

RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN DETECTIVE SERGEANT HOGGETT AND SIMON RICHARD CANT HELD AT THE WAVERLEY POLICE STATION ON THE 18TH OCTOBER, 1981.

ALSO PRESENT AND TYPING.....DET SGT SANDFORD.

TIME COMMENCED.....10PM.

Q.4 As you are aware we are investigating the death of a man named Jerry Cuthbert at Paddington. I propose to ask you some questions in relation to this matter, do you understand that?

A Yes.

Q2 What is your full name?

A Simon Richard Cant.

Q3 What is your date of birth?

A The [redacted] 62.

Q4 Where do you reside?

A At present [redacted] Stephen Street, Paddington.

Q5 How long have you lived at that address?

A Since the 1st of this month, its 2 and a half weeks.

Q6 What is your occupation?

A Storeman and packer at Readers Digest, Surry Hills?

Q7 How long have you worked there?

A Just started, a week, previously I resided at Ballina with family, living in Sydney since March and working several jobs.

Q8 Who do you reside at the Paddington address with?

A [redacted] 1212, I cant think of his last name, I was looking for a flat, met through Christian activities [redacted] 1212, was looking for a flat and he had a room for spare, have known [redacted] 1212 for a period of three months on a casual basis, through Christian Fellowship.

Q9 Did you know the deceased, Jerry Cuthbert?

A We met once or twice, it was twice actually.

Q10 I understand that you arrived at the flat in Stephen Street earlier tonight with some other persons and found the deceased in a bedroom there, is that correct?

A Thats correct, [redacted] 1212 being the first to find the body. I myself rang the emergency Ambulance, Police etc, and we waited for them to arrive, the other three persons having been given permission to go, I drove them home and returned for questioning, I am the owner of a vehicle, [redacted], I could add that I came back.

Q11 When did you last see the deceased alive?

A Last Thursday night when my fellow flat mate had him out for tea from about 7.30pm until 11.30pm and then driving him home to the Y.M.C.A in town.

Q12 Could you tell me the relationship between the deceased and your flat mate [redacted] 1212?

A They seemed to me to be quiet good friends, in fact very good friends having both been involved previously in a homosexual scene, both being Christians, but the deceased having slipped away from his 'Christian Walk' in inverted commas, causing distress to my flat mate.

Q13 Can you elaborate on your last answer as to the nature of the distress?

A Their relationship together seemed to me to be one of a close friendship, [redacted] 1212 not involving himself now with homosexual

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Simon Cant*

A13 continued.....activities but having natural concern for his friend Jerry and the fact that Jerry was slipping back into his old life style, [1212] didn't seem to involve himself with Jerry's friends but made an effort to see him every now and then and perhaps eat together and talk. Jerry had a key to the flat, because he previously lived there and would sometimes drop in and was welcome to use the television set, etc. Both times of my acquaintance with Jerry was at the flat when he was around visiting [1212], they did make a regular effort to see each other and talk about things, the concern on [1212]s part was that of normal friendship and help.

Q14 Is there a homosexual relationship between yourself and [1212]?

A I myslef am not a homosexual and there is no such relationship and [1212] himself, or [1212] himself is now no longer homosexual, the relationship between me and [1212] is a normal flat mate relationship, but have developed a good friendship over the time that I have known him.

Q15 Could you outline your movements since you last saw the deceased?

