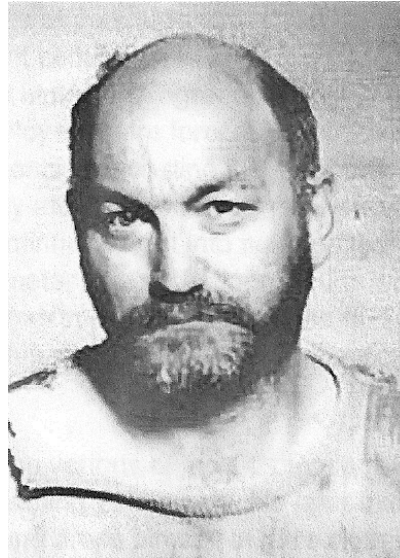


Robert Black. Born 21st April, 1947 UK Sex Crimes 1959 to 1990



Robert Black aged 43 taken in 1990

Along with Fred & Rose West, Ian Brady & Myra Hindley Black is one of Britain's most prolific and notorious child sex murderers. He was born in Grangemouth on The Firth of The Forth, about 20 miles from Edinburgh, Scotland and within 6 months of his birth was fostered out and lived in Kinlochleven near Glencoe in The West Highlands his Father Jack Tulip died when he was 5 and his Mother Margaret Tulip when he was 11.

At the tender age of four he had a sexual awareness and at Highland Dances he would lay on his back on the floor to look up girls skirts and had developed deep and perverse sexual feelings by the age of 8 and had a self anal and small female vaginal fixation. We don't know if these were induced by events in the household but by any account it would not excuse his later lewd and perverse behaviour.

At the age of 12 whilst in a Children's Home near Falkirk together with two other boys he tried to rape a girl of similar age. He was moved to another Children's Home where he was sexually abused by a male member of staff.

At the age of 15 during the summer of 1962 he got a job as a delivery boy in Greenock and over a period of time lured up to between 30 and 40 young girls and sexually molested them; it would appear that none of these events came to the notice of police. In 1963 having turned 17 he approached a 7 year old girl in a park and asked her if she would like to see some kittens, he took her to a deserted building where he held her down with his hand around her throat and strangled until she was unconscious, he then interfered with her private parts and inserted things in her and then masturbated over her lifeless body. He then left her there, not knowing or caring whether she was unconscious or dead. She was later found wandering, bleeding, crying and confused. He was arrested and should have been charged with Attempted Murder and at that stage he would have received a custodial sentence which would have been a strong indicator to later police enquiries into unsolved abductions and murders. Instead he was charged with "Lewd and Libidinous Behaviour" and let off and when national records were searched for convicted serious sex offenders in the early 1980s his name didn't come out of the hat.

The recollection and image of what he had carried out became an obsessive fantasy which would ultimately drive him to eventually murder a child. In 1966 at the age of 19 he took a room in Greenock and abused the 9 year old grand daughter of the household, the police were not called, but he was ordered to leave. As his time had run out in the town, due to his sexual deviant behaviour, he moved back to Kinlochleven and took another room and again he assaulted the 7 year old daughter of this household. On this occasion the police were called and he was charged with 3 counts of indecent assault on this child and was sentenced to 1 years Borstal near Grangemouth

On his release, having tired of Scotland he went to the anonymity of London and during the late 1960s and early 1970s was into buying under counter child pornography imported from Holland, he lived in cheap bed sits and obtained a job as a swimming pool attendant where he spied on little girls in bathing costumes and there were further indecent attacks. From there his history is hazy and we don't know if he had access to a vehicle in which to travel, with his history as a sexual predator he would need to regularly feed his appetite for young flesh.

In 1976 Black got a job with a London Firm as a van driver delivering posters all over England and Scotland and he would regularly do the London to Edinburgh runs over the next 10 years. It is during this period that he was actively engaged in the abduction rape and murder of young teenagers and pre teen girls. Whether April Fabb was one of his earlier victims is not known, but her disappearance some nine years prior to the disappearance of Genette Tate has glaring similarities.

