

Overview

1. On the 15/09/1985 the missing person, now presumed deceased Gilles Jacques MATTAINI (DOB: 25/10/1958), was last seen walking along a track around McKenzie's Point, Bondi. Although this sighting cannot be corroborated it was the last time he had been seen or heard from by his close circle of friends.
2. At the time of his disappearance MATTAINI had overstayed his visa and had expressed his concerns about the status of his residency. As no Police report and subsequent investigation took place in 1985 no inquiries were made into MATTAINI's disappearance.
3. In 2001, Operation TARADALE was established to investigate the suspicious deaths of Ross Bradley WARREN and John Alan RUSSELL around the location of McKenzie's Point, Bondi.
4. In 2002 due to the media attention Operation Taradale was receiving, a former partner and friend of MATTAINI, Jacques MUSY contacted Police in relation to MATTAINI's disappearance. It was learnt from MUSY and other friends, that upon MUSY's returned to Australia a search was conducted by friends of MATTAINI to locate him to no avail. Although MATTAINI did not frequent the McKenzie's Point area for male companionship, he was known to take long walks along the McKenzie's Point walking track. An unknown person believed they had seen MATTAINI walking along a track at Bondi on 15th September 1985.
5. On 9/03/2005, during the inquest into MATTAINI and WARREN's disappearance and RUSSELL's death, the NSW State Coroner made the finding that ***"Giles Jacques MATTAINI died on or about the 15 September 1985 in Sydney. The cause and manner of his death remain undetermined as the evidence before me does not enable me to say."*** Her honour further stated that there was a strong possibility MATTAINI died in similar circumstances to the other men (WARREN and RUSSELL).

Background

Personal details

6. Gilles Jacques MATTAINI was a 26-year-old French National who resided at [REDACTED] Ramsgate Avenue, Bondi with his former partner then friend, Jacques Paul MUSY [REDACTED]¹ MATTAINI came from the Northern Paris town of Goussainville.² MATTAINI was a homosexual male with only one known former partner identified this being MUSY.
7. MUSY and MATTAINI met in Paris, France in 1978, the pair commenced an irregular intimate relationship. MUSY states in his statement, dated 03/08/2002 that when he first met him,

¹ ST-215 - Statement of Jacque MUSY

² OD-112 - P79A: Report of suspected death to Coroner

MATTAINI worked in a financial institution before being conscripted to perform National Service in the French Army (Chasseur Alpains).³

8. Information from Interpol FRANCE confirms MATTAINI was employed by Banque Privee De Gestion Financiere (Private Bank offering financial administration) as an Accounts assistant. The report also describes MATTAINI as an amateur scuba diver.⁴

Suicide attempts

9. It was during his relationship with MATTAINI that MUSY learnt of his attempts to take his own life, *“by taking a number of tablets and cutting his wrists.”*⁵ The date of when this is said to have occurred is unknown. MATTAINI had also attempted suicide while on a holiday from the French Army; his mother had found him in his bed after taking a number of tablets and cutting his wrists. His mother took him to hospital.⁶ MATTAINI was discharged from the military following his second suicide attempt.
10. Interpol FRANCE records show that MATTAINI’s medical records indicate he was admitted to Hospital for an attempted suicide attempt,⁷ these records were never provided to NSW Police and as a result the date of when this suicide attempt is unknown. MUSY further stated that it wasn’t until MATTAINI left the army (*date of discharge is unknown*) that the pair commenced an intimate relationship.

