



J. D. (Snowy) Cutmore

# John (Snowy) Cutmore

*Criminal and gangland enforcer*

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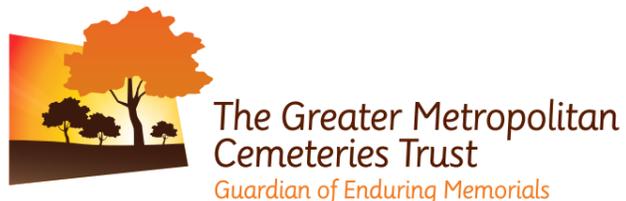
John (Snowy) Cutmore was born on 29 August 1895 to John Samuel and Bridget Delia (nee McLaughlin) Cutmore in South Melbourne. He had a troubled childhood and by the time he was an adult he had at least eighteen convictions recorded against him. In 1915 he was charged with murder but found not guilty. He enlisted in the AIF shortly afterwards but continued to cause trouble, this time with the military authorities, and served several sentences in gaol.

By the 1920s Cutmore had acquired the alias 'Snowy' and become the chief aide and enforcer for Lew (The Count) Stirling, the boss of the Fitzroy Gang. Cutmore had developed a reputation as a tough and ruthless hold-up man as well as a notorious drunk. The Fitzroy Gang and their bitter rivals, Squizzy Taylor's Gang, ruled the underworld criminal activities of Melbourne during the early years of the 1920s. In 1923 Stirling was gaoled and Cutmore fled to Sydney where he joined one of the razor gangs operating there.

In 1927 Cutmore returned to Melbourne ahead of possible arrest for murder. Rumours circulated the underworld that Cutmore had returned to shoot Squizzy Taylor and take over the mantle as head of the criminal gangs. Not to be intimidated, on 28 October 1927 Taylor took the initiative. With colleagues, he searched for Cutmore in several hotels before, acting on a tip-off, he found Cutmore ill in bed in his mother's home. A gun fight ensued with Cutmore killed, his mother wounded and Taylor bleeding from several wounds. Taylor was rushed to hospital but died shortly afterwards. This one altercation resulted in the deaths of two of Melbourne's most dangerous and notorious criminals.

In Snowy Cutmore's short life of 32 years he was regarded as a ruthless gunman, drug dealer, standover man and thief who evaded serious prosecution but not the wrath of his underworld rivals.

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The above information is based on research conducted in 2011-2012 and is presented in good faith by the Friends of Coburg Cemetery. Should family members wish to upgrade existing monuments within this cemetery please email [enquiries@gmct.com.au](mailto:enquiries@gmct.com.au)