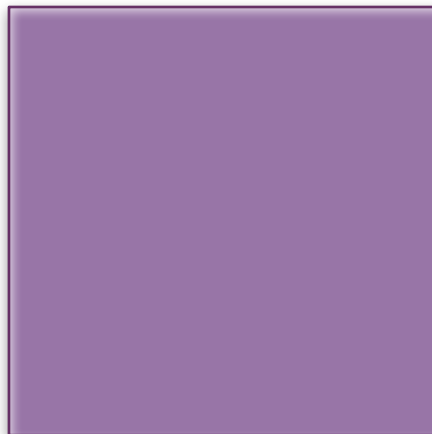




MISSING BODY MURDERS



MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Professor Bob Peckitt



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Surviving families have granted their permission for details of the fate of their loved ones to be disclosed for scientific and forensic educational purposes. Please do not abuse their privacy by re-publishing details of crimes or investigations on social media.

The taking of photographs of forensic materials is strictly prohibited.



Criminal violence can affect anyone. NSW Victim Support can be contacted via

www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au



THE CAMPDEN WONDER



without a trace

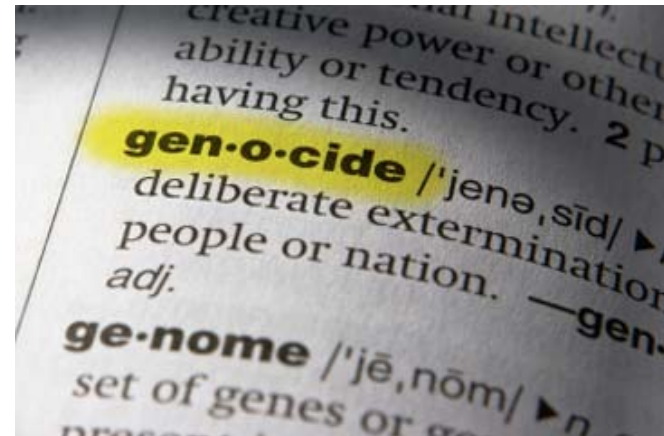
legal, scientific and psychopathological aspects of missing body murder

Professor Bob Peckitt



Missing Body Murders

- Commonest presentation of homicide in the 20th /21st Century
- Manifestation of State or sectarian mediated terror
- Ethnic, gender, religious or political motivators.
- Large scale denial and concealment
- Require both individual and State justice for the victims





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Nazi Eugenics Propaganda



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Between 1450-1650, 26,000 women were burned to death as “witches” in Germany alone



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Suspected mass grave site; Bosnia 2010



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“Stolpersteine” or “tripping stone” pavement memorial to murdered Jewish residents of Berlin



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Missing Body Murders

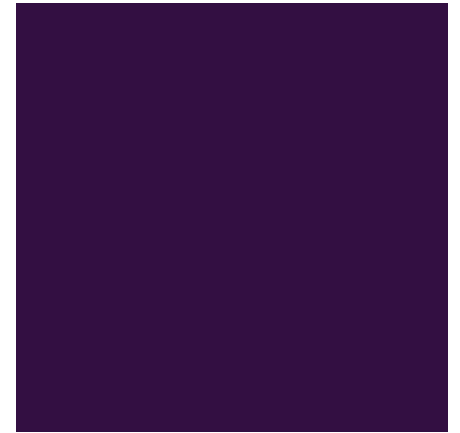
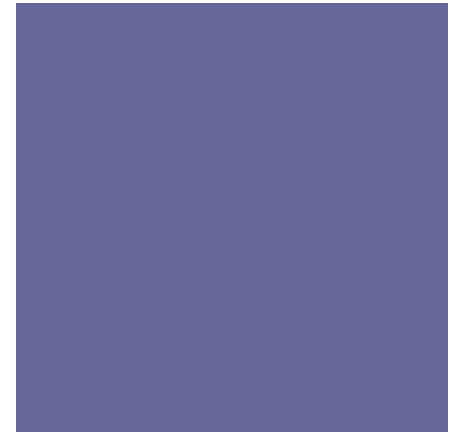
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The European Convention on Human Rights compels recalcitrant States, to protect their citizens from simply disappearing



WHERE IS MASTER HARRISON?



The “*Campden Wonder*”

deceit, disappearance and death in 17th century Gloucestershire



The “*Campden Wonder*”

- On August 16TH, 1660, 70-year-old **William Harrison** left his home in Chipping Campden, to walk two miles to a neighbouring village, to collect rents for his employer.
- He didn't return. His wife sent his manservant, **John Perry** to look for him. By the next morning, neither had returned.

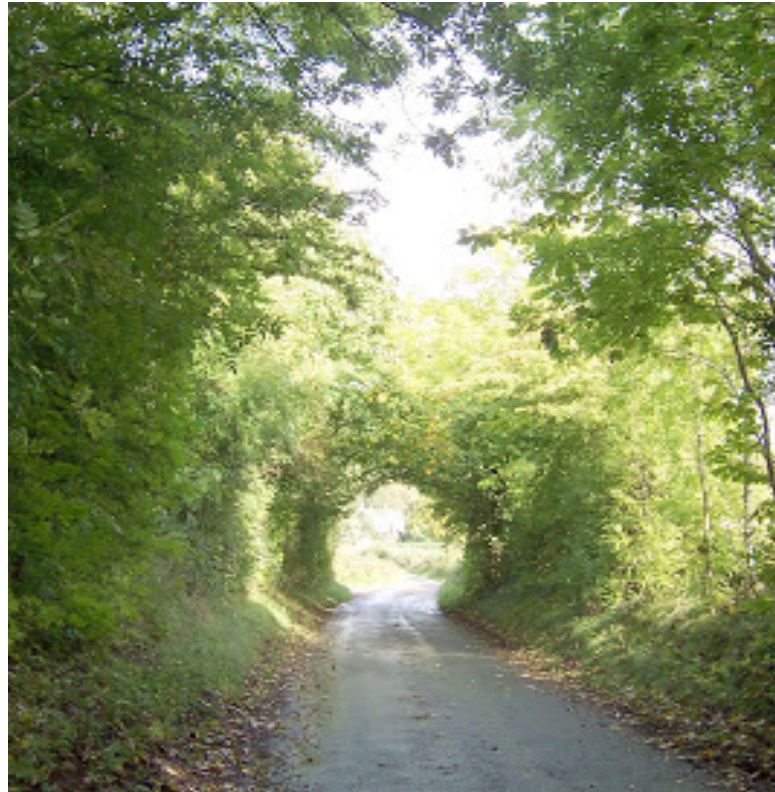


Chipping Campden



The “*Campden Wonder*”

- William Harrison's son, [Edward](#), was then dispatched. He encountered Perry, but Harrison senior remained missing.
- William Harrison's, hat (which had been cut with a sharp object), and his bloodstained shirt and collar were discovered on the main road. There was no sign of a body.



Chipping Campden byway today



Confession

- John Perry confessed that he knew Harrison had been murdered although he claimed to be innocent.
- He then accused his mother, Joan, and his brother, Richard, of having murdered Harrison for his money and hidden the body.
- Joan and Richard strenuously denied this, but John Perry maintained his assertion that they were guilty of murder.



A 17th Century trial



The Trials

First trial

- The **first trial** dealt with a plot to steal money from William Harrison.
- John Perry' testified against his mother and brother.
- He claimed he was the one who suggested the robbery to his brother and that that Joan and Richard previously stolen £140 from William Harrison.
- He claimed to have lied about being attacked by robbers, to create an alibi for the missing money.
- The presiding judge decided to grant pardons to all three defendants for the 1659 robbery, in order to get on with the murder trial!





The Trials



Second trial

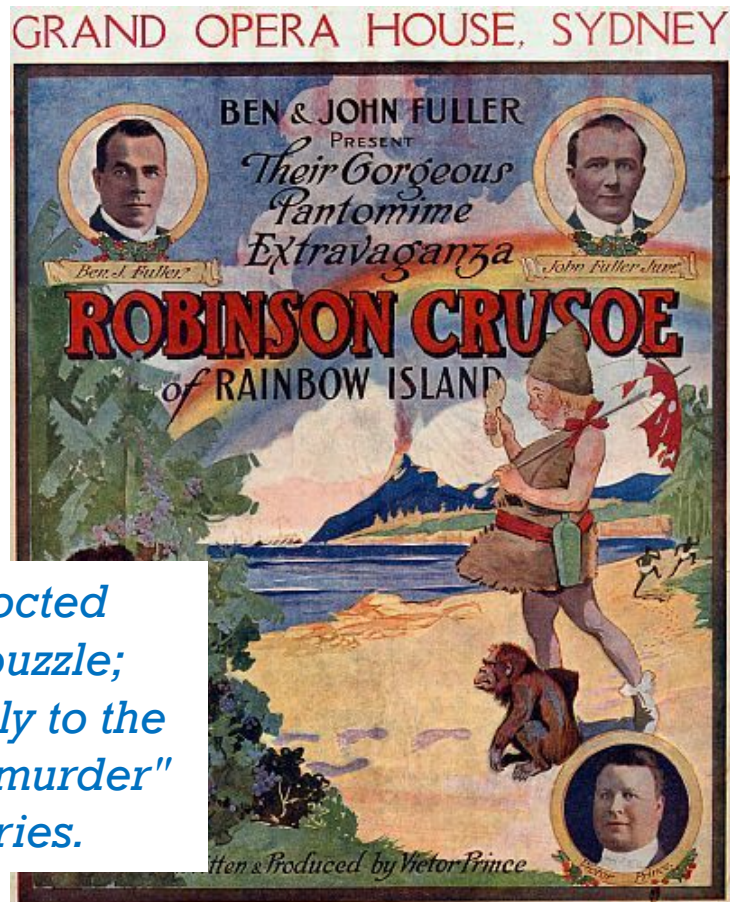
- In the Spring of 1661, the court reconvened for a **second trial** to hear the charges of murder.
- This time John Perry joined his mother and brother in pleading "*not guilty*" to killing William Harrison.
- Perry claimed his original testimony had all been false by reason of insanity.
- Nevertheless the jury found all three of the Perry family guilty of murdering William Harrison and they were executed in Gloucester.
- (Joan Perry was burned , as a witch, of course)



The Return of William Harrison !

- In 1662, Harrison returned to England aboard a ship from Lisbon, very much alive.
- He claimed to have been kidnapped by pirates and taken abroad. He was transferred to a pirate ship and sold into slavery in Turkey, where eventually escaped, stowed away on a ship and returned to England...

Why both he and Perry concocted such stories is an intriguing puzzle; however this case lead directly to the adoption of the "no body, no murder" rule, in English Law for centuries.





EARLY MISSING BODY MURDERS



Missing bodies
concealed



Dark Days

- In 1918, **George Shotton** married a pretty young musical actress named **Mamie Stewart**. There was just one problem.
- George was already married to someone else.
- Mamie was in complete ignorance of George's bigamous relationship but she was concerned in other respects.
- In the winter of 1919, both vanished.



George Shotton and Mamie Stewart



Mamie disappears

- Shotton had been violent: and Mamie had the prescience to write to her mother;
- *"The man is not all there. I don't think I will live with him much longer. I am very much afraid of him. My life is not worth living."*
- Her mother told the police that Mamie had pleaded with her:
- *"If I am ever missing, do your utmost to find me, won't you?"*





Prosecution for bigamy

- The Police were convinced Shotton had done away with his wife: a trunk with her possessions was recovered, but no trace of the woman.
- Shotton was successfully prosecuted for bigamy (despite running the world's first *identity theft* defence) and served 18 months imprisonment; but still no sign of his missing “wife”.



George Shotton and Mamie Stewart



The years pass...

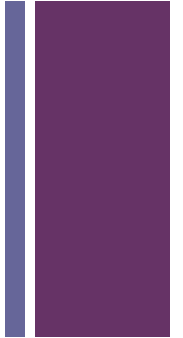
- On the 5th November 1961, three potholers were exploring an abandoned metal mine on the Welsh coast.
- The lead explorer spotting a potential passage in the rock moved a large slab of slate, and discovered a sack containing disarticulated human remains.



Brandy Cove, on the Gower Peninsula. Shotton and Mamie stayed in a house on the hill crest



The years pass...



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Identification

- The body had been sawn into three sections, through the spine, the upper arms, and the thighs.
- The skeletal remains matched Mamie Stewart's description. Scraps of clothing and shoes found in the mineshaft were dated to the early 1920's.
- An elderly lady identified her rings as belonging to the suspected victim, while hallmarks put the date of manufacture between 1912-1918.
- A photographic superimposition of the skull over a life-sized portrait taken of Mamie during performing career clinched the identification.



Photo-imposition technique (R v Ruxton)

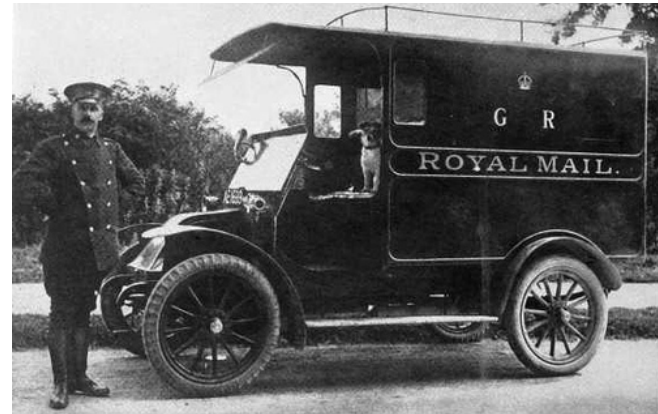


The Inquest

- Bill Symons, an 83-year-old ex postman, recalled an afternoon in 1919 when he had been making his rounds and happened to see George Shotton struggling with a heavy sack outside his cottage.

- Shotton had turned white and exclaimed

- *"God! For a minute I thought you were a policeman!"*



- Shotton declined Mr. Symonds' offer to help him load the sack into his car.
- The postman never mentioned the incident the police, for fear of being thought a time waster.



No Justice for Mamie

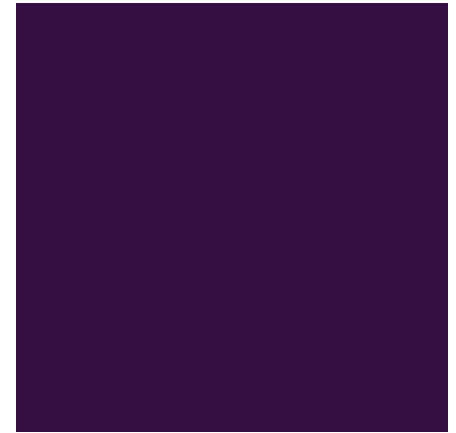
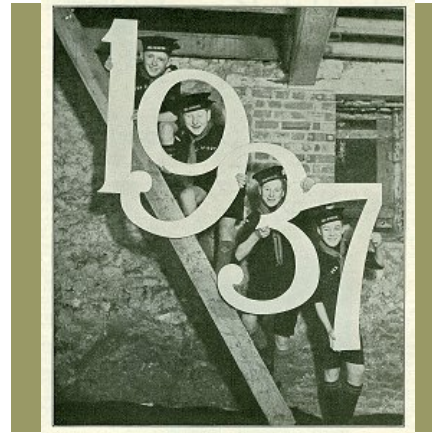
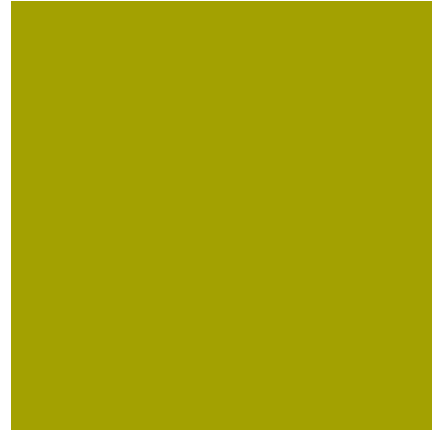
- The Police immediately commenced a fresh search – this time for George Shotton
- Shotton had died in 1958, in poverty, at the age of 81 years, three years before the discovery of his victim's remains and some 41 years after he killed her.
- *Justice delayed is justice denied*



Shotton in 1930 at his local tennis club



MONA TINSLEY IS MISSING



Missing bodies found



Mona Tinsley disappears

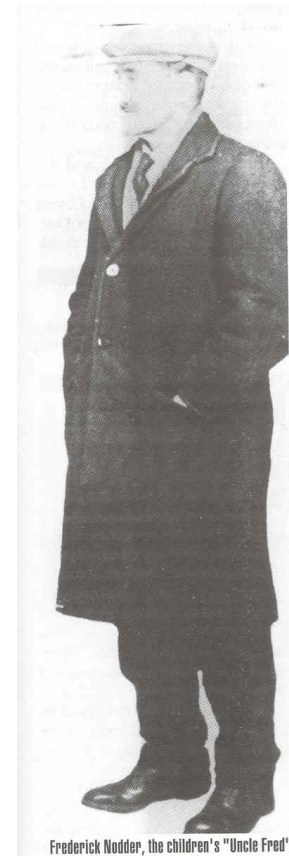
- **Mona Tinsley** was a bright , friendly and intelligent little girl of 10 years, rather small for her age.
- On the afternoon of the 5th January 1937, Mona left her Methodist Primary School in Newark, Nottinghamshire, and vanished,





Prime suspect

- **Frederick Nodder** was a 50 year old unemployed lorry driver, who had previously resided in lodgings, near the Tinsley family. He was known to the children as "*Uncle Fred*"
- He was described by witnesses who knew him well, as a *disgusting, dirty man* and an alcoholic.
- Mona disappeared, after encountering "*Uncle Fred*" outside her school in Newark, and agreeing to take a bus ride with him to the town of Retford, 23 miles away.



Frederick Nodder, the children's "Uncle Fred"



Mona Tinsley disappears

- After disembarking, they walked a further 3 miles to his lodgings, at a house called “*Peacehaven*”, in the isolated hamlet of Hayton, near Retford.
- Ominously, the bus conductor would later recalled in evidence, that whilst Nodder had purchased a return ticket for himself, he only bought a single ticket for the child.



“Peacehaven in 1937: Nodder rented the right hand side of the semi-detached house.



Mona Tinsley disappears

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The house as it stands today, backing onto the Chesterfield canal



Searching for Mona

- Frederick Nodder was arrested; and the second largest missing person search of its day was conducted, for little Mona Tinsley. She was not found.
- After questioning, Nodder admitted that he had, on the spur of the moment, taken the child on the bus, to see a relative's new baby, in Sheffield and that the little girl had left him thereafter safe and well, to visit her aunt there.

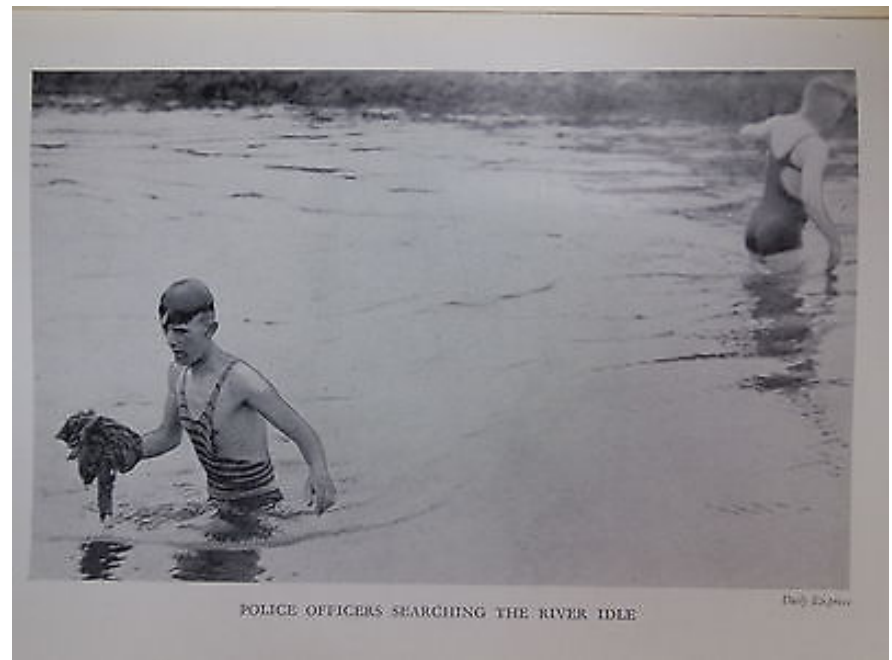


Volunteers assemble to search for Mona Tinsley



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Police officers search the River Idle



Prosecution for Child Abduction

- Several reliable witnesses had seen Nodder with Mona, during the day.
- The last saw a little girl matching her description, in his back garden, at “Peacehaven”, whilst he worked with a spade.
- The Police were convinced he had killed her and buried her somewhere.
- But Nodder could not be tried for Mona’s murder under the “*no body*” doctrine; however, he *could* be tried for child abduction.
- He was convicted and sentenced to the utmost limit of the law; seven years’ imprisonment.
- Frederic Nodder seemed to have got away with murder.



- *"What you did with that little girl, what became of her, only you know. It may be that time will reveal the dreadful secret that you carry in your breast. I cannot tell, but I am determined that, as far as you have part or lot in that dreadful tragedy, I will keep you in custody."*

Sentencing comments of HHJ Swift



Psychics and Searches



- The police were approached by a psychic, Estelle Roberts, who offered the police a description of the house and the activities of the little girl, and declared that her body had been carried off and dumped in a river
- Most of her “*prediction*” could be gleaned from newspaper reports and a little deduction; but her description of the child having practiced her alphabet, with a pencil and paper in the back room) were more disconcertingly accurate, and must have come directly from a police officer.
- [Mrs. Estelle Roberts](#) (died May 1970) published a best selling “*autobiography*”, called “*50 years a Medium*” chronicling her (bogus) celebrity career as a clairvoyant.
- She is notable for having created the entirely unhelpful precedent of the police consulting “*psychics*”, in missing body murders, which took decades to reverse.





Discovery

- Be that as it may, three months later, a couple boating on the River Idle near Retford, made a horrifying discovery; the decomposed body of child, in a sack, was found trapped in a drainage channel.
- Mona Tinsley had been strangled with a bootlace and weighted down in the sack with iron slag. Her body was too decomposed to determine whether she had been molested.

No. 10455 Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. ONE PENNY

MONA TINSLEY'S BODY FOUND IN RIVER AFTER FIVE MONTHS

The body of Mona Tinsley was recovered from the River Idle, at Bawtry, South Yorkshire, yesterday, by a special constable rowing down the river in a boat for a picnic with his three sons and a friend.

It was taken to the Ship Inn, Newington, and late last night was identified by Mona's father, who had been rushed from his Newark (Notts) home in a police car.

He broke down as he saw the body, identifying it as his daughter by the sudden clothes.

Mr. W. Marshall, Bawtry gas manager and special constable, was in a rowing boat when he saw the body floating in the water.

He pulled it into the boat, brought it to the bank and warned the police.

The River Idle earlier had been searched and to yield without result.

North and West Riding police last night communicated with the Home Office, and in all probability a post-mortem examination will be made today.

Mona Tinsley, ten-year-old schoolgirl, disappeared from her home last January. An intensive police and civilian search all over Nottingham failed to trace her.

Two months later Frederick Nodder, forty-nine-year-old motor driver, was sentenced at Birmingham Assizes to seven years' penal servitude for driving the girl.

"Dreadful Secret"

Bestowing him, Mr. Justice Swift declared: "It may be that time will reveal the dreadful secret which you carry in your bones, as far as I have seen or heard in this dreadful tragedy that I will keep you in custody."

"What was done with the little girl what because of her only was known."

It may be that something will happen which will show other people that you ought to be released."

Norman Robert, K.C., outlining the case for the prosecution, said that when Mona left school for her home at 8 a.m. on January 6 Nodder was seen close to the school building.

After morning Nodder discovered a sack and took it from a ditch. A child's body was found back door, wearing a pale blue dress, as was Mona.

Then Nodder he went digging.

"From that moment," Mr. Robert dramatically told the court, "his human eye has ever seen Mona Lillian Tinsley."



Mona Tinsley

3-HOUR FIGHT TO FREE MAN TRAPPED IN LIFT SHAFT

FOR nearly three hours firemen and ambulance men worked to release twenty-year-old garage attendant B. Walters, of Boston-road, London, N.W., trapped between a lift and the floor last night at Longman's Garage, Rossmore-street, London, N.W.

Walters' head the lift-shaft was cut away and a doctor crawled through the hole to give chloroform to the terrified man while the work went on.

Rescue was called by eleven-year-old Edward West, who was passing the garage and was terrified to see the man crimped in a rapidly ascending motor lift.

"I was just walking past when I saw Mr. Walters in the lift and I thought, 'I know him well. He lives just over my home. He was setting people down at the gates."

13,000 MILES TO SEE UNCLE—LOST ADDRESS

MISS Miss Harlow of New South Wales, travelling 13,000 miles to visit her uncle in London, to find she has lost his address.

She had to go to an address book which she must have dropped when she was leaving the hotel.

Now she has written to Birmingham police asking assistance in tracing him.

Norman, who is about seventy years old.

JEAN HARLOW RECOVERING



Miss Diana Batty, twenty-year-old Society girl, who is missing.

RICH GIRL VANISHES AFTER KIDNAP THREATS

WITH only £5 in her handbag and no luggage at all Miss Diana Batty, well-known twenty-one-year-old society beauty left the home of Viscountess Long in Oxford-square, W., last Tuesday and has not been seen or heard of since.

Behind her she left her jewellery worth £200.

She is the daughter of Captain Peter Batty, formerly of the Welsh Guards, and Mrs. Leonard Batty, of West Woods, Wootton, Dorset.

Her parents are frantic because for months Miss Batty has been receiving a series of anonymous letters threatening to abduct her.

It was the art of a drunken swither. The police were not told of this because it was the event has taken on a more serious significance.

Last night Mrs. Harlow told me: "My daughter, twenty-one of those letters in all. The first came in March and the last in April. They were all the same—threatening to abduct her."

Miss Batty is related to Mr. Michael Asquith, son of Lady Cynthia Asquith.

Mr. Asquith is at Oxford and he has also heard nothing from the daughter since she vanished.

Scotland Yard has been asked to search for Miss Batty.

Before she left, Miss Batty made two telephone calls. One was to her old nurse at Blandford.



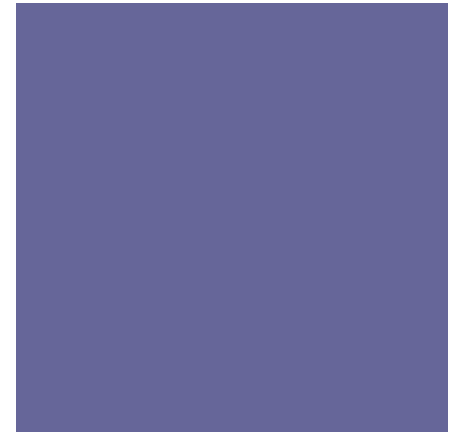
Murder Trial

- Nodder tried and failed to invoke a double jeopardy defence, on the basis he had been tried and convicted of child abduction.
- A fellow prisoner alleged a “cell confession”.
- The Jury took just minutes to return a capital conviction.
- HHJ Mc Naughton declared,
“Justice has slowly but surely overtaken you”
- Frederick Nodder was executed at HMP Lincoln on the 30th December 1937





MURDER IN WARTIME



Bodies found,
not missed



The Wych Elm

- On 18 April, 1943, four young local lads were snaring rabbits in Hagley Woods, near Stourbridge, in the West Midlands.
- They were rather on their guard, because they were effectively poaching on the Earl of Cobham's estate, and didn't want to be caught.
- Bob Farmer was looking for birds' eggs. He reached into a hollow tree trunk...



Path to Hagley Woods



The Wych Elm

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The wych elm



The skeleton in the tree trunk



Skull retrieved from the wych elm

- And discovered this...
- An almost complete skeleton, a shoe, a cheap Woolworth's gold wedding ring, and some fragments of clothing.
- The **disarticulated bones of a right hand** were later found, buried some forty feet from the rotting tree trunk.
- Whilst some reports indicate that the hand was separately buried, it seems more likely that it was removed by animal predation and dragged away.



The skeleton in the tree trunk

- Prof. James Webster examined the skeleton, and ascertained that it was a female and had been dead for at least 18 months, placing time of death around October 1941.
- He found taffeta in her mouth, suggesting that she had died from asphyxiation.
- He also calculated that she must have been placed there "*still warm*" after the killing, before rigor mortis, to fit there.



HM Coroner's Court Birmingham



The Body in the Wych Elm

- Since the woman's murder was during the height of the Second World war, with a massive flux of people, both military and civilian, identification was seriously hampered.
- An female identity card was found nearby; but proved to belong to another living woman.
- Why anyone would be at such a remote spot was, in itself a mystery.



Contemporary reconstruction



A Ritual Satanic Murder?



- Local rumors abounded that she was a witch who had been killed in a bizarre Satanic ritual.
- The severed hand was seen as evidence of the creation of a grisly ritual artifact, a “*Hand of Glory*”, allegedly used in witchcraft.
- These persisted after the war, fuelled by the unsolved murder of Charles Walton, at nearby Meon Hill, in equally bizarre and unsolved circumstances.



A murdered prostitute?

- Theories also included the possibility that the victim was a local prostitute (but did not explain how she came to be in such a remote wood)
- No local working girls, known to the police were missing
- Then, in 1944, the graffiti started to appear, at first in Upper Dean Street, in central Birmingham...

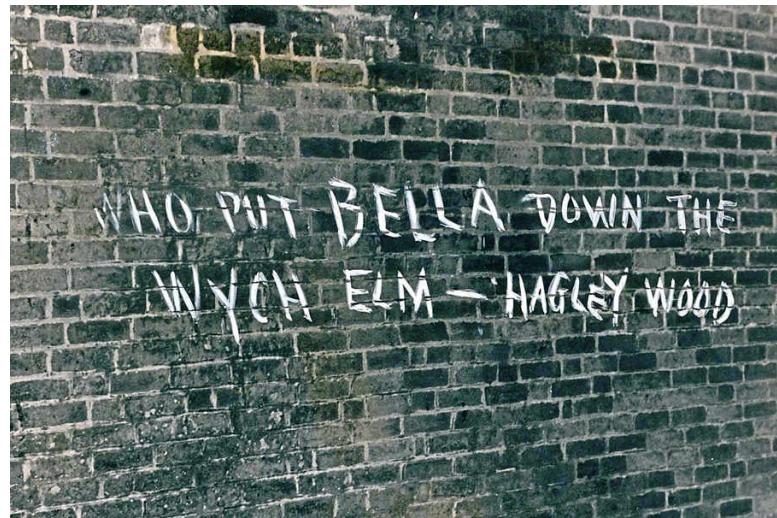


1940's prostitutes worked the streets, not remote woods.



“Who Put Bella in the Wych Elm?”

- The name “*Bella*” is a common enough appellation in the West Midlands; but the curious name stuck.
- Two novels, a play and several investigative books have been written about the body hidden in a tree.
- In 2003, Simon Holt, a British minimalist composer, wrote an opera entitled “*Who Put Bella in the Wych Elm?*”





“Who put Bella in the Wych Elm?”

- The unsolved murder became something of an urban myth; an unidentified body, apparently murdered.
- The forensic exhibits appear to have been lost or misplaced during the war, and whilst modern DNA technology might provide a fascinating insight into a cold case wherein the murderer(s) themselves must be long since deceased, no re-examination seems possible.
- Graffiti still appears sporadically around the West Midlands and especially on the Obelisk at Hagley Wood





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Could this be “*Bella*”?

- In 2013, Anna Vale, a journalist at *The Independent* newspaper reviewed the case history.
- The police appear to have received an anonymous tip off in 1953 that “*Bella*” was in fact a German minor film actress and singer, “*Clara Bauerle*”, who had been parachuted in to join a Nazi spy ring based in the West Midlands in 1941 and had been subsequently liquidated by her cell.



Photograph of Clara Bauerle carried by Jakobs



A German Spy Ring?

- Josef Jakobs was a Nazi agent captured after parachuting into Cambridgeshire in 1941
- He identified Clara as his lover and accomplice, during interrogation and a secret trial.
- Did Clara evade the authorities and make contact with a spy ring operating in the West Midlands?
- It is tantalizing to postulate that perhaps the circumstances of this woman's death remained a politically sensitive issue for many years after the war, for a Security Service which boasted that no German agent ever operated successfully on British soil.



Oberleutnant Josef Jakobs, shot as a spy at the Tower of London 15th August 1941



Is this “*Bella's*” writing ?

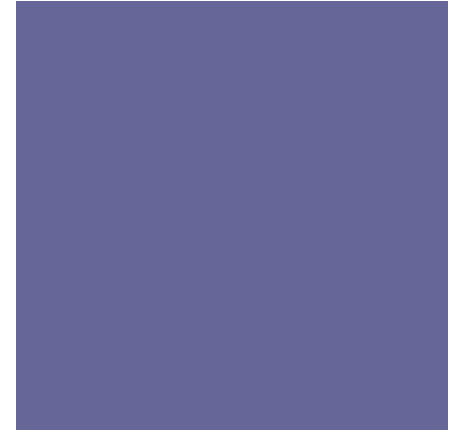
- This was the inscription on the back of the photograph found in Josef Jakob's wallet.
- Why was it written in English?
- Was it a “prop” for the spy's false identity?
- Please take a moment to listen to a recording of Clara Bauerle, singing with the Esse Orchestra in 1940. Is this the voice of “*Bella*”?

My dear - -
I love you
for ever
Yours
Bella
London, July
1940

Reverse inscription



THE ACID BATH MURDERS

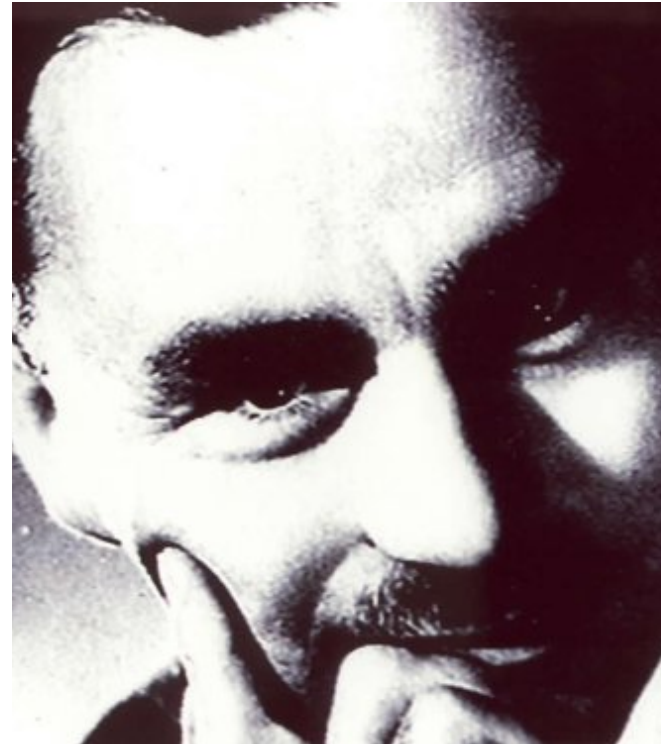


Missing bodies
traced



John George Haigh and the Acid Bath Murders

- John George Haigh was born into a strictly observant Plymouth Brethren family in Yorkshire.
- Haigh was an accomplished pianist, and won a scholarships to both Wakefield Grammar School and sang in the Cathedral Choir.
- On leaving school, he was apprenticed to a firm of motor engineers. He later took jobs in insurance and advertising.
- At age 21, he was sacked for stealing from a cash box.
- In 1934, Haigh was jailed for fraud.
- His wife and family disowned him.

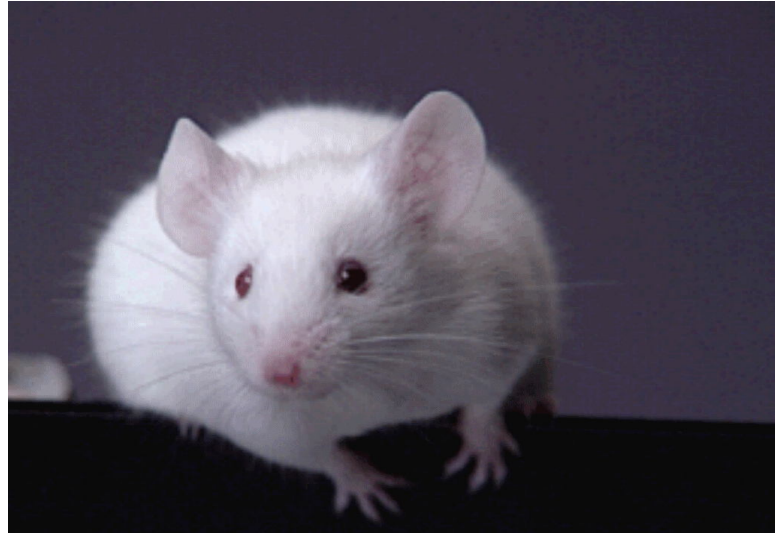


John George Haigh: accomplished pianist, psychopath and murderer



John George Haigh and the Acid Bath Murders

- He moved to London in 1936, and worked for a Mr. McSwann, a wealthy amusement arcade owner.
- Following that he became a bogus solicitor, continued as a fraudster, and served several terms of imprisonment.
- Whilst in HMP Lincoln, he fantasised about the committing the perfect murder: obliterating the victim's body by dissolving it in sulphuric acid.



Haigh experimented with mice and discovered that it took only 30 minutes for the creatures to disappear completely.



First murder

- In 1943, he came across his former employer, William Donald McSwann, in a pub in Kensington.
- On the 6th September 1944, after introduced Haigh to his parents, he disappeared without a trace.
- Haigh had lured him to a basement flat, hit him on the head and tipped his body into a 40-gallon drum, then filled it with concentrated sulphuric acid.
- Two days later, he returned to find the body dissolved into sludge, which he poured away down a drain.



William McSwann



Serial murder for profit

- He told Mr and Mrs. McSwann, that their son was hiding from military call up.
- When the parents started asking too many questions, Haigh murdered them too, by shooting, and similarly dissolved their remains.
- Haigh sold the couple's properties and investments, and moved into the Onslow Court Hotel in Kensington



Mrs Amy Mc Swann



Serial murder for profit

- By the summer of 1947, Haigh had gambled away the money, and was broke. So he found another couple to kill and rob.
- On 12 February 1948, he drove Dr Henderson to a rented workshop in Crawley, on the pretext of showing him an invention.
- Haigh shot Henderson in the head with a revolver. He then lured Mrs. Henderson to the workshop, claiming her husband had fallen ill, and shot her also.
- After disposing of the Henderson's bodies in oil drums filled with acid, he forged a letter from them and sold all of their possessions for £8,000 (except their dog, which he kept).



Dr. Archibald and Mrs. Rose Henderson



The net closes

- Haigh's last victim was Olive Durand-Deacon, 69, a wealthy widow and a fellow resident at the Onslow Court Hotel.
- Mrs Durand-Deacon was missed, by her companion.
- Haigh had foolishly pawned her valuable furs and jewellery; the police didn't take long to link the thrice convicted fraudster with the disappearance of his victims.



Mrs. Durand-Deacon, wearing the fur stole and jewellery



Detection

- Examination of the workshop and yard in Crawley, by Dr Keith Simpson revealed;
- 28 lb. of human fat
- three human gallstones
- a partially dissolved left foot
- part of a female pelvis, and
- a set of dentures, (which were later identified by Mrs Durand-Deacon's dentist).



Dr Simpson and his indefatigable amanuensis,
Molly Lefebre in the workshop yard



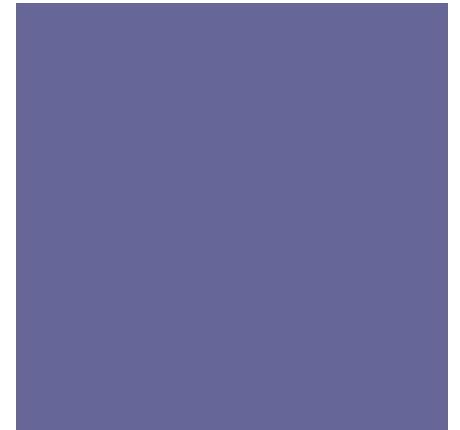
The demise of “*Old Corpus Delecti*”

- When later arrested Haigh said:
- *'I've destroyed her with acid. You'll find the sludge that remains at Leopold Road. Every trace has gone. How can you prove murder if there's no body?'*
- Haigh had conflated “*corpus delecti*” (“*body of crime*”) referring to the principle that a crime must have been proven to have occurred before a person can be convicted, with the actual body of a victim
- The Jury took just 17 minutes to convict him of capital murder.





NO MORE CAMPDEN WONDER



*Missing bodies
resurrected*



R v Michail Onufrejczyk.

- The 1954 case of *R v Onufrejczyk* saw the end of the *no body* rule, and paved the way for the effective prosecution of murderers like Mark Bridger, (who killed little April Jones and successfully disposed of her body).
- Onufrejczyk and a fellow Pole, Stanislaw Sykut, had stayed in the United Kingdom after the Second World War and undertook to run a farm together in Wales.
- Sykut disappeared and Onufrejczyk claimed that he had returned to Poland.



Onufrejczyk (left) and Stanislaw Sykut (right)



R v Michail Onufrejczyk.

- From the very start of their relationship, there were problems: Sykut was a frail man unsuited to the rigours of farm labour.
- On one occasion, the police were called and spoke to Onufrejczyk over a complaint of beating Stansilaw.
- Sykut disappeared: and Onufrejczyk claimed that he had sold him his share of the farm, and returned to Poland.





A most peculiar rabbit...

- 2,728 minute blood spatters were found in the farm kitchen. The dependent claimed he had killed a rabbit for his dinner.
- 36 out of a sample of a 100 were of human blood, although forensic science was then insufficiently advanced to link them definitively to Sykut.
- Onufrejczyk had attempted unsuccessfully to lay a false trail of evidence suggesting Sykut was alive.
- A key witness testified he had attempted to get her to send bogus registered letters to create the appearance of payments for the farm being made.



Onufrejczyk created a complex but flawed illusion that Stanislaw Sykut was still alive



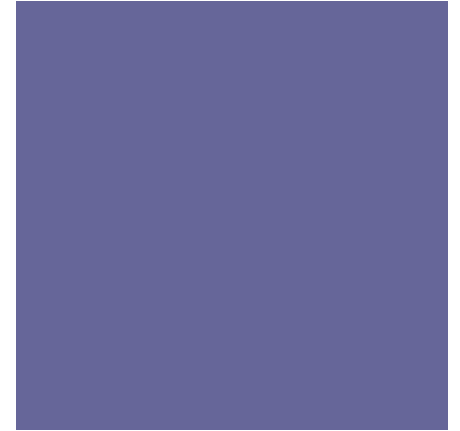
The end of the “*Campden Wonder*”

- He was convicted, and appealed, but this was dismissed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Goddard saying that
- *“Things had moved on since the days of the Campden Wonder”*
- and also
- *“... it is equally clear that the fact of death, like any other fact, can be proved by circumstantial evidence, that is to say, evidence of facts which lead to one conclusion, provided that the jury are satisfied and are warned that it must lead to one conclusion only.”*





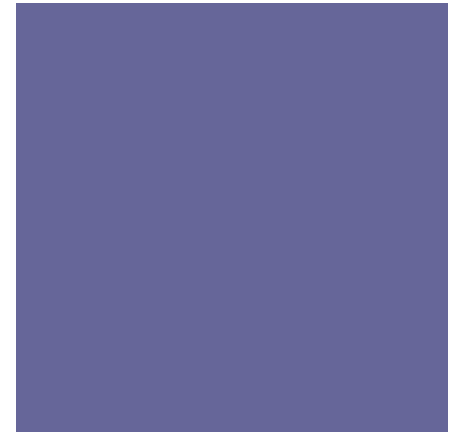
BEYOND BELIEF



Missing bodies still



HINDLEY AND BRADY



**Ian Brady and Myra
Hindley: The Moors
Murders of 1963-65**



missing body victims

- The **Moors Murders** were a series of sexually sadistic child murders, carried out by Ian Brady and Myra Hindley between July 1963 and October 1965, in Greater Manchester.
- The police were initially aware of only three killings; those of **Edward Evans** (who was axed to death in front of a horrified witness), Lesley Ann Downey and John Kilbride, who were both abducted and went missing without a trace.





missing body victims

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missing body victims

- Brady and Hindley were also responsible for **two further killings**, but proof was not forthcoming until **1985**, after Brady confessed to the murders of **Pauline Reade** and Keith Bennett, in an attempt to stymie Hindley's Parole application.
- Brady and Hindley both separately went back to Saddleworth Moor, in 1987, in an attempt by the Police to locate the remaining missing bodies.





Discovery of Pauline Reade

On the afternoon of 1 July 1987, after more than 100 days of searching, they found Pauline Reade's body lying in a shallow grave 3 feet (0.9 m) below the surface, only 100 yards (90 m) from the place where Lesley Ann Downey had been found.





trophy photography

- The body of the sequential fourth victim, Keith Bennett, is also suspected to be buried there, but despite repeated searches, it remains undiscovered.
- This photograph, taken by Brady, *may* be a trophy image taken of Keith Bennett's grave site, but its location has never been satisfactorily established.





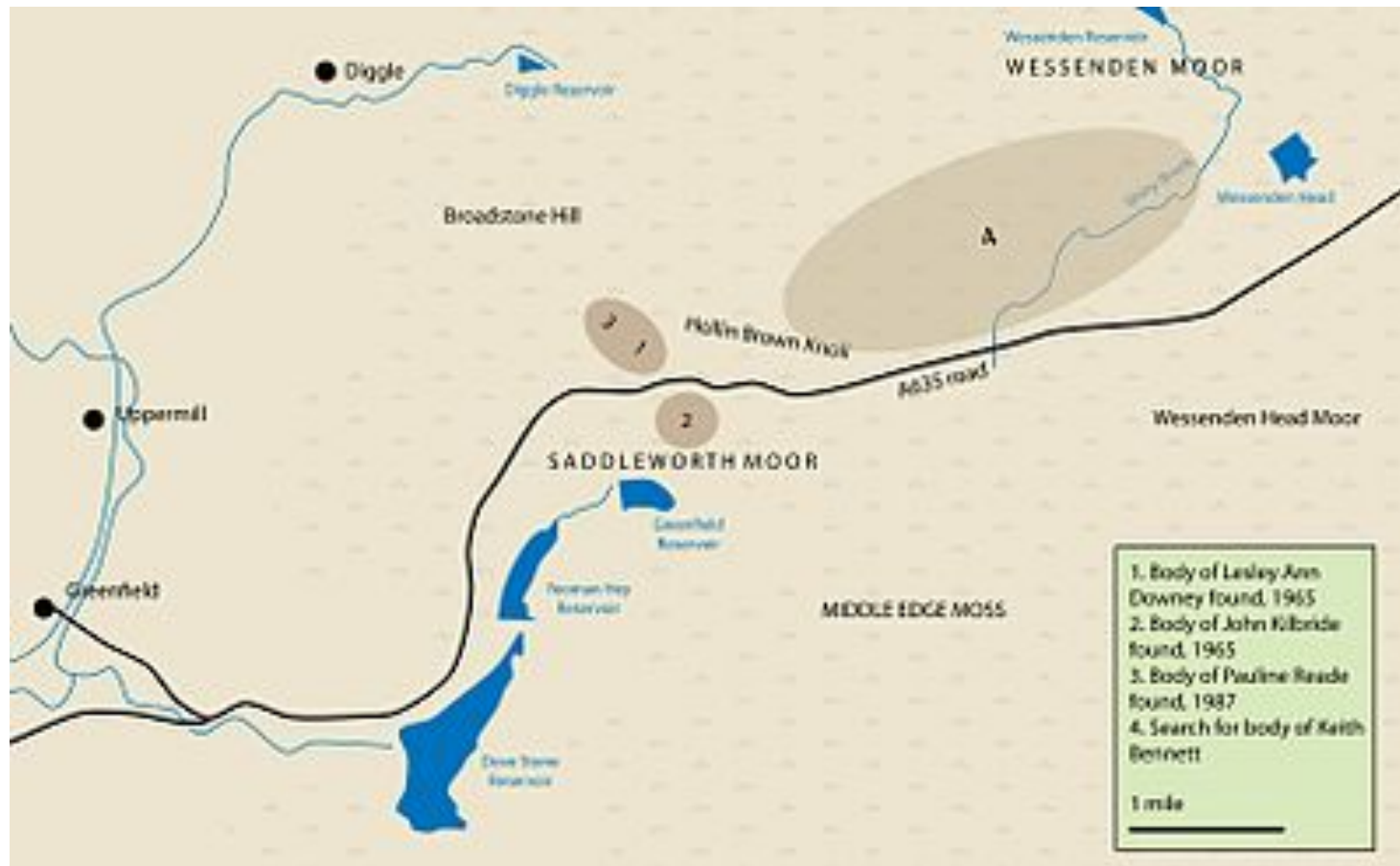
still missing

Little Keith's body has never been recovered. His remaining family continue to strive to locate it, more than 50 years on.





search area: geography





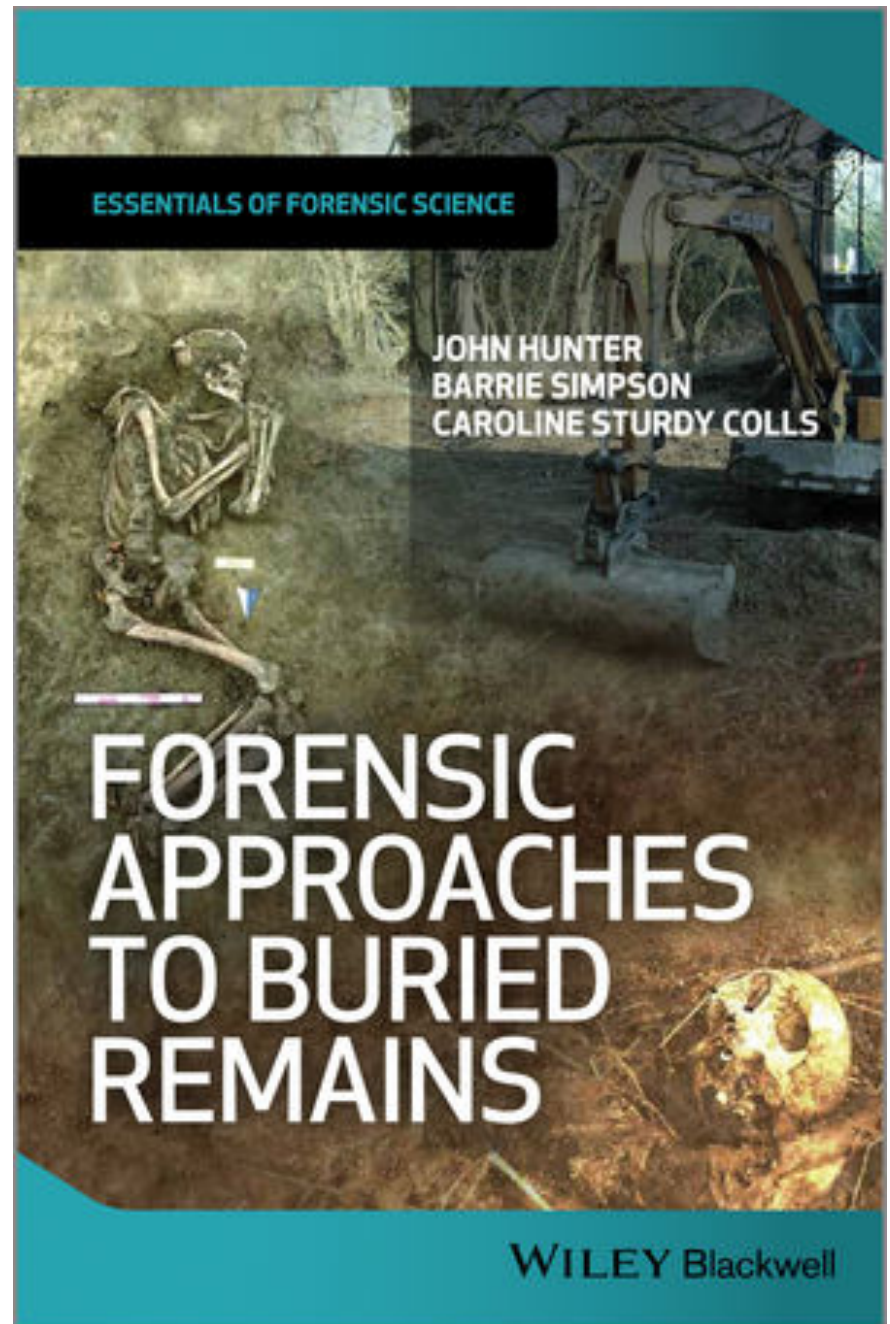
search area: reality





Finding Missing Bodies

The science and psychology of concealment and discovery.





Search theory and the landscape

- **Sequential and Phased approach**
- Primary methodologies are non-invasive, including mapping and surveying
- Secondary methodologies involve more field craft, or archaeological techniques
- Non-archaeological approaches including cadaver dogs and probing, and offender profiling increasingly relevant.

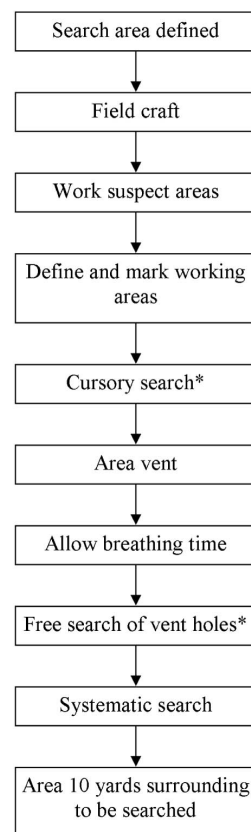


Figure 3.5 Recommended phases of search for cadaver dogs (adapted from ACPD 2011b, 7.29.3). Asterisks indicate optional tasks.



Search Theory

- Identify and evaluate appropriate techniques (*Assets*)
- Landscape Mapping
- Define Search Boundaries
- Deploy specialists in sequence
- Periodic review and monitoring
- Logging and archiving data



Is this the right resource?



Search Theory

- Identify and evaluate appropriate techniques (*Assets*)
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Or this....?



Search Theory

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Figure 2.7 Superimposition of aerial photographs: top, full coverage over a DTM at Barr Beacon. Image by courtesy of K. Colls and P. Breeze on behalf of Birmingham Archaeology; bottom, partial coverage over a simple contoured map of a Hungarian landscape. Image by courtesy of Zoltán Czajlik.



Search Theory

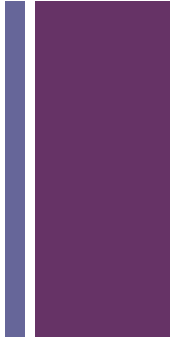
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.12 Surveying using GPS. Image by courtesy of RCAHMS. (Image courtesy of copyright: RCAHMS. Licensor www.rcahms.gov.uk).



Search Theory



- Identify and evaluate appropriate techniques (*Assets*)
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Some search areas cause problems, because they are so big



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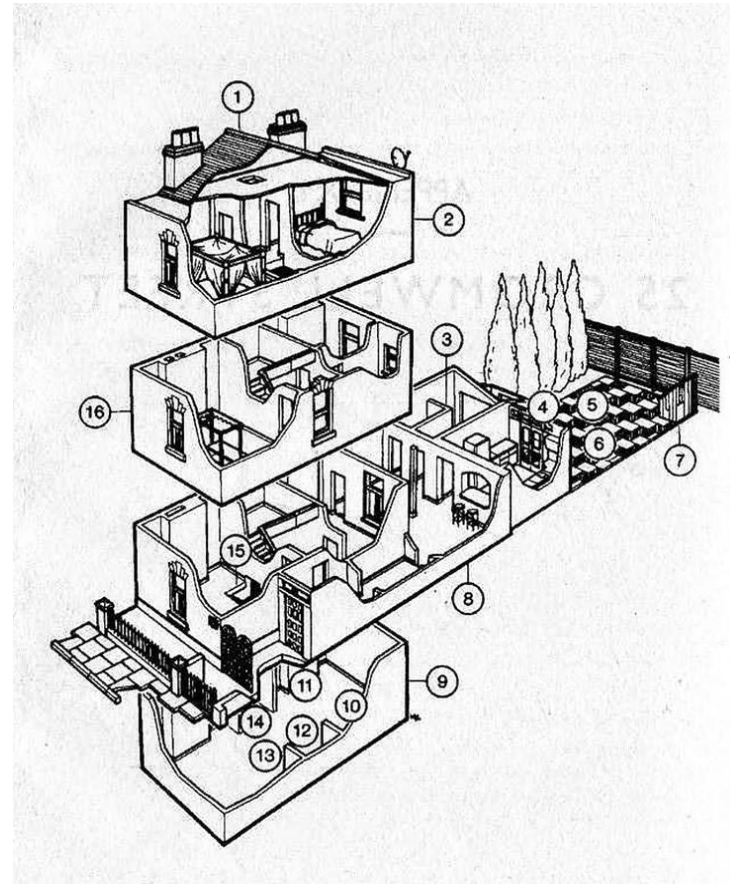


Others pose equal problems, because of their size constraints



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A finger tip search for the cartridge case, used to shoot PC David Rathband



Search Theory

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Figure 3.8 Careful machine stripping of surface layers in order to identify disturbances cut into undisturbed substrates. No disturbances are evident – compare with Figure 3.9.

Forensic Approaches to Buried Remains, First Edition, John Hunter, Barrie Simpson and Caroline Sturdy Colls.
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Search Theory

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Search Theory

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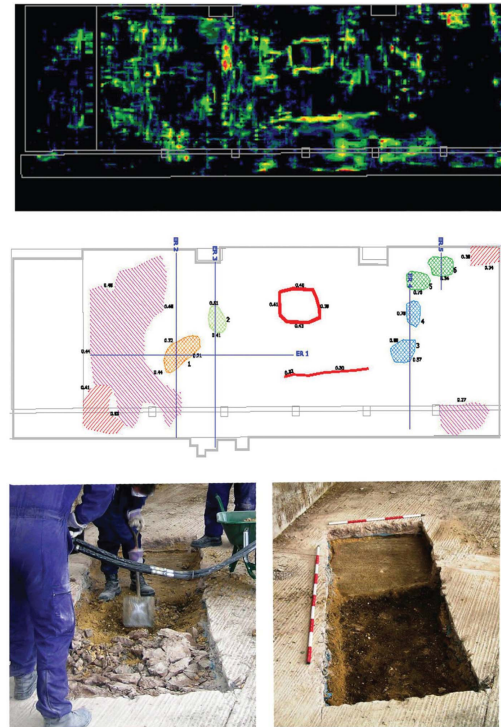
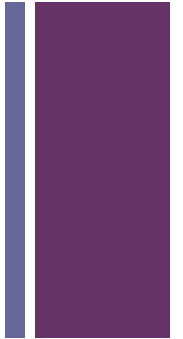


Figure 2.1 Excavation of the concrete floor of a barn marked out on a common grid resulting from GPR responses. The top image shows a horizontal radar slice at an estimated 0.5 m depth; the middle image shows the overall interpretation of radar responses at different depths, and the bottom images show the excavation of one of the potential targets. Geophysics images courtesy of Stratascan Ltd.

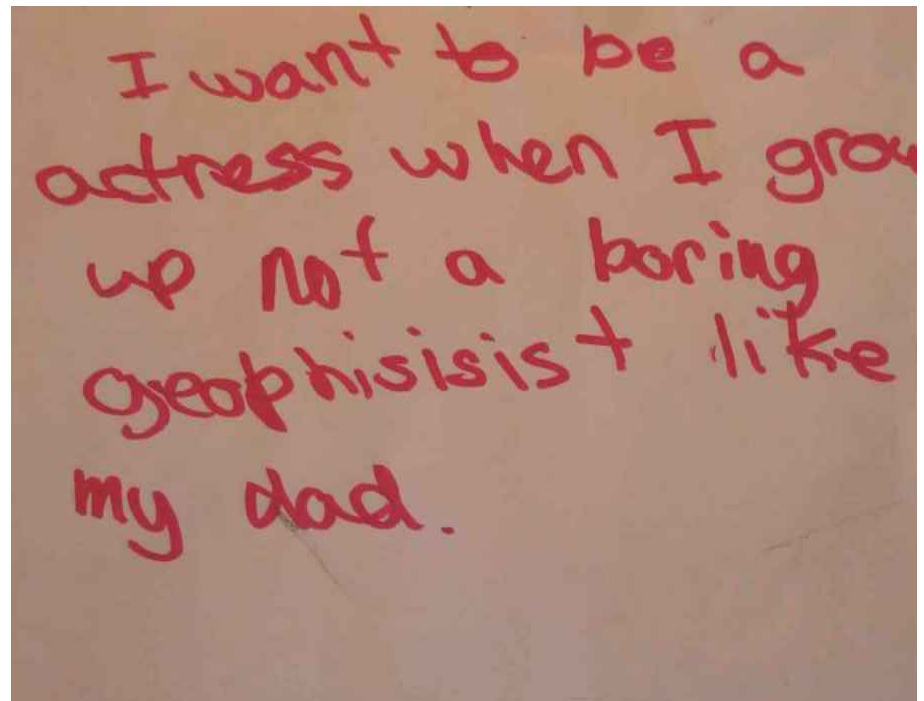


Geophysical Survey



- Active and Passive Geophysics

- Stimulating the earth electromagnetically, and measuring the resulting responses (e.g. ground penetrating radar)
- Passive scanning for ferrous metal deposits (magnetometer)



Amy, aged 9 years 4 months, potential superstar



Geophysical Survey

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operating ground radar



Geophysical Survey

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Operating magnetometer



Geophysical Survey

- The figure on the right is a ground radar scan of a suspected murder deposition site
- The blue-green trace anomaly indicates an almost perfectly regular geometric alteration in ground density in a characteristic wedge shape.

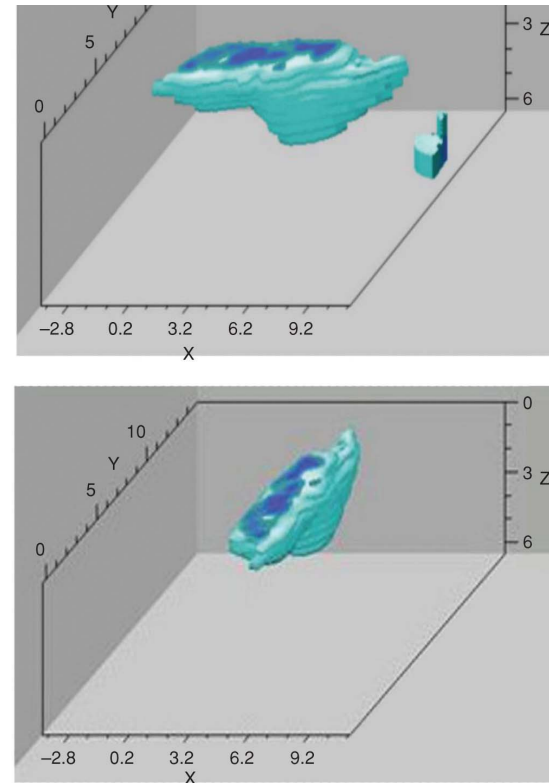


Figure 3.4 Three-dimensional view of mass grave generated using electrical resistance tomography. Image by courtesy of the International Commission on Missing Persons.



Geophysical Survey

- Such traces are typical of mass graves , dug by means of a mechanical excavator.
- Excavators are tools, and like all such implements, leave characteristic tool marks
- This trace was, in fact, a mass grave, discovered in the course of a European genocide investigation.





Geophysical Survey

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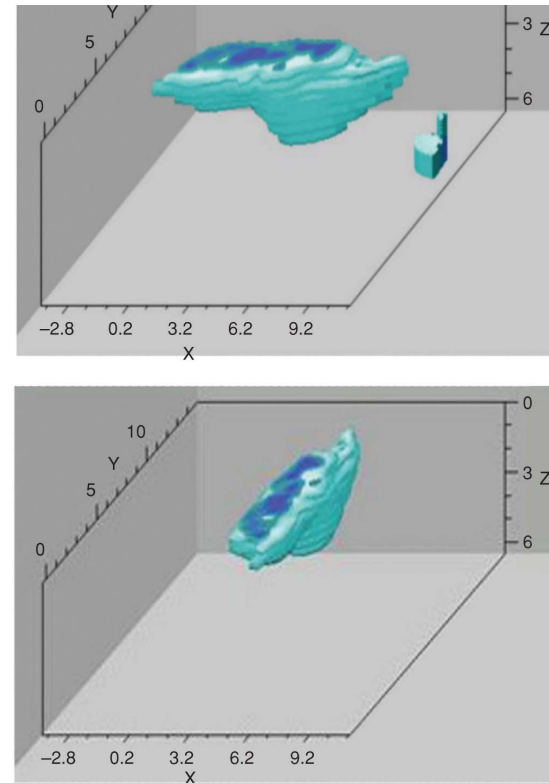
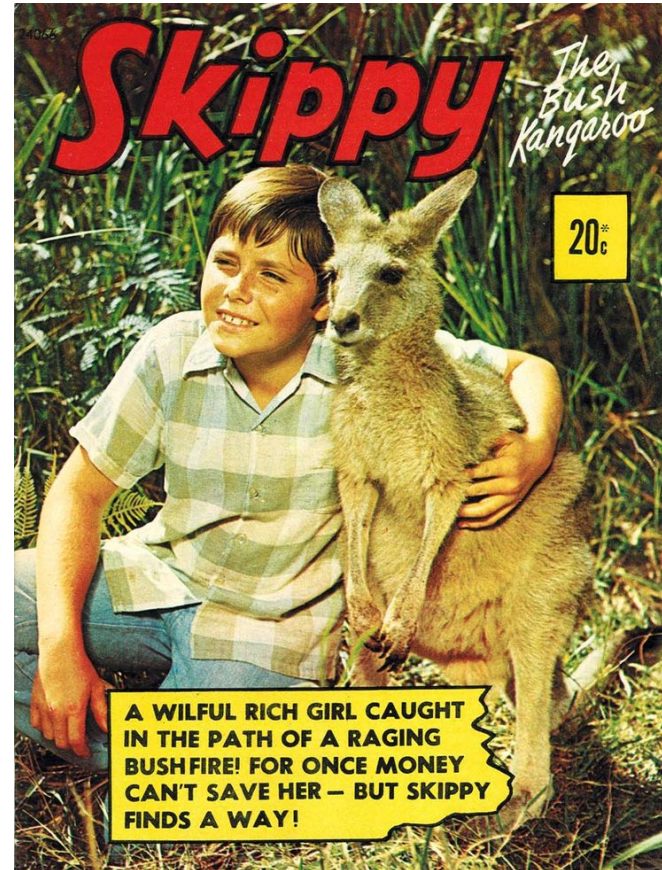


Figure 3.4 Three-dimensional view of mass grave generated using electrical resistance tomography. Image by courtesy of the International Commission on Missing Persons.



Or Try Innovative Search Techniques

-particularly useful if you have a couple of kids stuck down a mineshaft who can speak kangaroo....but otherwise, stick to tried and tested science.





Search theory and the landscape



- Sequential and Phased approach
- Primary methodologies are non-invasive, including mapping and surveying
- Secondary methodologies involving field craft, or archaeological techniques
- Non-archaeological approaches, including offender profiling



Cadaver Dogs

- Body scent dogs are trained to respond actively or passively to volatile products of decomposition of human bodies.
- Training is complex, and the precise competencies of each individual animal has to be ascertained .
- Dogs are worked across a planned search grid which is vented at intervals with probes, to release gases trapped below the surface soil.





Cadaver Dogs

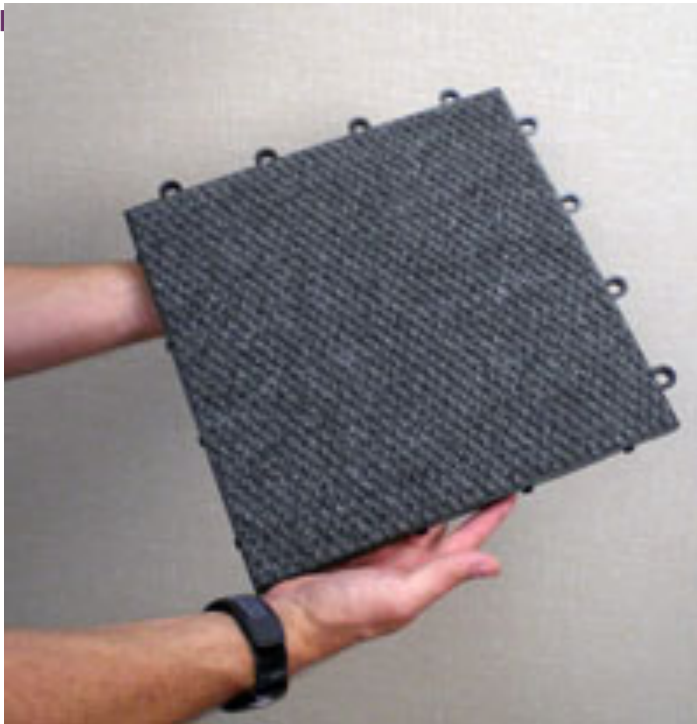
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cadaver dog working



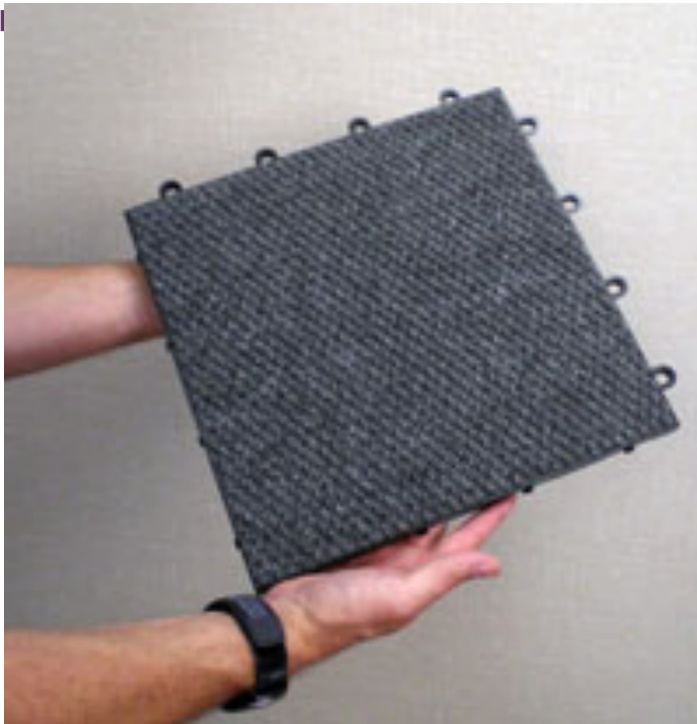
Research: Cadaver Dogs



- Carpet squares were used as an odour transporting media after they had been contaminated with the scent of two recently deceased bodies (bodies are all less than 3 hours old). The contamination occurred for 2 min as well as 10 min without any direct contact between the carpet and the corpse. Comparative searches by the dogs were performed over a time period of 65 days (10 min contamination) and 35 days (2 min contamination).
- **Cadaver dogs—a study on detection of contaminated carpet squares.**
Oesterhelweg L, Kröber S, Rottmann K, Willhöft J, Braun C, Thies N, Püschel K, Silkenath J, Gehl A.
Institute of Legal Medicine, University Medical Center Hamburg, Germany.



Research: Cadaver Dogs



- The results of this study indicate that the well-trained cadaver dog is an outstanding tool for crime scene investigation displaying excellent sensitivity (75-100), specificity (91-100), and having a positive predictive value (90-100), negative predictive value (90-100) as well as accuracy (92-100).
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Use of probe



Interpreting results: Scent cones





Referencing the landscape: “windthopping”



Figure 5.2 Comparison of photograph taken in the 1960s (top) and in 2012 (bottom), courtesy of Duncan Staff. The earlier photograph shows a barren scree landscape which is now heather covered. Only the very obvious rock reference points are still identifiable.

Forensic Approaches to Buried Remains, First Edition. John Hunter, Barrie Simpson and Caroline Sturdy Colls.
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- Initially used for counter-terrorism in Northern Ireland in the search and location of weapons caches, *winthropping* is a technique of identifying movement across, as well as within, landscapes.
- It examines the way in which prominent markers, features and boundaries motivate, influence or constrain people's behaviour
- **Humphrey, Masters and Harrison: Cranfield University**



“Windthropping”

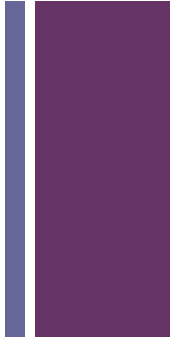


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Conclusions



- Missing body murders engage every forensic process, and present an ongoing challenge to those involved in the law, forensic science and forensic psychiatry.
- Victims should always come first in the process; and it is our duty and privilege to honour that commitment.
- As you leave, please take just a moment, in your own fashion, to remember with compassion all those who grieve for those who are lost and never found.
- Thank you for your kind attention.



Thank You

Professor Bob Peckitt

LL.M FRCPsych FRSB DCBPsych MRCGP MFFLM MFMLM
M.Acad M.Ed MCSFS C.Sci. MIPL MRCS LRCP DRCOG DCH
DFFP D Crim JS C. Forensic Med & Sci Certificate in Terrorism
Studies

Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist and Physician

East Anglian Forensic Services Ltd

44-48 Magdalen St

Norwich

NR3 1JU

enquiries@eastanglianforensicservices.com