

## PART II — CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11. Sutcliffe was born at Shipley, West Yorkshire, on 2nd June 1946. After leaving school at the age of 15, he had a variety of unskilled and semi-skilled jobs in the Bradford area. During the period in which his admitted crimes were committed he was employed as a tyre fitter, and subsequently, following qualification as a heavy goods vehicle driver, as a lorry driver for the Bradford engineering and transport company, T. & W.H. Clark (Holdings) Ltd. On the 10th April 1974 he married Sonia Szurma with whom he then lived, first at her parents house in Clayton and later, from the 26th September 1977, in a detached house which he bought in the Heaton district of Bradford. At the time of his marriage Sutcliffe owned a lime green Ford Capri car with the registered number EUA 831K.

12. The first of the crimes for which Sutcliffe was convicted was the attempted murder of Anna Rogulskyj in Keighley on the 5th July 1975. Sutcliffe attacked his victim with a hammer in an alleyway in Keighley and left her lying on the ground suffering from very severe head injuries and from a number of superficial slash wounds to the body. The crime was investigated by Detective Superintendent Perry of West Yorkshire's Western Crime Area and an incident room was established in the Keighley Division for the purpose of the inquiry. The crime was not linked with any others neither was it linked with the Ripper series until June 1978 when the West Yorkshire Police issued a "Special Notice" to all police forces about the murders which had, by then, been committed.

13. On the 15th August 1975, just over a month after the Rogulskyj incident, Sutcliffe, after leaving his friend Trevor Birdsall in his car, attacked Olive Smelt with a hammer in Boothtown, Halifax, inflicting serious head injuries. Using a knife he also inflicted two slash wounds to her back after first disarranging her clothing. Although the nature of the crime was very similar to the attempted murder of Anna Rogulskyj it was not specifically linked with it in police crime circulations, neither was it linked with the Ripper series until June 1978. Detective Superintendent Holland of the Western Crime Area established an incident room at Halifax for the purpose of the inquiry. In neither of these two crimes was any substantial evidence available about either the assailants or about any vehicle which might have been used.

14. The first murder in the series occurred on the 30th October 1975 when Sutcliffe killed Wilma McCann, a known prostitute, on the Prince Philip playing fields in Leeds. Once again, the victim was hit on the head with a hammer, one of the blows penetrating the full thickness of the skull. On this occasion, however, unlike the tentative slashings of the bodies of Rogulskyj and Smelt, McCann was stabbed once in the neck and 14 times in the chest and abdomen. In what was to become a standard Ripper trademark, McCann's clothing had been disturbed so that before the stab wounds were inflicted the whole of her torso was displayed. The opinion of the pathologist was that the victim had been struck with the hammer whilst in a standing position and that the subsequent injuries were inflicted as she lay disabled and unconscious on the ground. This too was to become part of Sutcliffe's standard method of operation. This crime was investigated by Detective Chief Superintendent Hoban of West Yorkshire's Eastern Crime Area and an incident room was established at the former Leeds City Police Headquarters in Brotherton House. It was initially treated as an independent murder and was not linked with the attacks on Smelt and Rogulskyj. Police inquiries revealed that a red Hillman Avenger motor car, driven by a coloured person, probably a West Indian of about 35 years of age with a moustache rounded to the corners of his mouth, had been seen in the area at the time the crime was committed. The driver and vehicle were circulated as wanted for elimination but were not traced.

