



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: 30/10/2007

Statement of

Name of witness: CORNISH, Scott [redacted]

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: _____

Police officer taking statement

Name of police officer: CORNISH, Scott [redacted]

Rank: Senior Constable Reg. no.: 6118

Region/Command/Division: Operations Support Command Station: Diving Squad

Statement:

1. I am a Senior Constable of Police currently stationed at the Queensland Police Diving Squad, Brisbane. I have been a member of the Queensland Police Service for a period of approximately 21 years. I hold a level 2 Commercial Diving Accreditation and have been a member of the Diving Squad for approximately 8 years.

2. I recall that sometime in the middle of 2006 I had telephone conversations and meetings with Detective Sergeant Gary CAMPBELL of Townsville Criminal Investigation Branch in relation to a proposed diving deployment at the Yongala shipwreck situated off Townsville.

3. I recall that on Monday the 18th of September 2006. On this date I travelled from the Queensland Police Diving Squad office at Wynnum via Police Air Wing to Townsville with other members of the Diving Squad namely Sergeant Adam REID, Sergeant Owen LAW, Senior Constable Robert JAMES, Constable Chris O'BRIEN and Constable Stephen DOYLE. A Mr Wade Singleton also accompanied Dive Squad members on this airlift and through out this deployment.

4. Upon arrival at the Townsville Airport I took up with Senior Constable Joshua KINGHORN and Constable Ricky MURDOCH and all members were transported to the Customs vessel Dame Roma Mitchell which was berthed at the Townsville Port area. All diving equipment was packed and stowed

(Witness's signature)

L. Dudd

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Police officer's signature)



CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: CORNISH, Scott Selby

on board this vessel and numerous discussions were had between the Customs Officers and Police Dive Squad members.

5. At about 7.30am on Wednesday the 20th of September 2006 the Customs vessel departed Townville Port with all Dive Squad members onboard including Wayne SINGLETON, Detective Gary CAMPBELL and Sergeant Wayne OLDHAM of Queensland Police Photographic Section.

6. At about 9.20am on that day we arrived on site at the Yongala shipwreck and a pre dive operational/safety briefing was subsequently conducted and individual taskings allocated. This diving deployment was conducted over 3 consecutive days up until its conclusion on Friday the 22nd of September 2006. This diving deployment was subsequently recorded by KINGHORN on a Dive Running Sheet at the completion of each task undertaken by the diver.

7. I was tasked that day to descend down Diver Access Point 2 onto and nearby the shipwreck to take photographic 'still' image on a Cannon Powershot A75 compact digital camera with housing, of the taskings performed by previous divers.

8. At 1.22pm on Wednesday the 20th of September 2006, I descended from the surface at the Diver Access Point, in company with REID, to the bow of the shipwreck. I then conducted a random survey of the top deck of the wreck along the heritage line, the starboard bow seabed area which had numerous underwater photo makers placed and returned back to the heritage line to the DAP.

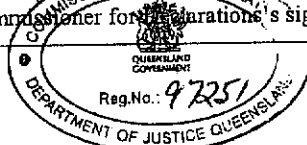
9. During this dive I took a series of 20 photographs on the Cannon Digital camera of the DAP 2 line, the underwater 'heritage' line and numerous underwater photo markers which lay on the seabed on the starboard side bow area of the wreck. Please refer to the Dive Running Sheet for details of these photographs.

10. The depth of this water when taking these photographs lay between approximately 15 metres and 28 metres and I found visibility to be between 10 and 20 metres at different times. The Dive Supervisor for this dive was MURDOCH.

(Witness's signature)

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L. Ould
(Justice of the Peace (Qual.))/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)



(Police officer's signature)

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: CORNISH, Scott Selby

11. I then completed my tasking and at about 1.37pm that day I left bottom and arrived at surface at 1.48pm completing the dive. I then returned to the Customs vessel and I had a conversation with KINGHORN who recorded the details of my dive on the Dive Running Sheet.

12. On Thursday the 21st day of September 2006 I was tasked that day to descend down Diver Access Point 2 onto the shipwreck to take photographic 'still' image of the underwater 'heritage' line, KINGHORN and LAW conducting a simulation of diver's 'flight' path, 'bear hug' simulation and 'drift' exercise.

13. At 11.12am on that day, I descended from the surface at the Diver Access Point, in company with REID, KINGHORN, LAW and SINGLETON to the bow of the shipwreck.

14. During this dive I observed KINGHORN and LAW swim along the heritage line and then KINGHORN being placed in a 'bear' hug by LAW in a depth of approximately 15 metres. I then observed KINGHORN and LAW swim along the heritage line towards the stern of the wreck, then turn around and return along the heritage line facing towards the DAP and then commence a motionless 'drift'.

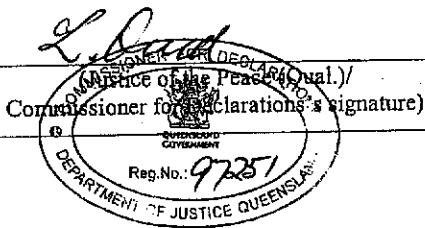
15. I observed KINGHORN drift from the heritage line downwards into a cargo hold of the wreck. I then observed LAW swim down to KINGHORN who remained stationary and then LAW swim from this location to marker number 1 with a measuring tape stretched out.

16. I then observed KINGHORN and LAW repeat this 'drift' exercise with again KINGHORN landing in the cargo hold of the wreck.

17. I then observed KINGHORN swim over to the marker number 1 and lay motionless at this location.

18. During this dive I took a series of 15 photographs on the Cannon Digital camera of this dive. Please refer to the Dive Running Sheet for details of these photographs.

(Witness's signature)



(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: CORNISH, Scott Selby

19. The depth of this water when taking these photographs lay between approximately 15 metres and 28 metres and I found visibility to be between 10 and 15 metres at different times. The Dive Supervisor for this dive was MURDOCH.

20. I then completed my tasking and at about 11.27am that day I left bottom and arrived at surface at 11.35am completing the dive. I then returned to the Customs vessel and I had a conversation with KINGHORN who recorded the details of my dive on the Dive Running Sheet.

21. On Friday the 22nd day of September 2006 I was tasked that day to descend down Diver Access Point 2 onto the shipwreck to take photographic 'still' image of a drift exercise from the bow, a bear hug simulation, a drift exercise 10 metres perpendicular from bow and Diver laying at underwater photo marker number 1.

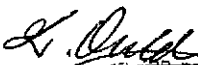
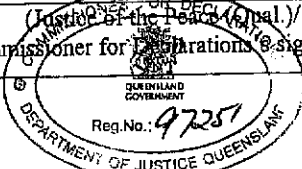
22. At 10.56am on that day, I descended from the surface at the Diver Access Point, in company with REID, KINGHORN, LAW and SINGLETON to the bow of the shipwreck.

23. I then observed KINGHORN and LAW swim to the side bow of the wreck in a depth of approximately 15 metres. I then observed KINGHORN commence a motionless 'drift' from this location and land on the seabed below off the starboard side of the wreck only a short distance from underwater photo marker number 1.

24. I then observed LAW swim down to KINGHORN who remained stationary and then LAW swim from this location to marker number 1 with a measuring tape stretched out.

25. I then observed KINGHORN and LAW return back up to the bow of the wreck and I took up with them at this location. LAW then handed me the 'dumb' end of the measuring tape and both KINGHORN and LAW swam out perpendicular from the bow approximately 10 metres with the measuring tape stretched out to LAW.

(Witness's signature)


(Justice of the Peace (Qual.))
Commissioner for Registrations & signature)



(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: CORNISH, Scott Selby

26. I then observed LAW place KINGHORN in a bear hug and soon after I observed KINGHORN repeat a 'drift' exercise again with KINGHORN landing on the seabed below off the starboard side of the wreck only a short distance from marker number 1.

27. I then observed LAW swim down to KINGHORN who remained stationary and then LAW swim from this location to marker number 1 with a measuring tape stretched out.

28. I then observed KINGHORN and LAW swim along the heritage line towards the stern of the wreck, then turn around and return along the heritage line facing towards the DAP and then commence a motionless 'drift'.

29. I observed KINGHORN drift from the heritage line downwards into a cargo hold of the wreck close to the spot where he landed the 1st day). I then observed LAW swim down to KINGHORN who remained stationary and then LAW swim from this location to marker number 1 with a measuring tape stretched out.

30. I then observed KINGHORN swim over to the marker number 1 and lay motionless at this location.

31. During this time I took a series of 26 photographs on the Cannon Digital camera. Please refer to the Dive Running Sheet for details of these photographs.

32. The depth of this water when taking these photographs lay between approximately 15 metres and 28 metres and I found visibility to be between 10 and 15 metres at different times. The Dive Supervisor for this dive was MURDOCH.

33. I then completed my tasking and at about 11.13am that day I left bottom and arrived at surface at 11.26am completing the dive. I then returned to the Customs vessel and I had a conversation with KINGHORN who recorded the details of my dive on the Dive Running Sheet. I also had a conversation with Sgt Wayne OLDHAM and Detective Gary CAMPBELL in relation to the underwater photography.

(Witness's signature)

L. Ould
(Justice of the Peace (J.P.))
Commissioner for Declarations & signature)

(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: CORNISH, Scott Selby

34. I then assisted with other miscellaneous duties and tasks and I then took no further action in relation to this matter

Scott [REDACTED] CORNISH

Senior Constable 6118

Oaths Act Declaration

OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I Scott [REDACTED] CORNISH do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 30/10/07 and contained in pages numbered 1 to page 6 number is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867

.....Signature

Taken and declared before me at BRISBANE
this 30th day of OCTOBER 2007

Witness

Justice of the Peace /
Commissioner of Declarations
Other (Please State)

(Witness's signature)

L. Duda
(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

[REDACTED]
(Police officer's signature)

