

CHRONOLOGY

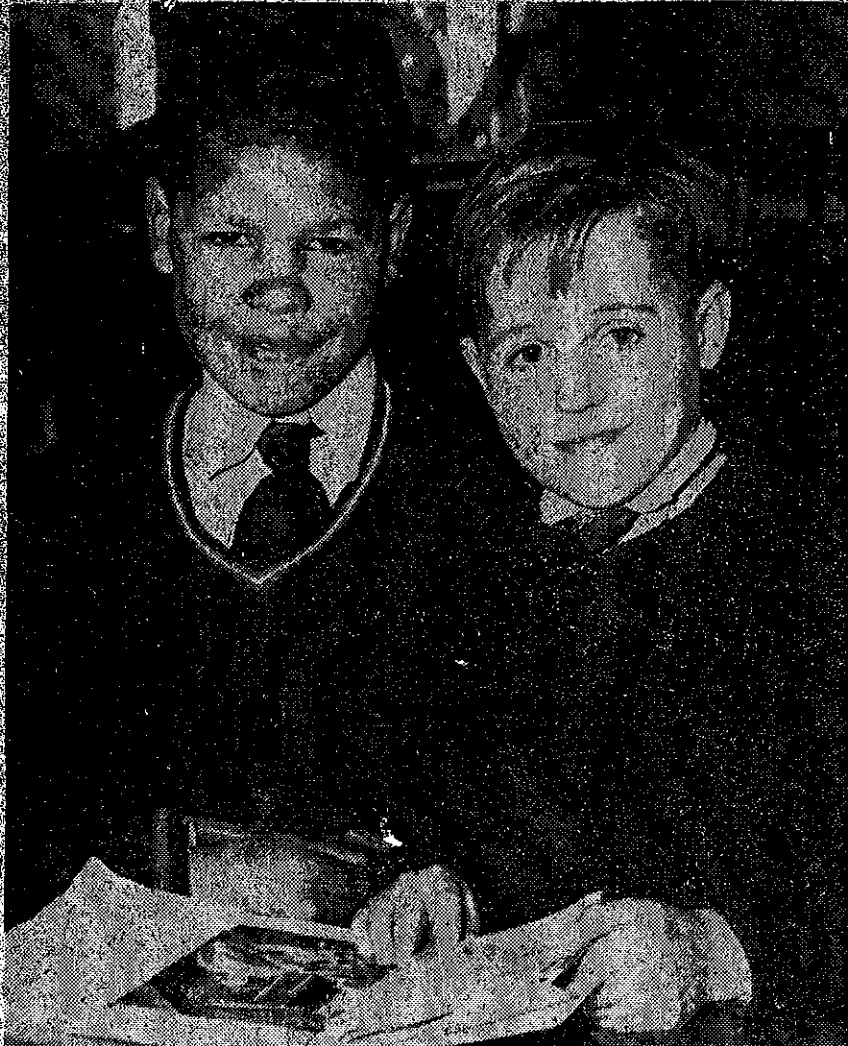
Date:	Document:	Comments:
██████████ 44	Sibling	DOB of ██████████ (Brother)
██████████ 46	Sibling	DOB of ██████████ (Sister)
██████████ 48	DOB	DOB of Howard Hilton Edwards
1 July 56	Admitted to care	['July 1956'] 'His early childhood environment was bad. He lived in slum conditions, in an over-crowded humpy, on the blue moon reserve, Mooroopna. With his brothers and sisters, he was admitted to care in July 1956. They went to the Ballarat orphanage from Turana. His mother moved to Morwell. Then she moved to Ballarat to live next door to the orphanage.
30 Jul 56	Date of placement in care	"These half caste aboriginal children were admitted to the care of the Children's Welfare Department on 30/7/56 by order of the children's Court at Mooroopna which deemed them to be in need of care and protection in that they had no visible means of support. The father deserted and the mother got into debt trying to provide for her six children, mother and sister. The house, which is one of the tin and hessian humpies common in that area was divided in two by an old hessian curtain. In the one half was a double bed, single bed and a cot. This was the total sleeping accommodation for nine people. Sister Turber, an aboriginal welfare worker in Mooroopna has provided clothing and footwear for the children in an Endeavour to assist. Howard was placed at the Ballarat orphanage and remained there till until Dec 1959 till it was considered advisable to remove him, as the mother, who was living next door to the orphanage, was causing trouble with the staff over her children.
30 Jul 56	Letter	All 6 children were charged under S.16C Children's Welfare act 5817. Committed to Children's welfare department.
13 Aug 56	Herald	Howard got his herald - 25 yards
4 Sep 56	Letter	Apex - Police Mooroopna: Mrs. ██████████ is down here now... she asked me if I could communicate with you and find out where her children are in order that she may visit them as soon as she is able.
30 Nov 56	Admission date	Howard admitted to Ballarat Orphanage
11 Nov 59	Letter	Mrs. ██████████ - ? ... I am not very happy about [the children] where they are not getting a fair go with the other children...
19 Nov 59	Report Ballarat Orphanage	The mother of these children who is boarding next door to the orphanage Hostel in Victoria Street and who works at the queen Elizabeth memorial home, Ballarat, has been a source of annoyance to him and his staff for some time... Mrs. ██████████ grabbed the four children and

