CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

CASE NOTES	
DATE	25.10.2024
INVESTIGATING OFFICER	Peter Manuel & Harold Shipman
REF NO	RIGHt4ng13

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Peter Manuel

Born to a Scottish American family on 15th March 1927 in New York City, USA. The family returned to the United Kingdom at the beginning of the Second World War.
There was an older brother of Manuel whom had been left behind in New York. The reason is unknown.

His Family

During the Second World War, their house was bombed during the Blitz. Manuel would later allege during the bombing of his house, he was hit in the head with shrapnel, causing bouts of minor epileptic fits. He tried to rely on this at his trial to say that he was insane and should be convicted of culpable homicide instead of murder, for which the death penalty was still lawful.

The family were living in Coventry at the time, and so they had to move. It therefore follows that Manuel was uprooted several times at a time of World War 2.

There appears to be a good relationship between his mother and father and indeed, later on in life, his father would supply him with a false alibi which stopped him being charged with a murder.

The Start

For whatever reason, Manuel started committing offences at the age of 12, comprising mainly theft and housebreaking, which is now referred to as burglary.

His punishment was being sent to an approved school, during which time he escaped on several occasions between 1939 and 1941, as reflected by his criminal record. One must assume these approved schools were austere and often staffed by bullies and violent inmates. Corporal punishment was often used by prison staff.

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His First Convictions

June 1942 saw the first evidence of violence when he would have been 15, and this was a case of unlawful wounding. This is the second most serious degree of assault which consists of serious bodily injury.
On 27th June 1946, at the age of 19, he viciously raped the wife of a fellow employee in her house and was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment. He was released in 1952.

Gangsters & Gangland

His early childhood was rooted in New York, and at the time there were gangster movies and prolific coverage of gangland killings. There is evidence that he was an avid reader of gangster books. He was articulate and certainly showed shallow charm. A good looking young man, who would have had ample opportunity to enjoy a normal relationship with a woman. But for some reason, this was not to be. There is no evidence whatsoever that he had a normal relationship with any girl.

Mad or Bad?

There can be no doubt that Manuel was a psychopath. There are various traits that can be used to describe a psychopath forensically. Amongst these are:- extreme confidence, shallow relationships, cold bloodedness, lack of empathy, lack of remorse and treating humans as objects without any respect to their feelings, thoughts or relationships.

Interestingly, the Scottish courts, whom have a separate system of justice from England and Wales, have never allowed psychopathy to be used as a defence for diminished responsibility. At least six doctors could find no evidence at all that Manuel was "insane". You therefore have to delve very deeply to discover exactly what it was that motivated Manuel to commit such horrific and cold blooded crimes.

It is dangerous to look for *triggers* to explain murderous behaviour. According to Freud we all have a "death instinct". Where he used a blunt instrument, which was on two occasions, not only was the instrument used to kill the person concerned, but also to destroy their faces. Was he trying to destroy their personality as well?

His Last Murder

On the last murder, he murdered a family of three and remained in the property for at least 48 hours, feeding the family cat and helping himself to food, whilst a 10 year old boy, whom he had just murdered, lay dead in his bed.

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PETER MANUEL;
MAD OR BAD

SOLVED

Bizarre Behaviour

For me, his bizarre and confident behaviour is drawn into sharp focus, when he brokered a meeting with William Watt, whom had been accused of murdering his family when in fact, all along, it was Manuel. Again, this behaviour underpins the traits of a cold blooded psychopath.

Initially, Manuel met Watt in prison and it appeared to Manuel at this time that Watt was the "kingpin" in Barlinnie Prison.

Once Watt had been released, Manuel, in a highly audacious manner, arranged to meet poor Mr Watt in a pub. Manuel told Watt that he had information that would lead to the person responsible for killing his family. Watt was in a highly agitated state and strongly suspected Manuel of greater involvement than he was letting on.

This certainly is not the behaviour of a "typical" murderer, given the majority of murders in the UK are domestic, where parties are known to each other. It is almost as though Manuel was playing a game of Cluedo with Watt, dangling various clues.

Last Thoughts – A Copy Cat?

It would be very difficult to prove the motive behind these killings. My thoughts are that this rage was fuelled by psychopathic traits and the possibility of the lack of relationships with his brother and women.

Some of the murders where a firearm was used have all the hallmarks of mafia type executions. It is therefore possible that he had committed "copycat murders"? In addition, the *Nature V Nurture* argument suggests watching violent films at an early age shaped his behaviour, resulting in Manuel being one of the most prolific murderers the UK has ever seen

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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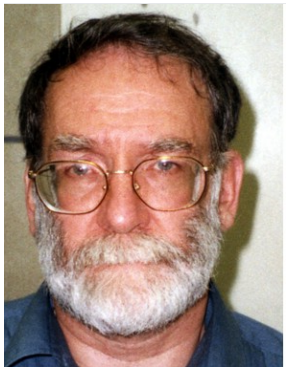

Harold Shipman

Born on Monday, 14th January 1946, to a lorry driver father. He was the second of four siblings. They were devout Methodists and "snobs". In fairness, the parents wanted the best for their son. He was sent to a Nottingham Grammar School. He is the UK's most prolific serial killer. According to the Shipman Public Enquiry Chair- he murdered at least 215 people.