Migrating to Australia

11. MUSY further states he moved to Sydney, Australia in March 1983, as a temporary resident before becoming a permanent resident.⁸ MATTAINI followed MUSY to Australia on the 29/08/1983.⁹ MATTAINI’s visa was to expire on the 28/08/1984.¹⁰ *Department of Immigration records show MATTAINI arriving in Australia on the 17/03/1984.*¹¹ *There are no records to show MUSY’s initial immigration to Australia.*
12. Information from associates of MATTAINI is that he was under a reasonable amount of stress and anxiety, due to his expiring visa (*this is further discussed later in this document*). Upon settling in Sydney, Australia, MATTAINI secured employment on a casual basis as a barman at the Menzies Hotel at 14 Carrington Street, Sydney.¹²

³ ST-215 - Statement of Jacque MUSY

⁴ OD-222 – Interpol FRANCE response 30/10/2002

⁵ ST-215 - Statement of Jacque MUSY

⁶ ST-216 - Statement of Antony WYSZYNSKI

⁷ OD-222 – Interpol FRANCE response 30/10/2002

⁸ ST-215 - Statement of Jacque MUSY

⁹ OD-222 - MATTAINI-Interpol France response 30/10/2002

¹⁰ OD-112 - P79A: Report of suspected death to Coroner

¹¹ ST-239 - Statement of Heather THOMPSON (DIAMA)

¹² ST-237 - Statement of Marc HUBERT

13. On the 16/08/1985 MUSY travelled back to France for a holiday.¹³ While in France, MUSY would have weekly telephone contact with MATTAINI who remained in Australia (it is understood due to MATTAINI's visa expiring he was unable to return to Australia if he left).
14. MUSY stated he did not have any concerns for MATTAINI as the pair of them were excited at the anticipated arrival of a mutual friend in Australia, Antony WYSZYNSKI. ¹⁴ (WYSZYNSKI passed away in 2005¹⁵)
15. In the week prior to disappearing MATTAINI worked 1-night shift at the Menzies Hotel. Sometime between 9:00pm and 10:00pm in this shift MATTAINI approached Marc HUBERT and requested he go home early due to feeling ill. ^{16 17}
16. HUBERT was MATTAINI's boss at the Menzies Hotel and a friend of MUSY prior to the pair immigrating to Australia. HUBERT recounts in his statement dated 14/08/2002, that MATTAINI appeared stressed and expressed the same. HUBERT also stated he noticed MATTAINI behaving out of character by asking to smoke a cigarette, HUBERT did not know of MATTAINI to be a smoker. HUBERT further stated he had a telephone conversation with MATTAINI later that night, possibly around midnight regarding a work-related inquiry, where nothing seemed amiss.¹⁸

Last known movements

17. On the 15/09/1985 WYSZYNSKI states he had a telephone conversation with MATTAINI. During this conversation arrangements were made for MATTAINI to purchase bed sheets and bedding items. WYSZYNSKI states MATTAINI sounded *"very happy and he was looking forward to my visit."*¹⁹
18. It appears the first indication that something was amiss with MATTAINI is recorded in the statement of HUBERT, where he states he had concerns for MATTAINI when he failed to show up for his next rostered shift (unknown date). HUBERT contacted a mutual associate, Vincent OTTAVIANI (Died. 1992) ²⁰ and asked if he had seen or heard from MATTAINI, OTTAVIANI stated he hadn't. ²¹
19. At this time MUSY was still holidaying in France, when he received a phone call from OTTAVIANI informing him that MATTAINI had failed to turn up to work. MUSY states he returned to Australia not long after this phone call. ²²

¹³ ST-240 - Statement of Heather THOMPSON

¹⁴ ST-215 - Statement of Jacque MUSY

¹⁵ BC-39 – Death Certificate for Antony WYSZYNSKI

¹⁶ ST-237 - Statement of Marc HUBERT

¹⁷ TR – 16 – TARADALE inquest Transcript 02/04/2003

¹⁸ ST-237 - Statement of Marc HUBERT

¹⁹ ST-216 - Statement of Antony WYSZYNSKI

²⁰ BC-64 - Death Certificate Vincent OTTAVIANI

²¹ ST-237 - Statement of Marc HUBERT

²² ST-215 - Statement of Jacque MUSY

Investigation into the disappearance & death of Gillies MATTAINI**15/09/1985**

20. A copy of the calendar from the month September 1985 provided to Police by MUSY shows MATTAINI had marked on the calendar the days he wasn't working and upcoming appointments.
21. *Image 1* shows the calendar where MATTAINI indicated he had a dental appointment on the 13/09/1985 and Kikou's arrival on 24/09/1985 (Kikou is a pet name MATTAINI used to call MUSY). The calendar is marked 'OFF' on the 15/09/1985.²³ This is believed to be indicating MATTAINI was not working on that day.

