

BERMUDA



POLICE

7017

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of.....John Emmanuel AUGUSTUS.....
Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21")...Over 21...Occupation.....Mason.....
Address...Lighthouse Hill.....
.....Southampton.....
..... Phone80043.....

This statement* consisting of.....pages each signed by me, 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.

Dated the...25th.....day of...October.....19.76

Signed.....John Augustus.....
Signature witnessed by.....T. Cassin.Sgt.55.....

I am a Mason by trade and I live at the above address. Prior to 1969, I was working on four lots of land at Granaway Heights, Southampton. I was in business with John W Swan working on a 50-50 basis. I believe sometime in November 1968, Russell L Pearman approached me about some property at White Hill. He said to me, "I have a nice piece of land up Somerset, up by White Hill and it would suit you well". I asked what he would want for it and he said, 18 to 20,000 pounds.

Next day I agreed to go up with him in my car to look at the property. When we got there he showed me the boundaries but there was no stakes there, just wild land. He walked through bushes showing me the area and generally pointing out the boundaries. He seemed to know the layout of the land and did say he was the owner of it. I told him I would like to get the property and would see John Swan as he had my money invested. Pearman said "Okay". I did see John Swan soon after this. John Swan and a man who worked for him, Stanford Richardson went with me to have a look at the property. John said, "Its a good buy, you take it". I went back to Russell Pearman, told him I had spoken to

John Augustus

Signature witnessed by.....T. Cassin....Sgt.55.....

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Continuation of statement of John Emmanuel Augustus.

John Swan and it was okay. Pearman said: " John, I'll have to ^{do} this thing my way.

I said: " What do you mean". He said: "John Swan likes to keep ~~everything~~ everything in his office, so what I'M going to do is make Agent out a bill of sale so I can protect you".

Pearman made out what I thought was a bill of sale made on a yellow sheet of paper, and I took this to John Swan to get him to okay it. John didn't like it and wanted it done at his office in the proper way, but if that's what

Pearman wanted it was okay by him. I did not sign this yellow sheet of paper.

Shortly after this it was arranged that Pearman go to J W Swans' office with me to make the arrangements. I believe there was an agreement made at J.W. Swans office and Russell ~~SWM~~ Pearman said something about leaving £8,000 for a year and he needed money then. John Swan paid him some money by cheque, I don't know how much. I didn't sign any agreement at John Swans' office. I have been shown a Sales agreement (copy) dated 19th February 1969 and it appears to have my signature on it. I did not sign this agreement at Wilkinsons office because

I only went there once and that was on 15th April 1969 . I didn't sign it at John Swans' office because the witness W G Brown was not there when I went to J. Swans' office with Pearman. W G Brown, the witness on this sales agreement is a friend of Russell Pearman and most of the time hangs around Pearmans place

After this meeting at John Swans office a few months later, Pearman asked me to go to Mr Wilkinsons office to sign the conveyance of the property, that's the final sale of the property to me. I remember it was in the morning time and I picked up Pearman and took him to Wilkinsons office on Church Street.

Wilkinson was not there and some papers were brought out by a Chinese looking girl. Pearman signed a conveyance, then I signed, both in the presence
Signed John Augustus Signature witnessed by T. Cassin Sst. 55

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Continuation of statement of John Emmanuel Augustus.

of this lady. I remember space on the conveyance for three(3) people, myself, Pearman and Wilkinson. Only me and Pearman signed. I have been shown a conveyance dated 15th April 1969 and I believe this is the document I signed.

I signed my name John Augustus. I was in the office only ten minutes, I signed only once and the girl kept the papers. I never gave Pearman any money during any part of this transaction. I had no idea that the land belonged to a John Virgil. Pearman told me that he was the owner of the property. He didn't ~~even~~ read the conveyance for sale to me, I just signed. I did know John Virgil but never realized it was his property I was buying from Pearman. Pearman never at anytime showed me any deeds, sales agreements or anything else showing that he owned the property, I accepted that John Swan was dealing as agent for me and he would know this.

When I went to the property there was nothing there. There was no stakes there which would show that the property was divided up, and Pearman did tell me at this time that the property would be divided up into 8 lots. and he gave me an idea where the lots would be on each side of a road which would be built there. The road wasn't there then, the whole area was just a wilderness. I'm sure this was in November and before December 1968, when Pearman approached me and showed me the property. When John Swan went with me to the property that was before Xmas, before anything was put on the land. There ~~was~~ was trees and nothing else.

I would further say that with regard to the sales agreement dated 19th February 1969, I don't remember never signing such agreement because this

Signed John Augustus Signature witnessed by T Cassin Sgt 55.

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man Brown was never present at any time. I do remember the yellow sheet of paper I took to John W Swan. This was a small sheet of yellow paper. On 25th October 1976 I obtained from Peter Smith, Barrister, a copy of Conveyance, dated 21st May 1970 and a sketch plan of the property. I have handed these documents to Sgt, Cassin. I have also handed to Sgt. Cassin a letter (copy) dated April 25th 1969 from Russell Pearman to David E Wilkinson, a letter dated 20th June 1969 from John Swan to Wilkinson, an original agreement between myself and John Swan dated 17th July 1969. Also a document ~~XXXXXXXX~~ dated October 1st 1969, an agreement between John Swan and myself.

On May 21st 1970 an agreement which me and John Swan had about this property was finished and he took complete control of the property for payment, to me, of \$60,000, this was handled by Peter Smiths office. The

The document dated 15th April 1969 (copy conveyance) handed to Sgt. Cassin. I got from D Wilkinsons' office on 22nd October 1976.

I would further say when Mrs Brown contacted me and I went to Wilkinsons office on 22nd October '76 I saw the girl at the office who was present on 15th April 1969. I told her I remembered her but she denied this, saying she wasn't working there at the time. She said I must have made a mistake because these papers must have been done at Appelby Spurling and Kempe. I know she was the lady me and Pearman dealt with on 15th April 1969. this same lady brought out the Conveyance on 22nd October 1976, which she had brought out to me and Pearman on 15th April 1969.

Signed John Augustus. Signature witnessed by T Cassin Sgt 55.