

Jack Picone and John Hurst were driving along Grosvenor Place in a taxi, stopped to take some photographs, actually spoke to the last woman as she went up the ladder, then alerted a police officer whom they saw walking in the opposite direction. Then were arrested for their troubles.

Record of Tape Recorded Interview

Person Interviewed **Jack Vincent Picone**

Place of Interview Interview Room
 Charing Cross Police Station

Date of Interview 06.07.93

Time commenced 1.08pm Time concluded 1.12pm

Duration of interview 4 minutes

Interviewing Officer(s) DS Williams DC Sadler

Introduction and caution.

Reply to caution – that is lucid.

DS W You were arrested earlier on this morning in the vicinity of Buckingham Palace – that is correct?

P Yes.

Short discussion of method of interview.

DS W You were arrested because it is suspected you were involved with other people who are trying to get in to the Palace grounds.

P That is correct.

DS W Were you involved with these people?

P I was not involved with these people in any shape or form whatsoever.

DS W Would you like to tell me how you got there?

P We were en route back to Holborn from doing another job at Knightsbridge. We were in the back of the taxi, the taxi driver alerted us to people climbing over the wall with ladders and obviously they had cut the wire. We saw them from the window we took some pictures out of the window of the taxi then we got out and took some pictures from across the road where we then alerted your officer who was walking in the opposite direction, didn't even see it. We told him that this was in progress turned around and he went over but they had already gone over the wall and then he arrested us.

DS W For the sake of the tape what is your occupation?

P I'm a photo journalist.

DS W Freelance?

P I am contracted by an Australian company Sunday Morning Herald, John Fairfax Propriety Ltd.

DS W So your job is to take photographs for newspapers.

P For all different sorts, yeh basically newspapers.

DC S As directed or if you see an incident you will obviously start taking news photographs?

P Yes.

W And when you say you were out on a job, that was a photographic journalistic job?

P Yes but nothing related to this situation whatsoever.

DS W How many photographs did you actually take?

P I have no idea, a few not many cos the light was terrible.

DS W What would you consider a few?

P 7 or 8 maybe I'm not sure.

DS W And these photographs showed the people.

P It's on a motor drive.

DS W And the photographs will show the people going over the wall.

P Well yes if the conditions are good enough.

DS W The photographs are intended to show the people going over the wall.

P Well yes yeah.

DC S Were you with anybody else at the time?

P I was with my colleague John Hurst.

DC W Who is also a journalist?

P He's a journalist he's the European Correspondent for the Australian Financial Review which is the newspaper that we were doing the assignment for.

DC W Is there anything else that you want to say? Do you want to add anything or clarify any points?

P No I just completely want to know how long this whole process is going to take. I also feel that a little old fashioned common sense hasn't prevailed here especially when we have alerted you officer to what was going on. And I understand that there are enormous security implications with something that's happening but we're both bona fide journalists. We're both carrying ID here. ID to say who we are, we're both employed by a company that's based in London. I think some old fashioned common sense might prevail quickly I hope otherwise I want my solicitor.

Interview Terminated.

Record of Tape Recorded Interview

Person Interviewed **John Hurst**

Place of Interview Interview Room
Charing Cross Police Station

Date of Interview 06.07.93

Time commenced 1.48pm Time concluded 1.57pm

Duration of interview 9 mins

Interviewing Officer(s) DS Williams

Other persons present Richard Eysham Sir John Welch

Introduction and caution.

H I understand.

DS W You were arrested this morning because a police officer suspected that you were involved with other people who have been trying to get into Buckingham Palace for some reason. Do you understand why you have been arrested?

H Yes I understand from his point of view.

W I'm not asking whether you agree with it but...

H agree with it.

W You understand why.

H I understand why.

W I take it you were outside Buckingham Palace today.

H Yes I was yes.

W Would you tell me how you got there?