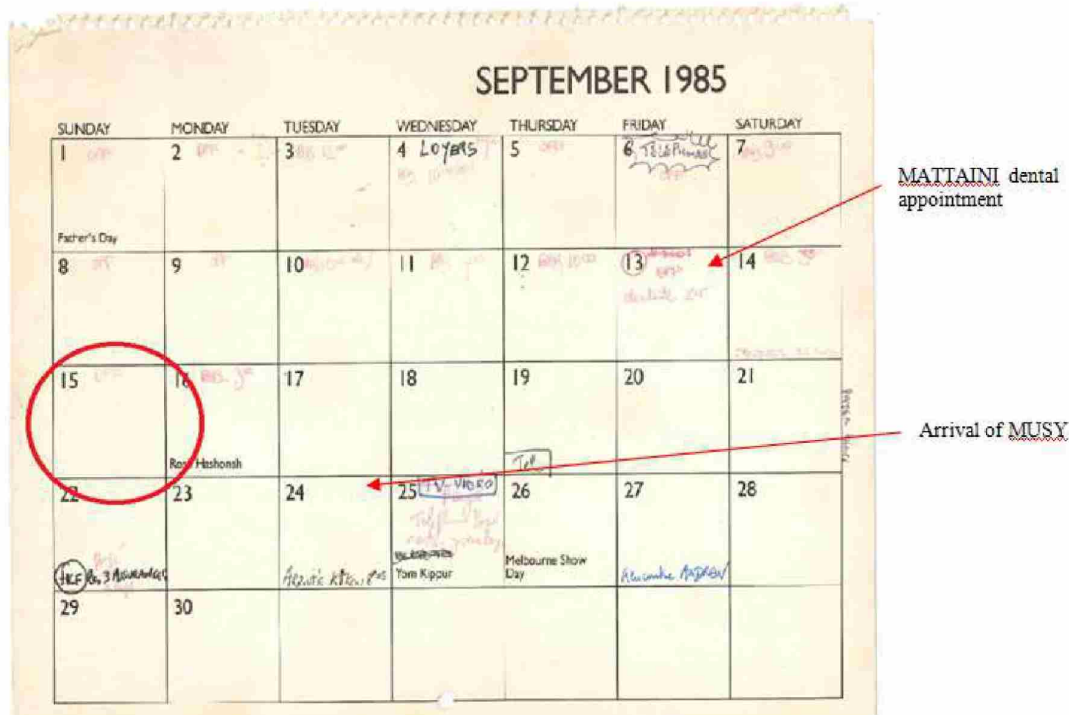


Image 1: PH-85 – Image of Calendar – September 1985 with the 15/09/1985 circled

22. WYSZYNSKI states about 4 days after his telephone conversation with MATTAINI he received a telephone call from OTTAVIANI informing him that MATTAINI failed to show up to work for the last two or three days. WYSZYNSKI asked OTTAVIANI to go to MATTAINI's place and check for him. WYSZYNSKI states he received a further phone call from OTTAVIANI informing him that he had checked MATTAINI's place and noted it was intact with his passport and house keys present.²⁴
23. On the 24/09/1985 MUSY arrived in Sydney, Australia.²⁵ (*MUSY states in his statement he arrived after WYSZYNSKI*)
24. On the 2/10/1985, Antony WYSZYNSKI arrived in Sydney, Australia²⁶. (*WYSZYNSKI states in his statement he arrived in Australia on the 29/09/1985*). Upon arriving in Sydney, Australia MUSY

