

## Request from SC GRIBBLE to be assigned MP case

**File Number:** 4

**Product Type:** TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note

**Date of Note:** 8 Mar 2007

**Brief Description:** On 13 March 2006 S/C Gribble forwarded a report to Eastern Suburbs LAC through his chain of command to be assigned the case of BAUMANN. He was the initial officer who investigated the disappearance of BAUMANN and states he has intimate knowledge of the case.

Attached is the report along with the response from Det Insp MARANESI (East Subs)

## ISSUE:

Request by Senior Constable W.J.S. (John) GRIBBLE Registered No [REDACTED] to be allocated Case 5602949 involving the missing person BAUMANN Peter Karl Josef.

## BACKGROUND:

1. BAUMANN went missing sometime around the end of 1983 from his residence at [REDACTED] Cross Street, Waverley, N.S.W. under unknown circumstances. He was subsequently reported missing to Waverly Police by his landlady Mrs Ruth VAN DUYN. However for a number of reasons, the matter was not investigated until 1993 when it was allocated to me whilst I was on loan to the Missing Persons Unit.

2. Inquiries indicated that Mr Allen SMYTH born [REDACTED]/34 and his then homosexual partner, Mr Mervyn Oliver KEASBERRY born [REDACTED]/51 may have had information that would have assisted the Police investigation into this matter. That information revolved around SMYTH having a homosexual affair with the missing person from 1981 up to the time of his disappearance and his wishing to end the relation with KEASBERRY and commencing a permanent relationship with BAUMANN. Specifically they result from a telephone conversation I had with Mr SMYTH on the 15 October 1993 where during the course of a telephone conversation with Mr SMYTH he said to me, "YOU KNOW JOHN, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK HAPPENED. I THINK YOU'LL FIND HIS BODY IN THE BUSH. THERE WAS PROBABLY AN ARGUMENT YOU KNOW. THEY DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM BUT IT WAS ACCIDENT AND THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND AND HE WAS ACCIDENTLY KILLED AND DUMPED IN THE BUSH." When I questioned him as to his knowledge of the offenders, he said, "I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO TALK OVER THE TELEPHONE. I'LL RING YOU LATER. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU PRIVATELY ABOUT THIS." Prior to these inquiries being completed, I was returned to the then Penrith Patrol and I took no further part in that investigation and these inquiries were never completed.

## COMMENT:

3. This matter is now being re-investigated as part of 'Operation Utica' and has been allocated to Sergeant Darren SMITH Team Leader attached to the Waverley Local Area Command. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst I was contacted by Sergeant SMITH by telephone and he indicated that he had submitted an Investigation Plan to the Crime Manager Waverley Local Area Command for further inquiries into this matter.

4. Although this is a twenty three year old missing person inquiry which has not been investigated for thirteen years, it needs to be dealt with some urgency for the following reasons. Inquiries through C.O.P.S. would seem to indicate that Mr SMYTH has only recently ended his relationship with Mr KEASBERRY and is residing at [REDACTED]. These inquiries indicate that Mr SMYTH is possibly an alcoholic with mental issues arising from his alcoholism. Therefore, Mr SMYTH needs to be interviewed as soon as possible, when taking into account his advanced age and these alcohol abuse issues.

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5. Also, as stated in paragraph, Mr SMYTH told me that he wished to continue that conversation with me in private. Combining that request with his current alcoholism and state of mind, he might not necessarily respond to inquiries from other Police.

6. I am fully aware of the heavy, varied and complex workload of Crime Investigators and Team Leaders in the Waverley Local Area Command and that this matter places pressure on their scarce resources. On this point, my workload as Brief Manager allows me greater flexibility in this matter and would not impact on my duties. I would therefore respectfully and strongly request that this Case might be allocated to me for further investigation.

7. I would add on a personal note, I had extensive dealings with Mr BAUMANN'S next of kin who reside in the State of Bavaria in the Federal Republic of Germany who had always monitored his disappearance including coming to Sydney in 1993 to enquire as to the state of the investigation. I would appreciate the opportunity of being possibly able to give them some form of an answer in this matter.

8. I am cognisant that I would require the close supervision of an experienced Investigator in this matter to ensure the correctness of enquiries. Therefore I have discussed this specific point with Detective Inspector PUXTY of this Command before submitting my request.

9. A copy of the original Screed that I filed with this Case is attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

10. Respectfully submitted for urgent consideration.

*John Gribble*  
W.J.S. (John) GRIBBLE  
Senior Constable No [redacted]  
13 March 2006.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Crime Manager  
BLUE MOUNTAINS LOCAL AREA COMMAND

The Commander  
BLUE MOUNTAINS LOCAL AREA COMMAND

The Commander  
WAVERLEY LOCAL AREA COMMAND

The Crime Manager  
WAVERLEY LOCAL AREA COMMAND

*I would be prepared to rebase S/C Gribble to assist with the interview with witness of Sgt Smith requires it, but not conduct the investigation. Perhaps Sgt Smith might*

BLUE MOUNTAINS LAC  
J.J. Fox 11/4/06  
c/n. 13 MAR 2006  
NSWP/F/ 2006 141  
NSWP/D/ 2006 439.31



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**EASTERN SUBURBS  
LOCAL AREA COMMAND**

**ISSUE:**

Request by Senior Constable GRIBBLE to be allocated C5602949 involving missing person BAUMANN.

**BACKGROUND:**

Please refer to attached paper from Senior Constable GRIBBLE dated 13.3.2006.

During 2005 the case was subject to reviews conducted by the Eastern Suburbs LAC Case Review Team and subsequently forwarded to Sergeant Darren SMITH to investigate. It was determined that further investigations be conducted as the circumstances behind the disappearance of Mr BAUMANN appear to be suspicious.

A request for assistance was recently forwarded to SCC Homicide Squad with the view that the case be investigated by the Unsolved Homicide Unit. The case was reviewed by SCC and subsequently the request was denied.

Investigations also indicate that an inquest concerning the death of Mr BAUMANN has not been held.

**COMMENT:**

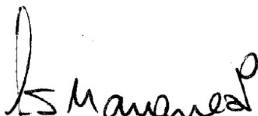
The case is now under investigation by Detective Sergeant BISHOP attached to Eastern Suburbs LAC. A brief for the Coroner will be prepared and forwarded when completed. Perhaps at the conclusion of an inquest, the case may be referred to the Homicide Squad for a further review.

At this point in time Senior Constable GRIBBLE may be utilised as a liaison with Detective Sergeant BISHOP. It may be determined that at some stage during the brief preparation, Senior Constable GRIBBLE may assist with obtaining statements from potential witnesses, if those witnesses happen to reside in the western parts of Sydney.

On receipt of this file, Senior Constable GRIBBLE should make contact with Detective Sergeant BISHOP at Bondi Police Station on [REDACTED] to clarify any potential assistance. Any assistance received from Senior Constable GRIBBLE will be assessed as the investigation and brief preparation continues, and that determination to be made by Detective Sergeant BISHOP in consultation with the respective Crime Managers.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Forwarded for relevant information.



**Franz J Maranesi  
Crime Manager  
EASTERN SUBURBS LAC  
21 April 2006**

**1. Commander  
EASTERN SUBURBS LAC**

**2. Commander  
BLUE MOUNTAINS LAC**

**3. Crime Manager  
EASTERN SUBURBS LAC**