was instantaneous. There was the usual reflex spasms but to a less extent. The head was under the R. side of the chin & the head was bent well back suggesting fracture of the neck.

There was no asphyxial appearance. The noose did not tighten on the neck and air entry was possible, & this was apparent by Cheyne Stokes type of breathing. The pulse beat continued for about 15 minutes, alternately strong & weak with the spasms. The heart beat could be heard by Stethoscope for about 1" longer. The pulse varied from about 120 during inspiration & convulsive beat to 90-100 during intervals. Finally steadied to about 80 before ceasing. Post-mortem showed fairly well nourished body and not blemishes. There was a deep impression mark under R. side of chin from rope but no tearing of tissue.

The genital organs were well-developed & above average in size. The eyes showed evidence of old

tracheoma injection of the lids & areus senilis was present

The lungs were not congested as in asphyxia but were somewhat emphysematous and showed carbon deposit & recent

The heart showed fatty degeneration of muscle wall - valves were clear but some atheroma of aorta was present

The kidneys, Spleen and liver were all fatty and fibrotic. The head of the pancreas was hard & adherent to the pyloric end of the Stomach

The gastric mucosa was reddened & showed evidence of chronic gastritis - probably of alcoholic nature

The brain showed some congestion & there were some small patches of pachymeningitis present

The ventricles were normal in appearance The Skull was thicker than normal being about $\frac{3}{8}$" in coronal area. The R. temporal bone was fractured

The cervical spine showed a fracture of the lower end of the 2nd vertebrae & the lower end of 3rd vertebrae

The cord was free in the canal.

The general appearance of the organs suggested a possible hereditary Syphilitic condition or chronic alcoholism.

Death was due to fracture of the neck between 2nd & 3rd and 3rd & 4th cervical vertebrae

J Dennyson Allan
G. M. O

Alfred Bye

Age 42

Pentridge Gaol

Executed 22-12-41
9 T. 8 A.M.

Height	5-4	
Weight	7-2	
Length of Drop	~~8' 6"~~	N.B. Extra length of drop was allowed as Bye fell less distance owing to being in a sitting position in a chair
Before		
After	8' 9"	
Neck Measurement		
Before	13½"	
After	13"	

Bye was judicially hanged to-day in this Pentridge Gaol by the hangman who performs this task in another State, and whose services were obtained for the last two hangings in this Gaol. As Bye was a nervous wreck for some days he was given sedatives over the week end and hypnotic this morning. He was therefore in a partially hypnoted

condition this morning and incapable of standing erect so that it was necessary to place him in a chair & his legs were not strapped. This preparation was necessary to avoid what would most certainly have been an hysterical scene at the gallows with all its attendant unpleasantness. Without delay the hangman released the trap door and there was a slight break in the fall as the chair hit the trap door before the body left it.

There were the usual reflex spasms in the body and some gurgling as air was breathed through the partially compressed trachea Death was instantaneous. Urine was passed during the first two or three minutes. The Jail priest anointed the body whilst it was hanging during the first 10 minutes.

The pulse beat continued on the R. wrist for about 12 mm and on the L. wrist for 18 minutes, Changes in characters from regular strong beat for nearly 10 minutes to ~~abbr~~ irregular rate and strength later. Heart beat could be heard by stethoscope up to 22 minutes.

The post mortem showed a thin body with no external blemishes. There were no marks or abrasions on the neck owing to his light weight no doubt. The genital organs were well developed.

The lungs were not congested and air was present. a small amount of blood had been inhaled.

The organs kidneys, spleen, pancreas, liver, and the heart muscle were all tough and fibrotic

The heart valves were normal but there atheromatous patches in the first part of the aorta and the coronary ostia were somewhat thickened. The stomach was empty except for a little fluid and blood stained mucous.

The Skull was somewhat thicker than normal and very hard in nature, with fairly deep vascular markings on its inner surface

The dura mater was thick and attached to the brain in the middle line. ~~due to chronic path. modify this~~

The brain showed some congestion with increased vascularity of the white matter and pathymeningitis. Ventricles normal

Cervical Spine showed a fracture of the upper portion of the 4th cervical vertebra and lower end of the 3rd vertebra with partial compression of the cord.

