

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Parramatta Police Station

Death of Walter John BEDSER

Date: 23rd December, 1980

Name: D E M P S T E R John Richard (Born [redacted])
(Surname in capitals)

Address: [redacted] Tel. No. Nil

Occupation: Unemployed Lorry Driver STATES: -

1. I am a collector of old coins, postage stamps and certain antique pieces. I have purchased some of my antique pieces from John BEDSER who had an Antique Shop at 4 Darcy Street, Parramatta. I have dealt with John BEDSER for some two years. I had visited his shop on many occasions to see if he had anything that I may have been interested in purchasing to add to my collection.

2. On Monday, 1st December, 1980, I went to BEDSER's shop in Darcy Street, Parramatta. I arrived there about 4.30pm to 5.00pm. As I entered the shop, I saw John BEDSER behind the counter. He was attending to a man and woman standing on this side of the counter. I nodded to John and began to have a look at the items in the shop, working my way towards the counter where John BEDSER and the couple were standing. When I got to the counter, I squatted down to have a look at a piece of furniture. At that time, I was only about a foot or so from this man, with my back to him. I then heard John say to this man,

"I don't know where you got your information from. I don't deal in that line."

I couldn't hear what the man said in reply as he spoke very quietly, but I do remember hearing this man mention a name to John. I don't remember what name was used, but it was something like 'SKINNER'. John then said in a loud tone, "I just told you that I don't deal in that line. You've got your information incorrect." I then stood up and moved around and leant over to see that this man had a small calico bag on the counter which was held in his left hand. He was leaning on the counter. The woman was on this man's right hand side. In front of her on the counter were about 6 to 9 pieces of jewellery. These items appeared valuable. They were in good order. There were at least two rings, one yellow gold and one possibly white gold, a least two brooches, one which was a bar with a ruby or a deep red coloured stone with diamonds surrounding the ruby and the other

Witness: [Signature] Signature: J R Dempster

Page No.: Two

STATEMENT (continued) in matter of: Walter John BEDSERName: D E M P S T E R John Richard
(Surname in capitals)

brooch was a silver colour with diamonds set on a type of leaf which were on stem which radiated out from a large centre stone, possibly a diamond. There were about six or more of these stems. I saw John BEDSER pick up one of these pieces and examine it, and appeared to be surprised because of his facial expression. I moved away slightly as this man looked at me, and made my way slowly to the front door of the shop. John continued talking to these people although I couldn't hear clearly what was being said. I had almost reached the front door of the shop when I heard this man say in a loud tone, angrily, "You're nothing but a Fucking thieving robbing mongrel bastard."

John said, "Don't speak in front of my customers like that." Things then became quiet. I spotted a canteen of cutlery in the shop that I was interested in. I remained in the shop looking at the canteen. About a minute or two later, this man and woman left the shop by the front door. John later apologized to me for the language that was used in the shop. John appeared flustered when he spoke to me.

3. I have never seen the couple that I saw in the shop that day before. I would describe the man as Australian, 35 - 40 old, 5/9 - 6/- tall, medium build, tanned complexion, brown coloured hair to the collar, wearing a leather or vinyl cap, with a peak in front dome shaped on top, very similar to the caps worn by horse riders, possibly brown in colour, sleeveless vest, brown colour, dark trousers, blue coloured long sleeve shirt, rolled up to the elbows, He spoke with very deep voice, and spoke perfect English. He had a full beard, medium length, brown colour and wore spectacles, gold wire frames.

The woman with this man was of foreign appearance, 35 - 40 old, 5/9 tall, very attractive, well made up in the face, olive complexion, possibly greek or italian, ginger hair, cut short with a sheen, brushed back from the crown over the ~~years~~ ears to the shoulders. She was wearing a white top and red skirt or red and white frock. She was wearing a fur type vest sleeveless, high heeled white shoes. I heard her speak in a foreign accent but I don't recall what she said.

Witness:

Signature: John Richard Dempster*John Richard Dempster*

Page No.: Three

STATEMENT (continued) in matter of: Death of Walter John BEDSERName: D E M P S T E R John Richard

(Surname in capitals)

I feel that I could identify the woman if I saw her
again. I'm not certain that I could identify the man.

Witness: *Z Feszczuk*
Z Feszczuk
Detective Senior Constable
Homicide Squad. C.I. Branch

J R Dempster

Witness: _____ Signature: _____