15. On the 23rd November 1975, less than a month after the murder of Wilma McCann, the body of a woman called Joan Harrison was found in Preston. Harrison, a known prostitute and an alcoholic, had died as a result of shock and haemorrhage due to multiple injuries, mainly caused by violent kicking to the head and body. In this case, unlike the three previous cases in the West Yorkshire area, sexual intercourse and buggery had occurred immediately before the victim's death. The murder was investigated by Detective Chief Superintendent Brooks of the Lancashire Constabulary whose main line of inquiry was to trace a suspect of the 'B' secretor blood group which was indicated by analysis of semen from the body. Although the investigating officers on

both sides of the Pennines considered a connection between this murder and the Yorkshire series, no specific link was accepted until June 1978 when the crime was included in a police circulation listing the "prostitute" murders which had, by that time, occurred in the West Yorkshire area. It is pertinent to mention that the writer of the first two "Sunderland" letters, posted in March 1978, and referred to later, claimed the Harrison murder as one of those which he had committed. Following his arrest Sutcliffe did not admit this murder and senior officers of the Lancashire Constabulary are now satisfied that it is not attributable to him. It did, however, prove very significant in the investigation of Sutcliffe's crimes especially in regard to senior police management decisions and therefore merits mention here.

16. The next Ripper murder occurred in the West Yorkshire area on the 20th January 1976 when Emily Jackson, a known prostitute, was killed in a factory yard in Leeds. As in previous cases Sutcliffe struck down his victim by a violent blow with a hammer after which he disarranged her clothing to expose her torso and inflicted multiple stab wounds to her lower neck, upper chest and lower abdomen. An additional series of stab wounds were inflicted to her back by a cross shaped instrument thought to be a "Philips" screwdriver. As in the McCann case this particular murder was investigated by Detective Chief Superintendent Hoban, who established an incident room in the newly opened Millgarth Police Station, not far from the murder scene. The two murders were linked together in a crime intelligence bulletin issued to all police forces by the West Yorkshire Police on the 19th February 1976. Police inquiries in the case established that at about 7 pm on the 20th January the victim, Jackson, had been seen to get into a Landrover near to the Gaiety public house in Leeds where she had gone to solicit for prostitution. The driver of the Landrover was described as being about 50 years of age, of fattish build with mousey coloured ear-length hair, a full beard and bushy ginger/blonde sideburns. He was also described as having a distinctive scar extending from the knuckles to the wrist of his left hand. This description was included in the "Special Notice" to all forces.

17. On the 9th May 1976 Sutcliffe attacked Marcella Claxton in the Roundhay area of Leeds. Claxton sustained severe head injuries as a result of hammer blows. This crime, which was investigated by Detective Chief Inspector Bradley, was regarded as an independent case of serious assault and was not linked with the murders of McCann and Jackson. It was not included in "Special Notices" about the Ripper crimes issued to other forces and although some senior detectives thought that it might be part of the series it was not officially linked until Sutcliffe admitted it following his arrest. Claxton described her attacker as being about 30 years of age with black hair, a beard and a moustache.

18. A little over a week before his attack on Claxton, Sutcliffe disposed of his Ford Capri and during May acquired a white Ford Corsair saloon registered number KWT 721D.

19. On the 5th February 1977 Irene Richardson, who was believed to be an active prostitute, was killed by Sutcliffe on a playing field in Roundhay, Leeds. The manner of her death immediately linked it with the killings of McCann and Jackson. She had been struck down by three hammer blows after which her body had been exposed and slashed with a knife. The slash injuries to her abdomen were particularly severe. One apparently coincidental similarity between this crime and the murder of Joan Harrison in Preston was the way in which the dead woman's boots had been neatly placed over her thighs. Detective Chief Superintendent Hobson, who had replaced Chief Superintendent Hoban in the Eastern Crime Area, investigated the crime and established the incident room at Millgarth Police Station, Leeds. Not everyone was convinced that Richardson's murder was linked with that of Jackson and McCann and a "Special Notice" to all forces including this case with other similar cases was not issued until the 9th May 1977. Police inquiries produced very little evidence although plaster casts were taken of clear tyre impressions found near the scene of crime and thought to have been made by the assailant's vehicle. The make, size and distribution of the tyres were quickly established but greater difficulty was experienced in attempting to identify the type of vehicle to which they were fitted.

20. On the 6th February 1977 an exercise, known subsequently as the "Tracking Inquiry" was mounted to identify the vehicle which had left the marks at the murder scene. In the preliminary stage it was thought that any one of 100 different types of vehicle could have been involved. This number was determined on the basis of the "track width" indicated by the distance between

the tyre marks at the scene. As a preliminary step towards a formal inquiry intended to identify the vehicle, night duty officers in West Yorkshire were asked to examine vehicles during the course of routine patrol. Each time an officer examined a car he recorded the registered number and tyre details and a card was subsequently completed showing that that car had been eliminated from the inquiry. As a result of the application of a more refined selection system the list of 100 possible vehicles was reduced to 51. Because "back record conversion" at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre and the Police National Computer was at that time incomplete, inquiries to trace registered owners of relevant vehicles had to be undertaken in local Vehicle Licensing Offices as well as with the Police National Computer. This exercise produced a list of 53,000 registered owners of the 51 different vehicle models living in the West Yorkshire Metropolitan area and the Harrogate area of North Yorkshire. Sutcliffe and his white Ford Corsair were amongst the 53,000. When the vehicle owners list became available, the cards completed in connection with the "night-duty check" were checked against it to eliminate all vehicles which had already been examined by the police. Index cards were then completed for the remaining vehicles to be checked by direct house visits but the exercise was aborted after the attack on Maureen Long in July 1977, when 20,000 vehicle owners remained to be seen. Sutcliffe was one of the 20,000 owners who were not seen.

21. On the 23rd April 1977 Sutcliffe killed Patricia Atkinson in the flat which she used for prostitution in Bradford. Although the indoor location of the attack differed from previous crimes in the series the injuries and general method of operation linked it fairly conclusively with them. Patricia Atkinson was killed by four blows to her head with a hammer after which her body was exposed and stabbed repeatedly with a knife or chisel. Detective Chief Superintendent Domaille of the Western Crime Area led the investigation into the crime and established an incident room at the area headquarters at Bradford. Very little evidence was forthcoming in this case apart from a footprint on a bedsheet apparently made by a wellington boot and similar to a print left on the thigh of the earlier victim, Emily Jackson. Because the dead woman made a habit of travelling by taxi an inquiry was mounted to interview all taxi drivers working in the Bradford area. Approximately 1,200 were seen but no useful information was obtained. The murder of Patricia Atkinson was linked with other crimes in the series in "Special Notices" issued on the 9th and 30th May 1977 and in which, for the first time, reference was made to an attack on Barbara Miller in March 1975. This relatively minor attack on a prostitute, of which the police were previously unaware, is not one which Sutcliffe has admitted but was included in the "Special Notice" because Miller, who came forward in response to publicity about the Atkinson murder, identified her attacker as a 35 to 40 year old bearded man with a scarred left hand, driving a Landrover. The description was consistent in many respects with that given by a witness in relation to the Emily Jackson murder when a bearded man with a scar on the back of his left hand was regarded as a fairly strong suspect. It is now thought that the bearded driver of the Landrover was not Sutcliffe, but an older man who has not been traced. Sutcliffe's criminal record descriptive form completed in 1965 shows that he had scars on the fingers of his left hand, but the scars are not now visible and did not in any case accord with the scar described in the Jackson and Miller cases.

22. On the 26th June 1977 Sutcliffe killed Jayne MacDonald, a 16 year old shop assistant on spare ground in a prostitute area of Leeds near where she lived with her family and once again the method of operation fitted the standard pattern. She had been incapacitated by three severe blows to the head and, after exposure, her body had been repeatedly stabbed through the same chest wound. She had also been stabbed in the back. This crime was immediately linked with the series in a West Yorkshire circulation issued to all police forces on the 27th June 1977 when it was listed together with the murders of McCann, Jackson, Atkinson and Richardson. Such a serious view was taken of the series at this time that Assistant Chief Constable Oldfield took over personal direction of the inquiry and set up an incident room at Millgarth Police Station where incident rooms dealing with the Jackson and Richardson murders were already operating. A description was obtained of a man seen talking to Jayne MacDonald shortly before the time of her death. The description had much in common with that of the man thought to be responsible for the subsequent attack on Maureen Long but enquiries to trace this person were unsuccessful.

