

121/1/1 MV
11th July, 1983

NOAMAN GRAHAM MILOUF
(Sworn, examined as under)

SERGEANT PYE: Q. State your name please doctor? A. My name is Noaman Graham Milouf, I'm a legally qualified medical practitioner carrying on my duties at 45 Macquarie Street in Parramatta and I'm the Government Medical Officer of the area.

Q. Doctor, I understand that you carried out a Post Mortem examination on the body of the deceased Walter John Bedser, is that correct? A. That's correct.

Q. And you say that that examination took place at 10.30 a.m. on the 3rd December, 1980? A. Yes.

Q. I show you this two page document? A. Yes.

Q. Now doctor, do you inform the court that that is a Post Mortem Report that you completed upon your examination of the deceased person? A. That's correct.

Q. You've indicated the cause of death? A. The cause of death was due to blood loss due to a laceration of the liver and a laceration of the left lung.

SERGEANT PYE: I tender that document Your Worship.

(Post Mortem Report tendered, admitted and marked Exhibit "1").

CORONER: Q. Doctor, you might assist me further, was it consistent with a stab wound? A. Yes indeed sir.

Q. Two stab wounds? A. Two separate stab wounds, yes, one in the left lung and one in the liver. I believe that there was also some lacerations of the arms.

Q. I was about to ask you, any other signs of violence or did a struggle take place? A. There were several lacerations of the arms, the left forearm but a large laceration of the left forearm that was more consistent with falling on broken glass or cutting the arm on glass, but there was another laceration in the inner aspect of the left arm up here which is more consistent with being lacerated by a knife and somewhat of a struggle.

Q. Would you rule out any possibility the injuries were self inflicted? A. I would think it would be totally impossible to inflict those injuries upon yourself.

Q. In other words considerable force would have to be ?
A. Not only considerable force but it would either one of those three injuries would prevent the carrying out of any of the other two.

CORONER: Mrs. Driscall, are there any questions you want to ask the doctor?

MRS. DRISCALL: No I don't think so.

CORONER: It seems to be fairly straight forward, anything

N.G. Milouf, x

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about the medical aspect of the matter that you want cleared up
or have some doubts about?

MRS. DRISCALL: No.

(Witness retired and
excused)

N.G. Milouf, x, ret
& exc.

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IVANE WILLIAM HAMILTON
(Sworn, examined as under)

WITNESS: Ivan William Hamilton, I'm a Dectective Sergeant of Police attached to Parramatta.

SERGEANT PYE: Sergeant, in relation to this matter you have prepared a statement, is that correct? A. Yes.

Q. Would you read that statement? A. Yes.

STATEMENT OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT HAMILTON READ ALOUD TO COURT.

SERGEANT PYE: Q. Sergeant, do you inform the court that in relation to this particular matter you have carried out extensive enquiries since the 2nd December 1980? A. Yes.

Q. Would you outline to the court what those enquiries entailed? A. At the day of the stabbing we interviewed numerous people in the area of the arcade, a running sheet was obtained of information given by those people. We enquired into his past activities, into the activities of his business, purchase of motor cars, any people who had dealings with him, friends and associates of the deceased, people within the business area that knew him and may have had dealings with him that could give information of possible arguments or someone that had a grudge against him. All these were compiled into a running sheet form in a booklet.

Q. I show you this booklet? A. yes, that's a copy of the running sheets which were prepared and retained, dealing with the death of Mr. Bedser.

Q. You say that this booklet contains the extent of the enquiries that have been made concerning the death of Mr. Bedser? A. Yes.

SERGEANT PYE: I tender this booklet Your Worship.

(Booklet tendered, admitted and marked Exhibit "2")

CORONER: Q. Any evidence of goods missing from the shop?
A. No, we didn't think robbery was involved at the time of the -

Q. So you believe this person, this male person, had simply entered the shop and an argument ensued? A. There is a bit of evidence where a person of similar description purchased a knife, well the knife that was found in the shop earlier that morning from a sports store in the same arcade, the description ties a bit there, but then for some reason, I don't know why, he's gone into the shop and then an argument ensued and the person's been stabbed.