The general appearance of the organs suggested

an hereditary syphilitic condition.

Death was due to fracture of the neck in the region of the lower 3rd & upper 4th cervical vertebrae.



R Jennyson Allan
G.M.O

JEAN LEE 31 years.

Recorded Metropolitan Coal 8th. 19. 2. 51

Length 5'7"
Weight 7'6"
Draft 8.0

Owing to collapse of furnace a chain was used.

Death was instantaneous. No move-ments occurred. At 8.5 a few weak pulsations were felt in R wrist. No heart sounds were heard. Certificate of death signed at 8.20

Knot under left Ear.
Body removed 9.00 AM.

Post mortem
11.00 AM

Moderate bruising of neck tissues at level thyroid cartilage anteriorly and occiput posteriorly

No rigor. No P.M staining. No cyanosis
Pleural adhesions R chest
All internal organs normal
Skull: N.A.D Brain: N.A.D
Cervical spine: Dislocation between first and second cervical vertebrae
Abnormal mobility of odontoid process

Cause of death {Coroner's finding}
Dislocation of neck caused by hanging

A/Csmo
20/2/51

ROBERT DAVID CLAYTON 32 years
Executed Mid Afternoon Gaol 10.00 AM. 19. 2. 51

Height 5'-7"
Weight 11'-4 1/2"
Drop. 6-11.

Knot under left ear
One flexor spasm noted one minute after execution
Cyanosis of face marked
No pulse nor heart sounds at 5 minutes past 10.00 A.M. Certificate signed 10.30 A.M.
Body removed 11.00 A.M.

Post Mortem 2.00 P.M.

Rigor present. Moderate P.M. staining
Marked cyanosis about neck
Neck muscles & skin intact
All organs intensely congested with dark blood but otherwise normal. Scalp tissues bled freely. Brain contused in frontal and occipital lobes.
Cervical spine intact.
At P.M. much noticeable fracture was unexpected unusually generally
Caused death {Coroner's finding}
Cerebral contusion. Shock & asphyxia caused by hanging

A Forbes
28/2/51

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION VICTORIA

NORMAN ANDREWS 38 years
Executed Metropolitan Gaol 10.00 A.M. 19/2/51

Height 5' 6½"
Weight 10.2
Drop 7.4

Death was instantaneous
No movements noted
No pulse or heart sounds at 10.5
Certificate of death signed 10.30
Body removed 11.00

Prisoner would not raise head from chest and knot came to his under chin

Post Mortem / 1.00 P.M.

No cyanosis. No rigor. Slight P.M. staining
Mark under chin and in contact
& knot was lacerated. Neck tissues under rope bruised
Head abnormally mobile
Extensive pleural adhesions both lungs
Terminal ileum adherent to anterior abdominal wall. All internal organs normal otherwise

Brain: multiple pin point haemorrhages on surface

Cervical Spine: Complete dislocation & half inch gap between second and third vertebrae

Surgeons finding dislocation of neck due to hanging

J Mutch Supt 20.2.51

RONALD RYAN.- 42 years.

Executed H.M. Gaol Pentridge at 8 AM 3/2/1967

Height 5' 8 He stood quite still & was
Weight 12-00. cooperative with the executioner.
Drop 7' 0" As he fell one heard his neck break.
After fall no movements. Heart
beat for 1½ minutes. No breathing.

Post Mortem Bruised + abraded mark from the left
hand side of the face and proceeding around the back
of the neck. There were depressed bruised markings on the
right hand side. There were no other marks of violence
on the body.

Cervical Spine There was a complete fracture dislocation
between C6 + and C3.

All other organs normal (except for congestion) apart
from a right abnormality of the right Kidney.
Brain Macroscopically normal.

