

NSW POLICE SERVICE

REGIONAL CRIME SQUAD, SOUTH



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The Commander,
 MODUS OPERANDI SECTION.

Overview of homosexual murders and incidents within the inner city area - INNER CITY GAY MURDERS.

1. On 24 January 1990 Richard Norman JOHNSON, 34 old homosexual was bashed and kicked to death by the following youths outside the Alexandria Park toilet block, Alexandria. All the youths have been dealt with by the court pleading guilty to Manslaughter and murder and consequently receiving varying sentences for their involvement.

2. The offenders are;-

- (a) [NP21], born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (b) [NP15], born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (c) [NP16], born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (d) [NP17], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (e) [NP18], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (f) [NP19], born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (g) [NP20], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (h) [NP41], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],

3. On 20 July, 1990 Kritchikorn RATTANAJURATHAPORN, a male Thai national, who may well have been homosexual, was bashed and kicked whilst loitering on the pathway at Mackenzies Point, South Bondi. This area at night is a well known homosexual 'beat' and at the time his assailants also viciously assaulted another homosexual named Jeffrey SULLIVAN. RATTANAJURATHAPORN's body was found at the base of the cliff which the pathway follows its contour. The below listed youths have been arrested and are awaiting trial for murder.

4. The persons charged with the Murder of RATTANAJURATHAPORN are;-

- (a) [NP22], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (b) [NP23], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (c) [NP24], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],

5. All the abovementioned offenders reside or have resided in the Redfern and Waterloo areas and in most of their cases have prior convictions for assault and robbery matters. Most of the first mentioned offenders responsible for killing JOHNSON attended the Cleveland Street Boys' High School, Alexandria.

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6. The offender [NP23] has also been charged in connection with assault and robbery committed upon [I90] [I90] on the same pathway which begins in Notts Avenue, South Bondi. That robbery occurred about 10pm on 18 December 1989 and [I90] sustained fractured ribs and facial injuries. [I90] is a 45 year old male and apparently a homosexual.

7. At the time of [NP23]'s arrest a pawnbrokers slip drawn on the Redfern Loan Office was recovered from his motor vehicle. That slip was in the name of [NP18]. There has not been a direct connection to this person at this stage.

8. On 28 December, 1988 William Emmanuel ALLEN was bashed and kicked outside the Alexandria Park toilet blocks at night. He staggered home and died in his home nearby of injuries sustained in this attack. No person has been arrested for this murder. It was noted during the post-mortem examination that ALLEN sustained a small circular puncture wound to his hand which was later clarified as being five to six millimetres in diameter consistent with being stabbed.

9. Initial inquiries into the RATTANAJURATHAPORN death revealed two other incidents of a highly suspicious nature. The first was Ross Bradley WARREN who was a known homosexual and at the time a television personality with WIN-4. WARREN was last sighted at 2.30am on 21 July 1989 when he drove east in Oxford Street, Paddington. Motor vehicle NZC-783, a brown coloured Nissan Pulsar, owned and driven by WARREN was located in Kenneth Street, North Tamarama directly above stairs which lead to the pathway already mentioned. WARREN's keys were recovered from a rock ledge below the path near the water level. Those eight keys were on a ring. WARREN has not been located since that date.

10. John Alan RUSSELL's body was located at the base of the cliff area at South Bondi on 24 November, 1989. He was last seen seen alive drinking with his male boyfriend at the 'Bondi Hotel' where they were talking about his inheritance of one hundred thousand dollars. There was no sign of depression when he left about 11pm on 23 November, 1989. When found Police noticed RUSSELL had a clump of hair on his hand which has not been located but is depicted in photograph form. A subsequent inquest returned an open finding.

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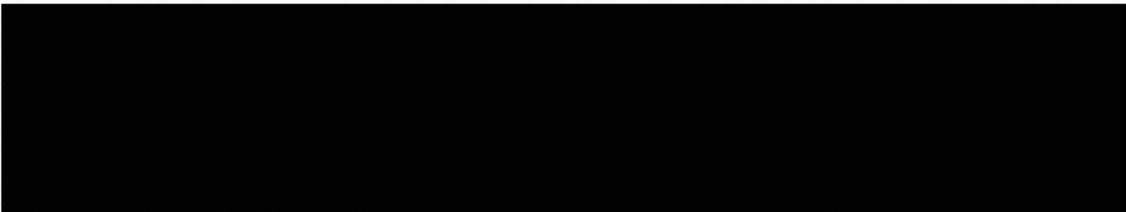
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11. It was also noted that another homosexual David John McMAHON, a Bondi resident, was attacked on the same pathway about 11.15pm on 21 December, 1989. During the course of this attack one of his assailants said "I'm gonna throw you over the side" and commenced to drag him to the cliff edge but McMAHON escaped. McMAHON initially identified [NP43], a seventeen year old local assailant, as being the leader of this group but has since shown a complete unwillingness to pursue or assist Police with this matter.