²³ PH-85 – Image of Calendar – September 1985

²⁴ ST-216 - Statement of Antony WYSZYNSKI

²⁵ ST-240 - Statement of Heather THOMPSON (DIAMA)

²⁶ ST-240 - Statement of Heather THOMPSON (DIAMA)

Investigation into the disappearance & death of Gillies MATTAINI

15/09/1985

has commenced looking for the whereabouts of MATTAINI. MUSY states in his statement he noticed there was no forced entry into the flat and that MATTAINI's wallet, passport, watch and credit cards were present. MUSY further stated he noticed a yellow coloured spray jacket that MATTAINI wore to be missing. MUSY also recounts speaking with a male he knew to reside nearby who had seen MATTAINI looking 'aloof' on the morning of 15/09/1985.²⁷ Attempts were made by Police attached to Operation Taradale to locate this male to no avail.²⁸

25. MUSY states he was of the belief that HUBERT and OTTIVIANI had made enquiries to locate MATTAINI at general hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, police stations, the morgue and the French consulate.²⁹ (*HUBERT does not make mention of this in his statement*) Although WYSZYNSKI believed OTTAVIANI reported MATTAINI missing to the Police³⁰, no Police report and subsequent investigation took place. As such no further inquiries were made into MATTAINI's disappearance in 1985.
26. Information from Interpol FRANCE indicates that MATTAINI's parents never officially reported their son missing to French Police. They did however make contact with Australian Ambassador in Paris who advised MATTAINI's parents to seek assistance from the International Red Cross to find their son. In June 1993 MATTAINI's parents informed her that their search for MATTAINI was unsuccessful.³¹

NOTE: Due to the delay in reporting MATTAINI as a missing person and Police involvement in the matter no records relating to MATTAINI being missing didn't come to light until 2002. It has been noted that the last known contact and sighting of MATTAINI was on the 15/09/1985.

Operation Taradale

MATTAINI reported missing

27. On the 1/08/2002 due to the media attention Operation Taradale (Investigating the disappearance of Ross WARREN and Death of John RUSSELL)^{32 33} was receiving and a publication in the Star Observer, WYSZYNSKI contacted Police in relation to MATTAINI's disappearance.³⁴ As a result, Police commenced investigating the disappearance of MATTAINI.
28. When Police obtained statements from friends and associates of MATTAINI, each stated that he had expressed his concern at having overstayed in Australia and the status of his residency, this was all due to his visa expiring.³⁵ This issue appeared to weigh heavily on MATTAINI's mind.

²⁷ ST-215 - Statement of Jacque MUSY

²⁸ TR - 16 - TARADALE inquest Transcript 02/04/2003

²⁹ ST-215 - Statement of Jacque MUSY

³⁰ ST-216 - Statement of Antony WYSZYNSKI

³¹ OD-222 - Interpol France response 30/10/2002

³² OD-65 - OP Taradale Police media release 09/12/2001

³³ OD-75 - Missing man linked to gay killing spree 13/08/2002

³⁴ TR - 16 - TARADALE inquest Transcript 02/04/2003

³⁵ TR - 16 - TARADALE inquest Transcript 02/04/2003

Investigation into the disappearance & death of Gillies MATTAINI

15/09/1985

29. Senior Constable WHITE of the Missing Persons Unit states on the 3/08/2002 that MATTAINI was reported missing to Rose Bay Police Station by Jacques MUSY.
30. On 8/08/2002 WHITE has completed the following checks to locate any information on Gilles MATTAINI. These enquiries included: Centrelink³⁶, RTA (RMS) system^{37 38}, electoral roll³⁹, AUSTRAC⁴⁰ and all missing persons unit within Australia. Additionally, comparisons were made with the unidentified Body database at the Missing Persons Unit⁴¹. All enquiries showed a negative result for MATTAINI since his disappearance in 1985.⁴²
31. On the 19/08/2002 HUBERT provided a statement to Police. In this statement HUBERT believed that in 1989 while holidaying in Hawaii he saw MATTAINI.⁴³ Checks conducted with the Interpol, Canberra advised NSW Police that MATTAINI had never entered the United States of America.⁴⁴
32. Through the investigation conducted, **no** person/s of interest were identified as being linked to the disappearance and suspected death of MATTAINI.