Cause of death Fracture Dislocation of neck Antemortem
with Judicial hanging

The P.M. done with W.J. McNamara - Senr. Govt Pathologist

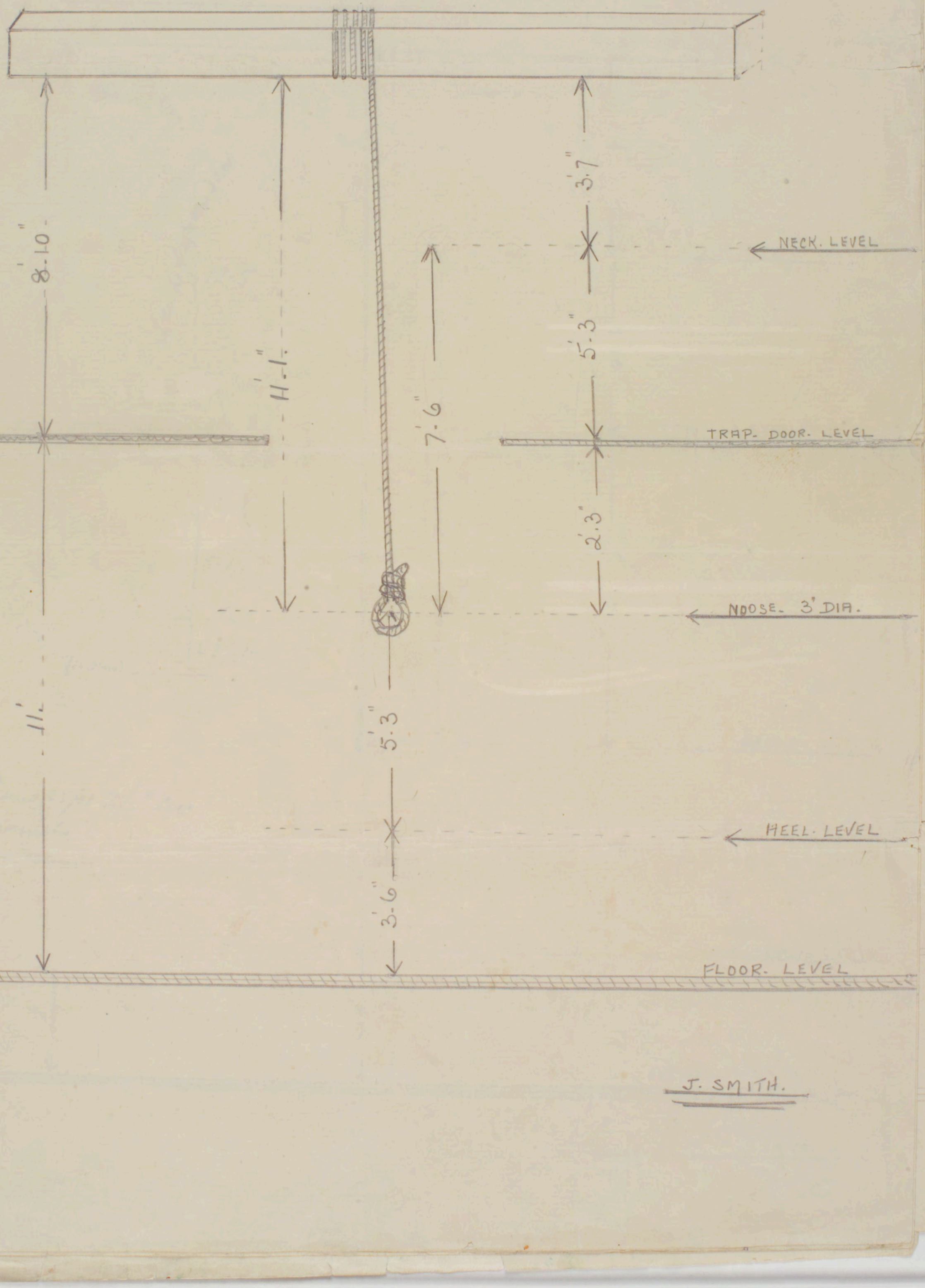
A.A. Barnes
Medical Superintendent

PENAL and GAOLS DEPARTMENT.

(No. 252.)

EDWARD. CORNELIUS.

