

Man dead, four hurt in knife attack

SYDNEY, Wednesday. — A man wielding a 7in carving knife stabbed to death the stationmaster and wounded three women and a man at Strathfield railway station today.

The stationmaster, Mr Francis Thompson, 55, of Penrith, was stabbed in the chest and both arms while trying to prevent the man from attacking other people on the station.

Two detectives investigating the bombing of two Sydney travel agencies on Saturday were only 500 yards from the railway station when the attacks occurred.

Detective Constables B. Leaney and J. Bartlett of the CIB Special Branch fought with the man before disarming him. They took him to Burwood Police Station for questioning.

Police were told that a

man had produced a knife at 10.45am on the concourse to the railway station after a railway employee had questioned him about a ticket.

The man had walked to a bookstall and had brushed against several people.

'Punched on back'

Mrs Edith Bunter, 53, of Bowral, had reported to the stationmaster, Mr Thompson, that she had been punched on the back.

Mr Thompson told Mrs Bunter that she was bleeding from a back wound. He had then tried to apprehend the man, who produced a knife

to apprehend the man, who produced a knife.

The man stabbed the stationmaster before running through a ticket barrier on to platforms five and six.

He attacked a group of people sitting at a seat near the entrance to the barrier.

Mrs Edith Mahon, 69, of Hazelbrook, was

stabbed in the chin and left arm, and Mrs Mary Martin, of Warners Bay, was stabbed in the back.

Mr John Clement Ranse, 44, of Doonside, threw a garbage tin at the man in an attempt to disarm him.

"I tried to knock him over but he jabbed at me a couple of times and I felt the knife slashing at my arms", Mr Ranse said.

"I threw the drum at him and he jumped down on to the railway line, but these two detectives pounced on him and quickly disarmed him".

The stationmaster died in an ambulance taking him to hospital.

Hospital authorities said tonight that Mr Ranse had been discharged. Mrs Bunter was in a critical condition and Mrs Martin and Mrs Mahon were in a serious condition.

Detectives at Burwood police station last night charged a 44-year-old Yugoslav migrant with murder, manslaughter and other offences connected with the stabbings.



Victims of yesterday's multiple stabbings at Strathfield railway station in Sydney are taken from an ambulance at Western Suburbs Hospital.