SIR JAMES WILLIAM OLIVE, KBE KPM

James Olive was the first Metropolitan Police officer to attain the rank of Deputy Commissioner after having joined as a Police Constable. As such, he was always popular amongst the rank and file, because he 'was one of them', and not someone appointed straight to a senior rank purely because of cronyism, or 'old school tie'.

James William Olive was born in Parsonstown, County Kildare, Ireland, in 1854, and joined the Metropolitan Police at the age of eighteen in 1872. His rise was meteoric. Sergeant in 1877, Inspector in 1886, Chief Constable in 1918, before being appointed Assistant Commissioner in 1920, and Deputy Commissioner in 1922. He retired in 1926, and died in 1942.

Despite immense administrative capability, Olive's real legacy was the realisation by the hierarchy that police management can only be learned from the ground up.

CODE OF A KILLER

by

Robert Cozens

Having recently watched this television drama/documentary and been asked many question about it, I thought you might be interested in my experience of the case as set out below.

In the late 1980s DNA profiling was used for the first time as evidence in a trial which led to the conviction of a man called Colin Pitchfork for the murder of two young women in Leicestershire. The recently screened ITV drama about the case, *Code of a Killer*, portrays Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys of Leicester University, as the person who used DNA to confirm that the murders were committed by the same person, and there is no question that he played the leading role in developing DNA profiling.

It is the case, however, that the Forensic Science Service (FSS) in the United Kingdom was also successfully working in the same field. It was the scientists working in the FSS who carried out the initial work on the Pitchfork case, and then collaborated with Leicestershire Constabulary to catch him. A minor point of difference perhaps, but it would be unfair to write the FSS out of DNA history, as they are the unsung heroes.

At the time of this investigation, I was a retired chief constable acting as senior adviser to the Police Science and Technology Group at the Home Office, which included the FSS. In that capacity, I received a call one day from Mike Hirst, the Chief Constable of Leicestershire.

He explained that they had a man in custody who had confessed to the recent murder of a young woman, but denied involvement in a very similar murder two years earlier. He said that he had heard about what was then called 'DNA fingerprinting', and wondered if the FSS could help prove that this man had

committed both murders. I immediately spoke to the then Head of the FSS, Margaret Pereira, who told me they were at the early stages of developing this science, but agreed to help.

After about a week she told me the results, namely that both murders were in fact committed by the same man - but not the man in custody! I rang Mike Hirst to give him the good news and bad news, and the rest is history.

The ITV drama is really worth watching as an example of outstanding police work and the vital importance of forensic science. Sadly the FSS was eventually closed down and the specialist work is now done by private contractors, but this is unlikely to prove a match for the field and research expertise once provided by a unified FSS.

Robert Cozens, QPM was the Chief Constable of West Mercia Constabulary, 1981-1985

AND FURTHER USE OF DNA

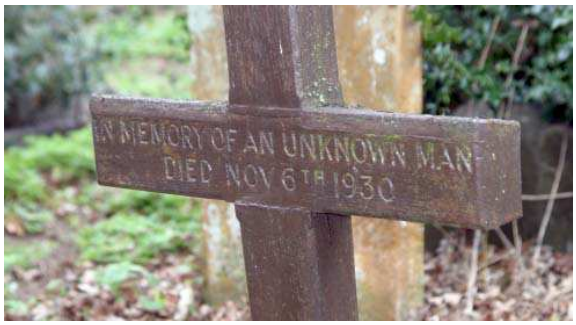
The 'Blazing Car' murder in the early hours of Thursday 6 November 1930 is well known. At Hardingstone, near to Northampton, Arthur Rouse murdered an unknown man, and set fire to his car with the unknown man inside. The object was to give the impression that it was Rouse who had perished, thus freeing him of his many debts accrued from several paternity suits. Despite intensive enquiries at the time, the identity of the victim was never established, and even today, eighty years on, his identity is still not known.

However, in the summer of 2012, your Editor, in his capacity as archivist for the Northamptonshire Police, was contacted by a lady in London, wanting to see the Rouse File. This was granted because the family has a 'tradition' that Rouse's victim was her great uncle.

The file was scrutinised, together with the post-mortem report by Sir Bernard Spilsbury. Because of the family's persistence, they were given access to the Spilsbury archive in London, where two microscope slides of bodily tissue from the victim were found.

Again, because of the family's persistence, one of the slides was examined by Doctor John Bond OBE, also of the pioneering Leicester University, who managed to extract DNA from the tissue. However, this DNA did not match DNA samples taken from the family, proving that the victim was *not* related to them. But at least, Doctor Bond then had the DNA from the victim, so if any other family came forward, proving an ancestral relationship would be far easier.

At the time of writing, July 2015, several families have come forward, but no DNA match has been established.



The wreck of the car, and the simple wooden cross at the victim's grave in Hardingstone churchyard