

SUBMISSION BY FORMER SENIOR CONSTABLE W.J.S. (JOHN) GRIBBLE TO THE
SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LGBTIQ HATE CRIMES – PETER
BAUMANN

Dear Commissioner,

I was involved in the investigation of the disappearance of Peter Karl Josef BAUMANN for a period of approximately three months at the end of 1993. I have maintained an interest in the investigation up to my retirement from the N.S.W. Police Force on the 8 March 2018 as I believe that this matter should have been more fully investigated to properly provide an answer to his family.

Regarding Mr Baumann being a victim of a LGBTIQ hate crime, there is no evidence that he frequented 'gay beats' or was even aware of their location. The offenders in those matters usually left their victims at the scene of the crime. This is a matter where the body of Mr Baumann has been successfully hidden for a period of nearly forty years. Further, the only evidence of his involvement in a gay relationship was with Mr Allan Smith My opinion is that his death was unrelated to the issue of LGBTIQ hate crimes.

I do not believe that Mr Baumann committed suicide for the following reasons. He never mentioned any ideas of suicide to any persons at that time. As far as can be gleaned, apart from some paranoid rantings to witnesses, he never showed any signs of instability to his family who offered the view that he was the product of a stable and loving family environment and kept in regular contact with them. He was in regular employment, appeared to have adequate accommodation and according to Ms Seneviratne and Mr Smith, was involved in satisfactory relations to a degree with both. This, combined with the absence of any suicide notes, negates any notion of suicide by Mr Baumann.

Further, there is nothing to indicate he had an intimate knowledge of Sydney and its surrounds. There is no evidence that he was a regular traveller of this area and would have had the knowledge to carry out his own death in a location that would have enabled the successful concealment of his body for a period of nearly forty years.

Whilst there is no direct evidence of the involvement of other person(s) in the concealment of his body, a circumstantial hypothesis can be made that it would only be successful with those person(s) actions.

Regarding the notion that Mr Baumann engineered his own disappearance, this would involve the acquisition of false or fraudulently obtained identification. There is nothing to show that he had contact with the criminal fraternity or the personal knowledge to carry out those actions. The same comments also apply to any notion that he could illegally exit Australia without detection.

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If Mr Baumann did engineer his own disappearance, there is nothing to indicate why he has never made any contact with his family. There is no evidence of any animosity between them to show that he would break off contact with them so abruptly.

I will address my further comments referencing the tabs in Exhibit 42.

Tab 13 – consisted of the Investigatory Notes of a brief telephone conversation with Mr Allan Smith on the 24 April 2007. It does not appear that he was ever further interviewed. There was ample time to conduct those inquiries until his death in 2016.

It also shows that no inquiries were ever conducted with Mr Keasbury despite various comments in the investigation that he had or must have intimate knowledge of the matter, Particularly, the letter written by Mr Smith stating that Mr Keasbury had expressed displeasure of his intention to leave him for Mr Baumann and sell their residence.

Tab 78A - At points 1 & 2, it does not appear than any inquiries were conducted to locate Mr Hiroshi Hamasaki despite evidence he was present in the flat with Mr Baumann possibly at the time of his disappearance.

Tab 78A - At point 4, it does not appear that any inquiries were made with any authorities regarding the vacant land and the circumstances regarding the building of a house upon this block of land.

Tab 78A - At points 6,7 & 8, it does not appear that any inquiries were conducted with the German Authorities or Immigration Services under the names of Bauman, Ann or Moltzam to clarify he had changed his name or left Australia under any of these names.

I note the comments of Detective Inspector Leggett that these and other inquiries mentioned in my report would most likely not reveal any new evidence. That may be the case, but these negative responses may also dispel several alternate hypotheses and would assist any investigation to arrive at a more or most likely hypothesis.

Tab 80 – The Police Case report dated the 26 June 2019 indicates that the last action taken regarding the matter was on the 30 August 2014.

My personal opinion is that there is still a question as to whether the death of Mr Baumann was through the actions by persons unknown at this stage and these persons were known to the deceased.

There is also the question of giving a fuller and more satisfactory answer to the Baumann family, if only from the point of common decency. The investigation by the N.S.W. Police Force over the intervening period cannot be described as satisfactory, neither can it's the treatment of the Baumann family.

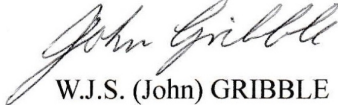
This is a matter that can still be further investigated and due to the lessening options available, would not be a lengthy or arduous inquiry. However, there is a question as to if the

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N.S.W Police Force is in a position to carry it out to a satisfactory conclusion and consideration might be given to it being carried out by some independent body that could report to the Police if there is any sign of criminality are revealed during the investigation.

I thank the Commission for the opportunity to make a submission in this matter and I am willing to attend the Commission Hearings if my comments need any further clarification.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Gribble".

W.J.S. (John) GRIBBLE

27 September 2023