

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

RCMP
GRC 6880

C 237
REV. 1-4-66

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OTHER FILE REFERENCES: REF. AUTRES DOSSIERS:	DIVISION "F"	DATE 20 Mar 69	RCMP FILE REFERENCES: REF. DOSSIERS GRC: 69F 010-5
	SUB-DIVISION - SOUS-DIVISION H.Q. - C.I.B.		
	DETACHMENT - DETACHEMENT Investigation Branch		

RE:
OBJET:

Gail Olena MILLER (B: 13 Sep 48) - Murder of
Saskatoon, Sask. 31 Jan 69 (ASST. TO SASKATOON
CITY POLICE)

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
DEPARTMENT
MAR 28 1969
SASKATOON

1. Chief J.G. Kettles of the Saskatoon City Police requested the assistance of this Force in the investigation of the above offence. On instructions from the Officer in Charge, C.I.B., I proceeded to Saskatoon on the afternoon of 20 Feb 69 and met with the Chief of Police that evening when the known particulars of this offence were discussed in detail. It was agreed that this Force would supply two men, namely S/Sgt. T.S. Edmondson and Cpl. E.A. Rasmussen of our Saskatoon G.I.S., to assist the Saskatoon City Police on a full-time basis with this investigation. The overall responsibility for the investigation of this offence would remain with the Saskatoon City Police but our members would render full-time assistance and work in close co-operation with members of the Saskatoon City Police C.I.D.

2. On 21 Feb 69 I also discussed this case with the Officer Commanding, Saskatoon Sub/Division, and he was made aware of the working arrangements and the role this Force would play in this investigation.

3. On the afternoon of 21 Feb 69, S/Sgt. Edmondson, Cpl. Rasmussen and myself met with Supt. J. Woods, in charge of the Saskatoon City Police C.I.D., where we spent several hours going over the particulars of this offence and the results of investigation to date. We were provided with complete copies of all investigational reports. At this time the Saskatoon City Police had no real suspects in mind as investigation to date had failed to turn up any leads of a promising nature.

4. The following are brief particulars surrounding this offence. At 8:40 A.M., 31 Jan 69, the body of Miss MILLER, age 20 years, was found in the snow in the laneway of the 200 Block Avenue "N", Saskatoon, by some young children on their way to school. This girl was employed as a nursing assistant at the Saskatoon City Hospital and resided at 130 Avenue "O" South, about one block from where her body was found. On the day in question she was to work the day shift, 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., and she normally would catch a bus within one block of her residence at approximately 7:00 A.M. She was last seen at 6:45 A.M., 31 Jan 69, at her residence by another girl as she was preparing to leave for work. The temperature that morning was 40 degrees below zero with heavy fog reducing visibility to 150 feet in some areas. The alley in question is somewhat secluded and an area of deep snow where the body was found was trampled indicating that a struggle had taken place. When found the body was dressed in a black cloth coat, trimmed with black fur collar and cuffs. The coat was unbuttoned and the middle button of three buttons was missing. The zipper at the back of her white nurse's uniform showed signs of being forced and her arms had been removed from this uniform which was found around her waist. A half slip was found pushed up around her waist and her brassiere was intact with the exception of the right shoulder strap which had been pulled loose. She was wearing a $\frac{3}{4}$ -length snow boot on her

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left foot and her right boot was missing. Her panties and girdle were down around her left ankle and both her white mesh stockings were pulled down to her ankles and the tops were still attached to the fasteners of the girdle. An examination of the body revealed that she had been stabbed twelve times--four wounds in the back, four wounds in the upper abdomen, three wounds in the left top shoulder and one wound on the right side under the right arm about chest high. There were also a number of slash wounds on both sides of her throat. When found her arms, legs and face were frozen but a temperature reading taken from under her right armpit indicated 50° Fahrenheit. She was clutching a handful of snow in each hand and there were numerous blood spots in the snow under the body. An autopsy indicated that she had died as a result of stab wounds and there was an indication that she had been sexually assaulted. Male sperm found in the snow beside the body has been checked by our Laboratory and indications are that this sperm came from a male person having blood group "A".

5. A knife blade $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch wide with the handle broken off and missing was found in the snow directly under the body. It appears to be the blade of a common-type paring knife. The right snow boot and a sweater belonging to the girl were located later that day in the snow a short distance from the body. Between 31 Jan and 3 Feb 69, the following other exhibits, all apparently belonging to the girl, were located at various locations close to where the body was found:

- (a) pair of ladies fawn-colored gloves
- (b) package of gum
- (c) set of house keys
- (d) hair comb
- (e) top of lipstick tube
- (f) ladies purse and contents (found in garbage can)

6. On 1 Mar 69, the handle to the paring knife was found in the snow a short distance from the body. The snow in the immediate area of the body was melted by a hot air blower and a small hunting knife with an imitation bone handle was found. To date this knife has not been identified and it is not known if it is connected with this murder.

7. The only item missing from this girl's purse is a black leather wallet which she was known to carry. It is estimated that this girl would only be carrying a few dollars with her at the time of her death.

8. On the morning of her death it would appear that Miss MILLER left her residence between 6:50 and 7:00 A.M. to catch a bus about a block from her residence. It would take her no more than three to five minutes to walk from her residence to the bus stop. It would appear that she was accosted by her attacker shortly after leaving her house. It is not known if her attacker was on foot or in a car but from all indications it would appear that she was killed at the spot where the body was found. The travelled portion of the alley consists of hard-packed snow and therefore would not retain tire impressions if a car was involved. It would

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appear that she was forced to undress herself or was forcefully undressed by her attacker at knife point. It would also appear that her upper clothing had been removed and her coat replaced prior to her being stabbed as the only stab holes found in her clothing were the four in the back of her coat.

9. The night before her death, this girl attended a house party along with six other young fellows and two other girls. She was driven home by one of these youths and dropped off at her residence at approximately 2:00 A.M., 31 Jan 69, some five to six hours prior to her death. All persons attending this party were originally questioned by the Saskatoon City Police and eliminated as suspects, however our members will request all of these persons to definitely establish their whereabouts between 6:00 and 8:00 A.M., 31 Jan 69. Miss MILLER also had a steady boy friend, Les SPENCE, who lives at Perdue, Sask., and inquiries to date indicate that he was at home between 11:00 P.M., 30 Jan 69 and 11:00 A.M., 31 Jan 69.

10. Between 21 Oct and 29 Nov 68, two rapes and one attempted rape were committed in the same area where this girl was murdered. To date the person responsible has not been identified. In each case the attacker forced the girls down an alley at knife point where he forced them to undress before committing the offence. In the attempted rape, the attacker was scared off by the approach of car headlights. One of the victims claims that she can still identify her attacker while the other two are only able to give a brief description of him. In view of the similar methods used in committing these offences, there is a good possibility that they were all committed by the same individual and this fact is not being overlooked during this investigation.

11. Our two G.I.S. members at Saskatoon are actively engaged in following up new leads, checking on all known sex offenders in the Saskatoon area and reinterviewing all of this girl's known associates in an effort to uncover information that would lead to the arrest of the person responsible. A full report will be submitted by our investigating member outlining in detail the progress of this investigation. One copy of this report is being forwarded direct to the N.C.O. I/C, Saskatoon G.I.S.

S.U.I.

J.A.B. Riddell
J.A.B. Riddell, Insp.,
I/C Investigation Branch.

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