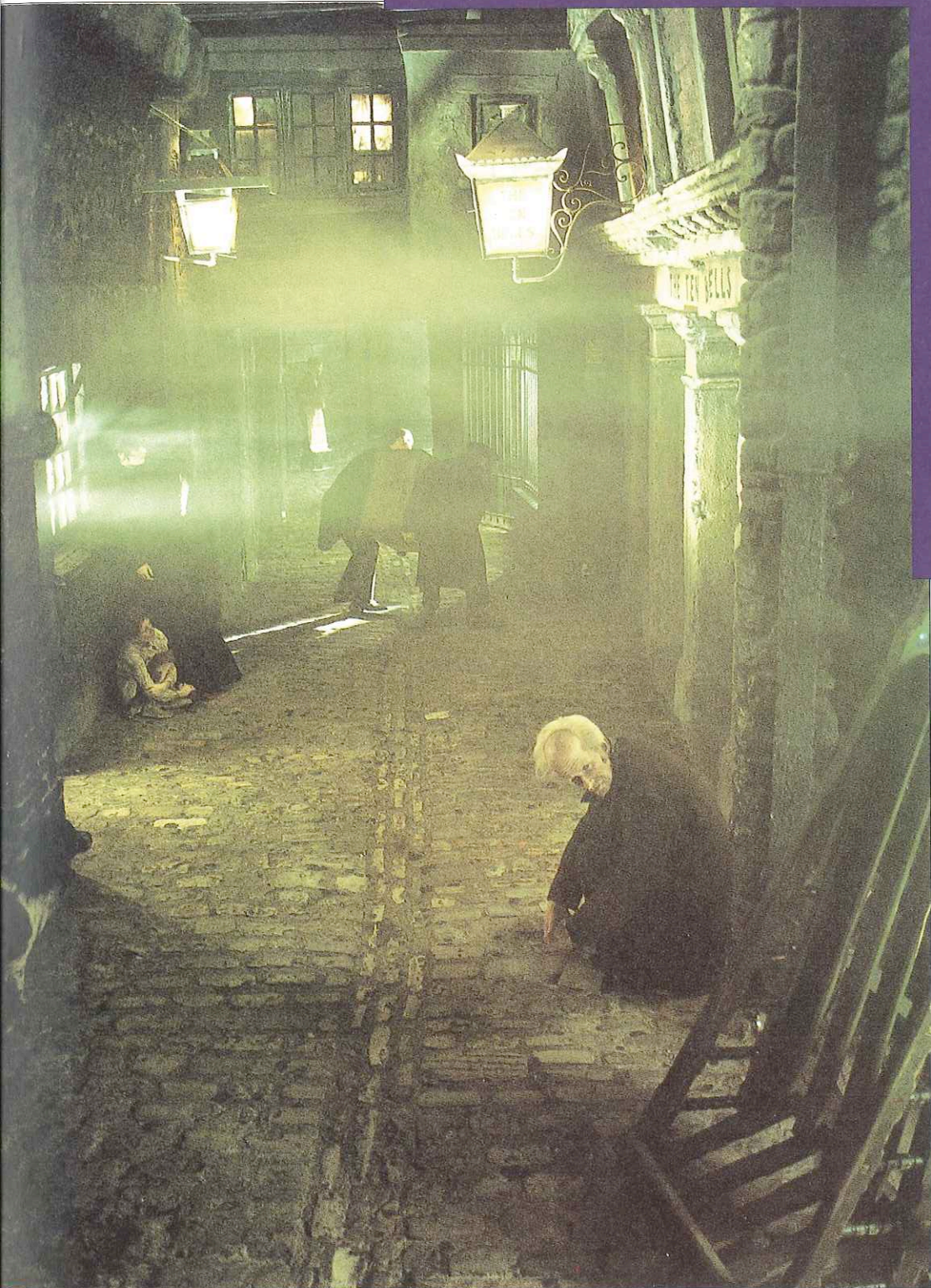


Crime



From the Chamber of Horrors, Madame Tussaud's, London.

A-Z OF CRIME - criminals and victims

- Here are some entries from an A to Z of Crime.
- Take some minutes to scan the entries here and find out:
How many are men and how many women?
How many of these people are famous and how many infamous?
How many are British and how many American?
How many are murderers and how many victims?
How many murdered more than one person?
How many were crimes of passion?
How many were politically motivated crimes?