Q. It's difficult to say whether he knew the person?
A. Well the way the shop was set up, an antique shop and it had delicate articles all around and these were not smashed or thrown away with the opinion that somebody has just walked in, being close enough to the deceased and carried out the blows and then left without thrashing around.

I.W. Hamilton, x

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Q. You may have mentioned this, was the knife found? A. Yes the knife was found near the counter where the deceased was stabbed.

Q. Obviously examined for fingerprints? A. Yes, nothing at all.

Q. Nothing at all? A. Nothing.

Q. You have no known suspect? A. None whatsoever, no, an identikit photopenries taken and publicised, a lot of information come up but nothing concrete.

Q. For ^{how} long had Mr. Bedser been in the business? A. I'd only have to guess, I couldn't give an accurate, he's been in the antique business for many years, but in that shop at D'Arcy Street, Parramatta I'm not sure, his sister would have an accurate idea there. He's well known in the business by persons around that area.

Q. You've checked the matter thoroughly and you can find no evidence of anyone having a grudge against him? A. No, not to that severe, had arguments as normal with business people in car transactions but all the people that had these arguments, they've given the stories where they've been and they've checked out.

CORONER: Mrs. Driscall are there any questions you want to ask the Detective?

MRS. DRISCALL: Yes, in the advertised the day after John's death, he did advertise a personal collection of French watches which were never discovered, never found or what did happen to them nobody knows, so I think they were in the shop at the time. A. Yes I remember you said something about that, pocket watches or something -

CORONER: French watches.

MRS. DRISCALL: They would be with the bank book, I knew that because -

CORONER: Q. You didn't find those in the shop? A. No, there was a lot of watches but Mrs. Driscall had a look and she said they're not the ones that were advertised.

MRS. DRISCALL: No, my brother told me he had them in the safe and he did advertise them and -

CORONER: Well were they found in the safe.

MRS. DRISCALL: No, whatever happened to them I don't know.

CORONER: We don't know, he may have sold them.

MRS. DRISCALL: Well there would have been a large sum of money for them- cheque or cash. The paper came out the day after his death.

CORONER: What sort of money are you talking about?

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MRS. DRISCALL: I suppose about Twenty or Thirty Thousand dollars.

CORONER: For French watches?

MRS. DRISCALL: Yes, that's what I would judge the buy, I know they were a rare collection, how many I don't know, he had them in a little plastic box.

WITNESS: Five Your Worship.

CORONER: Well perhaps they might have some relevance, it's a conjecture isn't it? A. That's right, we carried along that line but as Mrs. Driscall said, we are not sure if it was an ad put in and then sold before the ad came out I have been told I think through Mrs. Driscall, that sometimes people would be interested, he'd let them take them and check them and then bring them back and pay for them. We had a look at all those aspects but no one came forward and said 'yes, I've had a look at this and I'll bring it back later on' so we can't rule out that someone took it and never paid for it or stole them.

MRS. DRISCALL: I know he would never have allowed a valuable thing like that - to be checked.

CORONER: Yes, if they're worth that sum of money one would expect them to be in the safe wouldn't they.

Q. Was there any check made on these items if someone wants to leave the country at all? A. We had the dealer's squad the best description we could, that was passed onto them and they've since or the - since then and now circulated all the pawn shops but nothing's ever come up, to search anybody if they want to leave the country I don't think so, they can put them in their pocket and walk out.

CORONER: Well Mrs. Driscall can you think of anything else that the police could have done?

MRS. DRISCALL: But what could you do in -

CORONER: It's quite a voluminous file here, have you examined the file?

MRS. DRISCALL: No.

CORONER: Obviously the matter has been subjected to a very thorough investigation by the police department, certainly no leads at the moment.

Q. Did he employ anybody? A. He had casual staff, going on memory now I think there was maybe one or two women that came in sometime in expected busy periods, they've been spoken to and statements obtained as well, no assistance there.

(Witness retired)

I.W. Hamilton, x,ret

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PHILIP VINCENT STEVENS
(Sworn, examined as under)

SERGEANT PYE: Q. Would you state your full name please?