JUNE. 22nd 1936



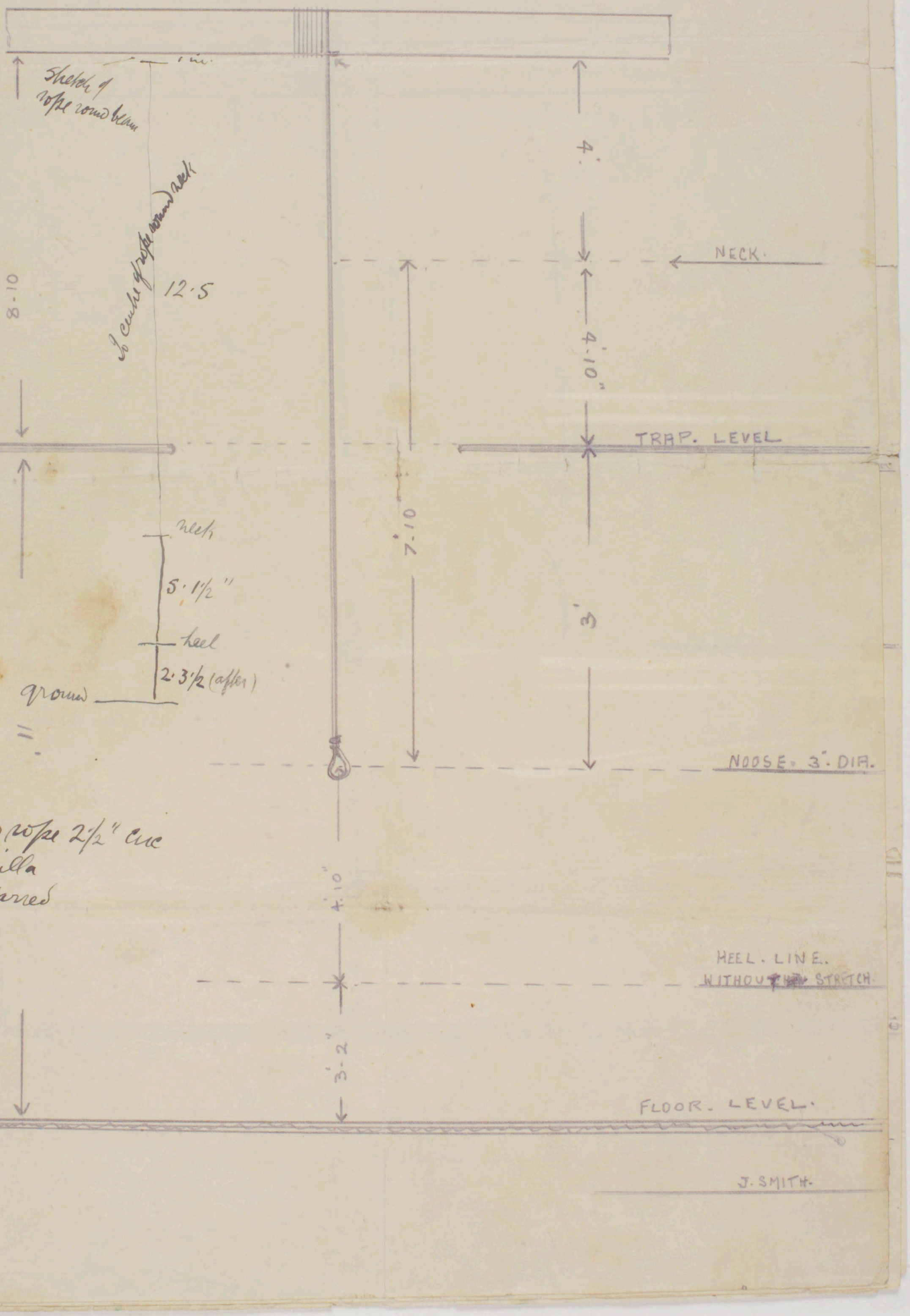
J. SMITH.

PENAL and GAOLS DEPARTMENT.

(No 252.)

