

**Alan Dower, ace Australian crime reporter, goes to Paris, and behind the scenes at the International Criminal Police Commission. He tells how the world's police forces kept check on Robert Walker, the man who shot himself in Melbourne gaol.**

# Paris Spotted Our Murderer

By  
**ALAN DOWER**

PARIS.— Australia's underworld hated James Robert Walker ("Pretty Boy") for his conceit and arrogance. But the pride of the man who shot himself in Pentridge gaol would have taken a bad toll if he had known how carefully police from Denmark to Sydney, from Pretoria to Bremen, had plotted his movements and habits.

When Walker, the "lone wolf," returned to Australia 18 months ago, he was smugly confident that after an absence of nearly 12 years, he would not be recognised or trailed.

But when he shot Thomas Fogarty at St. Kilda, he did not know that coded cable messages and radio flashes between police bureaux throughout the world had dogged his movements from Europe to Australia for many weeks . . . and that he had been "shadowed" from the moment he left the Dutch dredger "Ham 2," at Fremantle to return to Melbourne.



**M. L. B. Beaulieu, Paris police fingerprint expert, has developed a technique of identifying criminals who have tried to change their features. He calibrates the shapes of forehead, nose, mouth and chin.**

HE died before he could learn that police throughout Australia even knew that at Bremen, Germany, he had been imprisoned for having failed to pay a hotel bill.

And it would have been a blow to his ego had he known that police in Paris, Austria, Monaco, Denmark and 43 other cities and countries even had copies of his fingerprints that were taken first at Lismore (NSW) on April 20, 1938.

THESE are only some of the many facts which intrigued me as I have toured the headquarters of the International Criminal

Police Commission in the Boulevard Gouvion St. Cyr. I tested the efficiency of their vaunted filing system by asking a Frenchman, who spoke no English, to produce the dossier—if any—of a man called Robert Walker.

I counted only 28 seconds before the clerk, beaming justifiably, cried "Voilà!" . . . and handed me a thick dossier headed, "Walker, Robert . . . alias Brian Robertson, alias Edward Jack Cooper, alias James Walkerson, alias

Pretty Boy, alias James Walkerson—arrested at St. Kilda for murder." Late last year Chief Inspector Conrad Rothengast the Chief Inspector of the New York City Police, had a problem. His squads were making special drives to smash the traffic in "dope" and to identify those who were "running" or "peddling" it to consumers.

HE wrote to M. Sicot and asked if Interpol could help to identify positively a man arrested in New York for having had narcotics in his possession. Rothengast wrote: "This man calls himself . . . but we are unable to prove his identity. His address is . . . Street, New York City. He is white, 42, 5ft., 145 lbs and he claims he was born in Athens, but is a naturalised Australian. We believe he is an international traveller."

"He or an accomplice had secreted 10 lbs of marijuana in a public locker of a bus terminal in New York City. This man was apprehended when he recovered the contraband from the locker. The narcotics were in a shopping bag. This information was immediately flashed to Russell-st., Melbourne headquarters—Interpol's Australian bureau—with a re-trial bureau.

A few days later, a message was flashed from Mr. A. M. Duncan, Chief Commissioner of the Vics being re-opened by the public prosecutor. "There was no doubt, when fingerprints and other information had been exchanged, that Balaban was the man who had been hunted by the Prefecture for 4½ years."

torian Police, who is Australian rapporteur for the

Commission, to M. Sicot. It was stated that the man was unknown in Australia under the exact name given. But a man with different first names, who had been born in Athens, had been convicted in Melbourne in 1941. "Fingerprints follow" the message concluded.

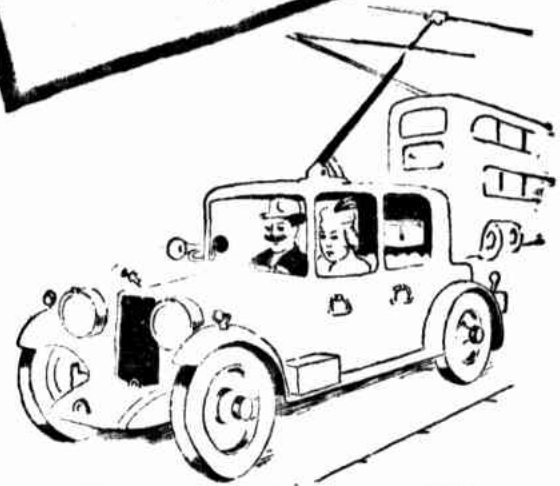
The commission airmailed the fingerprints to the New York City Police. A few hours after they arrived Interpol Paris received this message from the New York City Police: "Thanks co-operation Australian fingerprints have identified man."

This Interpol liaison helped the French Surete and the Paris Prefecture to solve the murder of a girl in Paris more than five years ago.

IN April, 1953, Adelaide police told Mr. Duncan—as Australian rapporteur for Interpol—that they had arrested a Rumanian named Johan Balaban and charged him with the murders of his wife, mother-in-law, stepson, and a Yugoslav girl. The man, they said, insisted that in 1948 he had murdered a girl named Riva Kwas, in Paris.

M. Sicot replied: "Riva Kwas, born 1916 Poland, found dead at her home near Porte St. Cloud. Case

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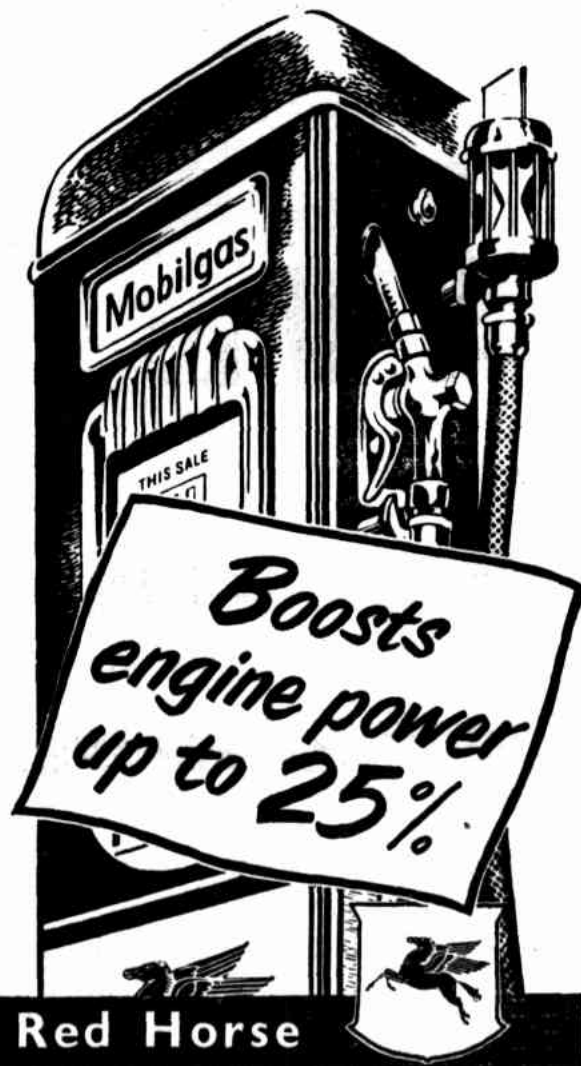
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