

FACTS RELEVANT TO THE MATTER OF IAN STUART JONES, CHARGES WITH THE MURDER OF JOHN GORDON HUGHES.

Between 3.30pm on Friday, the 5th May, 1989, and 1.30pm on Saturday the 6th May, 1989, the person John Gordon HUGHES was murdered in his Potts Point residence, at [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street. These premises being a third floor unit in a security block.

An examination of the crime scene, established there was not forced entry, and at the time of the discovery of the victims body, a television and heater were on in the flat. The victim, HUGHES was found lying face down across his double bed, with his hands bound behind his back and his legs tied together at the ankles. The bindings were electrical cords, obtained from appliances in the flat. A pillowslip placed over the victims head, and a tie, further electrical flex and a leather belt were wrapped around the victims' neck. These bindings, around the neck, were further tightened by the use of a pair of kitchen tongs, used as a tourniquet at the back of the victims neck. Death was the result of strangulation. The shattered pieces of a pottery container were found around the head of the body and a lamp was also next to the body. These items having been used to strike a number of blows to the victims head. As a result of these injuries, there was a large quantity of blood under the body (soaked into the mattress) around the area of the head. A knife, with blood on the blade, was found next to the body, evidently having been used to cut the electrical flex used to bind the victim.

Other than a number of personal papers located next to the body, which had the appearance of having been sorted through, the flat did not appear to have been searched. The victims wallet, credit cards were not located, nor was any money found in the flat, despite it being confirmed that the victim withdrew \$200-00 in cash on the afternoon of the 5 May, 1989, from his Westpac saving account.

A fingerprint smear was located near the elevator of the units. This smear being in blood, although it has not been ascertained if this evidence is in fact connected with this matter.

As a result of inquiries, it was established that the person Ian Stuart JONES was a known associate of the victim.

FACTS IN THE MATTER OF JONES continued...

Page 2.

JONES was interviewed on the 4 October, 1989, and a signed statement obtained. In this statement, JONES informed Police that he had known HUGHES for the past 10 years. He was aware that HUGHES had a times sold heroin. JONES claims to have moved in with HUGHES at his Potts Point address on the 15 February, 1989. He remained at these units until mid March of that year and moved to Bathurst (via Lithgow) after that period.

JONES gave details of his knowledge of HUGHES banking accounts and informed Police that he was aware of HUGHES operating a St. George Building Society account which contained \$5000.00.

In his statement, JONES claimed that upon moving to Bathurst he came to live at [redacted] Upfold Street, a residence he shared with the person Ronald and Leone FLOWER, his girlfriend Kerrie STANTON and Lance DODD. He claimed he only returned to Sydney once, between arriving in Bathurst and leaving the town in June, 1989. This trip being in April, for a court appearance at Kogarah Local Court. JONES also indicated that while living in Bathurst, and over the period of the murder, he was employed by Mitchell Plant Hire, of Vale Road, Bathurst, as a plant operator.

Initial inquiries with JONES girlfriend, STANTON verified JONES account, as given in his statement. Investigations subsequently established however that JONES was off sick from work on the 5 May, 1989, and taking into account the weekend of the 6 May, 1989, was not seen at work again until the 8 May, 1989.

Information was also obtained from the person Mark Phillip LOCKE, who informed Police that JONES had approached him early in 1989 and sought his assistance in 'rorting' the victim HUGHES. When making this offer, JONES also is alleged by LOCKE to have said of HUGHES, "I'll kill the little cunt." LOCKE also claimed that JONES had stolen money and property from HUGHES.

Further inquiries with the person STANTON also established a number of ambiguities in the information she initially supplied supporting JONES statement of the 4 October, 1989. As a result of this, she was re-interviewed and it was ascertained that the person JONES in fact had gone missing from [redacted] Upfold Street, Bathurst, at 10am on the morning of the 5 May, 1989, until 11am on Saturday, the 6 May, 1989, after he had a fight with STANTON.

At this time JONES drove off in a mini panel van, which he owned, registration No. OWW-067. STANTON further informed Police, that at this time, JONES was suffering heroin withdrawal. Upon JONES return, through experience, STANTON claimed JONES had obviously obtained and recently used heroin.

At the time of obtaining this new information from STANTON, she supplied Police with a number of items of clothing belonging to JONES, that she had kept after they had parted company in late June/ early July, 1989. One of the items obtained was a blue mens hipster style woollen jacket, to which the inner pocket linings were torn. Inside the interior lining of this jacket, Physical Evidence Police located a St. George Building Society passbook, in the name of the victim, J.G. HUGHES. The last transaction in this book being on the 21 April, 1989.

Inquiries with the persons Lance DODD and Brian TOWNSEND confirmed STANTONS' account of JONES disappearance. The person Ronald FLOWER, in his statement claimed JONES told him that he had been in Sydney on the weekend of the 5-6 May, 1989, in response to a question from FLOWERS as to why JONES had not attended his wedding during that weekend.

JONES was interviewed concerning these matters on the 30 April, 1989. In a signed record of interview, JONES adopted his previous statement of the 4 October, 1989. JONES confirmed that he had left Sydney (and the residence of HUGHES) in March, 1989. He then altered from his previous account of his movement, saying that he had returned to Sydney on three occasions. JONES confirmed in part the statement of STANTON's leading up to the 5 May, 1989, however was unable to account for his movements during the period STANTON claimed he disappeared. JONES made denials as to the content of his conversation with LOCKE. He also denied the stealing of property and money from HUGHES. JONES identified the blue jacket as his property. When shown the passbook, JONES said that he must have picked it up whilst living with HUGHES (despite previously stating in the interview that he did not handle or ever see HUGHES bank books). When the last date in the passbook (the 21.4.89) was indicated to JONES, he could offer no satisfactory account as to when the book came into his possession, but claimed to have picked the passbook whilst living with HUGHES. JONES maintained that he had left HUGHES address in mid March and did not return. When pressed as to the date in the passbook not corresponding to this account, JONES could offer no explanation for that entry and still maintained that he had left HUGHES flat in mid March.


FACTS IN THE MATTER OF JONES continued...

Page 4.

When questioned as to any person who might verify his movements on the 5th of 6th of May, 1989, Jones replied that he believed there was, but the information would be reserved for him and his solicitor. JONES was subsequently charged with the matters now before the Court.

The passbook located in JONES's jacket has been identified as the property of the victim, and a friend, Gavin SCOBIE. SCOBIE claims to have last seen this passbook on Wednesday the 3 May, 1989, whilst visiting HUGHES at his flat. The passbook was opened by HUGHES at the instigation of Dr. SEIDLER and monies in this account were to pay solicitors for HUGHES in a pending Court matter, in which SCOBIE was a co-offender. Information from Dr. Raymond SEIDLER and Dawn BELL (HUGHES doctor and solicitor) corroborate this information.

Further information, since the arrest of JONES, has been obtained from the person LOCKE. LOCKE has supplied Police with an additional statement that in February, 1990, whilst drinking with JONES in Darlington, JONES admitted to him that he had killed HUGHES. At this time JONES apparently believed another person had informed on him to Police, other than LOCKE, this person being 151, an associate of both persons and the deceased. As a result of this belief, it is thought JONES trusted LOCKE and therefore made these admission to him.



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