Coronial Inquest

33. On the 31/03/2003 the inquest into the disappearance of Gilles MATTANI and Ross WARREN and Death of John RUSSELL commenced at Glebe Coroners Court.
34. On 9/03/2005, during the inquest into MATTAINI and WARREN's disappearance and RUSSELL's death, the NSW State Coroner made the finding that ***"Giles Jacques MATTAINI died on or about the 15 September 1985 in Sydney. The cause and manner of his death remain undetermined as the evidence before me does not enable me to say."*** Her honour further stated that there was a strong possibility MATTAINI died in similar circumstances to the other men (WARREN and RUSSELL).

Strike Force Neiwand

The Re-investigation

35. In May 2016 Strike Force Neiwand was established to re-investigate the suspicious disappearance and death of Giles MATTAINI from Bondi on 15/09/1985; the suspicious

³⁶ BC-67 – Centrelink check - 2003

³⁷ OD-224 – RTA (RMS) Section 46 Certificate - 2002

³⁸ OD-114 – RTA response – No record Gilles MATTAINI

³⁹ BC-66 – NSW Electoral Roll check - 2003

⁴⁰ BC-65 – AUSTRAC check - 2003

⁴¹ OD-214 – Missing Persons unidentified remains 1985

⁴² ST-238 – Statement of Senior Constable Barry WHITE

⁴³ ST-237 – Statement of Marc HUBERT

⁴⁴ OD-223 - USA Immigration check - 2002

Investigation into the disappearance & death of Gillies MATTAINI**15/09/1985**

disappearance and death of Ross Bradley WARREN from Bondi on 22/07/1989 and; the suspected murder of John Alan RUSSELL at Bondi on 23/11/1989.

36. With all reinvestigations into historical cases it is imperative to review all the evidence previously obtained over the course of the original investigation. In this particular case as there had been no investigation conducted in 1985 the only material relating to MATTAINI's disappearance came from 2002, when he was formally reported missing to Operation Taradale investigators.
37. A review of the investigation undertaken by Operation Taradale revealed a number of areas which were not explored by Operation Taradale. Some of these being but not limited to, obtaining a DNA sample from Renee MATTAINI, biological mother of Gilles, obtaining MATTAINI's medical records and military records and further statements from his associates to clarify MATTAINI's previous suicide attempts.

Interpol France

38. In August 2016 inquiries with INTERPOL Canberra were conducted in an effort to locate Renee MATTAINI. With the assistance of INTERPOL Paris it was established on the 7/08/2016 Renee MATTAINI, [REDACTED] was alive and residing at Retirement Home "Mont Soleil" path of the Boat 05190 ESPINASSES.⁴⁵
39. On the 15/08/2016 a Mutual Assistance Request was completed requesting assistance from the French authorities to assist with a number of inquiries required to be undertaken within France.⁴⁶
40. On the 28/08/2016 the Mutual Assistance Request was accepted by the Australian Attorney General's Office to commence liaisons with French Authorities.⁴⁷ It was requested assistance be provided to NSW Police with regard to obtaining a DNA sample from Renee MATTAINI, sourcing medical and military records of MATTAINI and locating Jacque MUSY.
41. On the 19/11/2016 Magali EYRAUD, of the Documentation and International Relations Group Central Office for the Suppression of Violence against Persons, Central Directorate of the Judicial Police in France notified NSW Police of recent contact with MUSY and his willingness to speak with NSW Police. EYRAUD did state during her conversation with MUSY (which took place on the 17/11/2016), MUSY advised he was happy to assist Police, but was surprised about the Police investigation as MATTAINI stated to him that *"he wanted to die and nobody would find his body"*. MUSY further stated MATTAINI made suicide attempts before he went missing, because of this MATTAINI's relatives weren't surprised of his disappearance.
42. Between 6:15am and 7:20am on Thursday 8/12/2016 Detective Senior Constable CHEBL had a telephone conversation with MUSY about the disappearance of Gilles MATTAINI. During this