12. [NP43] has been identified by [190] as the second of the three offenders responsible for his attack. [NP43] has yet to be located and interviewed however little is anticipated in preferring charges regarding McMAHON's attack while [190] matter is a different issue.

13. Wayne "Rick" TONKS was found deceased in his Artarmon apartment on 19 May 1990. He had been bashed and a bag placed over his head and taped causing him to suffocate. No arrests have been affected. All the mentioned offenders fingerprints have been eliminated from the print found on the tape binding TONKS' mouth. TONKS at the time of his death was a school teacher at Cleveland Street Boys' High School. He also was in the habit of using his alias and placing his home telephone number on toilet walls in the northern suburbs area, inviting homosexual liaisons.

14. This same practice lead to Richard JOHNSON's demise having left his telephone number on the Alexandria Park toilet block wall. JOHNSON was subsequently lured to the toilet block on the pretext of a homosexual liaison and attacked. Apart from these two coincidences there is no other similarities and consequently it is felt that due to the modus operandi of the attack and the elimination of fingerprints it is highly remote that there is any connection.



16. In dealing with further aspects of their likely connection certain lines of investigation were taken and it is best clarified by detailing the information gathered under the respective victims' headings.

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Richard Norman JOHNSON

17. [NP41]'s parents and solicitor refused to allow their son, [NP41], the opportunity of possible reduction in his sentence should he assisted Police with their inquiries. [NP21] seized the opportunity and has since the 10 April, 1991 used listening device recordings of conversations with the following persons;-

- (a) [NP19] (twice),
- (b) [NP18],
- (c) [NP18],
- (d) [NP42],
- (e) [NP16] (three times).

Transcriptions and tapes have been obtained and where necessary enhanced using the facilities of the Australian Capital Territory Police. These transcripts and tapes are attached.

18. [NP21] has also indicated in statements that the following persons implicate themselves as ALLEN's killers.

- (a) [NP44], born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (b) [NP42], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED],
- (c) [NP45], Born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED].
- (d) [NP19], previously mentioned.
- (e) [NP18], previously mentioned.

19. [NP21] stated that a screw driver was used to stab ALLEN which is consistent with the wound to the deceased's hand. This aspect of information gives real credence to [NP21]'s account of what was told to him through confessions from the above but loses veracity with the inclusion of [NP18] and to a lesser degree [NP19]. Immigration inquiries reveal [NP18] was in New Zealand at the time of the attack while [NP19] through other information was away in the country.

20. It eventually became evident that [NP21]'s recollection of conversations he had with two of the above the previous day differed greatly to that contained in his statement. Consequently in light of the problems mentioned in paragraph nineteen together with his poor retentive memory little credence can be given to the accuracy of those admissions allegedly made to him by the abovementioned persons.

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21. [NP18], [NP15] and [NP42] did not implicate themselves on tape nor did [NP19]. However, [NP16] and [NP19] make passing reference to the incident and indicate some knowledge of it implicating [NP44], [NP45] and [NP42].

22. [NP44] and [NP45] have been interviewed by Police and have denied their involvement. Due to the vagueness of both [NP16] and [NP19]'s information it is also not intended to pursue this matter with a charge of 'Misprision' but the information are retained for future attention if any further corroboration is forthcoming. In any regard it has been expressed by the respective legal counsel that total immunity from prosecution be granted before their assistance will be given.

Ross Bradley WARREN.

23. FIRST SCENARIO.

[REDACTED] a youth worker at Keelong Detention Centre overheard [NP16] state to a fellow prisoner, [REDACTED] that he was responsible for throwing a homosexual off a cliff at Bondi onto the rocks. Statements were obtained.

