

CRIMINAL PROFILING

Part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WwQBfRcu8>

Part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TpX9V8Oo64>

Part 3 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btKJ0OFwdoc&feature=related>

Part 4 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jtut6bUVYyM>

Part 5 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSbUtBJuTjQ>

Killers leave all kinds of evidence behind: hair, clothing fibres, sometimes even weapons but there are other kinds of evidence, signs of a criminal mind at work.

MAN: "What I've always said was it was 'to understand the artist you must look at the artwork' " It's called: profiling: using research from convicted murderers and crime scene evidence to create a portrait of the killer.

MAN: "Anyone can make their aspect, I have 'why' to know really 'why' makes them tick" A common sense approach to detective work whose results can seem magical.

MAN: "What it was just an uncanny prediction then turned out to be exactly correct 2nd". MAN: "It's like the FBI people were on the other side watching this crime as it was occurring."

Comentario [i1]: Peculiarly unsettling, as if of supernatural origin or nature; eerie.

Atlanta, Georgia, between January 1979 and May 1981 more than 200 murders occurred in and around the city. But the most troubling of these crimes were the mysterious deaths of 28 children and teenagers. It would be the nation's first major test of criminal profiling.

July 28th. 1979. Police responded to a complaint of a foul odour. In a wooded area off Misty Lake Road, in Atlanta's predominantly black east-point section. Upon arrival they found the body of thirteen-year-old Alfred Evans, who had been missing for three days. 150 feet away police also discovered the partially decomposed body of 14-year-old Edward Smith, who had been reported missing for a week. Coroner's reports indicated that Evans had been strangled and that Smith had been shot with a 22 calibre weapon. Searching for suspects and information police come to housing projects where both Smith and Evans lived, and they came up empty.

Comentario [i2]: Awful smell.

Two months later 9-year-old Yussuf Bell, also from Atlanta southwest side, was sent to the corner store near his home. He never arrived. On November 8th. Police found Bell's body inside a classroom, at an abandoned school. The boy had been strangled. Police still had no suspects and not enough evidence to link the crimes to one another. Five months later 9-year-old Jeffrey Mathis was sent with one dollar to a nearby gas station where he was to buy cigarettes for his mother and return immediately home. An hour passed, two hours passed, Jeffrey's mother began to worry. Later evening she called the police and reported her youngest son missing. Just a few days earlier she had warned him against speaking to strangers.

MOTHER: And he said "mama, say, I don't talk to strangers I don't go to cars".

On April 15th. Mathis and Camille Bell announced they were banding together to publicize the murders of black children in Atlanta.

Comentario [i4]: to unite

MOTHER: "We are frustrated and we are frightened".

Over the next two months five more victims were claimed. All young black children, all from poor neighbourhoods. In mid July Mayor Mathew Jackson and Public Safety Commissioner Lee Brown announced the formation of a task force to investigate the possibility of a connection among the murders. The task force included the FBI. The murders presented the FBI with a unique opportunity to utilize a new and controversial investigative technique: criminal profiling. Special agents John Douglas and Roy Hazelwood were dispatched to Atlanta. Their task: create a profile of the killer. Quickly both agents established one likely fact about the unknown suspect.

Comentario [i5]: A temporary grouping of military units or forces under one commander for the performance of a specific operation or assignment.

Comentario [i6]: Sent.

DOUGLAS: I knew at that point that we were probably dealing with a black male, someone that can move comfortably through that environment without attracting attention.

For the special agent to have pioneered criminal profiling this was the first chance to legitimize the technique as a valid investigative tool.

DOUGLAS: "It was thought that there was a lot of pressure too and had I screwed up that analysis, ahh... it's ... the whole programme could have gone down the drain."

Comentario [i7]: To make a mess of (an undertaking).

Working At the FBI academy, in Quantico, Virginia, Douglas had made a name for himself by conducting field research on serial killers. Research that would, one day, become the basis for the film 'Silence of the Lambs'.

Comentario [i8]: been wasted or lost.

DOUGLAS: We'd go into the penitentiaries at night and interview the subjects and, much to our surprise, they were very..., very anxious to talk to us".