⁴⁵ IN-113 – Renee MATTAINI located alive by French INTERPOL

⁴⁶ OD-32 – Mutual Assistance Request to France

⁴⁷ OD-32 – Mutual Assistance Request to France

time MUSY spoke freely about MATTAINI and was able to answer questions quite openly about a range of topics relating to his former partner.⁴⁸

43. Of significance, from this telephone conversation was MUSY stating that he described MATTAINI as being shy, scared and a private person. MUSY further stated MATTAINI would enjoy being at home as opposed to going out and the only time MATTAINI would go out was for a walk. MUSY pointed out that MATTAINI would frequently walk around the promenade in Bondi and a golf course, listening to French music on his headphone. MUSY explained that socially MATTAINI was shy and did not socialise outside his circle of friends (his work colleagues at the Menzies Hotel). MUSY highlighted the fact MATTAINI would not go out at night or ever attend a 'Gay beat' as he was too afraid and shy to do such a thing.⁴⁹
44. With regards to MATTAINI's leisure activities, MUSY stated in the years he had known MATTAINI he never knew him to engage in any water activities like snorkelling or scuba diving, MUSY stated MATTAINI was not into any sports and was too scared to go into the ocean.⁵⁰ This is contrary to the information provided by INTERPOL France in 2002.
45. MUSY spoke of MATTAINI's previous *two suicide attempts* by MATTAINI, the *first suicide attempt* occurred prior to their relationship commencing. MUSY states during this suicide attempt MATTAINI 'slashed his wrists' and he was treated for his injuries. It is MUSY's opinion that MATTAINI attempted suicide on this occasion due to the pressures from MATTAINI's father, as he would continually tell Gilles 'you're not the son he wanted'. This caused MATTAINI to be sad and distant from his father. MUSY reiterated that MATTAINI was happiest when they commenced their relationship.⁵¹
46. The *second suicide attempt* occurred while MATTAINI was serving in the French Army. MUSY stated on this occasion MATTAINI took a number of pills and 'went to sleep'. MUSY explained that MATTAINI was treated 'mentally' and discharged from the army. MUSY believes this suicide attempt was due to MATTAINI not being able to cope with the pressures of being a homosexual and serving in the military. MUSY stated throughout his relationship with MATTAINI he found him to be comfortable with death and would speak openly about dying on his own accord rather than naturally. MUSY elaborated on this by saying, following MATTAINI's discharge from the army and prior to the pair moving to Australia MATTAINI would make comments about taking his own life. MUSY explained this by stating "*He (MATTAINI) spoke of death as being a release for him from this life. He believed death was more attractive than life, he believed he would be happier dead.*"⁵²
47. Detective Senior Constable CHEBL asked MUSY about the information he provided EYRAUD in relation to MATTAINI stating "*he wanted to die and nobody would find his body*". MUSY agreed this comment was said by MATTAINI, he elaborated on this by explaining that MATTAINI believed if nobody found his body it would cause less pain and grief for his family. MUSY quoted MATTAINI "If I die I will do it so no one finds my corpse, it would cause less pain and grief for my

⁴⁸ IN-148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

⁴⁹ IN-148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

⁵⁰ IN-148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

⁵¹ IN-148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

⁵² IN-148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

mother.” When MUSY was explaining this comment he reinforced the point MATTAINI was making that he did not want his body to be found to ease the grief on his mother and friends.⁵³