H I'm a journalist with an Australian newspaper, London Correspondent and I was on an assignment in South Kensington from very early this morning 7.30am with freelance photographer Jack Picone who my company has a contract with. We were on an assignment to do a story about an ex-patriot Australian businessman who is now in London. We were on our way back to my London office for me to file my story and for Jack Picone to send some photographs through relating to that story via a taxi and we just said to the taxi driver this is the address, take us to 12 Russell Street. We had pulled up after 10 or 15 minutes' journey or thereabouts, we were at an intersection near Buckingham Palace, we could see the wall and the taxi driver said to us words to the effect, "There's people climbing over the wall. They're getting into Buckingham Palace". Jack and I looked out of the window and there was a group of people, there were the ladders and they were in the process of getting into the grounds of Buckingham Palace. I said to Jack, "There's a good

photograph” and Jack had his camera at his feet and sort of organised. I pulled the window down and he fired off a couple of shots and then it was dark, there was a whole line of other people taking photographs, dark in the taxi from a photographic point of view so Jack got out of the taxi and went down the road to take some more photographs. It was dark in the taxi from a photographic point of view so Jack got out of the taxi and went down the road to take some more photographs of these people. And I got out of the taxi and said to the driver, “Park around the corner. I’ll see what’s going on.” I went across the road, before I went across ascertained that probably there was about half a dozen people in the group on the footpath progressively getting larger. By the time I got there, there was just one lady left who was at the top of the ladder and I said to her “Do you realize you’re climbing into Buckingham Palace?” she said, “Yes”.

When I first saw them they looked sort of like teenagers and I thought this was some sort of school excursion, that was the first thing that went through my mind. The second thing I said was, “Is this a school group?” She looked at me and said, “Yes”. She was in a hurry and she scaled the wall and dropped down the other side. I looked across the road and Jack was on the other side of the road taking photographs, looking to my right there was a policeman down, it must have been 100 – 150 metres down the road, and I ran to the policeman and I said “There’s a group of people who have just climbed over Buckingham Palace and looks rather suspicious”. I came back with him. He radioed for help on the radio he had, and then he started asking Jack and myself questions about what we saw. I related back to him that we were in the taxi, saw these people, we came over and we stressed to him that we were on our way back to the office to file my story. And send pictures from another story and were on a deadline. It was urgent and he said, “I want you to stay here. I need to ask you questions. I’ve got to talk to these other people.”

He went across to the other side of the road. He called me over and he asked me whether these, he actually said to me, there were two people one with a camera and he said “Do you whether these people were with these people that climbed the wall?” I said “No, I don’t think so. These people were over here taking photographs but I don’t know whether they were on this side when the people those people had gone into Buckingham Palace”. And he said, “Oh thanks I’d like you to stay over there. I want to talk to you.” Then I asked him permission to actually go to the taxi to get a mobile phone. We had to tell my office that we were late. I was being detained and after asking the constable several times he allowed me to do that.

I went and told the taxi driver to turn the taxi around and come down and park there because we needed our gear and might be detained for some time because he wanted to question us. Jack and I stressed to him we were in a hurry, we had nothing to do with this. We just happened to be passing by and he was, because he was there by himself he was, seemed a little bit flustered to talk to as many people and he understood from what we were saying we were in a hurry but he said, “I’m sorry you’ve got stay here. I’ve got to find out what’s going on.”

Then other people arrived. We told them the same situation, that we were in a hurry. We wanted to go back. We told them that they could have any information we had. They could have the photograph but we were in a hurry. We had to get to our office. This was relayed to Constable Davies, who I now know. That’s who it

was and he came over and said, "I'm placing you under arrest" and we got into the police van and constantly asked to be able to relay what had happened to my office. Ultimately we were allowed to make a telephone call and then we were relayed to Electricians Gate and we were questioned there and brought here.

DS W The people that were climbing over the wall. Have you ever met them before?

H Well I can't tell who they were. I can tell you that one lady who I did get a close up of by the time I got to the wall, not that I know of her. I've never seen her before and had no knowledge that these people were going to be there.

DS W And you did not know that they were going to do it?

H Didn't have a clue, no, we were just passing by.

DX W You say the officer spoke to several members of the public who presumably were also passing by.

H They were sort of lined up along the street, some watching, some taking photographs, yes.

DS W Tourists?

H I assumed that some of them were. Yes in fact I think I noticed the odd Japanese person.

DS W You didn't happen to take their names and addresses did you?

H No, we didn't have time, my journalistic mind started to go by that stage, we were under a fairly contained area by the police. The constable was sort of talking to them but er and he did question another man extensively who was observing this from the other side of the road and he also spoke to our taxi driver, but as to how many people...

DS W You haven't got any more names and addresses for yourself?

H Well no I haven't got any names and addresses, all I know is Constable Davies, I don't even know our taxi driver's name.

Interview terminated.