

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:
Murder of Gerald Leslie CUTHBERT

Place: Waverley Police Station

Date: 21st October, 1981

Name: WARWICK DAVID WHITFORD
 (Surname in capitals)

Address: [REDACTED] Tel. No. Nil.

Occupation: Casual Barman STATES:—

I am a single man, born on [REDACTED], I reside at the above address and I am currently employed as a Casual Barman at the Exchange Hotel, Oxford Street, Darlinghurst. I have been so employed for two weeks and have worked the bar there on four nights, being the last two Friday and Saturdays. I have worked in the Spanners Bar and my hours of employment are 8pm to 12.30am.

Earlier today I called into the Exchange Hotel and had a conversation with Mitch McKenna, the Assistant Manager of the hotel, and he produced a photograph and said, " Did you see this guy on Saturday night?" I said, " Yes, he was down in the Spanners Bar and I was serving him." Mitch told me that the guy in the photo had been murdered.

On Saturday the 17th October 1981 I commenced work in the Spanners Bar at 8pm. Between 8.30pm and 9pm the guy in the photograph walked into the bar with three other men. They sat right at the end of the bar near the juke-box and they were there at least two hours and I think they left about 11.30pm. They were all happy when they came in but I am not in a position to say whether they were intoxicated or not. Whilst they were in my bar they consumed at least seven or eight schooners of Resch's beer. Why I remember the fellow in the photograph is because when he bought the beers in his shout, he would give me at least one to two dollars tip. He did talk to me, he asked me whether I was going to Patches that night, but I can't remember the rest of the conversation. Whilst they were there they were fairly noisy but did not appear to get severely drunk. Towards the end of the evening another guy came up to them and was talking to the guy in the photograph, the other guy asked me for a piece of paper and a pen, which I gave him, and they both wrote something down which I assumed to be exchanging names and addresses. Not long after this, four of them including the man in the photograph, left my bar, but I am not sure whether the fifth guy left with them or not. They left by going up to the 'Ragtime Follies' Bar. I had not seen the guy in the photograph before that day or since.

I would describe the guy in the photograph as maybe 27 to 28 years old, maybe 6ft tall, (I find it difficult to estimate heights because of my height which is 6ft.3ins) medium build, dark hair, I thought a bit shorter than in the photograph shown to me by the Police, but with the same smile as in the photograph, and even the same eyebrows. He had an accent which to me seemed lebanese, as did his appearance. To the best of my recollection he was wearing a red shirt with a wide collar, unbuttoned half way down his torso, and I think he was wearing tight blue jeans, and I get

Witness: [Signature]

Signature: [Signature]

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STATEMENT (continued) in matter of: Murder of Gerald L. CUTHBERTName: Warwick David WHITFORD

(Surname in capitals)

the impression that he was wearing some sort of jewellery, but I can't be specific. He was very well groomed. I have been shown a coloured photograph by the Police of the same person and I feel after seeing that photo that it was so much more like the person I have just described. I considered that this person had a tiny bit of a beer gut.

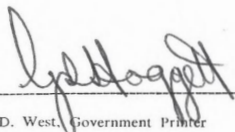
All that I can remember about the three guys that came in with him was that there was two dark headed guys and one blonde guy. I felt that they were all Australians, the blonde guy was about 6ft 1in, one of the others was of medium height and the other about 5ft 6 or 7in tall. They were all well groomed and they gave me the impression that they were gay. They were all similarly dressed to the first guy I mentioned but with different coloured shirts. I can't remember much more about them.

The fifth guy I mentioned was in his thirties, about 5ft 10ins tall, he was shorter than the guy in the photograph, slight build, very very effeminate, wearing a lot of jewellery, 1974 camp style, he had dark brown curly hair, ringlet style, something like a corkscrew curl, a shorter version of Bob Marley's style (Reggae) he projected his voice, I think he would have been Australian but not Okker Australian. I think he was wearing a green shirt, deep emerald green, I cannot remember the rest of his clothing. All I can remember is that he had a lot of lines on his face, well worn.

I feel that I would be able to recognise all of the abovementioned persons except for the medium built dark guy.

Although I do not have the telephone on at home I can be sometimes contacted on [REDACTED] (Steven & Scott).

Witness: _____



Sc 6420

D. West, Government Printer

Signature: _____