48. Detective Senior Constable CHEBL asked MUSY if the information about MATTAINI’s comments about ‘dying’ was provided to Police in 2002, MUSY stated *“Of course I told Stephen Page of this, of course, in 2002 I said this. I said Gilles was comfortable with dying and he would do it so his body is not found, but this did not happen”*. MUSY went on to state despite MATTAINI’s history with suicide attempts, after speaking with PAGE he was of the opinion MATTAINI did not commit suicide and was most likely murdered.⁵⁴
49. Despite all of what MUSY said about MATTAINI’s previous suicide attempts and his acceptance with dying MUSY was still of the firm belief that MATTAINI did not commit suicide but met with foul play. MUSY based this on *“because of everything that has happened in Bondi.”* MUSY reiterated he had told Former Detective Sergeant Stephen PAGE in 2002 about MATTAINI wanting to die, but was of the belief it wasn’t a major issue because from the meeting with PAGE he was of the firm belief Gilles was murdered and did not commit suicide. MUSY further stated *“Gilles was too scared, he would be too afraid to stand on the edge of a cliff and jump, I don’t believe he did this.”*⁵⁵
50. On the 8/04/2017 French authorities informed NSW Police that Mrs. Renee MATTAINI had passed away at 82 years of age on the 9/03/2017. French authorities further stated the body of Mrs MATTAINI was cremated as per her last wishes.⁵⁶ As a result of Mrs MATTAINI’s passing and subsequent cremation it is no longer possible for authorities to obtain a DNA sample.
51. On the 19/12/2017 correspondence was received by NSW Police from the Attorney General’s office relating to French authorities obtaining a statement from Jacque MUSY, this was in response to the earlier MAR forwarded. The statement was obtained on the 10/05/2017.^{57 58}
52. In this statement MUSY provides a background to his early life from Africa through to his family moving to France. He further states how he came to have a relationship with MATTAINI and the pair later relocating to Australia. MUSY states his knowledge of MATTAINI’s suicide attempts and the conversations he had with MATTAINI about his intentions to take his own life. MUSY stated *“Personally, I believed a lot in suicide. But since 2002, when the Australian police, in the person of the detective Steve PAGE summoned me and heard the police station of PADDINGTON, I was persuaded that in fact Gilles MATTAINI was certainly the object of an aggression or even of an assassination. I no longer believe in the thesis of suicide because I was able to discover a high number of assassinations, disappearances, assaults, between the years 1980 to 1990 and that the Police was not very active.”*^{59 60}

⁵³IN-148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

⁵⁴IN-148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

⁵⁵IN-148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

⁵⁶IN-191 – Renee MATTAINI now deceased

⁵⁷ST-272 – Statement of Jacque MUSY (French version)

⁵⁸ST-273 – Statement of Jacque MUSY (English version)

⁵⁹ST-272 – Statement of Jacque MUSY (French version)

⁶⁰ST-273 – Statement of Jacque MUSY (English version)