A. Philip Vincent Stevens.

Q. What is your address at present sir? A. [REDACTED]

Q. You're still a greengrocer by occupation? A. No, I've got a mixed business now.

Q. I think sir on the 2nd December, 1980 you were operating a greengrocer's shop, is that correct? A. That's correct, yes.

Q. Whereabouts was that shop? A. In a shopping centre in the arcade in Parramatta, opposite the antique shop.

Q. You know of Mr. Walter Bedser? A. I do, yes.

Q. As you've said, your shop was situated opposite Mr. Bedser's antique store? A. That's correct.

Q. Do you recall the afternoon of the 2nd December 1980 when an incident took place? A. Yes.

Q. Where were you when that incident took place? A. Behind my counter opposite.

Q. Did you make any observations that afternoon? A. Well I did. When I first heard the noise I thought it was children off and on push bikes or rather went down the laneway, like the arcade of the shop and I always said one day they are going to crash through the glass down there.

Q. Well first of all sir what noise was that you heard?
A. Well I heard breaking glass and then screams, so I walked out to the, I've got two entrances, so I walked out to one entrance and looked down, I seen the glass wasn't broken, then the next minute the screaming was again and I realised it was screaming from the antique shop. By then there were people gathered around the doors everywhere, I never seen anyone come out but then John or Mr. Bedser came out and staggered across and fell down in the doorway of the fruit shop. I seen blood everywhere and I thought, well he's fallen off the, he had a make shift rack that he held some surplus stuff on and I always said to him one day, he used to get up on it, I said 'one day you're going to fall off there and go through your glass showcase'. So when he came in there was blood everywhere, well I thought that's what must have happened, so I said 'I'll call an ambulance and I'll ring your sister, what's your sister's phone number'. So he gave me his sister's phone number and then a lot of people were there, everywhere, so I rang his sister to come and then there was a lady, she was a nurse, so she asked me for some rags and towels, so we held them on the wounds and the ambulance came, a lot of people were in the shop so I chased them out of the shop and I closed the door and then I went up to the police station and I didn't realise 'till I got there that he had been stabbed at all.

Q. You say you heard the crashing sound and you say you didn't see anyone running out of Mr. Bedser's store, is that correct?
A. That's right.

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Q. But do you recall hearing anyone saying anything? A. Well someone said that a medium sized well built foreign -

Q. I'm sorry sir, you may have misunderstood my question. Just after you heard this crashing sound do you recall hearing any other noises? A. No, only screams.

Q. Were the screams in the form of words? A. No, well when he came, that's right, when he came out of the doorway he's saying 'help me, help me'.

Q. This is Mr. Bedser? A. Mr. Bedser, yes.

Q. Prior to Mr. Bedser saying that, did you hear -? A. No no words whatsoever.

CORONER: Q. You thought he had suffered injuries as a result of a fall? A. Yes and I didn't know 'till I got to the police station.

Q. You didn't ask him what happened? A. No I didn't.

Q. You seen anyone running from the shops? A. No.

Q. Has he ever said things to you to suggest he may have had an enemy? A. No, we used to talk quite a lot.

CORONER: Mrs. Driscall any questions?

MRS. DRISCALL: Q. Did you see anybody call on him at the shop? A. No, nobody.

Q. But when John called, did he call 'help'? A. When he came across from his doorway into mine, but there were people all around everywhere.

Q. --- heard the glasses - screams - I thought well naturally you might have heard somebody - because he had a fairly strong voice my brother, he used to sing, I've often thought when he would call for help I know I could -at the back of the shop and he could talk to you, you know when he'd be standing up the front, but if he called 'help' or a noise -.

CORONER:Q.Do you know whether or not he kept a weapon in the shop? A. No he never had any weapons.

Q. He said that to you? A. Yes.

(Witness retired)

P.V. Stevens, x, ret

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SERGEANT PYE: There's no further witnesses to call Your Worship. I understand that certain documents were tendered on the last occasion sir as being a statement by Mr. Brown in relation to identification of Mr. Bedser.

CORONER: That should be tendered.

SERGEANT PYE: Yes well I would tender that Your Worship.

