

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: MAJOR CRIME SQUAD, SOUTH

CORONIAL INQUEST - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: 5 JUNE 1995

Name: ANTONIO POLITO,

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: SPECIAL CRIME UNIT, MAJOR CRIME SQUAD, SOUTH

Occupation: DETECTIVE SERGEANT OF POLICE.

States:-

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. My age is 39

3. During the course of the investigation into the murder of [REDACTED], I conducted inquiries at all inner city hostels, concerning possible suspects for the murder.

4. About 3pm on the 1st June 1994, Captain Cliff RANDALL, Hostel manager of the John IRWIN lodge (Salvation Army), situated in Crown Street Surry Hills, contacted me regarding a person by the name of [NP127]. Captain RANDALL stated that [NP127] fitted the description of a person (suspect) we were looking for, who frequented The Oasis Centre, Oasis Lane, Surry Hills. He also stated that [NP127] used to wear his hair in a ponytail, but had recently shaved his head and had a pair of heavy boots, similar to what investigators were looking for. Captain RANDALL could not indicate what tread pattern was on the boots. He also indicated that [NP127] was a violent person and would be capable of inflicting the injuries sustained by the victim.

Witness: _____



Signature: _____



STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: CORONIAL INQUEST - [REDACTED]

Name: ,

5. About 4.30pm on the 1st June 1995, in company with Detective STANLEY, I went to the Oasis refuge, situated in Oasis Lane Surry Hills, where I spoke with Anthony HOOK, a caretaker at the refuge. I asked HOOK if [REDACTED] NP127 was present at the refuge and he said, "He's in the shower, he won't be a minute why do you want to talk to him for." I said, "I want to speak to him about the murder that happened at Surry Hills". HOOK then started walking towards the shower and I said, "I'll go and see him". I then walked into the shower area and saw a male person getting dressed I said, "Are you [REDACTED] NP127". He said, "Yeah." I said, "I'm Detective POLITO, where making inquiries into the murder of [REDACTED] which occurred at Surry Hills, on the 16 April 1994. Do you know anything about it." He said, "No, why would I."

6. [REDACTED] NP127 then finished dressing and we walked out into the main area of the refuge, where I noticed he was wearing runners. I said, "Would you mind coming to Surry Hills Police Station, so we can ask you some further questions and interview you in relation to this matter." He said, "What now." I said, "Yes." The social worker, Anthony HOOK then said to [REDACTED] NP127, "You don't have to go, you're not under arrest, they can interview you here if they want." I then said to HOOK, "This matter has nothing to do with you." [REDACTED] NP127 said, "Am I under arrest." I said, "Certainly not, we only want to speak to you at this stage." He said, "Can't we do this here." I said, "No not really we haven't got the facilities here." He said, "You can ask me some questions now and I will come down to the Police Station tomorrow morning."

7. Whilst speaking with [REDACTED] NP127, I noticed that he was becoming agitated and not wanting to upset him any further I agreed to his request and spoke to briefly in the presents of

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Name: ,

HOOK. HOOK has entries for drug matters and armed robberies.

8. I said, "What is your full name."

He said, "[REDACTED] NP127".

I said, "What is your date of birth."

He said, "[REDACTED]".

I said, "Have you got any identification with you."

He said, "No, only my Commonwealth bank card."

I said, "Are you working at the moment."

He said, "No, I'm on Social Security Benefits."

I said, "How do you collect it."

He said, "It goes straight into my Commonwealth Bank Savings Account."

I said, "Where are you living at the moment."

He said, "No where in particular, I've been living on the streets for the last couple of years. I mostly sleep around Museum railway station, in Hyde Park."

I said, "Any where else."

He said, "Some of the refuges around the city."

I said, "Which ones."

He said, "The Opposition at Kings Cross, Swanton Lodge and here at the Oasis, but I have been banned from here."

I said, "What for."

He said, "Being rude to some of the staff and they reckon I sprayed graffiti in here."

I said, "What are you doing here now."

He said, "Just to have a shower and I was going."

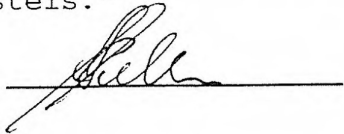
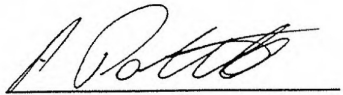
I said, "when was the last time you stayed at Swanton Lodge."

He said, "I can't really remember, it was on and off."

I said, "How often did you stay at Swanton Lodge."

He said, "I can't remember, on and off."

I said, "Did you use any other name when registering in city Hostels."

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Name: ,

He paused and said, "No."

I said, "Did you know about the murder of [REDACTED], at Surry Hills."

He said, "Yeah John, the manager here told me."

I said, "When was that."

He said, "The other day, I can't remember when."

I said, "Was there anyone else present when he mentioned it."

He said, "No, I don't think so."

I said, "Can you tell me your movements on the evening of the 15th and the early hours of the 16th April 1994."

He said, "No, that was a while ago, I can't remember."

I said, "When did you shave your head."

He said, "Two or three weeks ago."

I said, "Why did you shave your head."

He said, "No reason."

I said, "How long was it before."

He said, "Around shoulder length, what's with all the questions."

I said, "Do you have a watch."

He said, "No."

I said, "Do you have a wallet."

He said, "No."

I said, "Well how about we finish this tomorrow."

He said, "Yeah might be better."



I said, "Just one more, what places do you frequent, around the city."

He said, "Taxi club, and the Court House Hotel."

I said, "We'll leave you with it and see you in the morning, just ask for me."

He said, "Yeah, see you then."

I then left the Hostel and returned to Surry Hills Police Station.

Witness: Signature: 

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: CORONIAL INQUEST - [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED]

9. On the 2nd June 1994, [NP127] didn't keep his appointment nor did he attend Surry Hills Police Station on the 3rd. [NP127] was then circulated as wanted for interview, concerning the murder of [REDACTED]. [NP127] was also wanted for questioning concerning the murder of Crispin DYE, which occurred on the 26 December 1993.
10. After several attempts, I spoke with John DREW, manager of the Oasis Centre who stated that he had never spoken to [NP127] about the SEYMOUR murder and vaguely knew him. Mr DREW stated that there was another person called John that worked at the Centre, John MERGLER the programs co-ordinator and would inquire with him.
11. On the 7 July 1995 I spoke with John MERGLER, who also stated that he had never spoken to [NP127] regarding the SEYMOUR murder. MERGLER indicated that although he wasn't registered at the centre, he was in the area around the time of the murder, as he took some programs (outings) at the end of March and 2 days in May (1994) with him.
12. [NP127] has also stated that he has stayed at Swanton lodge, Surry Hills on a number of occasions. Inquiries conducted with Darren O'BRIEN, a manager at the Hostel revealed that name [NP127] was not registered at the hostel, nor did anyone by that name stay at the hostel on the weekend commencing the 16 April 1994.
13. On the 31 January 1995, I went to premises situated at 339 Crown Street City, where I spoke with [1349] a caretaker at the Oasis Hostel. [1349] stated that he was working as a caretaker at the Oasis Hostel and most of the youths confided in him.

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Name: ,

He said that around the 15 April 1994, [NP127] was staying at the Oasis Hostel. On the 16th or 17th April 1994 [NP127] seemed very shaken and very agitated. [I349] was apparently told that [NP127] was involved in the murder of [REDACTED] and that he had shaved his head because there was a witness. [I349] indicated that [NP127] was fairly violent and capable of killing someone. He also owned a pair of steel capped boots. [I349] was not prepared to tell me who gave him this information, but will accompany him to the police station the following week. At the time [I349] was well affected by intoxicating liquor and seemed agitated. [I349] is an alcoholic and I didn't put much credence in his information, nor did he make contact with the alleged informant.

14. On the 28 June 1995 I contacted [I349], although he could not recall who gave him the information regarding [NP127]. He maintains that he was told the information, but due to his intoxication could not remember who the person was.