JOHN F KENNEDY

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born in 1917 into the famous Kennedy family and he became the most prominent member of the Kennedy clan. He married Jacqueline Bouvier in 1953; in the later years Jackie Kennedy became very well known in her own right.

When Kennedy became President of the United States in November 1960, he was the youngest person ever to have been elected president and he was also the first Roman Catholic to hold that

The Texas motorcade before President Kennedy was shot.

office. President Kennedy was a charismatic, intelligent, popular leader and during his three years as president he had many crises to deal with, including Cuba.

On 22nd November, 1963, President Kennedy and his wife were riding in an open motorcade in Dallas, Texas, when he was shot by an assassin. The President was hit in the neck and the head and he died within 30 minutes of the shooting.

Lee Harvey Oswald, an ex-Marine, was immediately arrested for the murder of President Kennedy, but two days later in Dallas Police Station, Jack Ruby, a nightclub owner, shot and killed Oswald, so he was never brought to trial. Many people believe that the shooting of John F. Kennedy was part of a much bigger conspiracy, and people are still fascinated by the subject of the Kennedy assassination – and event which shook the world and left America in shock.

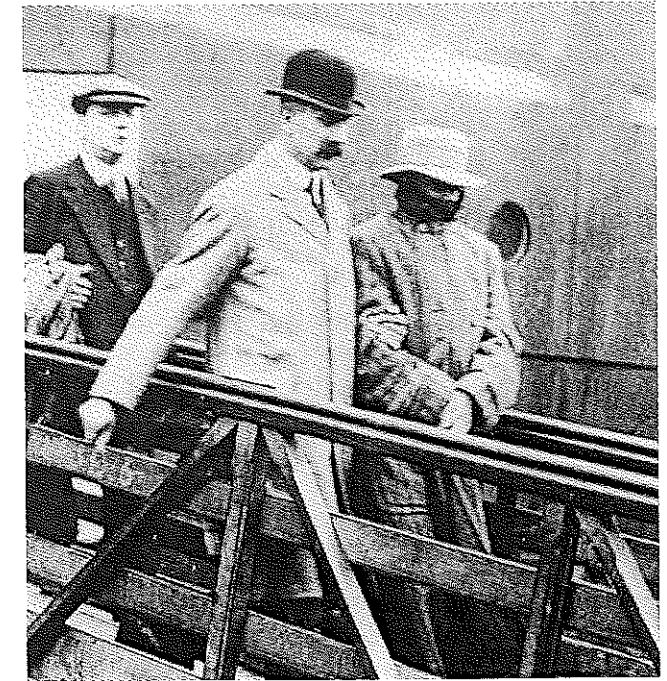
DR HAWLEY HARVEY CRIPPEN

Dr Hawley Harvey Crippen was not a mass murderer, nor was he usually a violent man. In fact some people said that he was quite gentle in his manner and his second wife, Belle, who was quite a bit younger than him, was always the dominating one of the partnership. But Dr Crippen murdered his wife and ran away with his mistress and lover. He was brought to justice by the use of the radio telegraph, and the case has gone down in history as the first time the radio telegraph was used to prevent a criminal's escape.

Crippen was born in Michigan in 1862, grew up to become a doctor and worked for a time for a patent medicine company. He married twice and took his second wife, Belle, to England with him in 1900, but because he had qualified in the States he could not practise medicine in England. He did various jobs connected to medicine and Belle took in lodgers.

In 1910 Crippen told anyone who asked that his wife had returned to the States on family matters, and very shortly after Belle's disappearance – for she had disappeared without trace – a lady by the name of Ethel de Neve moved into the very house where Belle had looked after her lodgers. She even started wearing Belle's clothes and jewellery.

Mrs Crippen's disappearance came to the attention of Scotland Yard, and after a visit from the police, Crippen and Ethel de Neve decided that things were a little too hot in England, so they got themselves a passage on the *SS Montrose* which was sailing from Antwerp to Canada. Ethel de Neve was disguised as a young boy, but the captain of the ship was suspicious and radioed London.



Crippen and de Neve coming off the boat.

