

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Death of John Gordon HUGHES.

Place: Internal Investigation Unit,

Long Bay Gaol Complex.

Date: 1 June, 1990.

Name: S C O B I E Gavin

(Surname in capitals)

Address: 2 Wing, Metropolitan Reception Prison, Long Bay Tel. No. [REDACTED]

Occupation: Prisoner under sentence. STATES:-

1. This statement, made by me, accurately sets out the evidence I would be prepared, if necessary, to give at Court as a witness.
2. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge 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.
3. My date of birth is the [REDACTED]
4. I am Gavin SCOBIE, I am a single man, currently serving a sentence at the Long Bay Gaol Complex with regard to offences relating to the supply of heroin. I will be in custody until the 7 January, 1993. I make this statement in full knowledge that I will receive no benefit from the information that is contained in it, and no promise or inducements have been held out to me to make this statement.
5. I knew the person John Gordon HUGHES over a 15 year period prior to his death, and have in the past shared premises with him. My relationship with John was that of a good friend, and indeed, probably my best friend in that time. I have previously made a statement to Police, in the early stages of the inquiries conducted into John's death, and in this statement, dated the 17 May, 1989, I have set out my movements and some of the antecedents concerning John in the period leading up to John's death.
6. As I have previously said in my statement of the 17 May, 1989, the last time I saw John HUGHES alive was on the evening of the 3 May, 1989, when I visited John at his residence at [REDACTED] Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point. This was a social visit, in which I stayed at the residence between 7pm, that evening and 1.15am the following morning. During the course of this visit I recall that John showed me a St. George Building Society, Christmas Club account, passbook, in his name. This

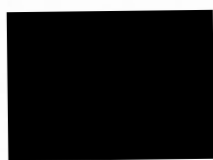
Witness: [REDACTED]

Signature: [REDACTED]

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account passbook I had seen previously on a number of occasions. It was an account that Johns' doctor, Dr. SEIDLER, of Springfield Avenue, Kings Cross, had gotten John to commence. Apparently this account was opened, and shown regularly to the doctor by John, to prove that he was not spending his money on drugs. John has explained this to me on a number of occasions and had said that the money in the account was to pay for his solicitor, in his forth coming drug trail (John was in fact my co-accused in the matters for which I am currently serving a sentence)



7. On the evening of the 3 May, 1989, I vividly recall John showed me this passbook and indicated to me the last entry, which was dated in late April. This was a withdrawal for about \$2,000.00, it may have been more than that, but I cannot recall the exact figure. I recall thinking at the time John showed the passbook to me that he only had 85 cents left in the account. John told me that he had withdrawn this money to pay his solicitor, whose name I cannot recall. I remember telling John I thought that he was being 'ripped off', as the total amount the solicitors wanted was about \$9,000-00. John told me that he had recently paid the last amount withdrawn from the ST. George account by bankcheque.

8. At the time John showed me this passbook, I recall that we were alone, although at the time of visiting John, Aarron HILL was living with him. Aarron had gone out at this time. The evening, being the last time I saw John alive, is quite significant to me and my memory of these events is very clear.

9. I recall too, concerning the passbook, that John was paying the amount of \$150.00 per week into this account.

10. On the morning of the 23 May, 1990, at the Internal Investigation Unit of Long Bay Gaol, I saw Detective PLOTECKI and Detective HAMILTON of the Homicide Squad. I was shown by Detective PLOTECKI a St. George Building Society (Christmas Club) passbook, in the name of J.G. HUGHES, account No. 023 869 340. I recognised this passbook as being the one shown to me by John HUGHES on the evening of the 3 May, 1989. On looking at the last transaction in the passbook, I recall that the figure for 85 cents, appears in the second last column, as the last entry

Witness: Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

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for the book. This figure is the one, which on the night of the 3 May, 1989, I mistakenly believed was the balance of the account.

11. Also on this date, the 23 May, 1990, Detective PLOTECKI showed me a mens dark blue, hipster style, jacket. I am unable to identify this jacket.

12. With regards to Johns banking habits, I am also aware that John had a Westpac account. All Johns banking documents hekept in a brief case, to which he had the only combination. As far as I am aware John trusted no person, with possible exception of myself to do his banking or for that matter to look after any of his banking documents. He was particularly wary with the persons he had staying with him as they were generally heroin addicts and thieves. To my knowledge, John never allowed any persons to pick up money for him from a bank or building society.

13. John had also told me, prior to his death, during the period that Ian JONES stayed with him, that he did not trust JONE and that he was only being allowed to stay with him for protection in that he did not trust Mark LOCKE either and Mark had on occasio threatened him.

Witness:.....

Signed:.....

M. PLOTECKI
Detective Constable First Class.
RCSS Homicide Squad.
1 June, 1990.

G. SCOBIE

Witness: Signature: