THE ‘JIGSAW’ MURDER

Ray Palmer
Principal Forensic Scientist
The Forensic Science Service
Huntingdon
A severed left leg was found in a bag near the village of Cottered, in the county of Hertfordshire.

It had been placed in a blue plastic sack and sealed with tape.
A severed forearm was found near the village of Wheathampstead, in the county of Hertfordshire

It was not wrapped
31st March 2009

A decapitated head was found near the village of Asfordby in the county of Leicestershire

Its face, tongue and ears had been removed.
A severed right leg was found near the town of Puckeridge in the county of Hertfordshire on 7th April 2009.

Like the left leg, it had been placed in a blue plastic sack and wrapped with tape.
11th April 2009

A human torso with a right arm and upper left arm was found in the town of Standon in Hertfordshire.

It was found inside a suitcase, inside a blue plastic sack which had been wrapped in tape.
WHERE THE PARTS WERE FOUND

1. March 22: Left leg and foot found by the A507 in Cottered, Hertfordshire.

2. March 29: Forearm found in Wheathampstead

3. March 31: Head found in Asfordby, Leicestershire

4. April 7: Right leg found by the A10 Puckeridge bypass in Hertfordshire

5. April 11: Torso, right arm and upper left arm found in a ditch in Gore Lane, Standon, East Hertfordshire.
All the remains had originated from one male

The body had been ‘skillfully dissected’

The hands were never found

The press labelled this individual ‘The Jig-Saw Man’
Strategy

Examine debris from the body parts and wrapping

Identify any fibre collectives which may relate to the environment where the dismemberment took place (or at least where the parts were wrapped).

Decision made to initially concentrate on the tapes used to wrap the body parts
Initial Results

Initial survey of wrapping tapes reveals the presence of blue, viscose flock collectives
Flock fibres

Flock adhesive

substrate
Information passed to investigative team to look out for Dark blue/ black item with ‘ Peach skin or ‘velvet’ texture.
Meantime.....

Some weeks before the body parts were found, a missing person inquiry had been launched.

As a consequence, the recovered human remains were eventually identified as those of Jeffrey HOWE.
Jeffrey Howe, aged 49

Lived at Flat 13 Fernwood Court, Pickard Close, N London
Sarah Bush

Worked as an escort
Girlfriend of Stephen MARSHALL
Stephen Marshall

Associate of Jeffrey Howe
History of violent behaviour
Marshall and Bush questioned

Inquiry team unhappy with responses to questions

Both arrested

Decision taken to search house

Source of flock collective identified!
4 Inflatable Mattresses

3 identical in terms of fibre type/colour and brand (‘Campinggaz’)
The 4\textsuperscript{th} Mattress differed;
‘ASDA’ brand
Mixture of polyester and viscose flock
Colour subtly different from other three…

Extend fibre search to rubble sacks and packing
as well as other items relating to suspects
**Left Leg**
- Leg taping (TMP/8)
- (NJ/2&SY/7) Duct Tape
- Rubble sacks (SY/7)
- Holdall (TMP/7)

**Left Arm**
- Tapings CJK/9

**Right Leg**
- Duct Tape SMP/1
- Rubble sack (SMP/1)
- *(CRM/2)* Tapings

**Torso**
- Rubble sacks (SMP/43,45,46)
- Duct Tapes (SMP/43 &45)
- Towel (SMP/41)

**Knife Case**
- DMEF/3

**Blue Flock**
- Mattresses (EJG16-18)

**SEAT TOLEDO**
- Drivers Seat (FS1000)

**Flat 13, Fernwood Cl.**
- Carpet (EJG/63)

*Contains fibres from all 4 mattresses*

* No matches found

* Innumerable

* 14/21

* 14/25 (96)

* 23/28

* 13/28 (c.80)

* 13/20 (>500)

* 4/20 attributable to (EJG/19)

* 3/10 (40)

* 3/10 (40)
Fibres from all 4 mattresses present in MARSHALL’s environment

Fibres representing only 3 of mattresses on items relating to the body parts

Contrary to expectations.........?!
Further collectives found; Green and red polyester fibres.

Decision taken to screen seized items for any likely sources

Matches found!!
‘KUSTOM KIT’ Polo Shirt
Industrial Inquiry

The Polo shirts made by company ‘Charterhouse Holdings’

Label code showed this item was among 3034 items sold between 2001 - 2004

There had been at least one change in dye batch since then.

The items were sold to mail order companies of which ‘Kustom Kit’ were just one.

‘Kustom Kit’ provided the item and embroidered the logo as ordered by the gym used by MARSHALL
Maroon T Shirt
The perfect spare bed
Designed for home, sleep-overs or camping.

- Luxury velour top.
- Heavy gauge PVC bottom and gusset for strength and durability.
- Unique contoured coil construction adds support for optimum comfort.
- Large valve system makes inflating and deflating quick and easy.
  Electric pump is recommended for quick inflation. Note: pump not included.

Approx size when deflated: 191x137x13cm
Approx size when inflated: 194x140x25cm

Care Instructions:
Spot clean with a damp cloth. Take care when deflating and always fold your bed when storing.

Produced in China for Asda Stores Limited
Leeds
LS1 5AD
387/108

WARNING
Keep away from fire and other sources of heat.
Not to be used in water.
Not a life saving device.
Not suitable for children under 3 years. See product for additional warnings.

The Mattress Problem
The mattress problem resolved....

Review of items recovered from Flat 13, Fernwood close

Receipt for purchase of ‘ASDA’ inflatable mattress found

Date on the receipt shows item purchased on 18/4/09

Item not introduced to MARSHALL’s environment until after discovery of body parts!!
Conclusion

The body parts of Jeffrey Howe had been packaged within the environment of flat 13, Fernwood Court, whilst Stephen Marshall was living there.
The Trial

Stephen Marshall admits to dismembering Jeffrey Howe, but denies killing him.

Sarah Bush denies any participation.

3rd week of trial Marshall pleads guilty to the homicide and Bush pleads guilty to perverting the course of justice.

Marshall alleged he had performed a number of previous ‘disposals’ for underworld bosses
Stephen Marshall: jailed for 36 years

Sarah Bush: jailed for 3 years, 9 months
The Motive

Simply greed;

Howe allowed Marshall and Bush to move in to his home, after they were thrown out of her mother's house.

They paid no rent, stole his food and refused to leave.

After killing him they used his bank account and assets, and sold his car on eBay.
Thank you!!