		<p>took them with her...</p> <p>The mother and the children are all aborigines and in view of the foregoing, he wants them removed and replaced by four other wards. He says it is impossible to control the children properly while the mother lives so close and continually interfering. The boys themselves are no great problem except Howard is going for the girls a bit and would be better in a boys home.</p>
1 Dec 59	application	<p>Application for custody of specified wards of state during Christmas vacation.</p> <p>They will stay with married sister whose home is situated at Barmah</p>
10 Dec 59	Transfer document	Howard, [REDACTED]: After investigation and discussion with Mr. [REDACTED], it was arranged for [4 boys] to be transferred to the Ballarat Orphanage in exchange for the 4 Edwards boys who Mr. [REDACTED] wants to return.
22 Dec 1959	Letter	Application by Mrs. [REDACTED] for holidays for her children turned down.
13 Mar 62	Prior	Theft of bike - not charged
13 Mar 62	Record of Interview	ROI with Howard over theft of bike etc.
13 Mar 62	Summary of File	In January 1960, Howard was transferred to Box Hill Boys Home and attended Burwood Technical School. He presented no trouble at home although his truancy and dislike of school made him unpopular with his teachers. In March 1962, Howard absconded with three other boys and while absent from the home, he broke into several houses, but stated that it was to get food or money to buy food. Howard had no personal court appearances before this and the Children's Court Officer stated that he seemed a decent type of lad.
4 Apr 62	Prior	Burg and theft - 52 Weeks probation
1 May 62	Prior	Burg and theft - Recommitted to S.W. Dept.
22 Nov 62	Letter	Major [REDACTED] at Box Hill Boys home says that Howard has been stealing and putting his fists up to staff etc. To go back to Turana.
22 Nov 62	Summary of File	On [this date] Howard was sent home from school because of his truancy, negative attitude towards staff, and alleged thieving, and Major [REDACTED] of the
27 Nov 62	Letter	Turana Superintendent - Mrs. [REDACTED] Howard ... will do all right in the long run... not to let him continue at school... too young for normal employment... seeking place at Kilmany Park...
30 Nov 1962	Letter	Superintendent [REDACTED] - Assembly Hall: Re Kilmany Park admission: At Turana, Howard has been very well behaved. He wants to go to a farm and needs an intermediate step between school and work.
23 May 63	Report	The offender's mother lives in a single room at [REDACTED]