D. BENNETT- 26TH SEPT 1932

19



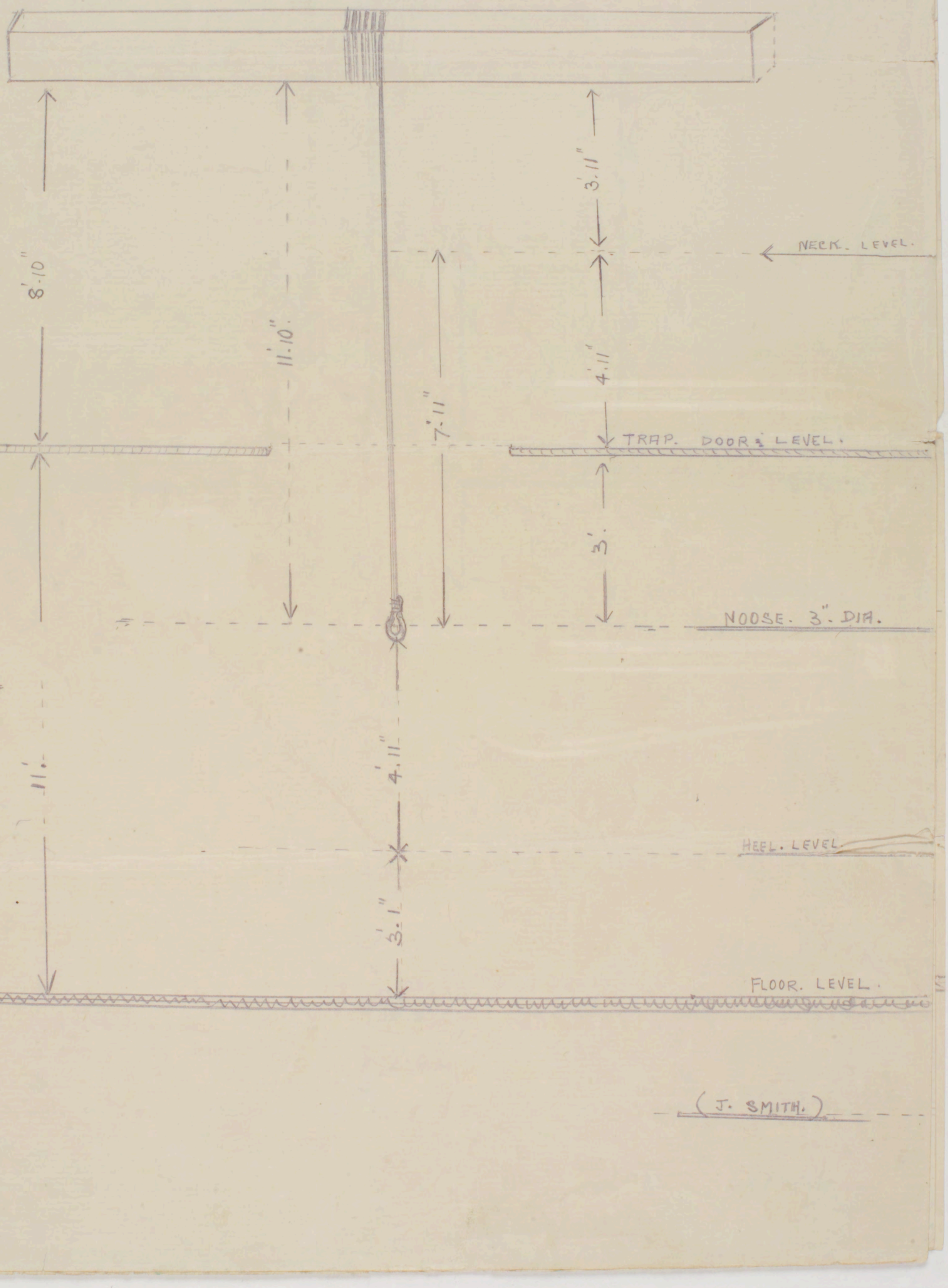
J. SMITH.

PENAL and GAOLS DEPARTMENT.

(No. 252.)

