

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 07/05/2006

JOHN MATTHEW DOWNIE, MD, telephoned the agent from his brother's residence at 6 Saddlebrook Court, Silver Springs, Maryland, telephone number (301) 946-4201. DOWNIE was advised of the identity of the agent and the nature of the interview. He voluntarily provided the following information:

DOWNIE was one of the participants of the dive trip in October 2003 sponsored by Mike Ball Dive Expeditions. DOWNIE went to Australia alone and was alone on the dive boat, the Spoil Sport. He was "randomly assigned a dive partner" named MICHAEL LAST NAME UNKNOWN, a resident of South Africa. DOWNIE and MICHAEL dived together on the date of the incident, October 22, 2003, in poor conditions. The sky was overcast, the sea was choppy and the wind had created a high current and poor underwater visibility. As DOWNIE had entered the water, the Mike Ball Dive Expeditions dive checker did not inspect his air tank valve to ensure that it was open. DOWNIE knew it was because he had inspected it himself before getting into the dingy to take him to the dive entry point. After entering the water, DOWNIE cut his hand on barnacles attached to the descent rope. He felt that the blood from his hand would attract sharks. DOWNIE was upset during the dive. He felt rushed to enter the water and believed that the dive checker failing to inspect his tank was one of many checks which fell through the cracks.

He believed that her air supply was never turned on. In this way, she would have had about ten breaths in her air hose. Taking one breath every two seconds, she would have run out of air at approximately 50 feet. She would also have been unable to inflate her buoyancy compensator. Later, when DOWNIE was talking to the dive master back aboard the boat, the dive master told DOWNIE that as he approached TINA, "[It was] weird. I saw her like she was looking at the fish, but there were no air bubbles. I opened her valve." DOWNIE believed he told the Australian police what the dive master had told him.

DOWNIE remembered seeing GABE WATSON after WATSON surfaced during the dive. WATSON "looked like shit, was white, cold and clammy" and was "babbling." DOWNIE was told that WATSON had ruptured one or both eardrums during his attempt to go deeper and bring TINA to the surface. Later, when TINA was brought to the

State v. Watson  
007058

Investigation on 07/05/2006 at Birmingham, Alabama (telephonically)

File # 163G-BH-52547 Date dictated 07/05/2006

by SA Gregory S. Gauger

163G-BH-52547

Continuation of FD-302 of John Matthew Downie, On 07/05/2006, Page 2

surface, DOWNIE was requested to revive her. The dive master was administering CPR on her, and DOWNIE, who was identified as a doctor, took over resuscitation responsibilities.

When DOWNIE approached TINA, she was blue, "dead blue." She had been missing for some time and was not breathing. DOWNIE did everything he would have done in an emergency room but to no avail. When he checked for air in the lungs, he found none. DOWNIE used medicines in his personal trauma kit during the resuscitation attempt. DOWNIE is extremely allergic to many conditions and always travels with a trauma kit, in case he experiences something in which he will need to use the kit on himself.

DOWNIE was told that a helicopter would not be available to evacuate TINA from the boat. He did not believe that was likely, since the trip to the dive site took approximately seven hours.

DOWNIE's gut feeling was that WATSON did not kill his wife. He knew the Australian police were looking into the matter because they had heard that WATSON took out a large insurance policy before going on the trip. However, DOWNIE and many others on the trip also took out extra policies. Dive insurance through DAN (Diver's Alert Network) was encouraged by Mike Ball Dive Expeditions. Even though DOWNIE had large disability and life insurance policies through his Chicago hospital, he still purchased an additional dive policy.

DOWNIE's statement regarding the trip was taken by Sergeant CAMPBELL of the police department. After giving his statement to CAMPBELL, DOWNIE talked with a representative from Mike Ball Dive Expeditions. The representative was cold and uncompassionate. DOWNIE felt that he was only concerned with damage control and upholding the company image. DOWNIE asked the representative for reimbursement for his personal trauma kit. He was initially denied but later reimbursed for it.

State v. Watson  
007059