New South Wales Police

P.190 v2.6

STATEMENT in the matter of:

Place: Surry Hills

Murder of James William MEEK - 07/03/95

Police Station

Date: 20 September 1995

Name:

Neil Andrew WALKER

Address: Surry Hills Police Station

Tel. No.:

Occupation: Detective Senior Constable of Police

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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
- I am 33 years of age.
- 3. About 10.00am on Saturday the 11 March, 1995, I had a telephone conversation with Detective Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN of the Crime Scene Unit. With Plain clothes Senior Constable HARDY, I then attended the Glebe Morgue and spoke with Dr Christopher LAWRENCE and Detective VAN LEEUWEN in relation to a post mortem being carried out on the body of James William MEEK. Detective HARDY and I then returned to Surry Hills Police Station and made certain inquiries.
- 4. About 1.00pm that afternoon I spoke with Detective Sergeant KASSIS and Detective VAN LEEUWEN. Then with Detective KASSIS, we spoke with Karen and Greg FRANKS and Wendy GRIFFIN in relation to the death of James William MEEK. Later that afternoon with these people, Detectives KASSIS, HARDY and Detective Senior Constable FORD from the Crime Scene Unit, I went to unit , level 12, of the Northcott Flats,

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Belvoir Street, Surry Hills. We were met at the unit by Detective Senior Constable BROWN of the Fingerprint Section. Whilst at the deceased's unit, Detectives BROWN and FORD made examinations of the unit.

- 5. At the Northcott Flats, with Detective KASSIS, we spoke to residents Michael LAWRENCE and Brian KANE, and security guard Robert GARRATT. I then returned to Surry Hills Police Station with Mr GARRATT and spoke with him further. Later that night I spoke further with Brian KANE.
- 6. On Sunday the 12 March, 1995, with Detective HARDY, we went to Mount Druitt Police Station and spoke with Wendy GRIFFIN and Karen and Greg FRANKS. Whilst at Mount Druitt Police Station the deceased's motor vehicle, a maroon 1995 Daewoo sedan registered number was examined by Detective Senior Constable GLYNN of the Fingerprint Section. I then made an inspection of the vehicle.
- 7. On Monday the 13 March, 1995, Robert GARRATT, security guard for the Northcott Flats attended the Surry Hills Police Station and I took him to the F.A.C.E Imaging Unit, Physical Evidence Section, where he spoke with Detective Sergeant REDMOND and compiled a F.A.C.E.
- 8. On Tuesday the 14 March, 1995 with Detective Sergeant TANOS and Detectives VAN DER GRAAF, HARDY and CALLANAN, I went to unit level 12, of the Northcott Flats, Belvoir Street, Surry Hills. There we spoke to Karen FRANKS and Wendy and Alan GRIFFIN. We then undertook a systematic search of the interior of the unit. A number of items of property were located and

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taken into Police custody for further inquiry. These items were conveyed to and stored at the Surry Hills Police Station.

- 9. On Wednesday the 29 March, 1995 with Detective TANOS, we spoke to Wendy GRIFFIN and Karen FRANKS at the Surry Hills Police Station. Wendy GRIFFIN was shown a number of photographs and she told us something about a letter photographed on a table inside the deceased's unit at Northcott Flats, Belvoir Street, Surry Hills.
- Northcott Flats, Belvoir Street, Surry Hills, where I saw Wendy GRIFFIN searching through a large garbage bag on the lounge/dining room floor outside the bedroom. After a short time, I saw Wendy GRIFFIN remove a letter from the bag and she told us something. The letter was on 'DAEWOO AUTOMOTIVE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD 'letterhead and addressed to James MEEK. I also noticed that there doodling patterns on both sides of the letter. I recognised this letter as being the same one depicted in the photograph shown to Wendy GRIFFIN earlier that day. Detective TANOS then took possession of the letter and we returned to the Surry Hills Police Station where the letter was secured.
 - 11. On Wednesday the 5 April, 1995, I again spoke with Robert GARRATT and obtained a further statement from him, clarifying points raised in his initial statement to Police.
 - 12. On Monday the 8 May, 1995, I had a telephone conversation with Detective Senior Constable EYRES of the Major Crime Unit, Fingerprint Section, Parramatta, who told me certain things in

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relation to the letter from 'DAEWOO AUTOMOTIVE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD ', located at the deceased's unit on Wednesday the 29 March, 1995. I then relayed this information to Detective TANOS.

- 13. As a result of this information I conducted a number of inquiries and liaised with Police attached to the Criminal Investigation Branch, Devonport Tasmania.
- 14. On Thursday the 22 June, 1995, I had a telephone conversation with Detective Constable First Class SIDGREAVES. I then made a number of inquires. As a result of my conversation with Detective SIDGREAVES and subsequent inquiries, Detective Senior Constable CALLANAN and I went to KING'S LOAN OFFICE Merrylands Road, Merrylands. There I spoke with Ian PUDDICOMBE and examined his purchase book and pawn receipts. I then took possession of a mans gold dress ring set with a brown coloured stone sold to KINGS LOAN OFFICE on the 7 March, 1995 by a Roger COCHRAN, purchase book reference 5-136. I then conveyed the ring to Surry Hills Police Station and secured it in the safe within the Detectives office.
- 15. On Tuesday the 11 July, 1995, with Detective TANOS, we spoke to Brian KANE at the Surry Hills Police Station. Brian KANE was then shown a video recording containing the photographs of a number male persons, the cassette having been marked 'T.F. FIREWEED'. Brian KANE then told us something in relation to the male person depicted in photograph number 5 of the video. The defendant, Michael Alan HEATLEY, is the male person depicted in photograph number 5 of the video. I then saw Brian KANE initial and date the spine of that video cassette.