		██████████ and although she appears to have the children's interests at heart, she stated she has a good job earning 11 pound a week and that she is unable to look after the children. Her husband is living in Parks NSW and she has not seen him in 10 years.
23 Jul 63	Prior	Unlawful use of MV – Committed to S.W.D.
24 Jul 63	Prior	Unlawful use of MV x 3 – Recommitted to YTC
24 Jul 63	Letter	██████████ in Holy Orders – to whom it may concern: He is a sad victim of our society, who feels no great responsibility for his actions. In conversation, I found him very straight forward and very anxious to accept any help he might be given.
24 Jul 63	Institutional Transfer Record	... He has always received very good reports on his schoolwork ... The lad's mother has always shown an interest and lives in ██████████. Mr. Edward's whereabouts aren't known.
23 Apr 64	Typed note	" Pastor ██████████ phoned today. He is very pleased with the three boys who came from Turana. His words are 'they are a credit to you'. They are all on the hostel committee. They are all in employment. The matron is particularly pleased as the boys are very clean in their habits. They make their beds and keep their clothes neat and set a good example. ... and Howard Edwards have signed for the Fitzroy thirds.
24 Aug 64	Prior	Burg and theft – x 7 Returned to care of S.W.D.
24 Aug 64	Prior	Larceny – committed to CWD
24 Aug 64		
4 Nov 64	Note	Arrangements to be made for Howard to work.
7 Nov 64	Notification of Transfer of Young Person	Transferred from Turana to home release on this date.
11 Nov 64	Note	Howard failed to report at Hampton Flour Mills for work
12 Nov 64	Note	Howard advanced 1 pound to go to work
16 Nov 64	Note	
19 Nov 64	Note	Howard away from home. Mum does not know where he is.
25 Nov 64	Priors Sheet	(Date uncertain) "...Two escapes from Royal Park... [blank] came to his home in a stolen car and took him for a ride. Edwards was well aware the car was stolen.
25 Nov 64	Remand Centre Form	Charged with illegal use of motor car.
4 Dec 64	Report	Notes that "The only job that he professes to have liked, was one in the open air, working on a scallop boat in the bay. This job did not have set hours, and it included living and sleeping on the craft. He has no particular standards to live by
9 Dec 64	Letter	Enclosing report to Magistrate
14 Dec 64	Vic Pol Children's Court	Information regarding prosecution for unlawful use of motor car

	Prosecutions Form	
8 Feb 65	Date of conviction	Convicted at Ballarat Children's court of Burg, theft of motor car, - 2 years YTC concurrent with other sentence.
10 Mar 65	Report	Youth Parole Officer: Edwards is a quiet, pleasant lad in interview. He discusses his situation freely and speaks of becoming a butcher's assistant on release and living at home with his mother. His prognosis however is a poor one. He seeks out unsatisfactory associates and has no constructive interests. He lacks a social responsibility and this, coupled with a lack of perseverance, make it unlikely that he will be able to carry out his employment ambitions which seem grandiose when it is considered that he has rarely remained at a job longer than a few weeks. His employment unreliability is greatly added to by his drinking...
15 Mar 65	Handwritten letter	Youth Welfare Division - ? Col. ██████████ telephoned. Howard's brother, ██████████ was killed in an accident at Glenroy yesterday. Howard heard news over the radio and was extremely distressed. ... report that the mother was quite prostrate with grief...
19 Feb 66	Report	We had been in the staff room [Turana] for no more than one or two minutes when we heard the call for help. Mr. ██████████ and myself rushed to the grille at the centre passage way, where it could be seen that Mr. ██████████ was being assaulted... the above named trainees [including Howard Edwards] had a side door open with keys that they had taken from Mr. ██████████...
25 Feb 66	Date of Conviction	Convicted at Melbourne P.S. Malicious wounding (2) Unlawful use (2) etc. Total 11 months and 28 days.

Howard Is The Natural Leader Of Grade IV



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Alert, 10 year old Howard Edwards is the natural choice as leader of his class at the Orphanage State School.

There's no barrier here. Howard (left) sits at his desk with 10-year-old Ernie Stewart. And the common ground on which they met and became firm friends was their keen interest and pride in their schoolwork, and healthy rivalry in sport.

He is the best scholar, the best sportsman—and the most popular boy in grade four. The only thing that distinguishes Howard from the other intelligent boys and girls selected to lead their classes in Bal-larak State Schools is his dark skin.

But in the free and natural world of the Orphanage, a black skin counts for nothing. White and black live together, play together, work together—and when they grow up, occasionally marry. That is an inevitable result of a progressive educational policy where the children are told bluntly: "A good black man is as good as a good white man, but it is far better to be a good black man than a bad white man."

