

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:
Death of Scott MILLER

Place: The Rocks Police Station
Date: 6th March, 1997

Name: COWAN, Peter Charles

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Tradesman

States:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. My age is 53

3. My date of birth is the 24th June, 1943. I am employed by Patrick Stevedoring as a fork lift mechanic. I mostly carry out my work in a workshop located at Wharf number 6 Darling Harbour however we service all the forklifts which operate on the wharves and as such we work on all the wharves.

4. On Monday 3rd March, 1997 I started work at about 6.00am. There was no one else on with me at this time so I went up to wharf 8 to check on a couple of machines. I went back to the workshop at about 6.45am and by this time one of my workmates Jim GOULD had arrived.

5. We did a few things at the workshop and then went out for a drive. We drove round through the gate at wharf number 3 and were heading around towards wharf 4. As we were passing the attachment yard Jim said to me, "There's a bloke laying over there." I stopped the truck and we got out. I could see what looked like a bloke laying on the ground in the attachment yard.

Witness: W. Reed

Signature: P. J. Cowan

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He was laying at the back of the yard below a sandstone cliff virtually undeneath the Palisade Hotel. I didn' really have a close look at him at this stage and my first thought was that he was just asleep. I then saw blood on the ground around him and at this stage I realised he was in a bad way.

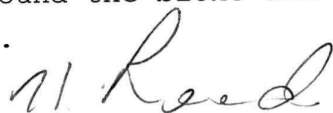
6. We got back in the car and I called the office on the two way radio and told them to call an ambulance. We then drove straight over to the first aid office and told the first aid officer Vince what had happened.

7. Vince got in his car and drove over to where we had seen the bloke and I followed. When we got there Vince put a pair of gloves on and I saw him check for a pulse. Vince said to me, "I think he's dead. At this point I had a closer look at this person. I saw that he was laying parrallel with the standstone cliff about four foot away from the face of the cliff. He was lying face down and both of his legs were out straight pointing in the direction of the wharves. I noticed that there was blood all over his face and on the ground underneath his face. His head was resting on the left side of his face and he was facing slightly away from the cliff face. I would describe this person male, reasonably young and neatly dressed. I can't remember exactly what he was wearing. My impression was that he had fallen from the top of the sandstone cliff.

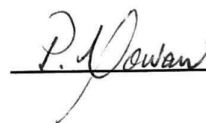
8. I waited for a couple of minutes and then left and went and picked up Jim. Vince waited over with the bloke. I can't remember what we did then. We might have gone back to the workshop and had a coffee or something.

9. Some time later myself and Jim went back over to where we had found the bloke and spoke with the police and gave them our names.

Witness:



Signature:



STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Death of Scott MILLER

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10. I worked on Sunday the 1st of March, 1997 from 2.00pm to 9.00pm. During that day we did all of our work up on wharf 8 which is up the other end of the wharf to where we found the bloke. I didn't go to the attachment yard on that day and I don't think there was any work going on down that end of the wharf. The wheather on Sunday was overcast but didn't rain at all.

11. The attachment yard is situated adjacent to wharf four and is at the base of a sandstone cliff at the bottom of munn reserve. The yard is used to store machinery parts and is enclosed by a chain link fence on three sides and the sandstone cliff on the northern side however there is a small gap between the fence and the cliff. The yard is used periodically on an average of about once a week.

12. It wasn't very nice to see this bloke but I am not suffering from any problems with it at the moment.

Witness:

N. Read
N.READ Const

Signature:

P. Cowan

Witness: _____

Signature: _____