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25 <MARK PIERRE HUBERT(2.12PM)  
SWORN AND EXAMINED

LAKATOS: Q. Sir, is your full name Mark Pierre Hubert?  
What is your preference?

30 A. Yeah that's fine.

CORONER: Q. How do you say it?

A. If I am in Australia I say Hubert, in France I say  
Hubert.

35 LAKATOS: Q. I'll say Hubert. I'm doing the French  
language a great disservice, I'm sure, in terms of  
pronunciation but I shall attempt it. Sir, you I think  
immigrated from France to Australia in May of 1980?

40 A. That's right.

Q. And you are now an Australian citizen?

A. Yes.

45 Q. By occupation you are a long haul flight attendance  
with Qantas?

A. That's right.

50 Q. Now going back to 1983 you tell us I think that you  
were living then in Sydney and working in the Menzies  
Hotel in Sydney?

A. Yes.

Q. You were the senior head waiter?

55 A. Yeah.

Q. And around that time you received a call from a friend  
in France who told you that one Jacques Musy, who's a  
person now in court, would be travelling to Sydney and

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asked if you could look after him when he arrived?

A. That's right.

5 Q. Jacques arrived some time in 1983 and stayed with you at an address in Paddington?

A. That's right.

10 Q. For a period of time. He then stayed with you and another friend Vincent Ottoviani on an alternating basis for six to eight months at another address in Paddington?

A. That's right.

15 Q. You obtained for Jacques a job as a casual waiter at the Menzies Hotel?

A. Yes.

20 Q. And then you continued to maintain contact with him as time passed?

A. That's right.

25 Q. Soon after he arrived you became aware that he had a French boyfriend by the name of Gilles Mattaini?

A. Yes.

30 Q. Who was also coming to Australia. At that stage you only knew him by his Christian name Gilles?

A. That's right.

35 Q. He arrived in Sydney not long after Jacques and also he stayed at Vincent's house and at your house at the same time as Jacques did?

A. That's right.

40 Q. You tell us that after some three months you also arranged for Gilles to obtain a job at the Menzies Hotel?

A. I did.

45 Q. He couldn't start work straight away because his English was not very good and he was eventually employed as a casual waiter under your supervision as was Jacques Musy?

A. That's right.

50 Q. Gilles and Jacques became settled in their own unit and the only contact that you continued to make with them was in the course of the work that they were doing, mainly through the work not entirely?

A. Mainly yeah.

55 Q. Eventually those two gentlemen moved to an address in Bondi?

A. Yes.

Q. And Vincent moved also to a similar address in Bondi?

A. Yes.

Q. Now you tell us that around August - can I just ask you this, from 1983 or thereabouts until 1985 how often

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would you have seen Gilles Mattaini?

A. At work which was just about every day. He was a casual waiter so he could work sometimes three times a week or work seven times a week so just about every day.

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Q. And how would you describe him as a person, was he a happy, sad - how would you describe him?

A. When?

10

Q. In the period 1983 through to 1985?

A. Yes he was shy, very reserved. I believe he was happy. Was very happy to be in Australia, wanted to stay.

15

Q. You knew he was a gay man?

A. Of course.

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Q. We've heard in the course of this inquest that Marks Park in southern Bondi was a gay beat, if I can put it that way--

A. Yes.

Q. --you understand what I mean by that term?

A. Of course.

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Q. So far as you're aware in that period '83 through to '85 did Gilles attend at Marks Park to meet other gay men?

A. I wouldn't think so no. He was not that type of person to start with but I wasn't aware at the time that Marks Park was a gay beat anyway so I don't think he was. I think one of the friends that showed him the walk between Bondi to Tamarama and the park is just above it.

30

Q. So you knew him to frequent that area because he liked walking along the beach walk?

35

A. Absolutely yeah. I remember that often when walking around the walk with his headsets and just sit on the rocks and watch the beach. He used to enjoy that very much.

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Q. Now in August of 1985 Jacques Musy left his job temporarily at the Menzies to return home to go for a holiday?

A. That's right.

45

Q. And I think he was to be gone for about a month or thereabouts?

A. Roughly.

50

Q. Approximate terms and I think you tell us then that you got to know Gilles Mattaini a little better because his partner was overseas--

A. That's right.

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Q. --and he had more time to spend at and after work?

A. That's right.

Q. Did he talk to you about his visa problems?

A. Yes I was aware of it yes.



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Q. What did he tell you about his visa problems?

5 A. Well I knew that he had to leave the country every three months to renew his visa which was the case at the time. I think he would have been on the one year visa and had to leave the country for three months.

Q. Did he tell you at some point that he became an illegal immigrant?

10 A. I don't know if he was by then illegal or not, I don't think he actually really was ever illegal since he always renewed his visa. That's the reason why he actually left each time.

15 Q. Can I just ask you, Mr Hubert do you have a copy of your statement that you made?

A. Yes I just was given one yeah.

20 Q. If you turn please to paragraph 14, it's just I want to clear up something which seems not quite consistent. You see paragraph 12 "During this period I learnt a little more about Gilles", you see that?