(Statement by Mr. Brown in relation to identification tendered, admitted and marked Exhibit "3")

CORONER: What about Form A Certificate.

SERGEANT PYE: Your Worship, the certificate by Dr. Older announcing life extinct, I don't have that unless it is attached to the file sir. I'll tender a copy Your Worship.

CORONER: I'll have a copy made now.

SERGEANT PYE: Your Worship there is a document incorporated in Exhibit "2". I would also tender Your Worship a statement by Detective Sergeant McGregor.

(Statement by Detective Sergeant McGregor tendered, admitted and marked Exhibit "4")

CORONER: Well Mrs. Driscall, do you wish to say anything to the court at this stage?

MRS. DRISCALL: I would like to ask something to Detective Hamilton.

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CLIVE WILLIAM HAMILTON
(On former Oath)

MRS. DRISCALL: Q. I have been informed that when my brother came out of the shop and nobody knew he was stabbed, an elderly man helped him, this I was told by the lady from the milk bar and she was telling me how - he sort of comforted him but I thought John may have said something to this man - interview him? A. Well I , I never knew about any man as far as I know Phil was the first man, Mr. Stevens was the first man to see him.

Q. Well - the milk bar lady down the road, she said whoever the man was, she said he was wonderful to your brother, he was a middle aged man - well did John say something - ambulance whatever. I don't know who the man was? A. I don't know about this man.

Q. That's what I was told.

CORONER: Q. Did you place an advertisement in the press - ?
A. Yes, on the television and the - papers as well.

Q. It seems extraordinary with apparently quite a number of people around him that, bearing in mind the circumstance of his death, the natural inclination would be for your brother to say something. Perhaps he didn't know the person? A. Yes.

MRS. DRISCALL: Yes, I thought that Philip said he said my name, my phone number and surely he might have - after or something, said something about who did it or what it was.

CORONER: If he knew him of course.

MRS. DRISCALL: Yes, well/^{if} someone robbed/^{him} or if he knew a name, I thought this over and over. Whoever assaulted him he may have just said that one or two words - but I still don't know.

CORONER: Q. Do you know if the deceased kept a weapon?
A. We've been through the pistol licensing, no, through the safe and everything. There was weapons there for sale and so on.

Q. So there's no evidence to suggest that the late Mr. Bedser may have threatened this person? A. No, no there's nothing there. When this came out with all these people we had to decipher between, there's a lot of cranks as well, they had quite a variety of people coming in and out of the shop from their information and we also received a couple of letters from psychics that knew how and why and who the person was that did it, but we haven't had anything else.

CORONER: Anything else Mrs. Driscall?

MRS. DRISCALL: No.

CORONER: Any other aspect of the matter do you want cleared up at this stage to the best of our ability of course?

MRS. DRISCALL: There's such so much I don't quite ---

(Witness retired)

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CORONER: Your brother's shop was 4 D'Arcy Street, Parramatta?

MRS. DRISCALL: (No audible reply)

CORONER: Is that all you wish to say now Mrs. Driscall?

MRS. DRISCALL: I feel that my brother knew the person that murdered him.

CORONER: Yes, well all I can say is that may be a possibility but I can say this that notwithstanding a very thorough investigation by the Homicide Squad attached to the Police Department in the identity of the person responsible for your brother's death is at this stage unknown. You can rest assured that the matter is not closed, no doubt enquiries will continue. The unfortunate death of your brother occurred almost three years ago and a stage must be reached when an inquest has to be held. What we do in a case like this is to give the police more than sufficient time to complete their enquiries. As I say, the matter has been fully investigated but at the present time they have no leads. One cannot foretell the future and no doubt you hope and the rest of the community hopes that one day the person responsible for the death of your brother will be found.

The finding of the court is -

ON THE 2ND DECEMBER 1980 AT THE PARRAMATTA CENTRE WALTER JOHN BEDSER DIED OF THE EFFECTS OF BLOOD LOSS DUE TO A LACERATED LIVER AND A LACERATED LEFT LUNG INFLICTED EARLIER THAT DAY AT THE PREMISES OF 4 D'ARCY STREET, PARRAMATTA BY A PERSON UNKNOWN.

Findings.