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- 16. Later that morning with Detective Senior Constable TONNET, I went to Crosslands Street, Merrylands and spoke with Roger GRIFFITHS, alias Roger COCHRAN, in relation to the men's dress ring sold to KINGS LOAN OFFICE. Roger COCHRAN was then taken to Merrylands Police Station, where I obtained a statement from him.
- 17. On Wednesday the 12 July, 1995, with Detective TANOS, we spoke with Wendy GRIFFIN and Karen FRANKS. I then obtained a statement from Wendy GRIFFIN in relation to recovering the letter sent to James MEEK, by 'DAEWOO AUTOMOTIVE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD '.
- 18. On Wednesday the 2 August, 1995, with Plain clothes Senior Constable MORIGE, I went to KING'S LOAN OFFICE Merrylands Road, Merrylands. There we spoke with Ian PUDDICOMBE and he was shown a video recording containing the photographs of a number of male persons, the video cassette having been marked 'T.F. FIREWEED'. Ian PUDDICOMBE then told us something in relation to the male person depicted in photograph number 5 of the video. The definedant, Michael Alan HEATLEY, is the male person depicted in photograph number 5 of the video. I then saw Ian PUDDICOMBE initial and date the spine of that video cassette. I then obtained a statement from Ian PUDDICOMBE.
- 19. On Thursday the 14 September, 1995, with Detective TANOS, we spoke with Peter SHARP at the Surry Hills Police Station. Peter SHARP was then shown a video recording containing the photographs of a number of male persons, the video cassette having been marked 'T.F. FIREWEED'. Peter SHARP then told us something in relation to the male person depicted in photograph

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number 5 of the video. The defendant, Michael Alan HEATLEY, is the male person depicted in photograph number 5 of the video. I then saw Peter SHARP initial and date the spine of that video cassette.

- 20. On Tuesday the 19 September, 1995, with Detective TANOS, we spoke with Robert GARRATT at the Surry Hills Police Station. Robert GARRATT was then shown a video recording containing the photographs of a number of male persons, the video cassette having been marked 'T.F. FIREWEED'. Robert GARRATT then told us something in relation to the person depicted in photograph number 5 of the video. The defendant, Michael Alan HEATLEY, is the male person depicted in photograph number 5 of the video. I then saw Robert GARRATT sign and date the spine of that video cassette. Robert GARRATT was also shown a gold men's dress ring recovered from KING'S LOAN OFFICE, Merrylands on Thursday the 22 June, 1995. He then told us something about that ring. I then obtained a statement from Robert GARRATT.
- 21. On Monday the 25 September, 1995, with Detective TANOS, we spoke to Jorge RUA at the Surry Hills Police Station. I then obtained a statement from him in relation to his sighting of the deceased James William MEEK.
- 22. About 6.45am on Thursday the 28 September, 1995, with Detectives TANOS, COOPER and WOOLLEY, I went to Pardoe Street, East Devonport. There I saw the defendant, Michael Alan HEATLEY, in the hallway of those premises. Detective COOPER said to the defendant, "This is Detective TANOS and Detective WALKER from New South Wales."

The defendant said, " Yeah, I know them, anyway him. "

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Indicating Detective TANOS.

Detective COOPER said, "You are under arrest for the murder of James William MEEK in New South Wales. You are not obliged to answer any questions or make any statement unless you wish to, anything you do say will be recorded and may later be used in evidence. Do you understand that?"

The defendant said, "Yeah, this is bullshit, I'm not going anywhere with you."

Detective COOPER said, " It is not bullshit, you're coming with us and do you want to put any clothes on? "

The defendant said, "No, I'm right, just let me put my shoes on."

- 23. The defendant was then taken to the Devonport Police Station and charged with the Murder of James William MEEK, by virtue of a first instance warrant. When charged the defendant made no reply. The defendant appeared later that morning at the Devonport Magistrates Court.
- 24. On Friday the 29 September, 1995, the defendant was extradited to New South Wales and conveyed to the Sydney Police Station where he was charged. Detectives TANOS, MORIGE and myself then took the defendant to the Clinical Forensic Medical Unit, level 4, Sydney Police Centre where Detective TANOS spoke with Dr. Stuart ANDERSON. Detective TANOS said to the defendant, "We are going to take blood from you. We can take it with or without your consent. Do you understand that?" The defendant said, "Yes. I know I have to."
- 25. Dr. ANDERSON then completed a consent form and I saw the defendant sign that consent form. Detective TANOS then signed

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the consent form. Dr. ANDERSON then extracted a quantity of blood from the defendant's arm and sealed in a sample vial. Detective TANOS then took custody of that blood sample.

26. The defendant was then conveyed to and appeared at Central Local Court in relation to this matter.

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