

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: Place: Police Station PENRITH
 MISSING PERSON BAUMANN
 Date: 16 November 1993

Name: SMYTH Allan
 (Surname in capitals)

Address: MARSFIELD Tel. No.:

Occupation: STATES:—

COPY OF SIGNED STATEMENT CONTAINED UPON PAGES 44 TO 50 OF OFFICIAL POLICE NOTEBOOK NO F101423 ISSUED TO SENIOR CONSTABLE W.J.S. GRIBBLE OF THE MISSING PERSONS UNIT AND TAKEN AT [REDACTED], MARSFIELD ON THE 1 AUGUST 1993

I had met Peter BAUMANN when I was walking my two dogs in Centennial Park on a Sunday afternoon, I think it was 1981 in Summer. He was sitting on the grass and I started talking to him. I found out that he had recently arrived in Australia from Munich, GERMANY. I had the impression that he didn't know many people so I invited him back to my place. I think he was living at a flat on Bondi Beach. I then saw him a couple of times a week. My house at Edgecliffe was close to Kings Cross and so he would drop in for cups of coffee. We were both homosexuals and a relationship developed and it lasted until he disappeared. He was working at the A.B.C. as far as I was aware as some sort of technical guy.

He had this obsession about not going back to Germany. He wanted to avoid being conscripted for two years. He had this real fear. One day he came around to my place and told me he had met a prostitute at the Cross and offered her \$20,000.00 to marry him. He later told me that he paid her the money and married her. They went their separate ways and he took the marriage certificate down to the Department of Immigration and applied for permanent residency on the same day. It had become an obsession with him to avoid National Service. During the period I knew him I don't think he had any other relationships. Up until the last Sunday I saw him, I would see him at least twice a week, generally at my place at EDGECLIFFE. It was some time after the marriage that he told me that some people had approached him and asked for another thirty grand. They told him that they knew where he lived and I got the impression they were blackmailing him, but I didn't know what the threats were.

Witness: Signature: *John G. Smith*

P. 190a.

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(Surname in capitals)

He was very worried about the matter and was concerned that they knew where he lived. I don't know what the threat was but I have the impression that it was physical violence. I can't remember if he told me that or if it was recollections of the incident. I can't remember when he first told me but the incident continued up to his disappearance. From what I remember it was not the girl but her protectors were doing it. He was very frightened because he said they knew where he lived and worked and I had the impression that they had been to his flat at WAVERLEY

The last time I saw him was on a Sunday, it was in Summer in 1983. He had made some sandwiches and I ducked to the pub to get some wine. He was showing me some of his music. He told me he was going to a concert or some function and this person was coming at 5.30pm so we waited until he came. It was a man and we all left together. He was very relaxed and happy. He had a very expensive guitar with him and he said he would have to sell the guitar for the money demands. I don't remember who the male caller was, but he looked a bit of a slob. I had never met him before.

Peter lived in a converted house that had been made into flats. He was very clean in himself, but his flat was untidy but not dirty and a bit sparsely furnished. That was the last time I saw him. He was supposed to see me the next day which was a Monday. He didn't turn up but it didn't worry me. But after Tuesday or Wednesday I got a bit worried so I went around to the flat and it was all open. The front door was open. His bed had not been made and his guitar and everything was intact. The bloke next door came out and I asked him if he had seen Peter and he said not for a couple of days. He was an Australian in his fifties. I asked him for a key to lock the front door and he said he would lock it. I asked him to tell Peter that Allan had been around. Later that week I received a telephone call from a man at the A.B.C. asking if I had seen Peter. I told them I hadn't seen him since that last Sunday. The A.B.C. seemed concerned and he told me that he wanted Peter to contact him as they could keep his

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Signature: 

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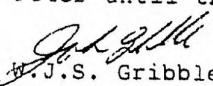
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job vacant for two weeks.

I might have gone back to his flat the following Friday or the weekend, I don't know. Then I started to worry because I knew of the demand for money. But stuck in my mind I have this notion of 'Cooper Pedy', but I don't know why he left that guitar as he especially prized it and it was worth a couple of thousand dollars.

The next incident was at my house at EDGECLIFFE. We had this high walled fence and gate that was locked and you had to call the intercom to get in. It was around a couple of weeks later, around 8.30 at night. There was a call on the door bell and there was a couple at the front gate, a man and a lady. The man had a beard. They were both white and he was bit overweight and the girl was medium build with fair. They said " Where is Peter BAUMANN, Is he here? " I said " No he's not. " They said " We're friends of his, we've been looking for him. We're worried. He hasn't been home and he hasn't been at work. " I told them I hadn't seen him but they seemed reluctant to go and I told them if I heard anything I would contact them. They gave me a couple of christian names which I can't remember. But I was suspicious because he never made mention of these friends.

I didn't go to the POLICE as I had my own problems at that time. I didn't make any enquiries or have any enquiries about Peter until the POLICE contacted me.


 W.J.S. Gribble
 Senior Constable
 Police Station PENRITH
 16 November 1993

Witness: Signature: