

## Go To Jail

Finally, after a committal and two trials (one was aborted), the jury retired on 22 March 1984 for only two hours and forty-five minutes and returned a verdict of guilty. On 27 March 1984 (almost four years since commencement of the case), Oliver was sentenced to eleven years and Fernandini eight years imprisonment.

officials in Peru suggested that Oliver was a major international drug trafficker. His passport disclosed numerous overseas trips, including three to Australia since 1980. Further information identified Oliver as a member of an organised drug trafficking syndicate based in Peru and the USA. The seizure of the cocaine shipment represents the second largest seizure of cocaine in Australia's history, and the largest seizure with apprehension of offenders.

## Acknowledgements

My sincere appreciation to officers of the Australian Customs Service; Queensland Police; Australian Federal Police and overseas law enforcement agencies. Their names are too numerous to mention.

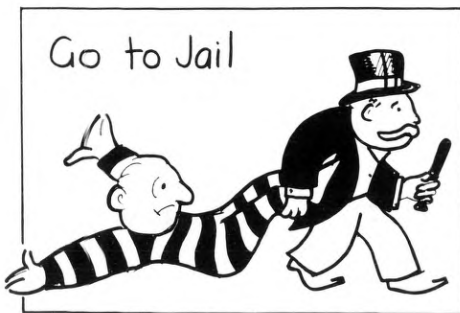
A special thanks to Detective Inspectors Noel Caswell and John Adams who put a lot of effort into this case, and without whose 'situation reports' this article may well have been impossible to 'piece together'. Also Detective Inspector Bob Traeger (Melbourne) for his introduction and handling of Informant 3136.

Thanks must also go to Detective Dave Croft and our Brisbane Typist Pool for their long hours with cassette tapes and transcripts.

Lastly, thanks to Detective Senior Sergeant Max Gabriel who handed this case to me late in 1980. I am sure that he was not aware that it was a 'Pandora's Box'.

## Footnotes

- 1 Lionel Guillermo Oliver did not make the final trip to Australia with his father; had he done so it is most likely that he also would have been arrested for conspiracy.
- 2 Wherever and whenever possible, meetings between 3136 and Fernandini, and myself and Fernandini, were monitored and recorded by police after warrants were obtained. Such recordings were later used in evidence at the trial.
- 3 Cocaine paste or 'pasta' as referred to by Peruvians is 'cooked' or 'refined'. This process starts with the cocaine base extracted from the coca bush and continues with a 'washing' of the base with kerosene and further treatment with specific chemicals to produce a fluffy white crystalline powder. The cutting of the cocaine product also requires the services of an experienced 'cocaine cook' to produce a high quality drug.
- 4 This was the first occasion that Fernandini had identified Oliver, and further, identified Oliver as the actual 'cook' for the cocaine shipment. From the Intelligence Analyst's point of view this was the 'cream on the cake'. We had been working in the right direction — Oliver was indeed our major target.



## The Reward

The most rewarding aspect of this case is without doubt the arrest and imprisonment of Oliver. Information from DEA

## LETTERS

Sir

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the courtesies extended by the officers of your force to Cst. J P Blatchford of our Commercial Crime Section during his recent inquiries in Sydney. I am informed that not only did Superintendent Phelan, Chief Inspector Sing and Inspector Matthews arrange for operational assistance, but ensured a very friendly and hospitable atmosphere by treating Cst. Blatchford as an honoured guest.

Special mention should be made of the superior efforts of Cst. Lyn Johnson of the Fraud and General Crimes Unit, inasmuch as her assistance prior to and during Cst. Blatchford's inquiries and interviews greatly contributed to the successful results.

It would be our pleasure to have an opportunity to extend similar courtesies and assistance to your service.

*Deputy Commissioner D.K. Wilson  
Commanding Officer, 'E' Division  
(British Columbia)*

Sir

The Department of Territories, in association with the Australian Federal Police, the Road Safety Council for the ACT and the NRMA, recently conducted a promotion campaign to increase the use of child restraints in motor vehicles in the ACT. Early indications are that this campaign has been very effective.

The success of the campaign was largely due to the efforts of members of your Force. I would appreciate your passing on our thanks to all involved in the campaign, in particular Senior Constable Tulk of the Police Video Unit Weston. His assistance and guidance in the production of the promotional video was one of the major reasons for the success of the promotion.

Inspector C Barrett and members of his staff along with Superintendent R Prigg and his staff contributed in a major way to the success of the promotion.

*Cathy Parsons  
Assistant Secretary  
Traffic & Transport  
Department of Territories  
Canberra*

Sir

On 16 May a friend died very suddenly apparently as the result of an asthma attack. The body was found by her son who contacted the ACT Ambulance Service and our home. The Federal Police were apparently contacted by the Ambulance Service and a car arrived at the scene shortly after my wife and I. The two officers who attended were Senior Constable John Greenaway and Constable Andrew Zaal from the Canberra City Police Station. A third officer visited briefly but I did not record his name.

My wife and I were most impressed by the way in which your officers performed their very necessary but unspectacular work on this difficult occasion. All three

showed great tact and sensitivity and the two officers named handled the questions to the son as well as I could ever have expected anyone to do so. They also took the trouble to provide us with advice on the necessary formalities that have to be completed after a sudden death and on the effects that the grieving process might have on the son (who was to stay with us until his future had been sorted out). As one who has been involved in search and rescue and disaster response duties for over twenty years, I know how difficult it can be to strike the right balance on these occasions. Your officers achieved that balance precisely.

I would like to compliment the Australian Federal Police on the selection and training of its officers and thank the officers concerned for their work on this occasion. It has further strengthened the high regard we have developed for the Force since arriving in Canberra in 1974.

*J.P. Barr  
Ainslie ACT*

Sir

I commend Det. Sen. Con. Peter Phillips and Det. Con. Steven Jackson of the AFP for their thoroughness, professionalism and sensitivity in an investigation in which I was recently involved as a witness.

A worker employed in the Bankruptcy Branch of this Department was suspected of defrauding the Commonwealth by the falsification of claim forms sub-

mitted for reimbursement of the cost of using her car on official business.

In addition to the officers' interview of me, I was at their request present when she was told of the charges against her and invited to make a statement.

Not only were the officers thoroughly competent and professional in taking a statement for me, and I was considerably impressed by their tact, integrity and sensitivity in dealing with the accused when they outlined the charges and explained to her her rights.

If these two officers are typical of the personnel in the Force, then the future of the Force as a responsible and respected body is assured. The officers are a credit to themselves and to the Force.

These sentiments are echoed by Mr Griffiths and Mr Moyes, the other officers of my Branch involved in the matter.

*P.J. Wenn  
Inspector-General in Bankruptcy  
Canberra*

Sir

I was invalided out of the AFP last year after some 23 years with the old Compol and AFP, most of my service being in Firearms Section, Melbourne, which got going in 1967.

I should like to continue receiving *Platypus* as I am still very interested in the force. The magazine is improving with every issue.

*R.E. Smith  
Bundoora Vic.*