

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q1 This is an electronically recorded interview between Senior Constable David Upston and Fenwick James Thompson, on Monday the 28th of the 6th, '99, at Quinmarine, Adelaide in South Australia. The time on my watch is now 3.24pm. And also present is Detective Senior Constable Stuart Gray, from Bega Detectives, and Detective Senior Constable Rob Beattie, from the Adelaide CIB. Your name is to be known as Fen, is

- - -

A That's correct.

Q2 O.K, Fen, for the purpose of the interview, could you please state your full name?

A Yeah, Fenwick James Thompson.

Q3 And your date of birth?

A 7th of February, 1939.

Q4 And your address?

A 18 Farriers Way, Woodcroft, South Australia, 5162.

Q5 O.K. Fen, for the purpose of the interview, I've mentioned to you earlier that Detective Senior Constable Gray and I are making inquiries into the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. And, in particular, what brings us here to Adelaide is the vessel Stand Aside and its life raft. Could you please mention your occupation?

A I am the manager of the shipping department and since December, manager of the life raft department.

Q6 O.K. And where's that employed? At here?

A Yeah - - -

Q7 At this address in -?

A At Quin Marine, at 77-89 St Vincent Street, Port Adelaide.

Q8 O.K. And how long have you been employed at this -?

A Three years.

Q9 Three years. O.K. So, I'll bring your attention now to some documentation which is an invoice. Could you please explain that?

A The invoice is from RFD Australia, in Melbourne. It is for a life raft, Pacific six person, AYF, serial number W0050.

Q10 O.K. And what was the purpose of this invoice?

A It was ordered by the owner of Stand Aside for use in the Sydney to Hobart race.

Q11 O.K. And you were approached by the, by the owner of Stand Aside and he in fact ordered that life raft from you?

A That's correct.

Q12 O.K. And you then contacted who?

A Our purchasing department and we forwarded a, a order number and a purchase order to RFD Australia, in Melbourne.

Q13 O.K. And that's this purchase order, which you produce is 030868-30H. Which is a - - -

A That's correct, yeah, that's right.

Q14 It's probably a purchase order?

A Yep.

Q15 O.K.

A Actually, it, it's got OH, is, is Owen Hood.

Q16 Right.

A O.K.

Q17 All right. And the third document that you show me, which is a, a document. Could you explain that, please?

A This is the RFD Australia Certificate, release certificate, for the, Pacific life raft, was purchased.

Q18 Right. And what can you tell me about that certificate?

A (NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

Q19 What does it actually entail?

A O.K. It's a release certificate. It identifies the raft as a Pacific type, capacity six person, a serial number, the date of manufacture, and the length of the painter line.

Q20 All right. And is that in fact the certificate which was issued to the raft from Stand Aside?

A That's correct.

Q21 O.K. Now, with the, the raft, you received that packed?

A Yes.

Q22 Right. And was that altered or any, by any means opened or serviced by - - -

A No.

Q22 - - - by your company here?

A We, we never serviced it - - -

Q23 Prior to the - - -

A - - - but I believe it was packed in a, another case.

Q24 Right. So, what do you mean, "packed in another case"?

A It was taken from the valise and put into a hard case.

Q25 So, the particular life raft comes in a valise?

A Correct.

Q26 And then you - - -

A That's how we bought it, yeah.

Q27 And from my understanding, you took it out of that valise and put it into a hard case.

A That's correct.

Q28 Is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q29 And would that be fibreglass case?

A Correct.

Q30 Right. Is that particular life raft that we're talking about, normally stowed in a valise or a hard case?

A Either.

Q31 Right.

A To my knowledge, either.

Q32 Right. And, in fact was that a request by the owner of the Stand Aside?

A That's correct.

Q33 O.K. Detective Gray, have you got any questions?

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

Q34 The type of life raft concerned, Fen, what type of life raft was it? Can you recall, Fen?

A It's a six person Pacific coastal packed to - - -
Q35 Right.
A - - - AYF.
Q36 Did you at any stage, well, you probably know now, but,
do you recall that that life raft didn't open, as a
result of -?
A I have heard this, yes.
Q37 O.K. As far as the, the packing of the life rafts,
there is a dedicated section in the building - - -
A Correct.
Q37 - - - for this and there's a life raft bay sort of area
is it?
A That's correct, yeah.
Q38 And that's totally used for life raft packing and that
sort of thing?
A That's, that's right.
Q39 Now, you said that, that when the life raft arrived
here it was in a external case, that there was external
casing round it? Fibreglass casing, is that right?
A No. It was in a valise.
Q40 In a valise.
A Yes.
Q41 And that was, the raft was then removed from that
valise, did you say?
A Well, that's what I've been told, yes.
Q42 Right, O.K. Was there any need, from your side of
things, to check that raft, if not requested to do so?
A (NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

Q43 Do you understand what I mean?
A Ah.
Q44 Or is it the situation that you just unpack it and
..... - - -
A And just take it out and put it out of the - - -
Q45 Right, O.K.
A - - - thing and close it, yeah.
Q46 So, is it the case that it's really, there's no need
for you or your staff to look at it -?
A Any further, no.
Q47 Any further?
A No.
Q48 O.K. No, that's all.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q49 With the, with the invoice, there's a purchase price of
\$2,365. Have you actually been paid for that life raft
yet?
A No, no.
Q50 By either party? Either by - - -
A We - - -
Q50 - - - RFD or the owner of Stand Aside?
A RFD haven't charged us for it and we, sorry, I beg your
pardon. RFD charged us for them but we refuse to pay
because our customer refused to pay.
Q51 O.K. So, at this stage the invoice is still
outstanding?
A Ah - - -
Q52 As far as your'e aware?

A It may be outstanding but it's not on our books.

Q53 O.K. And do you intend chasing up the, the invoice payment at all?

A No.

Q54 O.K. Detective Beattie, have you got any questions?

DETECTIVE BEATTIE

No, none at all, thank you.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

Q55 Has, has Mr Hallian come to see you at all, in relation to the life raft?

A No, I've never met the gentleman.

Q56 O.K, then. That's fine.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q57 All right, there's nothing further?

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

No.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q58 Is there anything you wish to ask us that may assist us in our inquiry at all, Fen?

A No, not that I can think of, no - - -

Q59 O.K.

A - - - David.

Q60 All right, the time by my watch is now 3.20, 3.32pm. This interview is now concluded.

INTERVIEW CONCLUDED