FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Jack The Ripper

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UNSUB; AKA JACK THE RIPPER;
SERIES OF HOMICIDES
LONDON, ENGLAND
1888
NCAVC - HOMICIDE (CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE ANALYSIS)

The following criminal investigative analysis was prepared by Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) John E. Douglas, FBI National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC), Program Manager of Criminal Investigative Analysis. At the request of Cosgrove-Meurer Productions, SSA Douglas was requested to prepare an analysis of a 100-year-old, unsolved serial murder case that occurred in England. This historical case was known as "Jack the Ripper."

SSA Douglas was provided basic background information relative to each case; however, it is noted that forensic technology and other investigative techniques, as we know of today, were nonexistent a century ago. Medical examiners' reports were incomplete, crime scene photography was used sparingly, and police investigative reports do not reflect the type of thoroughness evidenced today.

When a case is submitted for investigative analysis, the reliability and validity of the overall analysis is hinged on the thoroughness displayed by the medical examiners, technicians, investigators, etc. Although materials provided were not as complete as cases submitted today by much more sophisticated law enforcement agencies, SSA Douglas filled in the missing pieces of information by making certain probable assumptions.

This analysis will address the following areas: Victimology or profile of victims; medical examiner's findings; crime and crime scene analysis; offender traits and characteristics; pre- and post-offense behavioral patterns; investigative and/or proactive techniques; and interview/interrogation suggestions.

Rather than address each homicide separately, SSA Douglas' comments will relate to the entire series of homicides as a whole.

VICTIMOLOGY

In each homicide, the victim was a prostitute with a reputation of drinking quite heavily. These two ingredients place the victim in a "high risk" category. By "high risk," we define this as someone who is very likely to be the victim of violent crime. From an investigative perspective, this makes it extremely difficult in reference to developing logical suspects. From a forensic viewpoint, if any evidence is obtained such as hairs and fibers, semen, etc., law enforcement would not know for certain if this evidence did in fact come from the subject.

One hundred years ago, prostitution was not as organized as it is today, where we have pimps controlling, monitoring, and protecting their stables. During the "Jack the Ripper" era, women worked independently. A female prostitute who drank heavily was looking for trouble. We would suspect that there were numerous instances of these women being physically assaulted, raped, and ripped off.

Prostitutes 100 years ago did not dress differently than other women at that time. In most cases, they performed their "services" in dark alleys or in "flop" houses. The prostitutes targeted by Jack the Ripper were nearly twice the age of prostitutes soliciting today. They were not particularly attractive and other than their age, there were no striking similarities between them. (It is noted that the last victim was 25.)

The "Jack the Ripper" victims were targeted because they were readily accessible. Jack the Ripper did not have to initiate the contact. This was done for him by the prostitute. This is an important feature in a case such as this and will be addressed later on in this analysis under "Offender Traits and Characteristics."

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

As stated earlier, the medical examinations conducted at that time were not very thorough when compared to autopsy examinations conducted today by experienced forensic pathologists. However, even in some parts of the United States today, autopsy examinations are something less than desired.

The primary areas noted in this analysis were as follows:

1. No evidence of sexual assault.

2. Subject killed victims swiftly.

3. Subject was able to maintain control of victims during the initial "blitz style" of attack.

4. Subject removed body organs (i.e., kidney, vagina, nose) on some of the victims, indicating some anatomical knowledge.

5. No evidence of physical torture prior to death.

6. Postmortem mutilation.

7. Possible manual strangulation.

8. Blood from victims was concentrated in small areas.

9. Rings were taken from one of the victims.

10. The last victim was killed indoors and was the most mutilated. Subject spent a considerable amount of time at the scene.

11. Time of death was in the early morning hours.

The above-listed autopsy findings will contribute to the overall offender analysis that will be addressed later on in this report.

