

Albert August Gollmer and Margarethe (Maggie) Elizabeth Reimer

Maggie was born to Nicolai Paulsen Reimer and Louise Franziska Bulau on 25 Apr 1866. She married Albert August Gollmer on 19 Jan 1889 in Wandsbek, Hamburg Germany.

They had

- Hans Albert Nicolai Gollmer on 12 Sept 1890 in Magdeburg but he died a couple of months later on 13 Nov 1890.
- Margarethe Helen Luis Gollmer was born 22 Aug 1892.
- Albert Robert Gustav Gollmer was born on 26 Dec 1893
- Louise Ludewika Marianne Gollmer was born on 4 Feb 1898.

The German mail steamer **Karlsruhe** arrived in Melbourne on May 14th 1903 with Mr. Gollmer, a child of 10 (Margarethe) and a child of 9 (Albert Robert). The ship was the first mail steamer in history to be taken up the river to the Victoria dock to discharge cargo. (The ship departed Bremen on around March 25th to Australia via South Hampton and was listed in London around March 31st/April 1st)

Maggie and her youngest daughter (Louise at 6 years of age) left Bremen the following month on April 23rd, arriving in Melbourne on **The Prinz Regent Luitpold** on 10 June 1903.

From the report of the arrival:

Although lacking the mammoth proportions of the large vessels of the Norddeutscher Lloyd the Prinz Regent Luitpold possesses all the requirements of a modern mail liner and is moreover greatly in favour with travellers. She reached Port Melbourne yesterday morning from Bremen via ports with 110 passengers who appear to have had an enjoyable time. On the whole fine weather marked the voyage but at times the winds blew strong and were accompanied by seas which caused some discomfort to passengers who were not proof against attacks of mal de mer. On the other hand however there were long periods when the state of the water was more to the liking of all and advantage was taken of these opportunities to carry out a varied and interesting series of amusements which served to agreeably beguile the time. The Prinz Regent Luitpold left Bremen on the 23rd April and touched at the customary ports of call en route to Melbourne.

On the 27th of October, 1903 the steamer **Kyara** departed Melbourne for Sydney carrying Mrs. Gollmer 32, a child of 10, a child of 7 and a child of 4. Presumably, the family went to Sydney to visit her brother. (Return trip not found)

Albert Gollmer committed suicide on 11 Oct 1904 by hanging himself from a tree in Studley Park, Kew, Melbourne Victoria.

The initial report from Constable Gleeson on 11 Oct 1904.

Death of a man named Golmere (sic) at Studley Park

I beg to report at 4.30 pm today I was informed that whilst Mr. William Law of 124 Cambridge St Collingwood was walking through Studley Park at 3.35 PM he saw the body of a man hanging from a tree. I at once went to the spot at the North East end of the Park and at a steep bank I found a man suspended by his straps around the neck from a wattle tree 5 feet 10 inches from the ground. I at once took the body to the ground. It was warm and fully dressed except hat and collar which I found near the body. I searched the clothing but found nothing that would lead to his identification. I conveyed the body to the morgue and I have since learned that it is identified with Albert August Gollmer (sic) a German 45 years of age married man residing at 6 Cook St. Abbotsford. Deceased left home about mid-day during his wife absence leaving a note written in German stating his intention of hanging himself in Studley Park. He has been out of work for some time.

The following was relayed at the inquest.

His body was found by William Law, a clerk who was presently unemployed at lived at Cambridge Street Collingwood:

On the afternoon of the 11th instant at about ¼ to 4 p.m. I was walking in the Studley Park Kew I saw the body of a man hanging to a wattle tree. I saw that the man was dead and went at once for Constable Gleeson. He came in about t1/8 of an hour and took the body down. I have seen the same body in the Morgue today. I did not know the deceased. I was alone. His feet were on the ground. He was suspended by the straps produced. I went within about 5 yards of the body.

Constable 3409 John Gleeson stationed at Studley Park reported for the coroner's inquest:

At about ½ past 4 p.m. on the 11th instant I was told that the body of a man was hanging in the Studley Park from a tree. I at once went to the place indicated. It was at the North East end of the Park close to the residence of Sir Henry Wrixon. I found the body of a man hanging suspended by the neck with the straps produced to a wattle tree. The straps were in the form of a running noose. The hill is very steep there. I at once took the body to the ground. It was quite warm. It was fully dressed except the hat and collar which were on the ground near by. I searched the body and found nothing except a small piece of paper the deceased wore spectacles. There was no money or valuables. The toes of the deceased were on the ground he could easily have saved himself if he so wished. I conveyed the body to the Morgue. I have discovered that his name is Albert August Gollmer that he lived at 6 Cooke Street Abbotsford. He was a clerk. I made inquiries from the neighbors and was told he had been seen about 11 a.m. on that day. It is an unfrequented part of the Park and very woody. I examined the locality and there were no signs of a struggle about there. I have no doubt it was a case of suicide.

The widow, Margaretta Gollmer stated:

I have seen the body in the Morgue and identify it as that of my husband Albert August Gollmer aged 46 years he was a clerk. I last saw him alive on the morning of the 11th

instant at about 9 o'clock at Mrs. Allens place Victoria Parade Collingwood. He was all right that morning. I was working at Mrs. Allens and he came to tell me something. He said good bye to me. I had no idea that he was going to commit suicide. He said about a fortnight ago that he would take his life that I would be better off without him. He was out of work. He had a carbuncle on his neck and this appeared to trouble him a deal. He left the note produced for me. I produce it. I found it on the dinner table when I went home. My little girl saw it first. I found his watch on the bedroom table. We have been out from Germany for 18 months. He came one boat before me. He was a German subject. He was not naturalized. I think his mind had been affected for 5 years past more or less but the more especially for the past 2 years. The writing on the piece of paper found on his body is in his handwriting.

In quest also says received on behalf of Mrs. M Gollmer fragment of letter of 11-10-1904 written by deceased in German. Sister Hannah - Central Mission, 28 - 10 -1904

After Albert's suicide, Maggie Gollmer departed Melbourne on the **Medic** on 7 Oct 1905 (over a year after his suicide) with her daughter Margarethe, now 15, and her other daughter Louise, age 11 for London. The ship arrived in Liverpool on 4 Dec 1905.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000051/19051206/132/0003>

Her son returned to Bremen by way of the German Mail Ship **Gneisenau** on Saturday, the 28th of December, 1907, departing from Circular Key. It is very strongly possible that he was working for his uncle in Sydney, who of course was in charge of the German--Australian shipping line. The ship left Fremantle on 7 Jan 1908. It departed Port Said for Bremen on January 29th and Ushant on the 9th of February arriving and departing Southampton on 10th of February for Bremen.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/14872415?searchTerm=gollmer&searchLimits=l-decade=190|||sortby=dateDesc>

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/113901789?searchTerm=gollmer&searchLimits=l-decade=190|||sortby=dateDesc>

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000183/19080211/061/0003>

Gustav John Ludwig Reimer helped support this family, as well as his other sisters.

Maggie died in Hamburg on 4 May 1938.

Constable Gleeson had his own sad tale as his daughter Margaret Studley Gleeson burned to death, playing with matches around 25 Oct 1900. She had been playing with her sister and had bit the head off a match which set fire to her clothes and her hair.