



POLICE HEADQUARTERS
ADELAIDE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OUR REF.

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Officer in Charge,
NO. 3 (C.I.B.) DIVISION.

SUBJECT: Unidentified body found at Somerton Beach, South Australia on 1st December, 1948.

REFERENCE: Article published in the 'Sunday Mirror' (Sydney) on 22nd November, 1959, in which E.B. COLLINS of Wanganui Prison, New Zealand, claims to have knowledge of identity of this subject.

At approximately 7 p.m. on the 30th November, 1948 a man was seen lying on the sand at Somerton Beach, South Australia. This is a suburban beach approximately 10 miles from Adelaide. The man had his head resting against the seawall and feet pointing towards the sea. He was seen there by a nearby resident named LYON. He was then alive as he was seen to move his arm. Mr. Lyon again noticed the man lying in the same position at 6.35 a.m. the following morning and immediately notified the Brighton Police of his observations.

When the Police arrived at the scene at 6.45 a.m. on the 1st December, 1948, they found the person fully clothed, lying on his back, head resting on the seawall and he appeared to be dead. The deceased was removed to the Royal Adelaide Hospital and examined by Doctor John Barclay BENNETT, who pronounced life extinct. The deceased was then removed to the City Mortuary.

On the 2nd December, 1948 a post mortem examination was held by Doctor James DWYER, a Government Pathologist, and specimens were taken for analysis by the Government Analyst. Photographs and the fingerprints of the deceased were taken by the Police and later circulated throughout English speaking countries. (Reports have since been received that the fingerprints have not been recorded).

A search of the clothing worn by the deceased revealed nothing to identify him and it was noticed that all identification tabs had been removed. A Tramways ticket issued on a bus leaving Adelaide at 11.15 a.m. and arriving at Somerton at 11.44 a.m. on Friday, 30th November, 1948, was found in a pocket. A small piece of paper was found in the fob pocket of the trousers bearing the name 'TAMAN SHUD'.

Enquiries at the Cloak Room at the Adelaide Railway Station revealed that a suitcase had been left there on the 30th November, 1948 and had not been claimed. A search of the contents of the case revealed a card of tan coloured thread which was identical with the thread in the coat and trousers worn by the deceased. A linen handkerchief, jockey underpants and a shirt found in the case were identical with the clothing worn by the deceased. The name tabs on all clothing in the suit case had also been removed. The name

'T. KEANE' appeared on a grey tie, 'KEAN' on a singlet, and 'KEAN' was stamped on a white linen bag found in the suitcase.

The following articles were also found in this suitcase; brush (stencillers), table knife cut down to a point, and a pair of scissors sharpened at the end. The knife and scissors were covered with a scabbard made of zinc tin and bound with sticking plaster. It was ascertained at the School of Arts and Crafts that the latter could be used in making stencils from the zinc. The knife could have been used to make an incision in the zinc, and the scissors used to cut out the particular letter or number required.

The coat worn by the deceased was examined by a leading Adelaide tailor, Mr. Hugh POZZA, and after pulling the shoulder padding apart identified the coat of American origin.

A book 'Omar Khayyan', with the back leaf missing, was found in the rear seat of a car near where the deceased was found. The piece of paper which was found in the deceased's clothing bearing 'Tamun Shud' had been torn from this book. (A Turkish National claimed that the words 'Tamun Shud' mean either 'Full up' or 'Fed up'). On the outer cover of this book appeared the following letters:-

M R G O
A D A B D
M T B I M P
A W E T P

M L I A B O
A I A Q C
I T T M T S
A M S T G A B

It is not known whether these letters have any significance as all attempts by the Military and Naval cipher-experts have failed to decipher the code. Numerous amateurs have also attempted, but no logical answer has been forthcoming.

The Government Pathologist could not give the cause of death, although he was convinced it was NOT from natural causes. The immediate cause of death was heart failure, but it is not known what factor caused it. It was at first thought it may have been from a barbiture, or a soluble hypnotic poison, but the Government Analyst was unable to find any traces of these, or any other poison, in his analysis.

The deceased was 5' 11", well built, broad shoulders and square, well developed limbs, large hands, hair slightly receding in front, gingery coloured hair, fairly coarse and turning slightly grey at sides, back of neck and behind ears, no distinct part, about 45 years, grey eyes, clean shaven and natural teeth. Scars on body were three small scars inside left wrist, one scar inside left elbow, curved and about 1" long, and a scar or boil mark 1" in length on upper left arm.

Attached is the newspaper article which prompted this report, and also photograph of the deceased.

Perhaps this report could be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, New Zealand, for favour of investigation. It is felt that should there be any truth in Collins' statement he should be able to give some information which has not already been published in the newspaper.