CRIME AND CRIME SCENE ANALYSIS

With the exception of the last case, all victims were killed outdoors. All victims were killed swiftly, with the victims consequently receiving postmortem mutilation. All homicides occurred within one-fourth of a mile from each other and occurred either on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday during early morning hours. After the first homicide at Whitechapel Station, the subject moved slightly across town (one-fourth of a mile). If a line is drawn from crime scenes 2, 3, 4, and 5, a triangular configuration is formed. This is observed in other types of serial crimes. This triangular configuration is viewed as a secondary comfort zone for the Ripper. This movement is caused when a subject believes that the investigation is heating up in his primary comfort zone. The primary comfort zone would be the location of the first homicide in the vicinity of Whitechapel Station. It is the opinion of this crime analyst that there were other attacks in the Whitechapel area that either went unreported or for some reason were not considered by authorities to be crimes of Jack the Ripper.

Some criminologists and behavioral scientists have written in the past that subjects will maintain their modus operandi and that is what links so-called "signature crimes." This conclusion is incorrect. A subject will change his modus operandi as he gains additional experience. This is learned behavior. However, the personal desires and needs of the subject are expressed in the ritual aspect of a crime. The ritual is something that he must always do because it is the acting out of the fantasy. With Jack the Ripper, the target selection, the approach, the method of his initial attack, are his modus operandi. What takes place after this is the ritual. The ritual may become more elaborate as was in the last homicide case. Here, the Ripper had time to act out his fantasies. As investigators, we should not necessarily expect the same type of homicides in the future, particularly if subsequent victims are killed outdoors. Once again, he would not have the time to carry out all of his fantasies and consequently mutilation will not be as advanced.

COMMUNIQUES ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED FROM THE RIPPER

Another aspect of this case worth mentioning was the communiques allegedly received from Jack the Ripper. It is quite rare when a serial murderer of this type communicates with police, media, family, etc. When they do communicate, they generally provide specifics relative to the crime that only are known by the subject. In addition, they generally provide information relative to their motivation for committing such a heinous crime. It is my opinion that this series of homicides was not perpetrated by someone who set up a challenge against law enforcement. While the killer knew he would be receiving national as well as international publicity, this was not his primary motivation.

In summary, I would not put emphasis on the communiques during this investigation. However, I would develop an investigative technique with the goal in mind to identify the author of the communiques.

OFFENDER TRAITS AND CHARACTERISTICS

These homicides are referred to as Lust Murders. Roy Hazelwood and I wrote an article several years ago which appeared in the FBI's Law Enforcement Bulletin. The word "lust" does nor mean love or have any sexual meaning, other than the fact that the subject attacks the genital areas of his victims. The vaginal area and breasts are the focal point of attack in a woman and the penis and scrotum are the attack area of the male offender. Generally, males who are attacked in this fashion are victims that were involved in a homosexual relationship.

I have never experienced a female serial lust murderer either in research or in cases received at the NCAVC. It is for this reason that Jack the Ripper was a male. He was of white race in view of the fact that white was the predominant race at the crime scene locations, and generally crimes such as these are intraracial.

The age of onset for these types of homicides is generally between the mid to late 20's. Based upon the high degree of psychopathology exhibited at the scene, the ability of the subject to converse with the victim until a suitable location is found, and the ability to avoid detection, places him between the age bracket of 28 to 36 years of age. However, it should be noted that age is a difficult characteristic to categorize and consequently we would not eliminate a viable suspect exclusively because of age.

This offender does not look out of the ordinary. However, the clothing he wears at the time of the assaults is not his everyday dress. He wants to project to unsuspecting females (prostitutes) that he has money; consequently this relieves him from initiating contact.

He comes from a family where he was raised by a domineering mother and weak, passive and/or absent father. In all likelihood, his mother drank heavily and enjoyed the company of many men. As a result, he failed to receive consistent care and contact with stable adult role models. Consequently, he became detached socially and developed a diminished emotional response towards his fellow man. He became asocial, preferring to be alone. His anger became internalized and in his younger years, he expressed his pent-up destructive emotions by setting fires and torturing small animals. By perpetrating these acts, he discovered increased areas of dominance, power and control, and learned how to continue violent destructive acts without detection or punishment.