There are about 15 children of aboriginal extraction at the Orphanage.

Most have come from the riverbank humpies of Dimboola, Nhill, Mooroopna and Robin-ale.

Subtle Influences

Subtle influences of denial of outlets for ambition, social dis-arrangement, cultural isolation and early conditioning of the child's mind by the caste situa-tion had already begun their leadly work when the children first entered the Orphanage.

Yet many of the aboriginal children who have passed that environment rather than

through the Orphanage have remarkable records. Under the careful handling of teachers, they have develop-ed into good scholars and sportsmen, and have taken use-ful positions in the community.

Such a one is Isabel Kuhl, who is studying music at the Melbourne Conservatorium. She also attends high school, and has undertaken the study of two foreign languages.

Less spectacular, but probably more important, are the number of aborigines of average abil-ity who have successfully un-der-taken apprenticeships and are now qualified tradesmen.

And now there is another crop of them coming on. Ac-cord-ing to his teachers, Howard has exceptional ability. His brother is showing signs of fol-low-ing in Howard's footsteps; there is another little girl who shows ability in art, and the others will be able to follow oc-cupations that's average chil-dren—irrespective of their color follow.

Revolution

The last two or three decades have seen a revolution in scien-tific thought on racial charac-teristics.

The social sciences, particu-larly sociology, anthropology and psychology, have found that environment rather than

THIRD SCHEDULE

CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT 1954
AND
CHILDREN'S COURT ACT 1928

ORDER TO ADMIT TO THE CARE OF THE CHILDREN'S
WELFARE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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In the Children's Court at MOOROOPNA
in the Midland Bailiwick.

WHEREAS upon the hearing this day of a protection application
made by Ernest William Russell
of MOOROOPNA

(1) Name of child or young person.
(2) Address.
(3) Boy or girl.

of Howard Hilton Edwards of (2) Blue Moon Reserve in Victoria.
MOOROOPNA in Victoria, a (3) boy was
born at Mooroopna in Victoria on the [redacted]
day of [redacted] 1948, and whose religion is, C.O.C.

(4) State applicable paragraph of Section 16.

is proved to the satisfaction of the above Court to be a child ~~young person~~ in
need of care and protection for that (4) he has no visible means of support. (c).

(5) Name of parent.

And the Court orders that the said Howard Hilton Edwards
be admitted to the care of the Children's Welfare Department:

~~And the Court further orders that (5)
of
the of the said
pay the sum of shillings and pence
every week for or towards the maintenance of the said
the first payment to be made on
day next; and such payments are to be made to the
Director of Children's Welfare.~~

Dated at MOOROOPNA in Victoria, the 30th
day of July 1956

[Handwritten signatures]

~~Stipendiary Magistrate
Special Magistrate
Justices of the Peace~~

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CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

No 4886

RECEIVING DEPOT, ROYAL PARK.

Name EDWARDS. Howard Hilton c/c.
[REDACTED] - 48.
Admitted on 30-7-56 from Mooreofina NCCWD.

Condition as regards Health and Cleanliness.	Particular Marks on Body, &c.	Condition of Clothing.
Clean appears Healthy.	Scars on heel. Scars (Nose). <u>Aboriginal</u>	Good Overcoat Shirt Jumper. Singlet Slippers Knickerbockers

Signature of Officer }
admitting Child }

M. Dawie

Date 30-7-56

INSTITUTION: BALLARAT ORPHANAGE, BALLARAT.
NAME: EDWARDS Howard Hilton
NO: 74952
DATE OF BIRTH: ~~17.10.48~~⁴⁸ PLACE OF BIRTH: Mooroopna.
RELIGION: Church of Christ.
DATE OF TRANSFER TO INSTITUTION: 30.11.56.

CASE HISTORY: These half-caste aboriginal children were admitted to the care of the Children's Welfare Department on 30.7.56, by order of the Children's Court at Mooroopna which deemed them to be in the need of care and protection in that they had no visible means of support. The father deserted and the mother got into debt trying to provide for her six children, mother and sister. The house which is one of the tin and hessian humpies common in that area was divided in two by an old hessian curtain. In the one half was a double bed, single bed and a cot, this was the total sleeping accommodation for nine people. Sister Turner an aboriginal welfare worker in Mooroopna has provided clothing and footwear for the children in an endeavour to assist.