15. On Tuesday the 24 January 1995, as a result of the warnings placed on [NP127], I was contacted by Detective NICOLAU of the Midlands C.I.B. Perth. He informed me that they had arrested [NP127] for Rape and as a result of inquiries became aware he was wanted in Sydney. He also stated that [NP127] could not meet his bail and was presently in custody at Canning Vale Correctional Centre. At the time of his arrest, [NP127] was residing at [REDACTED] BeachBoro, Perth.

16. On the 1st February 1995, in company with Detective Sergeant KNIGHT, I travelled to Perth with I conferred with Detective NICOLAU concerning the arrest of [NP127] and property in his possession.

Witness: _____



Signature: _____



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Name: [REDACTED]

In company with Detective NICOLAU and KNIGHT, I went to the Midlands C.I.B. where I perused some documents. Arrangements were then made with authorities at Canning Vale Correctional Centre, to interview [NP127] on the 2 February 1995.

17. About 11.45am on the 2 February 1995, In company with Detective NICOLAU and O'ROURKE from the Midlands C.I.B and Detective Sergeant KNIGHT I went to [REDACTED] Beachboro where I spoke with [I123], born [REDACTED] and his family (aboriginal), concerning his knowledge of [NP127]. [I123] stated that he met [NP127] on his birthday, after his brother [REDACTED] met him at the local bus stop and brought him home. [I123] stated that his brother [REDACTED] told him that [NP127] was doing assault and robs around the Kings Cross and city area and that was the reason he moved to Perth. [I123] stated that he stayed a couple of nights but didn't have much to do with him, although he was of the opinion that [NP127] was capable of doing anything.

18. We also spoke to [REDACTED], born [REDACTED] in the presents of his mother [I351] and sister [REDACTED]. [I351] stated that she regularly took in street kids. [REDACTED] was very reticent to discuss [NP127], but stated that [NP127] had told him about several armed robberies he had done in the Sydney area, although he could not elaborate. [REDACTED] further stated that [NP127] told him that he was involved in a couple of stabbings regarding gang fights and was supposedly a member of the L.B.I (Lebanese Beef Injection). [NP127] also stated that someone had been badly hurt in a gang fight around christmas, but could not elaborate. [REDACTED] was told by [NP127] that he was living in the Sydney area with gang mates and was presently selling speed in Perth. Whilst in perth he was also residing [REDACTED] Lockridge.

Witness: [REDACTED]

Signature: [REDACTED]

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Name: ,

[REDACTED] also stated that [NP127] had a girlfriend by the name of [REDACTED], who resided close by. He also recalled him having a black fold type wallet.

19. A short time later [REDACTED] accompanied police to [REDACTED] Beachboro, where he nominated number [REDACTED] as premises of [REDACTED], [NP127]'s girlfriend.

20. Both [I123] and [REDACTED] declined to provide a statement, indicating they were frightened of [NP127]. The family appeared to be responsible and co-operative.

[I351] stated that she would speak to her son [REDACTED] and if there was anything further she would contact investigators. To date she has not made contact with investigators.

21. About 2.15pm on the 2 February 1995, in company with the same Detectives I went to [REDACTED] Beachboro, where we spoke with [REDACTED], born [REDACTED] and her mother [I350]. [REDACTED] stated that she first met [NP127] around May or June (1994) and had apparently been in Perth for about 4 months. He travelled over by bus and was seated next to a male person by the name of [REDACTED], who resided in [REDACTED] Beachboro. She also stated that [NP127] had resided with her family for about a month, but had since moved out. His general dress was red jeans and tops and he sometimes wore a baseball cap, with Nike runners. He had his head shaved at the sides with 5 long plats. He possessed a black leather wallet, but didn't own a watch.

22. She was also told by [REDACTED], whom [NP127] had befriended, that when he arrived from N.S.W, his head was shaved and wearing a long trench coat, but since his arrival he had changed his dress and adopted the local trend.

Witness: [Signature]Signature: [Signature]

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Name: ,

[NP127] had apparently told [REDACTED], that he had been doing armed robberies in Sydney and bashing Homosexuals and taking their property. He also stated that he worked in a pizza place and one night broke in and took some money, although she could not elaborate any further. He also stated that he was wanted in Sydney for armed robberies and traffic matters and was in a gang called the United Tongan brothers. Inquiries revealed that [NP127] has several outstanding commitment warrants.

