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WEEKLY RESUME

INQUIRY : Murder of John Gordon HUGHES.
DATE OF OFFENCE : Between 3pm 5.5.89 and 1.30pm, 6.5.89
WEEK ENDING : 28.5.89

THE SCENE.

About 1.30pm on the 6.5.89; the deceased John Gordon HUGHES was located by his flatmate, Aaron Lee HILL, at his residence at [REDACTED] Greenknowe St., Potts Point. The premises are a single bedroom flatette, with a bathroom and kitchen area off the bedroom. The flat is located on the third floor of the block. At the time the deceased was located, he was lying face down on the double bed in the flat. He was bound by electrical cords cut from appliances in the flat. These bindings being around the deceased hands and feet, with his hands being ties behind his back. A pillowcase covered the deceaseds head. Electrical cord and a leather belt was wrapped around the deceased throat, and a pair of kitchen tongs had been used to tighten these bindings by twisting them. Two lamps and a pot (which was broken on the bed) had been used to strike the deceased about the head. A fan heater and the television in the room were both on. A kitchen knife with a quantity of blood on it was found next to the body. A pool of blood existed under the head of the deceased, apparently having flowed from the injuries to HUGHES skull from the blows of the lamps and pot. A bloody 't' shirt was located next to the bed.

At the time located the deceased was dressed in running shoes, jeans, jumper and long sleeve shirt with a sloppy joe. He had a wrist watch and key ring in his possession with a quantity of small change. No wallet was located either in his possession or at the scene. The flat itself appear in a tidy condition with no apparent signs of a struggle or search of the flats contents having taken place.

A fingerprint in blood was located at the entrance to the elevators on the third floor of the building, and blood was also located in the entrance area of the building. In Baroda Lane, from which the entrance to this block of units in located, a trail of blood was found that runs down the lane, in a southerly direction. An early model cortina sedan, registration No. [REDACTED] was located in the lane, with blood across its bonnet. This vehicle having been found partially blocking the lane at 9am on the morning of the 6.5.89, with the drivers door open.

SCIENTIFIC/FINGERPRINT RESULTS.

Scientific tests of the bindings, knife, t shirt and tongs, show that all the blood at the scene belong to the
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deceased. Tests are still pending concerning the bloody fingerprint located at the elevator, although the quantity of blood located here may not be sufficient for grouping. We are still awaiting the results of blood groupings for the blood located in the doorway of the unit block and from the motor vehicle.

Fingerprints have found the prints of the deceased and the person Aaron Lee HILL in the flat. Prints located on the tongs and the knife are unsuitable for classification and are unable to give any indications as to the identity of the offender from the suspect names presently supplied.

The only suitable prints located in the flat at this time that are not accounted for are from the wall next to the elevator on the same floor as the deceased's flat, and a print on a bong, apparently in use just prior to Hughes' death. Two checks of these prints with records have shown no result.

THE POST MORTEM.

Only an external examination of the deceased was conducted due to the deceased having hepatitis B. Time of death is estimated to be about midnight on the night of the 5.5.89, or in the early hours of the 6.5.89. Due to the heater being on in the flat from the time of death to the time the body was located, no accurate time can be determined. Cause of death is by strangulation, as the wounds to the head are non-lethal. It would appear from the type of bruising to the head and limbs (where the body was bound), that HUGHES was first struck over the head then strangled.

BACKGROUND

The deceased was apparently an active homosexual and has shared his residence with a number of persons over the past 6 months. Information from a number of his associates indicates that he was a small dealer in speed and heroin, but over the last 3 months had not been dealing due to a forthcoming drug charge being heard at Court. Information from Gregory WEST however suggests that HUGHES and HILL were about to launch themselves into the supply business again, although no detail or confirmation of this has been made at this time.

Over the past 6 months, HUGHES has shared his flat with the following persons,:

[151] alias [151],
born. [REDACTED]

[151] is a juvenile, who apparently HUGHES was keeping at his unit until 8 weeks ago. He is a minor drug offender and male prostitute.

Gregory WEST,
born. [REDACTED]

West is a drug user, who has stayed at HUGHES residence and stayed at HUGHES flat for about 4 days around the 28.3.89 (at this time HUGHES was living in flat [REDACTED], in the same block) WEST last saw HUGHES on the 5.5.89, at 1pm at his flat.

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Aaron Lee HILL.
23 old,
HILL has resided with HUGHES over the past 6 weeks.
Claims he is not a homosexual, however WEST and others
claim otherwise. He located the body of HUGHES.