MOTHER: [REDACTED] home duties, Blue Moon Reserve, Mooroopna.

FATHER: " [REDACTED] Woodcutter, address unknown.

LOCATION:

30. 7.56 "Turana", 203 Park Street, West Brunswick.
30.11.56 Ballarat Orphanage, Ballarat.

30 JUL 1958

REPORT ON WARD PLACED AT ... The Orphanage
(Date of Visit 23.7.58...) Ballarat

<u>Name of ward</u>	Howard Hilton Edwards. Born [redacted] 48 Reg. No. 7K952.
<u>General appearance</u>	Sturdy well made boy with dark brown curly hair, brown eyes. Dark skinned boy. Has a small scar on bridge of nose. Suitably clad, neat clean and tidy.
<u>Condition, including general health, illnesses, hearing, sight, speech, dental, enuretic? other habits.</u>	Good. ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ occasional wet bed. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES RELEASED UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.
<u>Immunisations</u> (Nature and dates)	1st & 2nd Polio Vaccines May & June 58.
<u>Education</u>	School attended <u>The Orphanage</u> Grade or Form <u>III</u> . Position - Low Average High
<u>Behaviour</u>	Good.
<u>Persons Interested</u> Name Address Relationship How expressed (visits, letters, outings, holiday hosting) Frequency Ward's reaction	[redacted] & [redacted] Mrs Howie Sisters Naning 9 Bridge St Suburb of Ballarat West. Suburb of Mother Ballarat West. Aunt. Visits weekly.
<u>If family member, location of and contact with siblings.</u>	Daily contact with sister and brothers.
<u>Suitability for return home, placement with relatives or friends, boarding-out, adoption, employment - (Service or otherwise)</u>	
<u>General comment</u>	Satisfactory.

DATE ... 29.7.58 ... 31/7/58 P/A SIGNATURE h. h. h.
31 JUL 1958

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11/19/1959

Dear Sir

Is it possible for me to have my children send from the Ballarat Neighbourhood to West Brunswick as I am not very happy about them were they are they are not quiet a pair go with the other children

I got home yesterday from work & one of the boys was waiting for me he had a fight with one of the boys. They are of the ~~big~~ bigger boy game than a ~~quicker~~ but it is not the first time it happens.

When I took the boy back to see Mr. Gordon about it & we had a few words ^{over} of it he told me to take them & send them to Melbourne so I came home with three

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of them & them be send the Police down
after them please Sir take them
back to Melbourne. I would like to tell
you more but as you can see for your
self that I am not a good speller but
I am very very unhappy about it all

Yours Faithfully


SP Dear Sir I am send this about my
son just to show you what the
school teacher as to say about him

C.W.D. 136

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT

No 2915

TURANA RECEPTION CENTRE

aboriginal.

WARD

Date of Birth [redacted] 1948

Religion CC

Name EDWARDS, Howard Hilton

Admitted on 15.12.59 from Ballarat Orphanage.

Particular marks on body, &c.	Property and Cash	Clothing and condition of same
clean appears healthy. Noted up Mr. Singfield	H.L. 30.11.56 to Ballarat Orphanage. Returned to Turana. Directors Orders. 16 DEC 1959	clean. Simple Shirt - Tie Suit Shoes Soc.

Signature of Officer
admitting Child

A. J. Leath

Date 15.12.59

FOR USE BY RECORDS SECTION ONLY

Comp. Index	Central Index	Prop. Tracing					
Gazette	Pawn List	Daily Circular					
	No.	No.					