His Family

He was born into a large family in Nottingham. After his father died he became very close to his mother Vera. She suffered with cancer and died on Friday, 21st June 1963. **She had been given diamorphine by her GP**. **There is evidence that Harold, aged just 17, was present when the doctor administered the doses**. Around this time, Shipman started dating Primrose Oxtoby whom he subsequently married. They produced four children.

Career as a Doctor-Sacked 1975

Shipman graduated as Doctor from Leeds School of Medicine, in 1970. His first job as a houseman was at Pontefract General Infirmary. In 1974 he successfully applied for a post as a General Practitioner at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre in Todmorden, West Yorkshire. Apparently, he became known as "Dr Know-It-All". In addition, he refused to take advice from senior staff. He was also an autocratic, bullying, task master.

His so called practice was marred by his addiction to a cocaine based pain killer called pethidine. In view of his position, he was able to effectively 'short change' legimate patients and use the substance for his own use. He would inject himself in areas which could not be seen by colleagues etc.

His patients adored him. He gave his time freely and appeared genuinely interested in their problems. This sentiment was not reciprocated as he murdered at least two patients at this practice with lethal doses of diamorphine (heroin)

In 1975, he came unstuck. He was convicted of forging a prescription, fined £600 and sacked. He should have been struck off; but he wasn't.

HAROLD SHIPMAN
DR DEATH

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Back as a GP 1977

Harold Shipman, was a shrewd and cunning individual whom managed to convince the General Medical Council he was free of his addiction. As a consequence, he was taken on at the Donneybrook Medical Centre in Hyde near to Manchester. It was through his practice and satisfying his egocentricity, he appeared on ***World In Action*** as a respected member of the community; giving an interview on treating the mentally ill in the community.

Signs of Psychopathic Traits

Already it will be noted that Shipman was exhibiting some classic psychopathic traits:-

1. Extreme egocentricity
2. Superficial and shallow charm (Charming to patients, but prepared to kill)
3. Pathological liar

Britain's greatest serial killer

Shipman continued to flaunt his so called interest in his patients even promising to ring after surgery hours and Sundays if need be. Instead of a licensed doctor, he was now "licensed to kill" and like so many killers, he became confident with his escalating criminal career.

As a former, senior police officer, I am shocked over the excessive and repeated use of diamorphine. It beggars belief that fellow doctors did not pick up on this, or indeed HM Coroner. This was subject to comment by Dame Janet SMITH, Chair of the Shipman Enquiry.

In the character of a narcissistic psychopath, Shipman was able to control peers by his persuasive, cold hearted and guilt lacking behaviour.

Shipman was eventually caught and brought to justice. It was revealed he had forged the will of his last victim Kathleen Grundy. He stood to gain £386 000. His trial took place on Tuesday, 5th October 1999, he was indicted with 15 murders

HAROLD SHIPMAN
DR DEATH

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Competing theories of motive

Harold Shipman was represented by a very able Nicola Davies QC. (Now a Judge) On Shipman's behalf, despite overwhelming "circumstantial" evidence, she presented Shipman as a 'caring if idiosyncratic' and who 'went beyond the call of duty' in his treatment. She made three, unsuccessful submissions to halt the trial and nearly won!

During her final speech, she accused the prosecution of not having a "motive". Her learned friend for the prosecution said "We are not here to consider amateur psychological theories." One can easily accept this stance for a criminal trial.

During the Shipman Enquiry, Dame Janet Smith made a dogged attempt to discover the motivation behind Shipman's serial killings. She wanted the public to be re-assured this could not happen again. Sadly and unsurprisingly, Shipman refused to co-operate with the enquiry and the psychiatrists assigned to the enquiry. At best they could only rely on second hand documents.

Several commentators from different disciplines have proffered the following theories behind Shipman's motivation:-

1. That he wanted to be caught as his life was out of control
2. That he planned to retire and leave the UK
3. He enjoyed what he did

Uncharacteristically, for a psychopath, Harold Shipman took his own life on Tuesday, 13th January 2004 at HM Prison Wakefield

Last Thoughts

Are you convinced, despite a public enquiry this could not happen again? I am not. There have been several instances of the medical profession abusing their position unfettered and committing murder. The elderly are an easy criminal target; let's hope the deeds of a Shipman type character are checked before they metamorphose into a homicidal, psychopathic killer. At the time of producing this document (Monday, 22nd January 2019) there is emerging, but scant evidence, indicating a similar circumstances at Gosport War Memorial Hospital

HAROLD SHIPMAN
DR DEATH

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