



NSW POLICE SERVICE

STATEMENT OF A POLICE WITNESS

In the matter of:	Inquest into the death of John Alan RUSSELL
Place:	██████████ Hornsby Heights, NSW, 2077
Date:	29 May, 2002

Name:	CAMERON Carlton Graeme	Tel. No:	██████████
--------------	------------------------	-----------------	------------

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 in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 58 years of age.
3. I am a retired member of the New South Wales Police Force, which I joined in August, 1964. I retired in February, 2001. I had performed Crime Scene Operations Branch duties since 1967. I was located at Grafton between 1968 and 1987 when I returned to Sydney and was attached to the Sydney Crime Scene Section, which is located in the Sydney Police Centre at Surry Hills. Between 1987 and 1998 I was the Zone Supervisor for the Sydney / East Sydney Zone Crime Scene Section, which provided at Forensic examination service for the CBD and Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. During this period I have carried out the full gambit of crime scene investigation duties. I have examined hundreds of crime and incident scenes including unknown cause of death investigations.
4. At 1115 hours on the 23 November, 1989 I arrived with Detective Senior Constable M.A. RIVERA at an area on the concrete walkway in Marks Park opposite 70 Fletcher Street, Bondi. This walkway started in the North at Bondi beach and travelled South East along the top of the cliff face towards Mackenzies Point and then South towards Tamarama Beach. There was no electrical lighting for the walkway and no guardrail or safety fence in this area. There was a set of steps going uphill to the south to a higher level of the Marks Park. The Northern boundary of the walkway consisted variably of flat rocks, green vegetation and raised rock surfaces and in places lower grassed surfaces before the edge of the cliff face. In places the cliff face was basically vertical to the rock shelf below and in other places there were protruding rocks between the walkway and the rock shelf. On arrival we spoke to Constable Mick BARRETT and other General Duty Police and Detectives. It was a fine and sunny day. Whilst at this location a number of photographs of the area were taken and a variety of measurements recorded. We then walked to the rock shelf where we saw the body of a deceased male, who was later identified to me as John Alan RUSSELL.
5. The deceased was lying face down with most of his body in a slight depression in the rock surface. There was water in the depression and the clothing of the deceased was wet in its lower areas. The deceased was fully clothed and had gym boots on. There was blood in the water area surrounding the lower parts of his body. There were no other signs of trauma to the body apart from those inflicted in the fall. The left arm of the deceased was straight and under the body at chest height. The right arm was extended straight out from the shoulder and bent at the elbow with the hand pointing in the same direction as the head. Both legs were together and straight out and pointed away from the body in a Northerly direction. There was no watch or

Witness:

John Hill
JOHN HILL A/INSP
23470 29-5-02

Signature:

C.G. Cameron
C.G. CAMERON

Statement of Carlton Graeme CAMERON
In the matter of Inquest into the death of John Alan RUSSELL

rings on the deceased. There were no signs of foreign damage to any of the clothing. Rigor had commenced and lividity was correct for the location in which the body was found.

6. Lying around the body were 5 coins. 9.9m away was a blue cigarette lighter and 7.6m away under the cliff face was a cigarette packet. 2.64 m from the head of the deceased was an empty Coca Cola bottle lying on top of the large rock, whose southwest corner was about 1.3m from the waist of the deceased. The head of the deceased was 1.34m to the North, or away from, the prolongation of the northern most edge of the cliff face immediately above the position of the deceased. In this area the concrete walkway was 12.75m above the rock shelf. If these items were in the possession of the deceased when he went over the cliff, they, in my opinion would have had to have been in his hands. If they had been in his pockets they would have been unlikely to have come out of his pockets. On the top surface of the deceased's left hand just to the rear of the right index finger joint with the hand were a number of small hairs adhering to his skin. All these items of interest were photographed and collected. The body was moved and clothing searched at 1210hrs. In the right rear hip pocket was a National Australia Bank card wallet, transaction book and transaction slip. The body was removed from the scene at 1230hrs.
7. We returned to the walkway area above where the deceased was found and took further photographs. There were no signs of disturbance, interference or trauma in this area, which was examined carefully for about 25 m each side of where the deceased was found. The walkway from this area to Bondi Beach was walked over and nothing unusual was found. The area East towards the Mackenzies Point was also walked over and nothing unusual found. In the area above where the deceased was found, there were no scratch marks, shoe sole marks or scuff marks on the concrete surface of the walkway or on the exposed rock surfaces of the rock ledge on the Northern ocean side or on the inland or Southern side of the walkway. In one area between the walkway and the cliff edge where there was vegetation growing there was a small amount of damage to the vegetation. In my opinion this could only have occurred if one person were to walk in that area. In the area above the deceased 's location the vegetation was 800mm high, then there was 350mm in height of exposed rock which formed the edge and then a direct distance of 11.6m to the rock shelf below, making in a total fall of 12.75m.
8. There was nothing in the area of the walkway above the location of the deceased on the rock shelf below to indicate how, why or by what means the deceased left the walkway and finished up on the rock shelf. If the fall had occurred at night, as has been established, it could have been possible to have walked off or by being disorientated, walk off the walkway in the dark. It could have been possible to run off the walkway in the dark, if disorientated or being chased. It could have been possible to have being 'skylarking' in the dark and falling. It could also have been possible, that, if walking, jogging, running or being chased down the stairs from the upper level of Marks Park and coming to the walkway and turning left with the intention of heading towards Bondi that one could leave the walkway surface.
9. I PRODUCE COPIES OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN.


 JOHN HILL / A/INSP
 23470 29-5-02



Witness: _____

Signature: _____

C.G.CAMERON