A. Yep.

25 Q. And then you've stated "I learnt that Gilles was feeling very uncomfortable about his situation in that he'd recently become an illegal immigrant because his visa had expired and he felt trapped. He couldn't leave Australia and come back"?

30 A. Maybe it was about to expire I'm not sure. I really wouldn't know that it's too far away for me to remember exactly if he had been - he's become one or not.

35 Q. I understand. I suppose I'm more particularly interested in rather than whether that was the fact but how he told you he felt about his situation. How did he react when he was telling you of his visa problems, what was his manner? Was he worried about it, was he light-hearted, what--

40 A. I know he was worried yeah and also I know that financially it was a burden to him I mean to leave every three months to go away for a week or so and come back. It was mostly our conversation was about that.

45 Q. Did Gilles talk about any problems he had in his relationship to you?

A. Yes but I believe that was related to the visa situation.

50 Q. And what did he say about his relationship problems as best you can remember?

55 A. As I mentioned before Gilles never really talked much about himself. It was just words here and there. He never said in such a word that he had problems with Jacques for whatever reason but that he was not feeling comfortable with the situation and I guess, as I said, it was more related to the visa situation than anything else.



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Q. Well just doing the best you can and you may not be able to recall, what words or what did he say to you which caused you to believe that he had relationship problems and that they were connected with the visa problems? Do you remember what he said to you that made you think that?

5 A. No as I said I was aware of the visa situation and I know that would have created tension in a relationship but that's probably my own judgment.

10 Q. Now I direct your attention to paragraph 13. You there refer to a time about a week before Jacques came back to Australia?

A. Yep.

15 Q. And I want to direct your attention specifically to that night-shift that you talk about there?

A. Yes.

20 Q. Gilles was working a night-shift where you were the head waiter. Can you tell us what happened because that was the last time, was it not, that you saw him alive?

A. That's right.

25 Q. Can you tell us in your own words what happened that night?

A. Okay. Towards the middle of the night Gilles came to my office and told me that he wasn't feeling well and asked me to go home, to leave early. At the time I was very busy, it was a large function so I just said yeah just finish your paperwork, give it to me and go home and I just organise the rest of your work to be done by somebody else. I know that I stated the fact that he came to my office and asked me for a cigarette which was very unusual since he was a non-smoker and I remember that ..(not transcribable).. was a little bit stressed and he needed a cigarette so I left it at that. Then he came back to my office, gave me the functions liquor sheet and put it on my desk and left and went home.

40 Q. Did he tell you what he was stressed about?

A. No. I could tell he wasn't well, could have had a headache or I could tell he was - his body language that something was wrong but as I said I was busy with the function and other staff to look after that I didn't give much time to him. I just said he could go home early that's all.

50 Q. Had you seen him being stressed before this time or in a state like this that you observed that night?

A. Not especially that I can recall.

Q. In any event you didn't have time to find out exactly what his problem was?

55 A. No I didn't ask.

Q. He then went home and you discovered a problem with the liquor sheet that he'd filled out?

A. That's right there was a few discrepancies on his

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calculations I guess and so I called him at home to find out exactly what was what and he told me - just rectified over the phone the liquor sheets and that was about all and I said to him something like I'll see you on your next shift. Again that was at the end of the night, very late when all that happened. That was a very brief call.

5  
10 Q. Apart from the discussion about the problems with the liquor sheet and discussions about seeing him at his next shift was anything else said that you can remember?

A. No.

15 Q. Did you get any sense of his mood on the telephone, how he was feeling? Was anything indicative of how he was feeling at that stage or was it simply a normal phone conversation?

16 A. No. I guess maybe even if I did the fact that he left - asked me to leave home - to go home early because he wasn't feeling well I probably would have left it at that anyway, I don't think I would have asked further if he was - anything special.

20 Q. You tell us in your statement that the next shift that Gilles was rostered on for he failed to arrive?

25 A. That's right.

Q. Do you know how many day or days after that last time you spoke with him on the telephone that next shift was?

30 A. That's really hard for me to tell but I guess in the next couple of days. I think he would have had a day off the next day and he would have worked the following day so two days later, but it could be three days later I'm not sure.

35 Q. And you remarked that that was very unusual because he was normally quite punctual and reliable?

A. Absolutely.

40 Q. You telephoned him at home there was no answer?

A. That's right.

Q. You then telephoned Vincent Ottoviani and asked if he knew where Gilles was?

45 A. That's right.

Q. And Vincent said he didn't know where he was?

A. No.

50 Q. Thereafter I think Mr Ottoviani contacted you by telephone and told you that he'd been to Gilles flat and there'd been no answer and then he, Ottoviani commenced to make inquiries about where Gilles might have been?

A. That's right.

55 Q. Did you yourself make any inquiries apart from--

A. No. No the reason being at the time of the incident again he used to work also at the Menzies Hotel and had taken a year leave at the time to do some further study so



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I knew that Vincent had the time to do that and I didn't. I was very busy at the time at the hotel. I had also just moved to the Blue Mountains where I bought a house and I was commuting between Sydney and the Blue Mountains and my life was very busy at the time and also was assuming a new role at the hotel where I had a lot of work to do so I left it to Vincent to do all that.