A. SODEMAN.

JUNE. 1ST. 1936 19



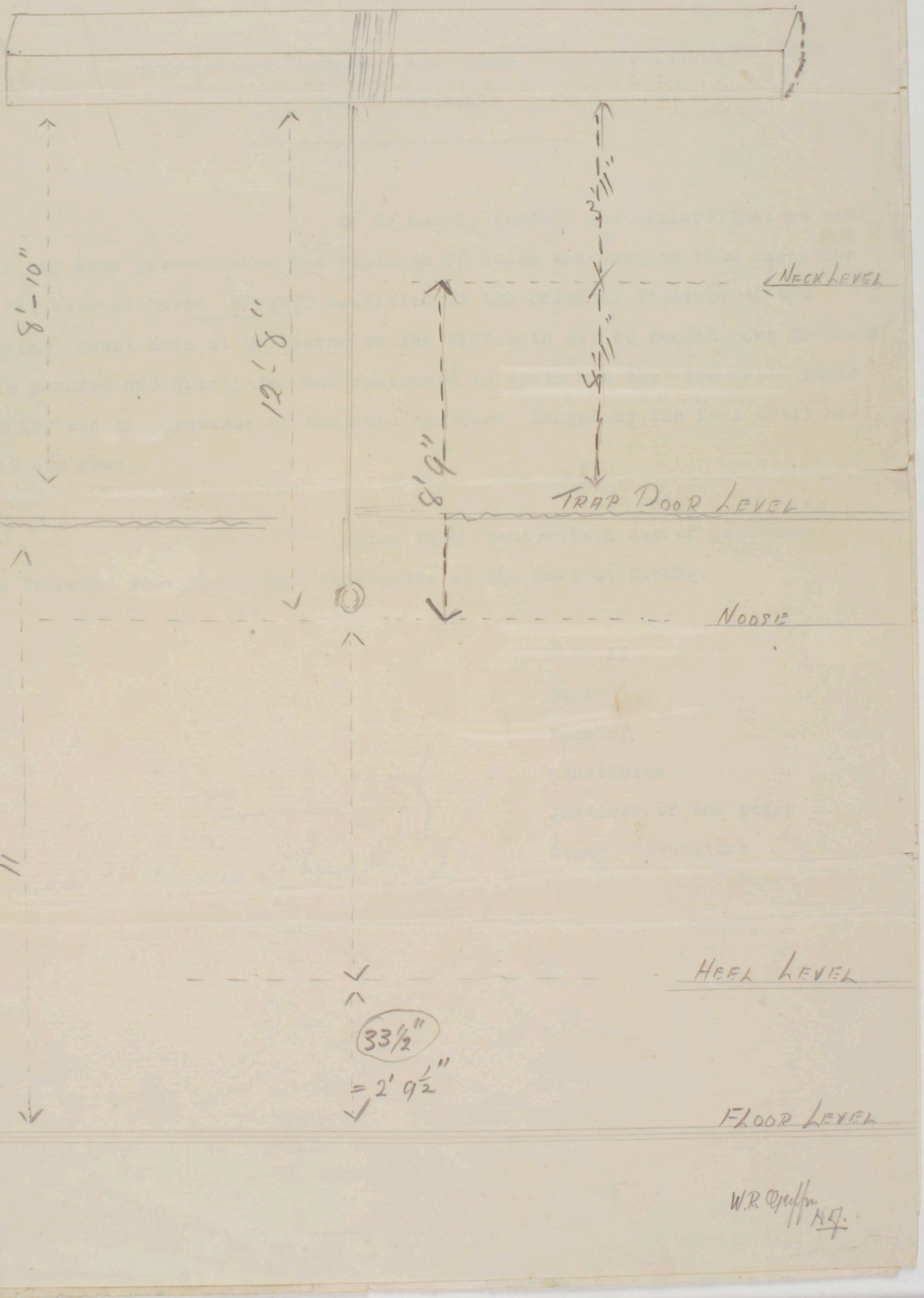
(J. SMITH.)

PENAL and GAOLS DEPARTMENT. (No. 252.)

Height 5' 4"
Weight 7st 2 lbs
Neck 5½"

A. BYE

22 DECEMBER 1941



W.R. Griffin Esq.

PENAL and GAOLS DEPARTMENT.

No. 252

.....

.....19

---------- Crimes Act 1928 ----------

Ninth Schedule

We do hereby testify and declare that we have this day been present when the sentence of death was carried into execution on the body of David BENNETT convicted at the Criminal Sittings of the Supreme Court held at Melbourne on the Fifteenth day of August One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Two and sentenced to death and that the said David BENNETT was in pursuance of the said sentence hanged by the Neck until his body was dead.

Dated this Twenty-Sixth day of September

One Thousand Nine Hundredand Thirty-Two at the Gaol at Coburg.