23. [REDACTED] also stated that [NP127] told her that he had stabbed someone and bragged about bashing people in Sydney. Whilst [NP127] was staying with [REDACTED] witnessed him assault people on two different occasions and was always aggressive.

24. [I350] was also spoken to and stated that [NP127] told her that he was physically and sexually abused by his father. He has been living on the street since he was 12 years, to avoid the abuse. [I350] also verified that [NP127] had resided with her family for a period of a month and then moved into a flat in [REDACTED] Lockridge, Perth. He was unemployed and always talked about bashing people in Sydney. Whilst [NP127] was residing with the [REDACTED], [I350] over heard parts of several telephone conversations, such as "Don't tell them where I am, I haven't done anything."

25. The [REDACTED]'s were very co-operative, although like the [REDACTED] family they declined to make statements, indicating they fear for their safety.

26. On the afternoon of the 2 February 1995, I had a conversation with Robert GOMES, of Torrens Real Estate, Perth, concerning [REDACTED], Lockridge.

Witness: [Signature]Signature: [Signature]

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: CORONIAL INQUEST [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED]

GOMES told me that [NP127] was residing there and behind in his rent. He was of the opinion that [NP127] had left, although no one from the Real Estate had been to the flat, nor had it been re leased. A short time later I went to [REDACTED] Lockridge where I was met by Mr GOMES. He then opened unit [REDACTED] and accompanied me through the unit. The unit was empty and nothing of any note was located.

27. About 3.45pm on the 2 February 1995, I went to [REDACTED] Beachboro where I spoke with [REDACTED], born [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] declined to make a statement or sign anything fearing reprisals, but said he would answer our questions. [REDACTED] stated that he was travelling home to Perth, from Pacific Palms and stayed overnight in Adelaide. When he got back on the bus (around 20/6/94) the following morning, [NP127] was already on the bus. He was wearing Jeans, big green jacket and a pair of lace up boots. [NP127] told [REDACTED] that he was living in the Kings Cross area and always involved in bashings and he had heard that [NP127] whilst in Perth has been involved in a few fights, but could elaborate.

28. [REDACTED] could not recall if [NP127] was wearing a watch and thought he had a brown leather wallet. On arriving in Perth [REDACTED] stated he had nothing to do with [NP127] and described him as a big noter.

29. About 10am on Friday the 3 February 1995, in company with Detective KNIGHT, NICOLAU and O'ROURKE I went to the Canning Vale Correctional Centre, where I conferred with David Lewis. I then went to a reception area, where in the presents of prison authorities I searched [NP127]'S property, but to no avail.

Witness: [REDACTED]Signature: [REDACTED]

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: CORONIAL INQUEST

Name: [REDACTED]

30. About 10.45am that same day, with Detective Sergeant KNIGHT I went to an interview room at the Correctional Centre. A short time later [NP127] was brought into the interview room, where I said to him, "How are you David, do you remember me, I'm Detective POLITO and this is Detective Sergeant Knight." He said, "I remember, you were at the Oasis." I said, "As you know I'm making some inquiries about the murder of Stephen SEYMOUR and Detective KNIGHT wants to ask you some questions about the murder Crispin DYE." He then shook his head, sighed and said, "What about." I said, "Would you participate in a record on interview." He said, "No I'm not doing any statements or signing anything." I said, "Is there any reason." He said, "My solicitor told me not to." I said, "I can get you a solicitor if you want one." He said, "No don't worry about it." I said, "Do you mind if we ask you some questions then." He said, "No, but I'm not signing anything." I said, "Well I'll tell you, you don't have to say anything if you don't want to, as anything you say may later be used in evidence. Do you understand that." He said, "Yeah, you're wasting your time hear, I didn't do anything." I said, "Why didn't you keep your appointment, after we spoke to you on the 1st June 1994 at Surry Hills." He said, "I was worried you would arrest me for my train fine." I said, "If I was going to arrest you, I would have arrested you at Surry Hills when I first spoke to you." He said, "I didn't know what you were going to do that's why I came here." I said, "It was a fairly rash move, just for a train fine." He made no reply. I said, "When did you travel over."

