

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:
Death of John HUGHES.

Place: Kings Cross Police Station

Date: 6 May 1989

Name: Aaron Lee HILL.

(Surname in capitals)

Address: Room [redacted], [redacted] Greenough Ave, Potts Point. Tel. No. [redacted]

Occupation: unemployed. STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared if necessary to give in Court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. I am 23 years of age, I reside at the above address and have resided there for the past six weeks. On some nights, I stay at my girlfriends place at [redacted] Chester Hill. My girlfriends name is Michelle NICHOLAS. I have known John HUGHES for about ten years just from hanging around the Kings Cross area and through drug deals. About six weeks ago, he asked me to live in his flat because he needed support and someone to look after the flat during the night whilst he is at work.

3. On Thursday this week (4-5-89) I left the flat with a friend of mine named Adam, and we went to Kogarah by train to see a friend of his. When I left the flat, John was at home. Adam and I arrived back at the flat about 9 to 10pm that night. John was home at the time. I got a jumper and a 'fit' and went back out again. That was the last time I saw John alive. We went and had two beers in the Rex hotel and then walked up the street and bought a fifty dollar 'cap'. We then went to a flat in Victoria Street that I have the key to and used the 'shot', and we sat and talked for a while. We walked down to Kellett Street then and I rang my girlfriend Michelle. She told me the time then was 11.30pm. I arranged for Michelle to meet me at the Rex Hotel. I then went to the Rex Hotel with Adam and drank there until about 2.15am when Michelle walked in.

Witness: _____

MA [redacted]

Signature: _____

Aaron Hill

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walked in. Michelle and I left straight away and went to the flat in Victoria Street and stayed the night there.

4. About 3pm the next day (Friday the 5-5-89) Michelle woke me up. We got dressed and headed back to the main street of the Cross. We talked about getting money out of the bank because my cheque would have just come, but I said we couldn't because my bankbook was at Johns and I didn't want to have to walk up there and get it, and we decided to save the money to next week. We went to the Rex Hotel, we went into the Bistro and bought a steak sandwich. We then went into the back bar and sat there until about 5.30pm. I went out and got a packet of smokes from the smoke machine. On the way back I cut through the back door of the hotel to the flat and rang the buzzer and there was no answer. I came back into the hotel and had a couple of more drinks. I then left the hotel and went back up the street and stood in Bayswater Road, or Junkies Lane as I call it. We then just kept walking laps of the streets until about 7.30pm to 8pm. I then said to Michelle, 'Lets go back and see if John will answer the buzzer'. We then walked past a coffee shop opposite the Railway Station when a bloke named Bruce called me in. I sat there with him (Michelle sat with us as well.) and had a conversation about him going to the flat for a dinner with John, but there being no answer on our buzzer. He said he had met Gavin Scobie also at the flat outside as the two of them were meeting John for dinner. Bruce said to me that John wasn't answering the door, and the caretaker wouldn't let them in. He said they got into the building with a lady tenant and went up to Johns room and knocked but couldn't hear anything. He said they just left the block then.

5. Whilst alking to Bruce in the Coffee shop, I saw Greg West walking along street outside the Crest Hotel, and I went out to him and asked him if he'd seen John around. He said, 'Not since this mornin'. He said John had fucked him off, asked him to leave, becuae he had something to do at twelve o'clock. Greg said he had seen a bloke about midday at the flat and that he had a beard. I asked him if he kne him, he said 'No.' and then left me. I then went back to the coffee lounge and saw Bruce. He told me that Gavin was in the Rex Hotel...

Witness: Signature:

Naron Hill

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and wanted to see me. Me and Michelle left the cafe and went to the Rex. We met Gavin there and ordered a drink. During the drink I went out the back of the hotel and rang the buzzer again, there was still no answer. I went back into the hotel, had a couple of more drinks. Gavin then left. Michelle and I stayed at the hotel a bit longer just buying drinks and I went back out to ring the buzzer again. There was still no answer. As I was crossing the street to go back to the hotel there was a comotion, a bloke was driving up the one way street the wrong way. Some bloke was telling him to back up. When it was over, I saw Gavin drive past in a blue Triumph car, he was sitting in the back seat with his feet up. This would have been about 9.30pm to 10pm. This was ten to fifteen minutes after Gavin had left the hotel. I went back in and joined Michelle. Had a few more drinks, about two dinks, and we left. We were walking up around the streets, stood in Junkie Lane for a while. Greg West came up to us in Bayswater Road, we talked for five minutes and we walked back into the main street. Greg pulled two dollars out of his pocket and Michelle gave him twenty cents and Greg went and got a bottle of beer. We went to the pin ball parlour and had the beer and then we walked around for a while. We went back to the flat and buzzed again, but there was no answer. We then went to the park for a while had a talk and then went to the flat in Victoria Street.

6. We went to bed, and I think she woke me about 11am. (Sat 6-5-89) We discussed what we were going to do. She went home by train, and I wen around to Johns. There was no answer at the door. I walked around the streets, one lap. I came back to the Rex Hotel and saw Bruce again. We discussed John, thinking he might have got pinched. I went back and buzzed again. There was still no answer. I went and sat in the park again. I then walked around the streets and went back to the Rex hotel. There I saw Basil in the pub drinking. I told him John had been missing. I went back to the Flat and buzzed once more There was no answer so I went around to the back of the flats and studied the piping work up to the window. I decided that I could get up there and get in the bathroom window. I went back in the pub and told Basil my plans and asked him to watch me in case I fell. I then climbed up the drain pipe, and got in the window.

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7. I got in the bathroom window and saw John on the bed. I something over his head and blood on the bottom of what was over his head. He was tied up. I moved the green chair and opened two drawers at the bottom of cupboard near the door. I was after my keys but they weren't there. I opened the door and ran out. I ran down to where Basil was out the back and told him John was dead. He told me to sit down and get my head together. I said, 'It doesn't matter, we've got to tell someone.' He said, nothing. I said, 'Well come upstairs with me, Johns got an address book with Gavins number in it.' He kept asking me why involve him, what good would he be upstairs. I said, 'Don't worry about it, I'll go and tell the Police now. Will you come with ~~to~~ me to verify that I climbed the pipe to get into the place.' Hedidn't say anything and I took off for the Police Station but he didn't follow me. I reported to the bloke at the desk.

8. I do not know Basils last name or where he lives. I know he works as a storeman at the Opera House, or so he tells me. Basil is short, Australian, 40 old, bald, dark skinned, suntanned, Medium build. He lives in the Cross somewhere. He drinks at the Rex hotel.

9. I would describe Bruce as about 5 foot eight inches, black short hair, slight wave in it, slim build, 35 to 40 old, looks a bit Mediteranean in appearance but talks fluent english. I don't know his last name. He works in some job where he travels from the country to the city.

10. I think Gavin Scobie lives at [REDACTED], Guilford.

Witness: *MADrig* Signature: *Aaron Hill*