CRIMINAL OFFENCE AND MODUS OPERANDI REPORT

DISTRICT: **Box Hill** Station

Date: **7 / 3 / 68**

Offence: **Escapes**

Committed at: **Salvation Army Boys Home** in the **Box Hill** Sub-district

Date and Hour: **6/3/68 1-30pm**

On whom Committed (Name in full): **Childrens Welfare Dept.**

Occupation and Address: **Melbourne.** Phone No. _____

Date and Hour Reported to Police: **6/3/68 5pm**

By whom Reported: **Major Hewittson**

Date and Hour Premises visited by Police: **6/3/68 8-10pm** by whom: **Dir 19**

Any Finger Prints Visible: **-**

- 1. (a) If Property stolen, Description of same where identifiable by description, i.e., marks, numbers, value, &c.—
- 1. (b) If Property stolen, Description and Value of same, where Un-identifiable by description—
- 1. (c) If Property damaged state Value—

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2. State shortly particulars of Offence (Character assumed by Criminal, story told, &c.)—

**Offender in company with three other boys failed to return to the Home from the Harwood Technical School where they were attending.
He is a ward of the State.**

- 3. Class of Property from where articles were stolen (dwelling house, motor car, shed, &c.)—
- 4. How Entrance Effected (to be stated in detail)—
- 5. Means used (Tools, &c.)—
- 6. Method used in travelling or in Removing Articles stolen—
- 7. Peculiar Acts at scene of Offence or in committing same—
- 8. If Warrant or Summons issued, Particulars, &c.—

9. Name of Member of Force responsible for investigation of Offence: Steps taken and where Information forwarded:— **Const No Carby Inft Dept & D I Northcote Inft No 3 Div Inft Section Missing Persons C I B and Police Box Hill Social Welfare Dept.**

10. Names of Offenders or Suspects—
- 1st: **Howard Milton Edwards. 74952** I.B.R. Ref. No. _____
 - 2nd: **PA** I.B.R. Ref. No. _____
 - 3rd: _____ I.B.R. Ref. No. _____
 - 4th: _____ I.B.R. Ref. No. _____

11. If Suspects, state grounds of Suspicion—

12. If Suspects, state if Identifiable, and by whom—

13. Description of Offenders or Suspects—

Date of Birth	Height	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Build	Native of—	Occupation
10 12/ 48/	5-5	Black		Black	Med	Aust	Schoolboy
2nd...../...../.....		Curly				Full Abo.	
3rd...../...../.....							
4th...../...../.....							

Facial Description (nose and ears in particular), Visible Scars, Missing Limbs, Peculiarities of Gait, Figure, Habits, &c.—

1st.....

2nd.....

3rd.....

4th.....

Dress of Offenders or Suspects—

1st ~~Grey shirt & shorts Grey Socks Black shoes.~~

2nd.....

3rd.....

4th.....

14. (a) If NATURALIZED? State "YES" or "NO"

(b) If "YES" give place and date of naturalization.....

15. Date of Arrest or Summons	Where Arrested or Summoned	How*	Place of Residence when Arrested or Summoned	Sex
1st.....				
2nd.....				
3rd.....				
4th.....				

* Insert letter "V" if arrested on view, letter "W" if arrested on warrant, letter "S" if summoned

16. Associates (other than those Arrested with the Offender)—

1st.....

2nd.....

3rd.....

4th.....

17. Districts and Places frequented by Offenders—

1st.....

2nd.....

3rd.....

4th.....

18. Methods used in committing previous Offences—

19. How Property disposed of and to whom, if known—

20. (a) Date finger printed for this Offence.....

(b) If assumed name recorded in (10) give correct name if known.....

NOTE—If space under any heading is insufficient, please continue on plain sheet and quote number of heading and attach hereto

Section to which Officer making report is attached

and form

Signature

(t

DN W Carby
 D - W - Carby

)

Rank

No.

† Surname and Initials to be typed or printed

re Howard Edwards

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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Major Hewitson rang to advise that these two boys had been summoned to appear before the Bon Hill CC on Wed at 11.30 for a housebreaking charge. He mentioned that the lads had committed the offence during a recent absconding.

Both boys attend Greenwood Sch, and present no trouble either at school or at the Home, except for truancy. Major plans to accompany lads to Court and seek their return to Bon Hill when it is his intention to make arrangements with the Ed. Psych. Gr. to have them assessed.

I rang Bon Hill Court & informed Clerk lads were wards - recommended sec 30 CCA Act.

Dr
3.4.62

Dr
4.4.62

1 - 2 MAR 1962

P.A.