A Friday, the 16th. Work. Friday night. I went to a Christian musicians meeting after having tea at home after dropping by for a swim at Bondi Beach. Friday night after the meeting at approximately half past eight to half past nine I dropped back with Phil Porchron to his house at Redfern with another friend to practice some songs. Aftet that I dropped round to my girlfriends flat at Bondi where some friends of ours were having tea together, I got home at about 12 o'clock, 12 midnight, and went to bed, [1212] was asleep when I got home. I am not sure of what [1212] did on Friday night, I think he went to see his sister. Saturday morning the 17th, we got up had a quich breakfast and caught the nine thirtyfive train to Bomaderry after meeting up with our friends at the train station. We stayed in a caravan park at Bomaderry and went to the townhall where we were involved with puting on a free Christian concert which involved music, gospel, preaching etc. After the concert we had coffee at a Pizza Hut from about nine thirty till ten thirty, we went back to the caravan park had coffee and talked and went to bed. We woke up had breakfast together as we were staying in four seperate caravans, went to the church service at the Christian Faith centre in Bomaderry, we had lunch with the Pastor, he drove us to the station and we caught the two thirtyfive back to Sydney. We arrived in Sydney at approximately five thirtyfive and we waited for a cab until about six o'clock. The five of us, [1212], Mark and his wife Linda Porchon and Mark's brother Phillip and myslef, we decided to firstly go to our place where I intended to pick up my car and drive to the Christian Life centre after a cooked meal. We arrived by cab at the flat at approximately six fifteen, [1212] noticing the light in the front room, lounge room, I think, thought that Jerry would be there. We came into the lflat we all put our bags down in the lounge room. [1212]s bedroom door was open but the light was out and therefore we could not see in too clearly, after puting our bags down and noticing the blood stains on the floor, [1212] or [1212] went to the bedroom to see what was going on. At this point in time I was in my bedroom and I heard [1212] cry out. The other three were in the lounge room at this stage. I ran into the bedroom to see what had happened and found Jerry's body naked face down on the bed. I touched his leg to see of there was a pulse and discovered that he must have been dead for quiet some time. [1212] had ran to the kitchen and was greatly distressed and I rang the emergency services and we waited for them to arrive. Serveral things were in the flat were touched by myslef and other persons, such as bathroom light

*Sp. Haggitt*

*Simon R. Cant*

A15 continued.....switch, toilet cistern, powerpoint for coffee, coffee jug, cup, sugar etc, incidently while we waited we made [1212], [1212], a cup of coffee and the cupboards were touched and the telephone, I can't think of anything else at the moment.

Q16 When you first saw the deceased you stated that he was naked, face down on the bed, is that correct?

A Yes, and the first thing that I noticed was a lot of blood on the bed underneath him, the first thing that made me think something might have been wrong was blood on the bathroom floor and a bloody hand, ah foottowel which was near the telephone in the lounge room, it looked as if it had been wat with water as well.

Q17 How did you recognise the body as that of Jerry Cuthbert?

A I myslef not seeing the face of the victim but assuming that it was Jerry because [1212] had cried Jerry's name.

Q18 Where did you drop Jerry off after tea last Thursday night?

A He had offered to walk but I offered to drive him home, [1212] coming along for the drive, that was to the Y.M.C.A. in town that was more or less right out the front of the Y.M.C.A. in Pitt Street.

Q19 To your knowledge, how many people had keys to the flat in Stephen Street?

A [1212], myself and Jerry.

Q20 Can you tell me the nature of the conversation whilst Jerry was at your flat on Thursday night?

A There was only the three of us there. The three of us were there together but [1212] and Jerry talked before tea about normal matters people they know etc., while I watched T.V., over tea we all just talked casually about things and after tea the conversation led more toward Christian things, Jerry asked me how long I had been a Christian. I talked about my experience, he claimed still to be a Christian, he said I am just going through a bit of a rough time at the moment, I don't think he really meant rough in terms of great problems but what he meant was that he wasn't keeping up living as a Christian should. [1212] encouraged him a couple of times to get back to it.

Q21 Did Jerry mentioned any other problems or enemies he may have?

A No he didn't, I don't know any of the people he knows and vice versa so there was no grounds for conversation in that area, he did mentioned that his flat mate at the Y.M.C.A. was a devoted Christian and therefore he seemed to me to be a little bit encouraged by his flat mate to get back to fellowship etc., but I really couldn't be sure.

Q22 Can you think of any person who may be responsible for Jerry's death?

A No, although [1212] had met someone that could have been suspected but I really couldn't say myslef as I have never met him.