Sheriff

Gaoler

Turnkey

Constables

Justices of the peace

Other Spectators

23. 1. 1934

Thomas William Atkinson

PENAL and GAOLS DEPARTMENT. (No 252.)

.....

.....19

Crimes Act 1928

---------- Eighth Schedule ----------

I_____ being the medical officer in attendance on the execution of David BENNETT at the Gaol at Coburg do hereby certify and declarethat I have this daywitnessed the executionof the said David BENNETT at the said Gaol and I further certify and declarethat the said David BENNETT was in pursuance of the sentence of the Melbourne Supreme Court hanged by the neck until his body was dead.

Given under my hand this Twenty-Sixth day of September,One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Two at the Gaol at Coburg

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Medical Officer

Generally the duties of THE SHERIFF.

Sheriff's Office,
Law Courts,
Melbourne

THE SHERIFF is appointed under Section 196 Supreme Court Act 1928, and as will be seen therein, his responsibilities extend to certain English Practice &C. and therefore an extensive knowledge of Sheriff's Law and Practice is necessary.

He is the Chief Executive Officer of the Supreme Court Judges and attends their Honors when necessary.

The Sheriff administers and carries into effect the provisions contained in the Juries Acts.

When persons are summarily committed to Gaol by the Supreme Court Judges, for Contempt, Prevarication and other offences against the Court, The Sheriff prepares the necessary Warrants for signature by the Judge and signs the authority to the Gaoler. Under the following process, persons are arrested and sent to gaol under the Sheriff's Committal- Writs of Attachment, Orders to Arrest, Warrants of Committment, Fieri Capias, Warrants to Apprehend &c.

The other Writs executed by the Sheriff are - Fieri Facias, Possession, Fi Fa and Possession, Writs of Delivery and Possession, Possession under Closer Settlement Acts.&c. He sells the property of the Defendants -both Real and Personal estate - and ferquently has matters before the Court for Interpleader and also Garnishee proceedings.

There are between fifty and sixty Sheriff's Bailiffs (two in Melbourne and the other scattered throughout the Country), who execute Warrants under the hand of the Sheriff, and as the Sheriff is responsible by Law, for all acts of the Bailiffs, great care has to be exercised in seeing that all legal requirements &c., are carried out, as otherwise an Action may arise and in the case of an adverse verdict, the Government mulct in damages. The constant changing of these Bailiffs through transfer etc. adds much more responsibility.

The Sheriff signs Transfers of Land, leases and mortgages &c. sold under Supreme Court Judgments.

A large number of the Statutes contain provisions relating to the Sheriff's duties, and some of the Acts mainly concerninghim are as under -Supreme Court, Juries, ~~Insolvency~~, Property law, Transfer of Land, Companies, Crown Remedies, Landlord and Tenant, Goods, Imprisonment of Fraudulent Debtors, Gaols, Commonwealth Bankruptcy Acts and Rules and also the Rules of the Supreme Court. In a minor degree -~~Infant Life &c.~~, ~~Lands Compensation~~, Public Trustee Act ~~Lunacy~~, Conveyancing, Auction Sales, ~~Married Womens Property Act~~, Geelong Harbour Trust, Melbourne Harbour Trust, Local Government, ~~Thistle~~, Public Works, Licensing &c.

Some of the authorities relative to the duties of the Sheriff are shown hereunder and a thorough knowledge of these is required,- "Mather " on Sheriff, "Watson" on Sheriff, "Edwards" on Execution, "Williams" on Bankruptcy, also "Chasters" Public Officers &c.

The Sheriff is a Collector of Imposts Collecting Revenue in the way of Fines and Poundage &c.

The Sheriff is the Marshal of the Supreme Cpurt (Admiralty Jurisdiction) and Deputy Marshal of the High Court and his duties under this appointment deal with the arrest of ~~the~~ ships, cargoes &c. and carrying out Court Orders ~~regarding~~ and when necessary the Sale of the Ships and Cargoes arrested.

Of course there are the ordinary office duties, control of the Courts and staff responsibility with regard to the expenditure on payments to Jurors and Witnesses &c.

Finally the duties devolved on the Sheriff regarding the execution of prisoners for Capital Crimes do not I think require any elaboration