

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Parramatta Police StationDeath of Walter John BEDSERDate: 17th December, 1980Name: S A M U E L S Douglas George
(Surname in capitals)Address: [REDACTED] Tel. No. [REDACTED]Occupation: Claims Manager. STATES:—

1. I am the Claims Manager of the N.R.M.A. Insurance Limited. I work at the Parramatta Office which is situate at 95 George Street, Parramatta.

2. On 20th March, 1980, a comprehensive Motor Vehicle Insurance Policy No. [REDACTED] was effected in respect of a 1973 Ford Escort Sedan No. [REDACTED]. This vehicle was owned by Mr. NP60 and Mrs. NP59 of [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The said vehicle is registered at the Department of motor Transport to Mr. NP58 of the same address. The Policy was in the sum of \$2,999-00. The said Policy expires on 20th March, 1981 at 4.00pm.

3. On 3rd October, 1980, I was at my Office when I received a telephone call. The caller, obviously a male, with a high pitched voice, with a nasal sound said, "You've either got a claim form there or going to receive a claim shortly for a stolen car which is owned by NP58. The Claim is a dud. I know that NP58 paid a bloke called John \$400-00 to steal the car."

I said, "Why do you want to give this information?" The caller said, "Personal reasons. I lent the money to the family to buy the car and they were supposed to pay it back the next week. They bought the car and when it came to pay the money, they paid by installments and not as agreed. They own me \$800-00 and they refuse to pay me." He went onto say, "I get on very well with the family and I even bought them a colour television set for Christmas. We had a falling out over the problem of the money and we not on speaking terms with the family at all now." He also went on to say "I won the lottery some time ago and that's how I was able to afford the financing of the car."

I said, "Who are you?"

He said, "I wish to remain anonymous. I will try and get some more information and get back to you." The call then hung up. Whilst speaking to this caller, I made certain handwritten notes.

Witness: [REDACTED] Signature: [REDACTED]

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Name: _____

(Surname in capitals)

4. As a result of that telephone call, I caused the central records system respecting that Policy to be marked, ie. any claims receives to be referred to me personally.

5. About two days later, ie. after receipt of the first telephone call, I received another call from the same person. I cant recall the exact conversation, but the caller asked how progress was with out investigations. I told him that nothing had transpired. He told me that he couldn't find out who John was, but he would continue inquiries. I received several further telephone calls from this person in the ensuing weeks. Again, the caller asked what progress was made and indicated that he was unable to give any further information regarding this stolen car. He did ~~had~~ add however, that the car owned by NP58 had deteriorated badly. He said that NP58 drove the car very hard and had ruined it.

6. On 2nd October, 1980, a Claim Form in respect of the said Policy was received by our Assessor Philip NIXON at the Golden Fleece Service Station, Poole Road, Kellyville. He assessed the vehicle and found it to be a total loss, due to an extensive fire that had occurred in it. The Claim Form submitted is signed NP60 and NP59 and dated 2nd October, 1980 witnessed by Miss Penny ROBERTSON who is employed at our Parramatta Office. The Claim Form contains information which suggests that the said vehicle was stolen by person or persons unknown to the insured from the vicinity of the Belfield R.S.L. Club on 27th September, 1980.

7. On 30th October, 1980, NP58 attended the N.R.M.A. Office, Parramatta, where he was interviewed by Mrs. Maria ARITI, our Claims Clerk. This procedure is normal with all theft claims. The insured completed a Statutory Declaration of Four pages respecting his claim. During the course of the interview with the Insured, it was established that the insured obtained the money to purchase the said vehicle from John BEDSER, Parramatta Antiques, Darcy Street, Parramatta.

Witness: _____

Signature: _____

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8. The matter was then referred for further inquiry by Mr. Ross William THOMPSON of [REDACTED], who is one of our Claims Representatives.

9. On 1st December, 1980, at the Parramatta Office of N.R.M.A. I had a conference with Mr. THOMPSON concerning the Claim. There was very little information at hand at that time to refuse the Claim, but the circumstances of the claim were suspicious and I intended to have the insured re interviewed.

10. On 2nd December, 1980, I heard about the murder of John BEDSER. Mr. Ross THOMPSON told me about the murder and Police were contacted. I spoke to Detectives about my knowledge of the matter on 3rd December, 1980.

11. On Tuesday 16th December, 1980, I was informed that Mrs. [REDACTED] NP59 contacted my Office and inquired as to when the claim in respect of said vehicle would be finalized. She was told that she could collect the cheque for the sum of \$2,899-00 (2,999-00 less \$100 excess) today (17/12/80) at 4.30pm.

Witness: 
Z. Feszczuk
Detective Senior Constable
Homicide Squad.



Witness: _____ Signature: _____