

James Spence: Police interview, 14 August 1994

"I have known Eddie ROSS, the Policeman, since school days. He is a couple of years older than me.

In 1974 (000074) I left Orkney to join the Royal Marines.

I was based at Condor in Arbroath. I was engaged in Anti Tank duties mainly and in about 1979 (000079) I was put into the armoury as the storeman.

The armoury only dealt with the actual weapon and the ammunition was dealt with by the munitions store.

Sometime before I left the army, perhaps about 1980 (000080) some ammunition just appeared in the armoury. I think I had been away either on leave or on exercises and when I returned this ammunition was just there.

There was one box of 9mm bullets, I think it contained 35 bullets which I thought was a bit of an unusual number. The ammunition was in a brown box and I think there was green writing on the box. The box was sealed with clear tape.

There was also a box of .22 ammunition. It was in a white box with red writing. This box was open and some of the bullets were out of it. I think it would have contained about 100 when it was full but it was only about half full.

The ammunition lay about the armoury for a while and no-one seemed to want to take anything to do with it. As I said it was not normal practice to have ammunition in the armoury.

I eventually just put both boxes of ammo in my locker as there would have been trouble if they had been found in the armoury during a routine inspection.

When I came to leave the Marines in February 1981 (000281), the ammunition was still in my locker and I just took it home to Orkney with me when I left. When I left the unit had gone to Norway on exercise and there was no-one I could return it to.

When I came back to Orkney I moved in with my mother at [REDACTED]

My father died in 1961 (000061) and there was only myself, my mother and my sister, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. My sister got married in April 1981 (000481) and moved out then. She now has a 11 year old girl.

In 1986 (000086) my mother died and I stayed on in the house until April 1987 (000487).

The bullets were just thrown into a cupboard in my bedroom.

One day about 1985 or 1986 (000085 or 000086) I met Eddie ROSS in Kirkwall. At that time I think Eddie was working as a Policeman in Kingussie.

I knew that Eddie was very keen on guns and I told him about the two boxes of ammunition I had and asked him if he would get rid of them for me as I did not have a firearm certificate and had no use for them.

I arranged to meet Eddie a couple of days later and gave him both boxes of ammunition. I handed them over to him in Albert Street Car Park.

These were definitely the only 2 boxes of ammunition that I had.

I have never owned any firearms.

A few weeks ago, 3/4 weeks, I met Eddie on the street and he told me that it was a 9mm bullet that had been used to kill the Indian waiter and at that stage we did discuss the bullets that I had given Eddie. I think he asked me if I had anymore or knew where I could get anymore. I told him that I didn't have anymore and I had given all the ones I had to him.

The next time I spoke to Eddie was at about 6.20 am (0620) this morning (140894). I was sweeping the street and Eddie was on duty. This time he told me that the 9mm bullets I had given him could have been involved in the murder as they were of the same batch. He said that he had to see a CID officer at 2 pm (1400) and they would want to see me afterwards.

Eddie then phoned me sometime after 2 pm (1400) to ask me to call at the police office at about 6.30 pm (1830).

I have now been shown a box of 9mm bullets which are just like the ones I gave Eddie.

PRODUCTION NO.: BOX OF BULLETS"