23. A Leeds taxi-driver, \_\_\_\_\_ of whom the police had been suspicious for some time was interviewed at length but could not be connected with the murders.

24. Bearing in mind the probability of future attacks on females, static observations were

commenced on vehicles moving in the Chapeltown "red light" area of Leeds during the evenings. Registered numbers were recorded on lists which were intended to be examined after any future murder in the area so that drivers and occupants could be interviewed.

25. Less than a fortnight after the killing of Jayne MacDonald the next crime in the series occurred in Bradford when, on the 10th July 1977, Sutcliffe attacked Maureen Long on spare ground a short distance from her estranged husband's home. Long, who admitted that she had acted as a prostitute, received serious injuries to her head from hammer blows and stab wounds to her abdomen and back, but fortunately recovered. Long's ability to describe her attacker was rendered more difficult because she was under the influence of drink at the time of the incident. She thought she had obtained a lift in a car from a large man of about 35 years of age who had light brown shoulder length hair. She was not able to give a description of the car which was involved although a nightwatchman saw a car draw away from the scene and described it as a white Mark II Ford Cortina.

26. The "Tracking Inquiry" started in connection with the Richardson murder was discontinued and details of 5,000 owners of Mark II Ford Cortinas living in West Yorkshire were then obtained from the Police National Computer. 3,000 owners were interviewed by police officers, but no positive evidence was obtained. Sutcliffe did not own a car of this type although, as has been mentioned previously, he owned a white Ford Corsair which did have the correct track width to fit the marks left at the Richardson scene and was probably the vehicle involved in both crimes. The attempted murder of Maureen Long, which was investigated by Assistant Chief Constable Oldfield from an incident room established in Bradford, was immediately linked with the series in a West Yorkshire Police crime circulation issued on the 11th July 1977. After this attack special inquiry teams were assigned to the surveillance of two suspects, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Both men were subsequently interviewed and eliminated from the inquiry.

27. Immediately after the attack on Long the observations being kept on vehicles using the Chapeltown area of Leeds were extended to include the Manningham area of Bradford.

28. On the 11th July 1977 the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, Mr. Gregory, wrote to the Director of the Police Scientific Development Branch asking whether the Branch was able to offer any assistance in connection with the inquiry. Mr. Holt, a senior scientist with the Branch, visited the force and, after looking at the way in which the investigation was being conducted, reported to the Chief Constable that computerisation of various incident room records was feasible. Mr. Holt discovered that spare computer capacity was available at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell and that the conversion of existing records could be undertaken by the Joint Automated Data Processing Unit at a cost of £25,000. Once operational the system could have been maintained at an annual cost of £156,000. This offer was not taken up by the Chief Constable.

29. Although the records show that Sutcliffe sold his white Corsair KWT 721D on 3rd September 1977 it is now known that he retained possession of it for several weeks after that date. On the 26th September he bought a red Corsair with the registered number PHE 355G. He later sold the white Corsair as scrap.

30. Whilst, with the doubtful exception of the murder of Joan Harrison at Preston, all the established crimes in the series had occurred in West Yorkshire, the next attack occurred in the Greater Manchester Police area on the 1st October 1977. The body of the victim, Jean Jordan, a known prostitute, was found on a disused allotment site in Chorlton-cum-Hardy on the 10th October, nine days after her death. She had been killed by hammer blows to the head after which she had been stabbed in the body. An unusual and curious feature of this case was that there was evidence that the killer had returned to the scene some eight days after the murder, stripped the body and inflicted further injuries including an attempt to decapitate it. On the 15th October, Jordan's handbag was found 189 ft away from the body. It contained a new £5 Bank of England note which was thought to have been paid to the victim by the murderer. The recovery of this note some two weeks after the death marked a significant new stage in the series inquiry. Detective