Q. Mr Ottoviani died I think in September of 1992?  
A. '92 yeah. I made a mistake when I said '91. I realised today it was '92.

Q. You then recall that Jacques Musy, Gilles partner arrived back in Australia you say some three or four days after Gilles had gone missing?  
A. I'd say so.

Q. That's an approximation I take it--  
A. Yes.

Q. --after such a long time?  
A. Yeah I can't remember exactly no.

Q. So far as you knew Gilles (as said) and Vincent Ottoviani became good friends and continued to make some inquiries as to where Gilles might have gone - I'm sorry Jacques and Vincent?  
A. Jacques yes. They were already good friends.

Q. Did you talk to Jacques and Vincent from time to time as to what inquiries they had made or not, in other words do you know what they did?  
A. To Vincent at first yes until Jacques arrived back but after that no because I really thought it wasn't up to me to do any more of the research.

Q. It was your belief that the matter had been reported to the police at some time close to when--  
A. Yes actually I recall exactly. Vincent would have contacted the Paddington Police Station at the time because that's where he was living and I don't remember why I remember the Paddington Police Station but that's still in my mind somehow so.

Q. It seems, if I can tell you this, that there is no police record of any official complaint of Gilles going missing in 1985. Can I ask you this, it also appears that there was - and this is not said critically but there was no follow up by Gilles friends with the police as to whether or not further inquiries were being made or what's happening and so on. So far as you're concerned, I take it, did you at any time follow up with the police what was happening?

A. No. I know that Vincent contacted the morgue, contacted various hospitals. I believe the French Consulate was also contacted.

Q. Would it be fair to say that you believed that



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everything that could be done had been done, was that your belief at the time?

A. Yes.

5 Q. Now you told us that it was, I think, Gilles habit to do the Bondi walk?

A. Yes.

10 Q. So far as you knew he always wore stereo headphones or very often?

A. Yes.

Q. And listened to music doing that?

A. That's right.

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Q. And I think you've already told us insofar as Gilles personality is concerned you would be very surprised if he frequented the gay beat at Marks Park--

A. Absolutely.

20

Q. --for the purpose of meeting other gays?

A. Absolutely.

25 Q. You tell us that in April 1989 you went to Honolulu for a holiday, did you?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us what you witnessed there so far as Mr Mattaini was concerned?

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A. Very strange situation. I was there on holidays. A couple of days after I arrived and I was in a supermarket late at night and I felt that I was being observed. So I turned around and I don't know whether it's the fruit of my imagination but I felt like I saw Gilles on the other side so I went around and there was nobody there so I still don't know today if it was just a dream. I knew that he had been on holidays a few months prior to that in Honolulu so maybe it was just a - that's where the connection came from but it really puzzled me at the time.

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Q. Did you know that Gilles had had a history, in his younger days, of two attempts at his life?

A. Not then. I found out much later.

45

Q. From what you know, and I'm asking you about what your knowledge of him and his background, do you think he was a person in 1985 who might have taken his life so far as what you knew--

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A. Not then. Not then no. It was only years after his disappearance that I found out, again through Vincent that would have found out through Jacques, that he had two attempts of - going to suicide twice.

55

Q. But certainly nothing that he said or did--

A. No.

Q. --in the time that he disappeared led you to believe that that might have been a possibility--

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A. Absolutely not and as I said before Gilles was a very reserved person and I don't think he would have ever mentioned that to anyone.

5 Q. Can I ask you, once again based on your knowledge of Gilles, do you know of any reason why he might want to disappear from your knowledge of him why he might want to just drop out and leave where he was living?

A. No.

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Q. Relationship problems, debts, anything?

A. No.

CORONER: Mr Saidi, do you have questions of this witness?

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SAIDI: No your Worship.

CORONER: Q. Mr Hubert, it's not an easy thing for anyone to come and give evidence at an inquest but I thank you so much for involving yourself in the matter. You understand every little bit of evidence, information can assist us because it can all be brought together and we get some idea of the last moments of his life. It's very difficult with your friend because of the unusual circumstances and 1985 and the fact that he was under - he was under some pressure, wasn't he, as you said--

25

A. Exactly.

Q. --about his visa and his current status in this country. Do you think it's possible that he could have taken his own life given the unusual behaviour that you say you witnessed towards the end?

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A. Only because now I know that he had two attempts of committing suicide before that I have to say yes, otherwise no. If I didn't know that I have no reason to think so.

35

Q. So hearing that he had earlier attempts when he was younger that has really surprised you because he didn't appear to be that sort of person to you?

40

A. No that's right.

Q. Mr Hubert, thank you so much for your attendance here today. Now you are free to leave the witness box. If you want to remain while your friends give evidence by all means do that but thank you so much for involving yourself?

45

A. Thank you.

50 <WITNESS RETIRED AND EXCUSED

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