24. [REDACTED], wore a listening device and recorded conversations he had with [NP16]. Those conversations reveal a vague and general reference to frequent bashings of homosexuals in Bondi, Centennial and Moore Park areas. [REDACTED] where it has been bluntly suggested by his parents that he is not willing to further assist.

25. [NP21] also had recorded conversations with [NP16] at Minda Detention Centre. [NP16] again implicates himself in this practice but fails to clearly identify any specific incident. He does however, state that he took a set of car keys off one of the victim's he attacked at South Bondi and after searching his brown motor vehicle parked nearby, threw those keys into the ocean. The victim at the time had been pushed off a small cliff. [NP16] suggests this attack happened about 10.30pm and the motor vehicle was near a set of stairs near the Bondi Pool which is a considerable distance from where WARREN's vehicle was parked. Further, [NP16] indicated there were three or four keys on a ring while WARREN possessed eight keys on a ring.

26. [NP16] was shown aerial photographs of Mackenzies Point and South Bondi and indicated stairs and pathway on the opposite side of the Point as being the location of his attack.

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27. [NP16] also admitted being involved in approximately seventy to one hundred gang assault and robberies on homosexual men in these three areas, whilst [NP21] implicates himself in about fifteen. However, their respective legal representatives have demanded a guarantee of total immunity for their clients before any further information and co-operation is given. Therefore, while general admissions are made about their criminal activities there is no direct charge that can be preferred against either at this point in time. The Prosecuting Section has advised that even a general 'Conspiracy' charge is not available for consideration.

28. Crown Prosecutor Mark TEDESCHI, Q.C., has inferred that the Attorney General's Department would be highly unlikely to accede to a 'blanket' indemnity for these offenders having in mind the overall circumstances of their incarceration. Consequently, while it is apparent that frequently homosexuals are assaulted by thugs including [NP16] and [NP21] this avenue of endeavour is finished.

29. SECOND SCENARIO.

[Miss X] and her daughter [Miss M], both of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] supplied statements on 25 April, 1991 where individually they were informed by [NP57] [NP57], born [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED], that she was present when WARREN was bashed and thrown off a cliff at South Bondi. [NP57] mentioned that she was in a group of eight Lebanese from Kings Cross when this happened. This information was told to them about three weeks after WARREN in fact went missing. Both women came forward with the information only as a result of WARREN's case being re-opened early this year by me, which received media attention.

30. Both [Miss X] and [Miss M] were spoken to about the need to gain evidence by way of listening device and [Miss M] expressed no desire to participate. [Miss X] initially showed willingness but since that time has shown great reluctance in doing this. Further, [NP57] has a lengthy criminal history for violence and it is strongly felt through inquiries that she would not be open to Police interrogation. She also is nomadic and presently her whereabouts are not known.

31. It is therefore felt that this information may be pursued at some future time when supportive or corroborative evidence is gained elsewhere.

John Alan RUSSELL.

32. RUSSELL's death and the circumstance surrounding his demise are disturbing to say the least. It is also noted that other serious assaults were committed in the same area about the same time.

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33. Nothing has come forward through the investigation to directly link this death to any criminal activity. The brief is attached.

Raymond Frederick KEAM.



38. Attached to this file for future reference are;-

- (a) transcripts and their corresponding tapes of listening device conversations,
- (b) [redacted] statements,
- (c) [redacted] statement,
- (d) [redacted] NP21 statements,
- (e) [redacted] Miss M statement,
- (f) [redacted] Miss X statement,
- (g) RUSSELL Inquest brief of evidence,
- (h) WARREN Inquiry statements,
- (i) ALLEN Inquest brief of evidence,
- (j) Related listening device applications,
- (k) All other relevant documents.

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SUMMARY.

39. Throughout the course of this Inquiry it was obvious that little help was gained from the homosexual community in reporting incidents of bashing to the Police. This was largely supported by the lack of reported assaults in the relevant areas which has severely hampered Police in establishing specific crimes from the information forthcoming in the conversations recorded through the use of listening devices. The volume of crime committed on the homosexual community as indicated is enormous and largely unreported.

40. Reluctance of witnesses to assist Police in their pursuit has prevented criminal charges being laid against any individual.

41. Please retain this file together with the attachments for future reference.



S.D. McCANN,
Detective Sergeant,
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Regional Crime Squad, South.
10 August 1991.