Witness: [Signature]Signature: [Signature]

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Name: [REDACTED]

He said, "Around the middle of June, I'm not sure."

I said, "When did you arrive."

He said, "A couple of days later, I'm not sure, it was a while ago."

I said, "How did you travel to Perth."

He said, "By bus."

I said, "Which coach line was it."

He said, "Greyhound."

I said, "Where did you stay in Perth."

He said, "On the street and at friends places."

I said, "Who are these friends."

He said, "Don't want to say."

I said, "Have you any more clothes apart from what you have here."

He said, "I had some clothes and boots I gave to [1352]."

I said, "Who is [1352]."

He said, "[1352], he went back to Sydney, I don't know where."

I said, "How were you going to find him."

He said, "It wouldn't be hard, he'll be around town."

I said, "What size shoe do you take."

He said, "About size 10."

I said, "What size were the boots."

He said, "9 or 10."

I said, "What brand are they."

He said, "Don't know, what's with the shoes."

I said, "What other clothes did you give him."

He said, "Usual things I can't remember, it was a while ago."

I said, "Why did you give him these things to take back to Sydney."

He said, "No reason, he was going back and he needed some clothes."

Witness: [Signature]Signature: [Signature]

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Name: ,

31. I also noticed that [NP127] was not wearing a watch and had a black leather fold type wallet.

I said, "Why did you cut your hair when you were in Sydney."

He said, "I didn't like it, so I cut it."

I said, "Can you tell me your movements on the 16 April 1994."

He said, "How would I know, I can't remember that far back."

I said, "Were you around the city area."

He said, "I told you I can't remember, how much longer are we going to be."

I said, "Not much longer, have you been involved in any fights in Sydney."

He said, "No not really."

I said, "We have been told different."

He said, "Who by."

I said, "A few people have told us that you have been bragging about bashing people, what can you tell me about that."



He said, "Nothing, who told you that crap."

I said, "Do you know anyone by the name of [I132] or [REDACTED]."

He then paused shook his head and said, "They're fucking lying. Fuck this, that's all I want to say about it."

- * 32. Detective Sergeant KNIGHT then commenced to have a conversation with [NP127] concerning the murder of Crispin DYE. During the conversation [NP127] became agitated and said, "If I'm going to answer any more questions, I want my solicitor here. If you want to charge me, charge me."
I said, "Settle down I'll see if I can get him."

33. I then left the interview room and had a conversation with Detective O'ROURKE and NICOLAU from the Midlands C.I.B. concerning [NP127]'s solicitor.

Witness: Signature: 

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Name: [REDACTED]

A short time later Detective Sergeant KNIGHT came out of the interview room and said, "Don't worry about it he wants to go." I then walked back to the interview room and [NP127] said, "I'm going I've had enough." He then left the interview and went back to the main gaol. I then conferred with authorities and left the complex.

34. [NP127] does fit the description of the suspect and is capable of inflicting the injuries sustained by the victim, although he wears a size 10 boot. Investigators are looking for a size 12 or 13. No property belonging to the victim was located with [NP127]. I also feel that if [NP127] had committed this crime he would have told his acquaintances in Perth, considering his bragging about different bashings he has committed in the past.

35. In regards to the Statement by [I349], I place very little credence in the information he gave and feel he was motivated by the \$100,000.00 reward. [I349] indicated that [NP127] stayed at the Oasis Centre on the 15th, 16th and 17th of April 1994. Inquiries conducted with John DREW, manager of the Oasis revealed that nobody by the name of [NP127] was registered at the Oasis Centre on those days.

36. On Wednesday the 5 July 1995, I had a conversation with [REDACTED] born [REDACTED], at the Major Crime Squad Office at Strawberry Hills. [REDACTED] is [I352]'s girlfriend and both are residing at [REDACTED] Dulwich Hill. About 11.30am that same day I accompanied [REDACTED] to her home, where she allowed me to look through the flat. She then pointed out the boots [NP127] gave [I352], whilst in Perth. The boots were a size 10 and had a different sole pattern to what investigators are looking for.

Witness: [Signature]Signature: [Signature]