

## Phyllis May Minter

Statement made on 27 May 1938 by Emily nee Heritage, wife of Albert Victor Minter

This copy was kindly provided by Suzanne Dalton, September 2014

Folkestone Police Station.

27th May 1938.

S T A T E M E N T of Mrs. EMILY MINTER, 8 Dyke Road,  
Folkestone, Independent, who saith:-

My husband is in Etchinghill Infirmary. He has not lived with me for 13 years. I pay 10/- weekly to the K.C.C. towards his maintenance. I live with a woman friend. I have no family. I brought up a girl named 'Phyllis'. She was born on the 9th November, 1915. I had her when she was just over 4 years of age. Her mother was a 'Florence Osborne'. She was not married at the time Phyllis was born. I have not seen her mother. Phyllis was kept by her mother until being handed over to me. A Nurse Seabright arranged for the child to be handed to me, and a 'Miss Jones' (connected with Mr. Hemsley the Relieving Officer) brought her to me. I was not to receive any payment for taking care of the child and did not receive anything at any time. At that time I was Proprietress of the Radnor Lodging House. Phyllis lived with me until I gave up the Radnor Lodging House about 4 or 5 years ago when the Corporation took it over. After leaving the Radnor Lodging House I went to 20 North Street, Folkestone, where I lived up to 2 years ago. Phyllis lived at 20 North Street for about a week after I left the Radnor Lodging House. She then went into Hospital for an operation for appendicitis. In April of that year she married a man named 'SPIERS' and I put them into the Radnor Lodging House to manage it. They did so from April until October of that year, when I gave him notice to leave as he was not managing it properly. They then went to his people at Bexhill. Later I had a letter from them saying they were in poor circumstances. I went down to Bexhill and arranged for them to come back to Folkestone. They came back and stayed at 13, North Street, and I started them in a Fish business. The first baby was born when they were at that address. Spiers did not last long in the business, and went back to his own home leaving her at North Street. He used to send her money. Sometimes 5/- or 10/- a week. She did not stay at 13 North Street very long after he went, and one day she walked to Bexhill, taking her

baby with her, and joined Spiers. They were away for some time, but later came and took their property from 13 North Street. I next saw her on a Saturday night in Folkestone when she had the baby with her. The Police called on me to see if I could accommodate her. I was unable to do so, and eventually she went to the St. Agnes Hostel (25/11/33). I believe she was only there for one night. Sometime after this I saw her in the town, she said she had left her husband and that he had the baby. She said she had left him because he had knocked her about. He did hit her one Xmas time, across the face with a folded newspaper.

I did not want her with me so got Mrs. Mockeridge to put her up at the Radnor Lodging House. She got work at "Greystones" and "Rossi's", and other places for short periods.

She later went from the Radnor Lodging House to No.4 Radnor Street (a private house of mine) where she stayed with a girl friend. She then began to stay out late at night and to associate with men. I spoke to her about it but she would not take any notice. At that time she was leading an immoral life. When she was quite a girl, I told her to keep away from boys in the Fishmarket, as she was always associating with them. She began to stay out late at night and would not say where she had been. She was associating with Soldiers, and has done so for some time. She lived with a Soldier named Tom Butcher. I first heard of this, when I found him with her at No.4 Radnor Street. I have heard that she lived with some one at Dover. Later I heard that she was living with Butcher at 39 Ashley Avenue, Cheriton. That was when she had the first baby. It was born dead. Butcher was away at the time the baby was born, but she said that he was the father. He was in the Army then. About three months ago I heard that she was at Heritage Road (she had a still born baby some time ago - the second one. I don't know where she was then, she did say she had been to Swindon or some such place). Just before Xmas, she had a baby when she was living at Coombe Road, Morehall, and I sent her some food. Later when I was going to take some more food, I discovered that Butcher was still living with her, so did not send

There are evidently more pages of the statement but they are not available.