Chief Superintendent Ridgway of the Greater Manchester Police took charge of the investigation and recognised immediately the possibility of a link with the crimes in West Yorkshire. Weight was added to this initial suspicion when it was discovered that the £5 note recovered from Jordan's handbag was probably from a consignment of £25,000 (i.e. 5,000 £5 notes) delivered to the Manningham, Shipley or Bingley branches of the Midland Bank on 29th September 1977. A team of detectives from Greater Manchester moved to the West Yorkshire area and, accompanied by West Yorkshire officers, undertook extensive inquiries to trace the person to whom the recovered £5 note had been paid. The murder of Jordan had occurred within three days of the banknote being delivered to the bank and attention was concentrated on firms in the Manningham and Shipley areas which had collected new notes from the bank to pay their employees that weekend.

31. On the 2nd November 1977 Detective Constable Howard of the Greater Manchester Police together with a Detective Constable of the West Yorkshire Police interviewed Peter William Sutcliffe at his home. Sutcliffe's employers had collected money from the Shipley branch of the Midland Bank to pay their employees. Sutcliffe, who was one of nearly 8,000 people listed for interview during the inquiry, denied ever having visited Manchester except during the course of his employment and said that his last visit had been some twelve months previously when he had delivered goods to an unknown address. Asked to account for his movements on the evening of the 1st October (the date of the Jordan murder) he said that he had been at home all evening and had gone to bed at 11.30 p.m. He was also asked about his movements on the evening of the 9th October when the murderer was known to have revisited the scene. He said that he and his wife had been at a house-warming party at their new home. Sonia Sutcliffe supported her husband's account of his movements on both these dates.

32. After a number of new £5 notes from the Bank of England consignment were identified in the possession of people who could be eliminated from the inquiry it was possible to eliminate some firms as recipients of the "Jordan" note and thus to limit the scope of the inquiry. T. & W.H. Clark was not one of the firms which could be eliminated and on 8th November 1977 Sutcliffe was re-interviewed by Detective Constable Leslie Smith of West Yorkshire and Detective Constable Rayne of the Greater Manchester Police. He again satisfied the inquiry officers, who obtained further alibi evidence from his mother in connection with the house-warming party mentioned previously. They were at that time preoccupied with the £5 note aspect and did not examine Sutcliffe's car or its tyres, although they did examine some footwear and household tools which they felt were relevant to the Ripper crimes.

33. On the 14th December 1977 the next incident in the series occurred in Leeds, when Marilyn Moore, a convicted prostitute, was assaulted by Sutcliffe on spare ground in Scott Hall Street. The inquiry established that Moore was picked up for prostitution purposes by the driver of a car which, by a process of elimination, was subsequently thought to be of the BMC "Farina" type, driven by a man who said he was called "Dave" who appeared to know several prostitutes working in Leeds by name. The driver parked his car on spare ground and having suggested that intercourse should take place in the back of his vehicle, he hit Moore over the head with a hammer as she was getting into the rear seat. She sustained seven or eight lacerations to the head together with a depressed fracture of the skull measuring  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1$ ". She also received injuries to her hands which she had used to try to protect herself from the hammer blows to her head. Moore was eventually found and taken to Leeds General Infirmary for treatment. The attack was investigated by Detective Chief Superintendent Hobson from the Eastern Crime area but it was not linked with the series crimes until the 12th May 1978 when it was circulated to other forces in a West Yorkshire Police circulation. Tyre tracks found at the scene of the crime were similar to impressions which were found at the scene of the earlier murder of Irene Richardson. Marilyn Moore described her assailant as a white man about 28 years of age, 5'7 - 8" tall, of stocky build with dark wavy hair, a medium length neatly trimmed beard and a "Jason King" moustache. Over 1,000 men called "Dave" or "David" were identified in the nominal indexes of the series crimes. All were interviewed but none of them could be implicated with the crimes. Unfortunately, although Moore's description of the car in which she had been picked up was accepted, the police placed less reliance on her description of her assailant. In retrospect it can be said that her identification of the car was wrong whilst her description of her attacker matched that of Peter Sutcliffe fairly accurately.