As he grew older, his <u>fantasy</u> developed a strong component that included domination, cruelty, and mutilation of women. We would expect to find evidence of this violent destructive fantasy life through personal writings of his as well as drawings of women being mutilated.

For employment, he would seek a position where he could work alone and vicariously experience his destructive fantasies. Such employment would include work as a butcher, mortician's helper, medical examiner's assistant, or hospital attendant. He is employed Monday through Friday and on Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday is off from work. He has carried a knife for defense purposes--just in case he was ever attacked, he would be ready.

This paranoid-type of thinking is in part justified because of the poor self-image he has of himself. He would be expected to have some type of physical abnormality. However, although not severe, he perceives this as being psychologically crippling. We would look for someone below or above average in height and/or weight. May have problems with speech, scarred complexion, physical illness, or injury.

We would not expect this type of offender to be married. If he was married in the past, it would have been to someone older than himself and the marriage would have been for a short duration.

He is not adept in meeting people socially and the major extent of his heterosexual relationships would be with prostitutes. Due to lack of hygiene practices by prostitutes at that time and the absence of treatment for venereal disease, he may have been infected. If infected, this would further fuel his hatred and disgust for women.

He would be perceived as being quiet, a loner, shy, slightly withdrawn, obedient, and neat and orderly in appearance and when working. He drinks in the local pubs and after a few spirits, he becomes more relaxed and finds it easier to engage in conversation. He lives or works in the Whitechapel area. The first homicide should be in close proximity to either his home or workplace. It is noted that London Hospital is only one block from the first homicide and as stated earlier in this analysis, we would expect other violent crimes in this vicinity.

Investigators would have interviewed him during the course of the investigation and he was probably talked to by police on several occasions. Unfortunately at this time, there was no way to correlate this type of information; therefore, he was overlooked. Investigators and citizens in the community had a preconceived idea or picture of what Jack the Ripper would look like. Because of the belief that he would appear odd or ghoulish in appearance, he was overlooked and/or eliminated as a potential suspect.

PRE- AND POST-OFFENSE BEHAVIOR

Prior to each homicide, the subject was in a local pub drinking spirits, while at the same time lowering his inhibitions. He would be observed walking all over the Whitechapel area during the early evening hours. He did not specifically seek a certain look in a woman; however, it was by no accident that he killed prostitutes. He had the sense to know when and where to attack his victims. There would have been many

other women who confronted Jack the Ripper and were not assaulted because the location was not secure enough.

Post-offense behavior would include returning to an area where he could wash his hands of blood and remove his clothing. We would not expect him to inject himself into the police investigation or provide bogus information.

Jack the Ripper hunted nightly for his victims. When he could not find another, he returned to the locations where he killed his previous victims. If the victims were buried locally, he would visit the gravesites of his victims during the early morning hours for the purpose of reliving his lust murders.

Jack the Ripper would not have committed suicide after the last homicide. Generally, when crimes such as these cease, it is because he came close to being identified, was interviewed by police, or was arrested for some other type of offense. As stated previously in this report, we would be surprised if Jack the Ripper would suddenly stop. However, we've seen this happen before and generally it has been because of the above-stated reasons.

INVESTIGATIVE AND/OR PROSECUTIVE TECHNIQUES

Jack the Ripper would be best suited to be interviewed during the early morning hours. He would feel more relaxed and secure to confess to the homicides. He would feel more relaxed to express himself by writing about his motivation for killing the women. He would not be visibly shaken or upset if directly accused of the homicides. However, he would be psychologically and physiologically stressed if confronted with the fact that he became personally soiled by the victims' blood. Jack the Ripper believed the homicides were justified and he was only removing perishable items--who were like garbage.

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