Over a five-year period Douglas and his colleague interviewed more than 30 of the country's most notorious serial killers including Richard Speck, Charles Manson and David 'Son of Sam' Berkowitz. Much of the questioning focussed on each criminal's family life, childhood and teenage years, looking for patterns of behaviour and background. By the time Douglas and his colleague Roy Hazelwood got to Atlanta the number of victims had risen to sixteen. From the beginning Douglas was careful to tell the Atlanta police and task force officials that his profile would not solve the case by itself.

DOUGLAS: "What I say is I'm only offering you one little piece in the puzzle I am not going to solve the case, you are going to solve the case. You gotta do the hard work".

Both profilers visited the crime scenes of Evans, Smith, Milton Harvey and victims Christopher Richardson and Herald Turrel.

DOUGLAS: "There wasn't evidence to be gleaned from those scenes. It was more like what type of bearing did the offender feel comfortable in abducting the children from, what type of bearing did the offender feel comfortable in disposing of the children".

By February three more victims had been claimed. 15-year-old Starry Peel, Patrick Rogers and 14-year-old Levy Jitter. The list of missing and murdered children now numbered nineteen.

Then on February thirteenth the news that Jeffrey Mathis's family had been dreading: task force members found the remains of the boy in a wooded area up nearby Rockdale County. He had been missing for nearly a year.

CAMILLE: "I was already relieved. I was relieved knowing that he were dead and the good care that Jesus Christ takes of ten-year-old."

After three weeks of investigation the FBI agents issued their profile

DOUGLAS: "The principal profile was a black male in his early to mid twenties. a police off who was in this, living in this community."

The facts were met with scepticism. Atlanta police officers, many of them black, became outraged when they found out the criminal profile pointed to a black male as the prime suspect.

DOUGLAS: "The police said. 'Hey John, Hey Douglas! We saw your profile and it's a bunch of b... s... (bullshit)".

Police soon had another important tool to help focus their investigation: hair and fibre evidence, pulled from the bodies of, at least, ten of the victims were similar enough to assure investigators that the murders were connected. To John Douglas the hair and fibre evidence was a sign of how physically close the killer got to his victims.

DOUGLAS: "The unknown subject had some kind of relationship. He was coming in contact with these kids, at some point he snaps and he decides to..., he decides to kill them".

Douglas also predicted that the next group of victims would be found near water.

DOUGLAS: "The medical exam then came forward and was basically boasting that 'we're getting very good evidence we're getting his hair and fibre evidence ...off the bodies' ...and what we suspected and felt was that a good way to wash away the evidence is to dump the bodies in water".

Over the next three months a total of nine more victims would be found. Seven of them in the Chattahoochee and South rivers. All of the victims like many of the previous nineteen had been strangled. The task force now set up round-the-clock stakeouts off every bridge along both rivers. After nearly two weeks of surveillance, with no suspects and no more bodies found at the rivers, task force officials gave the order to shut down the stakeouts, effective at six a.m. on May 22nd. At 2:30 that same morning a police cadet working on an area of north-west Atlanta near the James Jackson Parkway bridge, heard a splash. He raised to the top of the bridge and pulled over a 1970 Chevrolet station wagon. He questioned the driver briefly, then let him go. The driver's name: Wayne Bertram Williams. After police had spotted Wayne Williams on this Atlanta bridge in May 1981 the FBI agents...

Comentario [i9]: To collect bit by bit..

Comentario [i10]: Kidnap.

Comentario [i11]: the direction or path along which something moves or along which it lies.

Comentario [i12]: (of pain or sorrow) made easier to bear.

Comentario [i13]: Officer.

Comentario [i14]: angered at something unjust or wrong.

Comentario [i15]: Exaggerated or foolish talk; nonsense.

Comentario [i16]: To suffer a physical or mental breakdown, especially while under stress.

Comentario [i17]: To speak of with excessive pride.

Comentario [i18]: Surveillance of an area, building, or person, especially by the police.

A publicly funded and administered housing development, usually for low-income families.

Surveillance of an area, building, or person, especially by the police.