34. On the 21st January 1978 Yvonne Pearson, a convicted prostitute, was murdered by Sutcliffe

in Bradford. Her body was not discovered until the 26th March 1978 when it was found under an overturned settee on wasteland in an area used by prostitutes. In some ways this crime was dissimilar from those in the series so that, in a circulation to police forces on the 29th March 1978, it was referred to as an independent case of murder not connected with those circulated earlier. The main reason for excluding the case was that the head injuries appeared to have been caused by a large stone rather than a hammer and that, additionally, death had been due to injuries to the chest area, probably caused by her assailant jumping on her. Although her body was exposed, no stab wounds were inflicted. One unexplained factor was that a copy of the "Daily Mirror" dated 21st February 1978 (exactly one month after she was last seen alive) was found under the right side of her body. This newspaper must have been intentionally placed under the body and could not have been in that position accidentally. The crime was investigated by Detective Chief Superintendent Lapish of the Western Crime Area and another incident room was established at Bradford. Little evidence was forthcoming in connection with this crime, largely because of the long time lapse between the murder and the discovery of the body. There was, however, a different conclusion about the case when in May 1978 a West Yorkshire Police circulation linked it with other crimes in the Ripper series.

35. On the 31st January 1978, Helen Rytka, an active prostitute, was murdered by Sutcliffe in Huddersfield in what by then had become the standard Ripper pattern. The body was discovered in a timber yard by a police search on the 3rd February and the subsequent post-mortem examination revealed that she had died from hammer blows to the head together with a number of stab wounds to the body which had previously been exposed. Sutcliffe has since claimed that during this attack he had intercourse with Rytka because he was sexually aroused and because he was being watched by some taxi-drivers. There is no conclusive forensic evidence to support his claim which in any case was not consistent with his standard modus operandi. Assistant Chief Constable Oldfield took charge to this particular inquiry and established an incident room at Huddersfield. Police inquiries were fairly productive and although a number of people were traced and eliminated from the inquiry, details of three motor vehicles were circulated as being wanted for elimination purposes. These were a Morris Oxford saloon, a Ford Cortina Mark I and a white coloured Datsun 160/180B. The Ford Cortina and the Datsun were subsequently eliminated and attention was focussed on the Morris Oxford and the BMC "Farina" range of similar cars. Because some of the vehicles in the range did not fit the tyre track of the Richardson murder a new vehicle inquiry, referred to as the "Farina Index" was started. This was a considerable commitment which was still running when Sutcliffe was arrested.

36. After the murder of Rytka the nominal indexes and vehicle indexes from the McCann, Jackson, Richardson, Atkinson, MacDonald and Long cases were centralised at Millgarth Police Station and subsequently amalgamated into an integrated index. This incident room continued to monitor the series inquiry until Sutcliffe's arrest.

37. Early in March 1978, that is after the murder of both Pearson and Rytka, but before the discovery of Pearson's body, a letter postmarked "Sunderland 1.45 pm 8th March 1978" and addressed to Mr. Oldfield was received by the West Yorkshire Police. The letter, written by a person signing himself "Jack the Ripper", claimed that the writer was responsible for the series of crimes. A few days later a similar letter was received by the Chief Editor of the "Daily Mirror" newspaper in Manchester. This letter was also postmarked "Sunderland" and was franked at 10 am on 13th March 1978. No immediate action was taken following the receipt of these letters although there was a suspicion that the writer's familiarity with the crimes was more than that which could have been gleaned from a study of newspapers and television programmes about the Ripper series.

38. On the 15th March 1978 Detective Chief Superintendent Hoban, the investigating officer in the McCann and Jackson murders who had subsequently been appointed Deputy Head of the force CID, died unexpectedly. He was 52 years of age, and many of his friends and associates attributed his death to the strain and overwork brought about by the Ripper Investigation.

39. During the same month the West Yorkshire Police Authority offered a reward of £10,000 for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for the crimes.