In the meantime, Scotland Yard officers had been back to the now infamous house and found the remains of poor Belle, who had been poisoned, cut up and buried in the basement. On receiving the information from the captain of the *SS Montrose*, the Chief Inspector from Scotland Yard immediately boarded a faster ship and the couple were stopped and arrested. The now-famous telegram read as follows:

22 July 1910, 130 miles west of Cornwall:

"Have strong suspicions that Crippen London cellar murderer and accomplice are amongst saloon passengers moustache taken off growing beard accomplice dressed as boy voice manner and build undoubtedly a girl both travelling as Mr and Master Robinson."

Crippen was found guilty of the murder of his wife at the Old Bailey on 18th October and he was hanged at Pentonville Prison on 23rd November, 1910. Ethel de Neve was tried as an accessory to murder, but she was acquitted. It is believed she went to Australia.



RUTH ELLIS

28-year-old Ruth Ellis was the last woman to be hanged in Britain. On 10th April 1955 her lover, David Blakely, walked out of the Magdala pub in North London intending to get into his car. Instead, Ruth Ellis came up to him and emptied a Smith and Weston into his body. She was arrested immediately. At her trial she admitted that she had intended to kill him, and the jury took only 14 minutes to find Ruth Ellis guilty of murder. The judge put on the black cap and sentenced her to death by hanging. Despite storms of protest outside Holloway Prison on 12th July, Ruth Ellis was hanged at nine o'clock on 13th July 1955, a hot sunny morning.

JACK THE RIPPER

There is no photograph of the most famous killer of prostitutes in London in the 1880s, because nobody knows who the Ripper was. Many, many theories have been put forward, and many names suggested from Monatague John Druitt, a failed lawyer who drowned himself in the River Thames around the same time the murders stopped, to Severin Klosowski, who was known to have poisoned three of his wives. There was even talk of royalty being involved in the person of Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence.

Jack the Ripper killed five women, all prostitutes, in East London between 31st August and 9th November 1888. He raped the women, cut their throats, and ripped open their bodies in this terrifying and horrible series of killings that sent shivers throughout London. Queen Victoria commented on the murders, the police were under tremendous pressure to solve

This was a crime of passion. Ruth Ellis was a model and a nightclub owner, and her lover was a racing car driver. Ruth had had a child by one man, had been married to another. Then she met Blakely and they started a stormy relationship – she had an abortion, she had other lovers, Blakely started to drink more heavily, and he became involved with other women. Ruth became jealous and she had miscarried not long before the fatal evening, so she was in a highly emotional state when her lover came out of the pub. If Ruth Ellis had been brought to trial today, she probably would not even have been given a life sentence.

the case, letters appeared supposedly written by Jack the Ripper, and then suddenly the murders stopped. His last victim was Mary Kelly who was killed at 3.30 in the morning on 9th November 1888.

Although several people had seen the victims with a man before they were murdered – he was probably about 40 and had grey hair – it is clear that this mystery will never be solved. This has not stopped people writing books, making television programmes and producing films about Jack the Ripper. It is perhaps one of the most discussed cases in the history of British crime, and one of the most horrible. Jack the Ripper is one of the main 'attractions' in the famous Chamber of Horrors at Madame Tussaud's in London.

MACBETH

Macbeth is one of Shakespeare's most famous murderers in a play of the same name. The play was probably first performed in 1606.

Macbeth, a Scottish nobleman, was not a criminal by nature, but became ambitious enough to kill after he listened to the prophesy of three witches, who told him that he would become king. Shortly after this, Duncan, King of Scotland, comes to stay in Macbeth's castle. Egged on by his very ambitious wife, Macbeth murders Duncan and becomes king himself.

MARTIN LUTHER KING



Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929. He grew up in a world where blacks could not go into the best stores or restaurants in town – these were places for whites only. White people went to the best schools; white people could do more or less anything they wanted. Blacks could only drink from water fountains marked *Colored*. If Martin went to the movies, he had to sit at the back. When he took the bus he could only sit in the colored section, and if a white person wanted his seat, Martin had to give it to him.

In 1948, Martin Luther King went to study in Pennsylvania, where life was much easier and freer. He became a minister, a leader and a fighter, but he did not fight with guns. He had studied the work and philosophy of Mahatma Ghandi of India: Ghandi believed very strongly in bringing about change without using violence and Martin Luther King became the champion of fighting for equal rights for all American citizens, white or colored: words were his weapons.

Black ministers from all over the south formed a group called the South-

ern Christian Leadership Conference, with King as their President. They organised peaceful protests and believed they were the only way to bring about effective and lasting change. The importance of his work was recognised when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

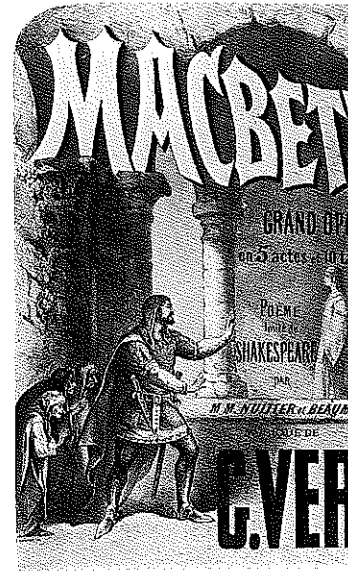
King's most famous speech, usually called his *I have a dream* speech, was given in 1963 in Washington D.C. to an audience of 250,000 people:

I have a dream that one day, on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood ...

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character ...

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill in Mississippi – until one day – all of God's children – will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

Martin Luther King was murdered when he was 39 years old. He was in Memphis, Tennessee to lead a peaceful march. As he stepped on to the balcony of the motel where he was staying he was shot from a building across the parking lot. He died one hour later in hospital.





LORD LUCAN

Lord Lucan – Britain’s most famous fugitive – vanished without trace in 1974 and has not been seen since, although his name crops up from time to time when people think they have seen him, most recently in South Africa. There is a murder warrant out for his arrest, so it is unlikely that he would ever return to Britain, or even Europe. Indeed, nobody knows if he is alive or dead.

He has been convicted of murdering his children’s nanny, Sandra Rivett, on 7th November 1974. He and his wife were separated, and his wife had their three children, which Lord Lucan was not very happy about. On the night in question, Lady Lucan was at home with her children and the nanny. The nanny left the room to make some tea, but did not come back. Lady Lucan went to find the nanny, but was attacked by a man, who turned out to be her husband. The nanny had been beaten to death and was

MARY ANN COTTON

Mary Ann Cotton was born in 1832 and hanged at Durham Prison on 24th March 1873. She was a mass murderer – one of the worst ever – who may have murdered up to 21 people. It is said that she poisoned members of her family in order to collect insurance money or to make it easier to marry a new husband – she married three times! She never confessed to any of the poisonings, but she had bought a mixture of arsenic and soft soap (for cleaning purposes) and there were just too many deaths in her close family for them to be coincidental.

She was actually arrested on the suspicion that she had mur-

dered her stepson in July 1872. In the five months before his death, three other people in Mary Ann Cotton’s household had died – one of her lovers, her own small child and her third husband’s eldest son. Her third husband, Cotton, had himself died only a year before.

When the police carried out a post-mortem on the body of her younger stepson, they found arsenic in his stomach. They then exhumed the bodies of her other stepson and her lover, and both of those were also found to have arsenic in their stomachs. Mary Ann was pregnant by yet another man when all this was taking place. The baby was born in Durham prison, but was taken from her 5 days before she was hanged.

already bundled into a canvas bag. Lady Lucan escaped and raised the alarm.

Lord Lucan said that he had simply been passing the house when he saw a man attacking someone who he thought was his wife, so he went in to help her. (The nanny and Lady Lucan were quite similar in build, and it is almost certain that the nanny was killed by mistake.)

The next day, Lord Lucan’s car was found. There were bloodstains in the car and a piece of lead piping in the boot. Lord Lucan was never seen again, although he left letters saying he was innocent. He disappeared without money, without his passport, and without trace.

Lord Lucan’s family want him declared officially dead, so that they can inherit. Scotland Yard has never closed the books on the case, and many of the detectives involved firmly believe that Lord Lucan is still alive.

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BONNIE PARKER

Many people have heard of Bonnie and Clyde because of the film of that name, but they were real people. Bonnie Parker was a pretty, popular red-haired waitress from Dallas. In 1932 she fell in love with Clyde Barrow, left her job and set off on the road with her new love. They were only small-time criminals in one way, robbing banks and filling stations and the like, but they were always heavily armed and killed at every opportunity. Clyde’s brother and his wife, Buck and Blanche Barrow, joined them and together they became known as the Barrow Gang.

They were soon known and feared all over the Southwest, not least for the massive gunfights with

THE PRINCES IN THE TOWER

The disappearance of the boy king, Edward V, aged twelve, and his ten-year-old brother Richard, Duke of York, in 1483 is one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in British history. The situation which gave rise to the mystery is as follows:

When King Edward IV died suddenly in April 1483, his eldest son and heir was only twelve years old. England was very unsettled at the time, and it was very unsuitable for a young boy to be king. His uncle, Edward IV’s brother, was appointed the young king’s protector, but Richard quickly took over himself as King Richard III, and the young boys were imprisoned in the Tower of London. And it was in the Tower of London that they were most probably murdered sometime between 1483 and 1485, but there were no bodies, and nobody really knows who killed the princes, although many theories have been put forward over the years. If you

the police. In two years ten policemen died in these shoot-outs. In July 1933 in Iowa, the gang was surrounded by about 100 armed men. Buck was killed, Blanche was wounded and surrendered, but Bonnie and Clyde and another member of the gang somehow managed to get away. Bonnie and Clyde became the most hunted pair of criminals in the Southwest.

The end when it came was inevitable and spectacular. On 23rd May 1934, their 1934 Ford V-8 Sedan was stopped at a road block in Indiana. Six police officers emptied automatic rifles, shotguns, and pistols into the car. Bonnie, pretty as ever in a red dress, had been the passenger in the car. Clyde Barrow had been the driver. Bonnie was 23 years old, Clyde, 25.

visit the Tower of London you can see the room where the little princes were kept imprisoned.

The fact that they were so young and that there were two of them has meant that the story has been romanticised for over 500 years – and this is one case that Scotland Yard can never solve. Some people now see Richard III as a good and a fair king in many ways and say that he brought the beginning of peace to England. But many others (perhaps influenced by Shakespeare’s play *Richard III* written a century later) see Richard as the wicked uncle who had his young nephews killed. Recently, many historians have come to the conclusion that it is more likely that the princes were killed on the instructions of the future King Henry VII, who himself took over as King of England after he had defeated Richard III in battle.





PETER SUTCLIFFE, otherwise known as the Yorkshire Ripper.

The search for the killer called the Yorkshire Ripper took 5 years. The police interviewed a total of around 250,000 people and checked the registration of 5.2 million cars. When, on 2nd January 1981, police questioned the occupants of a car parked suspiciously in a dark driveway, this huge police manhunt came to a close. Peter Sutcliffe was the driver of the car and he could not name his female passenger. He was taken in for questioning, and the hunt for this vicious killer was finally over.

Peter Sutcliffe's murder spree started in October 1975 when he killed Wilma McCann in Leeds. His last known victim was Jacqueline Hill, who was killed on 17th November, 1980. Sutcliffe drove around the streets of Leeds and the neighbouring city of Bradford and

picked up women. He then killed them in vicious attacks using a hammer. He was married to a teacher and he worked as a lorry driver, but neither his wife nor the men he worked with had any idea of the evil inside this man who they saw every day. In the five years between 1975 and 1980, the Yorkshire Ripper, as he came to be known, murdered at least 13 women, most of whom were prostitutes.

At his trial he admitted the murders but pleaded mental illness, and said that it was his mission to rid the world of prostitutes, he was just 'cleaning up streets'. The jury found him guilty of murdering 13 women and he was given life imprisonment. He is currently in a secure mental hospital at Broadmoor Prison.

- *The entries are in mixed order. Rearrange them in chronological order.*
- *There is one entry here which is the odd man out. Which one do you think it is? Why?*
- *Discuss in groups:
Which was the worse crime? Why?
Which was the most significant crime?*
- *Class/project work*
 1. *Expand this A to Z with your own entries. Remember to include both victims and criminals.*

OR

2. *Take one or more of the entries here and expand them. Use any reference sources available to you – encyclopaedias, the Internet, CD-ROM etc.*

Your teacher has some newspaper articles on the subject which you may want to read. 18 19 20

- *Class work.*
While working with this chapter, collect as many words as you can connected with crime and make them into a class dictionary of crime.