Summary

53. The 2005 inquest findings handed down by Deputy State Coroner J.MILLEDGE commented during the inquest that there was a strong possibility that Mr. MATTAINI had died in similar circumstances to the other two deceased men (Ross WARREN, July 1989 and John RUSSELL, November 1989), this was in reference to the deceased men falling prey to gay hate murders that are said to have occurred at McKenzie's Point, Bondi/Tamarama.
54. Operation Taradale under the direction of former Detective Sergeant Stephen PAGE focused on the above mentioned line of inquiry (youth gangs). former Detective Sergeant PAGE states in his statement *"In so far as early opinions in relation to the factors surrounding the suspected death of MATTAINI, I do not believe that homicide can be excluded taking into account the fact MATTAINI has gone missing with items he usually takes when going for a walk, and his walks take him past Marks Park at Tamarama which is known to be a violent area for gay victims. I am aware that MATTAINI has previously tried to take his own life, however, there is a significant passage of time since that era and whatever factors that did exist causing him to be suicidal there is no evidence to suggest that those factors still existed. Considering these suicide attempts occurred in his early teens, the causes may well have been confusion over sexuality and loss of liberty whilst performing national service."*⁶¹
55. The investigation conducted under Operation Taradale did not identify any Person/s of interest that could be linked to the death of MATTAINI. It need be noted the basis of the Operation Taradale investigation focused on members of marauding youth gangs who loitered or frequented the Bondi area. It is fair to say Operation Taradale exhausted all avenues related to members of these youth gangs and their possible involvement in criminal offences in and around McKenzie's Point.⁶² It should be noted all persons of interest targets by Operation Taradale are aware of covert methods and overt police methodology. One cannot dismiss the involvement of the members of these youth gangs but based on the investigation carried out under SF Neiwand no evidence has come to light to draw a nexus between youth gangs and the disappearance and suspected death of MATTAINI.
56. Despite the number of criminal offences (assaults, robberies & street crime) and known murders said to have occurred on/along the walking track around McKenzie's Point at an evening time. There is no evidence to suggest MATTAINI frequented McKenzie's Point for purposes of engaging in anonymous sex at a gay beat at McKenzie's Point or to venture out of a night time.
57. MUSY informed Police that if MATTAINI did go for walks it would be walk around 'the promenade in Bondi and a golf course', MATTAINI was not one to go out of a night time for social reasons unless he was returning home from work.⁶³ HUBERT did state in his evidence at the inquest that MATTAINI did go for walks along the path between Bondi and Tamarama.⁶⁴ MUSY did explain to Police, stating *"He (MATTAINI) spoke of death as being a release for him*

⁶¹ ST – 207 – Additional Statement of D/Sgt PAGE

⁶² OD – 242 – Investigation Summary: Youth Gang theory

⁶³ IN – 148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY

⁶⁴ TR – 16 – TARADALE inquest Transcript 02/04/2003

from this life. He believed death was more attractive than life, he believed he would be happier dead.”⁶⁵

58. Based on the abovementioned information no further inquiries can be carried out with regard to obtaining a DNA sample from Renee MATAINI for the purposes of testing it against unidentified remains. Requests via email have been sent to French authorities for continual assistance in obtaining the medical and military record of MATTAINI, this has been unsuccessful.

Key Findings

59. On the 09/03/2005 Magistrate Jacqueline Milledge [Senior Deputy State Coroner] delivered her findings following an Inquest into MATTAINI’s disappearance, which was premised on the ‘gay hate’ line of inquiry. Operation Taradale focused on ‘gay hate’ and relied on investigation confirmation bias which was a major factor that ultimately limited the validity of the Coroner’s findings. Confirmation bias *‘is the tendency to bolster a hypothesis by seeking consistent evidence while disregarding inconsistent evidence. In criminal investigations, preference for hypothesis-consistent information could contribute to false convictions by leading investigators to disregard evidence that challenges their theory of a case.’*
60. In 2002 Jacque MUSY had provided former Detective Sergeant PAGE with a statement. The statement outlined 2 suicide attempts by MATTIANI whilst he was in France, but failed to outline prior suicidal ideation despite MUSY raising it with PAGE. In 2017, SF Neiwand spoke with MUSY provided French Police with a statement which clearly outlined MATTAINI’s suicidal ideation and multiple attempts at suicide. PAGE’s failure to include all the information about MATTAINI’s suicidal ideation in MUSY’s 2002 statement was a key factor in the Coroner not considering suicide as a possibility in MATTIANI’s disappearance.
61. In concluding this summary, when considering the information obtained by both Operation Taradale and Strike Force Neiwand, it can be suggested that MATTAINI may well have taken his own life rather than met with foul play. There are no further lines of inquiry for the MATTIANI matter. There is no forensic evidence, no identified suspect and/or witnesses that can provided a time line for his last movements. MATTIANI’s disappearance – cause and manner of death remain ***‘undetermined’***. It is recommended that this investigation be listed as inactive and only reactivated if new and compelling evidence becomes available.

Detective Senior Constable Michael Chebl
Unsolved Homicide Team - Homicide Squad
Officer in Charge of Strike Force Neiwand

⁶⁵ IN -148 – Follow up information from Jacque MUSY