40. On the 25th April 1978 following increasing concern within the West Yorkshire force that the

administration of the series inquiry was being overwhelmed by the amount of information being recorded and the number of actions required to clear it, a special inquiry team under Detective Chief Superintendent Domaille was appointed to conduct an internal review of the investigation. The team was asked to establish the lines of inquiry that had been undertaken in connection with each case in the series and to report whether each inquiry had been completed as far as possible and if not to give the current position. At the time 9 murders and 4 attempted murders were regarded as being connected in the series but before the team was able to report a further three murders had occurred. The team, first under the command of Chief Superintendent Domaille and later under Detective Superintendent Slater, comprised two detective inspectors, four detective sergeants and four detective constables. Their report, which was submitted to the Chief Constable in December 1979, was more in the nature of an index of what had and had not been done in the past than a suggested blueprint for further action.

41. On the 26th April 1978 Detective Chief Superintendent Domaille contacted the Police Scientific Development Branch and asked for assistance. Members of the Branch and the Police Research Services Unit visited the force on the 4th, 22nd and 25th May and as a result agreed to arrange for the results of the vehicle observations in "red light" areas to be processed on the Police National Computer. Observations on vehicles in notable "red light" areas had by this time been commenced in other Northern cities within and outside West Yorkshire so that possible leads might be available to investigating officers in the event of a further Ripper crime.

42. On the 16th May 1978, Vera Millward, a convicted prostitute, was murdered by Sutcliffe in Manchester. Her body was discovered in a compound in the Brunswick area of the city the following day and an examination disclosed the traditional pattern of Ripper injuries. Following three severe blows to the head with a hammer, her body had been exposed before being stabbed and slashed with a knife. This crime immediately came under the control of Detective Chief Superintendent Ridgway, still hunting for the murderer of Jean Jordan, and an incident room was established in Manchester to service the police investigation. In this case tyre tracks and footprints were found at the scene. The make and distribution of the tyres on the vehicle which left the tracks were very similar to those found at the scenes of the murder of Irene Richardson and the attempted murder of Marilyn Moore and the crime was immediately regarded as being part of the Ripper series. As a result of their investigations into the tyre tracks at the scene of the Millward murder the Greater Manchester Police were satisfied that they were not made by a car from the "Farina" range. They subsequently discontinued their participation in the "Farina" inquiry. The West Yorkshire Police were not as convinced as their Manchester colleagues on this point and continued their inquiry with regard to "Farina" cars until Sutcliffe's arrest. Sutcliffe never owned a "Farina" car and the tyre marks at the scene of the Richardson murder were probably left by his white Corsair, whilst those at the Moore and Millward scenes were probably from the red Corsair which he acquired in September 1977.

43. By this time the staff of the Police National Computer and Police Scientific Development Branch had completed their arrangements for the computerisation of information from the "red light" observations. Initially, vehicle registration numbers recorded at a number of fixed observation posts and fed into the computer at Hendon from visual display units in Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield and Hull, were to be printed out for inquiries if the same vehicle was identified as having been seen in two of the separate areas where observations were in progress. This exercise was begun on the 19th June 1978 and as early as the 13th August 1978, Peter William Sutcliffe was interviewed as a result of his red Ford Corsair car having been seen in the Chapeltown area of Leeds and the Manningham area of Bradford. Detective Constable Peter Smith of the West Yorkshire Police, who knew that Sutcliffe had been seen during the £5 note inquiry, visited him at his home in Garden Lane, Heaton, Bradford. Detective Constable Smith knew that Sutcliffe worked as a lorry driver from a Bradford base and assumed that the sightings of his car in Bradford could be explained by journeys to and from work. Sutcliffe denied having visited Leeds or other West Yorkshire towns during evenings in the relevant period. He also emphatically denied using the services of prostitutes.

44. By the time this interview took place Sutcliffe had disposed of his red Corsair and obtained a black Sunbeam Rapier, registered number NKU 888H. He bought the Rapier on the 14th May 1978 and sold the Corsair on the 7th August 1978 so that for a 3 month period he had the use of two vehicles.