Q23 Could you elaborate on that?

A Jerry did mention, I am sorry, [1212] did mentioned that he had seen Jerry a couple of times, I don't know how many times with a man with tattoos and a black moustache, [1212] said that this man was not Jerry's usual type of friend and in fact [1212] had said that he didn't like the look of him. He told me this about a week ago.

*Spelt Hoggett*

*Simon R Cant*

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Q24 Could you tell me the circumstances under which you first met Jerry?

A The first time I met Jerry was at the flat shortly after I had moved in, Jerry popped in by himself and him and [1212] went for a meal and were away about two hours. I had had my girlfriend over for tea that night. They came home together and shortly afterwards I drove my girlfriend home and when I came back Jerry had gone and [1212] was washing up and shortly afterwards we both went to bed.

Q25 Do you know why Jerry still had a key to the flat?

A I think [1212] had let Jerry keep the key so that Jerry could pop over anytime and watch a bit of television etc. Jerry had never been around much or at all while I was there but [1212] told me that Jerry had a key and sometimes popped over or dropped in.

Q26 Did Jerry have any clothing or other articles still in the flat to your knowledge?

A Not to my knoweldge.

Q27 When did you first make arrangements to go to Bomaderry for the weekend?

A About six weeks ago [1212] had asked Jerry to come but he wouldn't, oh no what I meant was six weeks ago full stop, then new paragraph, [1212] had asked Jerry to come along, myself I decided to come, to go when the trip was first organised, being committed to the activities and make the decision to go about six weeks ago.

Q28 Was the trip to Bomaderry discussed during your two meetings with Jerry?

A No, not really but on the Thursday night when Jerry was around for tea, [1212] casually mentioned a reminder to Jerry that perhaps you should come along, full stop. This gave me the impression that Ted must have previously asked him to come.

Q29 On that Thursday night was there any discussion about Jerry using your flat in the absence of yourself and [1212]?

A I don't think so but I do vaguely remember [1212] saying that Jerry could pop in a watch television, but I don't think he really referred to just the weekend.

Q30 Do you know how long Jerry had lived at the Y.M.C.A.?

A No, but what I can gather it's perhaps a matter of months.

Q31 Do you know how long Jerry and [1212] had been living together?

A No I don't really know.

Q32 Do you know how long since they did live together?

A I think it's about a year.

Q33 Do you know of any reason why they ceased living together?

A Jerry had become a Christian and from what I can gather he decided to cease his homosexual activity but kept a friendship with [1212] he had moved to another area, Jerry that is for reasons I don't know, I don't know fully what their relationship was before, whether they were actually living together as homosexuals or whether they were just homosexuals living together with no relationship with each other.

Q34 Is there anything further that you can think of that may assist us in this inquiry?

A I might mention that I was supposed that Jerry was there tonight.

*John Haggell*

*Simon R Cant*

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Q35 Would you care to elaborate on that last answer?  
 A I knew that he dropped in every now and again but he seemed to have made himself at home, because he had used the shower etc., I knew that he had used the shower or assumed that he had because there were two towels in the lounge room and the blood came from the bathroom and the fact that he was naked, what I meant by I was suprised was that I just thought that he usually dropped in just to see Ted or wait for [1212] after work or something.

Q36 I would like you to read through this record of interview to see of you agree if it is an accurate record of our conversation here tonight?  
 A Okay.

RECORD HANDED TO CANT WHO READS SAME.

Q37 Have you read this record of interview?  
 A Yes.

Q/38 Is it an accurate record of our conversation here tonight?  
 A Yes

Q39 Is there anything you wish to alter or add to this record of interview?  
 A No, nothing that I think is relevant.

Q40 Do you wish to sign each page of this record of interview?  
 A. Yes.

TIME COMPLETED.... 12 mn.

WITNESS.....  
 G.D. Hoggett  
 Detective Sergeant Third Class  
 Waverley Police Station  
 19 th October, 1981.

*Simon R. Cant*