Inquiries have also shown that HUGHES had shared his residence with a male named JONES (possibly Ian or Dean), although from information obtained from an associate of HUGHES, Gavin SCOBIE, b. [REDACTED] JONES had ripped the deceased off with the aid of a person named Mark Phillip LOCKE. LOCKE is a reputed stand over merchant who has form for violence. According to rumour he has stood over HUGHES in the past and threatened him with a knife on these occasions.

HUGHES is also reputed among his associates to have had a large sum of cash either on the premises or in trust with a solicitor. Inquiries have shown that over the past 2 months, HUGHES account with the Westpac Bank has gone from around \$1500 to a minimal amount. He withdrew \$200 from the Westpac account on the 5.5.89 at Kings Cross. Inquiries also show that the deceased has no bankcard or other credit cards.

Gavin SCOBIE and a person known as BRUCE apparently, had made arrangement to have dinner with HUGHES on the evening of the 5.5.89. SCOBIE claims to have visited the address on a number of occasion that evening and no person was apparently home. SCOBIE is a one time lover of the deceased.

INQUIRIES Re: Blood in laneway.

Inquiries have determined that the blood in the lane and at the entrance to the units of the deceased belongs to a Mathew BREWER, a resident of the block who has come forward to say that he had cut his hand on the night of the 5.5.89, and had was treated at St. Vincents for this cut. Further inquiries are required at the Hospital and by the blood grouping of the blood located at the scene in Baroda Lane to eliminate this person from the enquiry.

A witness, David WILMOUNT, has also seen a male person walking from the direction of the units south in Baroda Lane, apparently covered in blood. Inquiries are pending concerning the identity of this person.

The person Kevin KINGSBEER, born. [REDACTED] is to be interviewed with regard to a laceration he was treated for at St. Vincents in the early hours of the 6.5.89. This person possibly being the same person being seen by WILMOUNT on that night. Kingsbeer is still to be interviewed.

INQUIRIES Re; POSSIBLE SUSPECTS.

Inquiries to date have substantiated the story of HILL, and his movements on the days of the 5.5.89 and 6.5.89. Corroboration of HILLS movements coming from his girlfriend, Michelle NICHOLAS. It was noted however on the night of
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interview NICHOLAS on the 6.5.89, that she was in possession of \$190-00 in cash money. This may be significant in that HUGHES is known to have withdrawn \$200-00 in cash on the 5.5.89 from his Westpac account. NICHOLAS has accounted for having the cash by claiming it was given to her by an anonymous male on the train the previous evening. NICHOLAS has given the impression of not being entirely co-operative with these inquiries, & a search has been conducted of NICHOLAS's residence at Chester Hill without result. A search was also conducted of the residence allegedly occupied by HILL and NICHOLAS on the evening of the 5.5.89, also without result, these being at Victoria St., Darlinghurst. HILL claims to have last seen HUGHES on the afternoon of the 5.5.89 in company with a male with a beard, this person is not further described.

A statement has been obtained from a Gavin SCOBIE, with regard to this matter. SCOBIE had since disappeared, despite him having informed Police that he intended to ring them on the afternoon of the 14.5.89. He was at this time allegedly going to make some inquiries concerning the possible killer of HUGHES. Inquiries are not pending into SCOBIE'S whereabouts.

Information has also been received that the person JONES has killed HUGHES, in company with the person LOCKE. It has been established that LOCKE collecting the dole in Queensland at the present time and an address in Brisbane has been obtained. Further address in Brisbane have also been obtained for LOCKE from the diaries of the deceased. LOCKE is presently believed to be in company with a 15 year old female, [I52].

On the 25.5.89, the person [I51] (alias [I51]) was interviewed by Police at Nowra. [I51] claims that LOCKE was in debt to HUGHES for over \$14000-00 for drugs he had supplied him. [I51] also claims that HUGHES kept a record of this debt in the flat. A subsequent search of HUGHES flat has failed to locate this record. [I51] further claims LOCKE held HUGHES, himself and a third person at knife point in March this year at HUGHES's flat and stole \$150-00 in cash money from him and HUGHES. At this time LOCKE was in company with a male known only as Tony T. Inquiries are pending into his identity.

[I51] has supplied us with a description of the person JONES, who he claims is now a good mate of the person LOCKE. JONES is alleged to have met HUGHES in goal and inquiries are also pending with regard to his identity. JONES is also believed to be the person 'BLONDIE' referred too in information received that LOCKE and a person 'BLONDIE' killed HUGHES.

Further information has also been received from anonymous sources that HUGHES was killed by a Stephen PENNY, a well known druggie in the Kings Cross area. PENNY is a homosexual who at one time lived with HUGHES, and is reputed to have been obtaining his drugs from him. Information now suggests that PENNY and HUGHES have had a falling out over money owed by one of them to the other.