45. On the 23rd November 1978 he was seen again by Detective Constable Smith who obtained details of his Building Society account in connection with the £5 inquiry and also visited the new owners of the red Corsair and obtained a description of the tyres, which were new, having apparently been fitted after the vehicle had changed hands.

46. On the 28th November 1978 the West Yorkshire Police Authority increased the reward being offered for information leading to the killer to £20,000.

47. A little earlier, in September 1978, following a discovery that a number of detectives had not been completing some of the undoubtedly monotonous inquiries allocated to them correctly, an internal audit team of seven officers was appointed to determine the extent of the problem. Team members checked a sample covering about 10% of completed inquiries but found no other evidence of such misconduct. Two detectives resigned from the force and 13 were subjected to internal disciplinary action as a result of the initial cases of making false statements.

48. On the 23rd March 1979 a further letter addressed to Mr. Oldfield was dispatched from Sunderland. The suspicion that the writer might indeed be the perpetrator of the crimes began to grow and was reinforced by two factors. First, the author of the letters went to an unusually high degree of trouble to ensure that no fingerprints were left on either the paper or the envelopes, and second, analysis of the saliva on the third envelope revealed that whoever had licked it was a secretor of blood group "B". The last factor was considered to be especially significant because analysis of semen recovered from the body of Jean Harrison in Preston showed that the person responsible for that crime was also group "B" and a secretor and was thus within 6% of the total male population. This unhappy coincidence had two effects. First, it tended to confirm that the Harrison murder was part of the series and second, if Harrison was in the series, the blood grouping pointed to the authenticity of the letters. The two propositions were however mutually dependent and, as events were to prove, both wrong.

49. Police inquiries were put in hand in the North East of England to try and trace the author of the letters.

50. On the 5th April 1979 Josephine Whitaker, a Building Society clerk, was murdered by Sutcliffe in Savile Park, Halifax. The murder was in the established Ripper pattern in that the victim was struck down by two hammer blows to the head and was then stabbed 25 times in the abdomen, breasts and thighs and vagina. Exposure of the body followed the usual Ripper modus operandi. The new element in this case was that whereas most of the earlier victims had been prostitutes or women of loose morals and the attacks had occurred in or near to prostitute areas, Josephine Whitaker was a perfectly respectable young woman who was walking home in a residential area of Halifax not frequented by prostitutes. Assistant Chief Constable Oldfield set up an incident room in Halifax to deal with this crime whilst the integrated incident room at Millgarth Police Station continued to operate over the full series of crimes. Such was the demand for manpower to staff the Whitaker inquiry, however, that the complete inquiry team attached to the Millgarth incident room in connection with the series crimes was allocated to the Halifax incident. Subsequently, the processing of all outstanding actions from Millgarth ground to a halt. Police inquiries in Halifax and an exceptional public response following the murder of a respectable local girl produced masses of indirect evidence of which the most significant appeared to be the description of a man seen near the scene of the crime in a dark coloured Ford Escort motor car. Sutcliffe is now known to have had access to such a vehicle, the property of his mother-in-law. A Sunbeam Rapier motor car was also seen in the vicinity but was not traced. The suspect was described as having dirty blonde collar length hair, an unshaven appearance and a "Jason King" moustache. Other evidence recorded from the scene showed that the assailant had been wearing size 7 industrial boots with a moulded rubber sole. Based on the modus operandi, the killing of Josephine Whitaker was linked with the previous series of murders and circulated to other forces by West Yorkshire. On the 1st May an entry in the murder log approved the practice of eliminating suspects on the basis of the handwriting from the three "Sunderland" letters.

51. On the 4th June 1979 Sutcliffe disposed of his Sunbeam Rapier car and acquired a brown Rover 3.5 saloon registered number FHY 400K.

52. On the 18th June 1979 a further envelope addressed to Mr. Oldfield was posted in Sunderland.