“April Fabb”



On Tuesday the 8th of April 1969, the day after Easter Monday, I worked a late turn foot beat at King's Lynn when one of Norfolk's biggest mysteries occurred during that afternoon. April Fabb, a shy thirteen year old, a few days off her fourteenth birthday and on her Easter school holidays set off from her home at Metton to cycle the two miles to her Sister's home in Roughton near Cromer to give her Brother In Law a packet of cigarettes as a birthday present for his birthday on Easter Monday, but she never made it along that country lane. She was seen at 2.06pm that afternoon cycling along and stopped by a field containing a donkey where she met 2 girls who were playing with the donkey and April joined them briefly before continuing her journey. She was last seen at 2.12pm by a Land Rover driver about to turn right into Back Lane towards Roughton; just 3 minutes later, her Blue and White cycle was found lying on its side where it had been thrown over a six foot high bank into a field in Back Lane.

Two vehicles that were in the area during the material time were never traced they were a vaguely described grey car and a red Mini with new type reflective number plates; now the latter should have turned up as reflective number plates were not law until nearly four years later the 1st of January 1973.

Full details of April's story and the hunt for her are in a book written and dedicated to her memory and the original investigation by one of my ex bosses retired Detective Chief Superintendent Maurice Morson who inherited the outstanding enquiry from Det Chief Superintendent Reg Lester during 1983 when Reg retired it is entitled "The Lost Years".

On the 21st of May 1973, 9 year old Christine Markham was snatched from a street in Scunthorpe she was walking en route to school and then changed her mind and walked back towards home. She has not been seen since that day and her body has never been found.



Christine Markham

There is the unsolved murder of 7 year old Mary Boyle in Donegal in March 1977 which is still a Missing Person enquiry which has links with Black. Mary disappeared from her Grandparent's farm in Cashleherd near Ballyshannon, County Donegal in the Republic of Ireland whilst walking from the farm to a neighbouring one taking her across a back country road.



Robert Black was at Enniskillen in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland that day helping to put up a poster billboard. Geographically the two counties are not far apart over the border and only a half hour vehicle journey.

“Genette Tate”



The officially released photo of Genette Tate and a not so well known one

There are a lot of similarities between April Fabb’s disappearance and that of Genette Tate nearly nine and a half years later; Genette was aged thirteen years when she disappeared during the afternoon of Saturday the 19th of August 1978. She had set off from her home at Aylesbeare near Exmouth to deliver newspapers and up a country lane stopped and chatted to two school friends who knew her as “Ginny” and one of them asked for her Mother’s paper before Genette cycled off round the bend and out of sight. The time was just after 3:30pm. Five minutes later her cycle was found abandoned in the middle of this narrow road, undamaged and with the front wheel still spinning, her bag containing newspapers lay scattered in the road: Genette had vanished off the face of the earth.



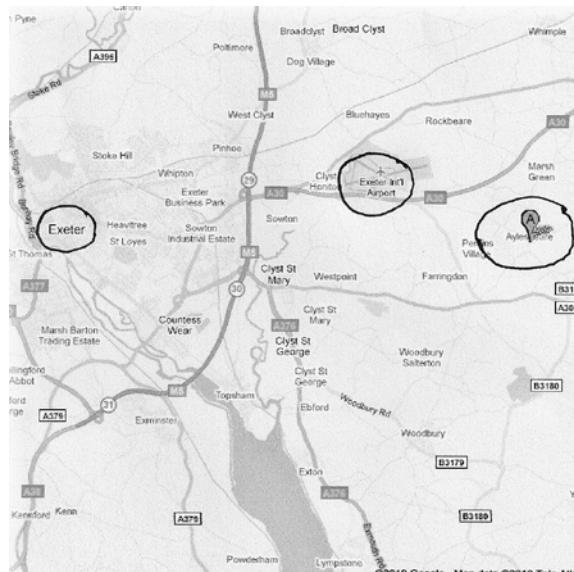
Withen Lane where Genette was abducted from



***Aylesbeare and Withen Lane very similar countryside to Metton
but with more trees and hedgerows***

Years later it was established that Black who at the time was working for a London firm travelling all over the country in a Red Transit Van delivering goods, was in Exeter on the day Genette went missing a few miles away from Aylesbeare and he had detailed knowledge of the area. Also in 1996 a witness told police that she recognised Black from newspaper photographs as the man she had seen watching her children as he was leaning on a red Transit style van at Exeter Airport not far from Aylesbeare on the day Genette vanished and he drove off towards Aylesbeare the subsequent e-fit bore a

striking resemblance to Black. A Red Transit van was one of the few vehicles to come into the Genette Tate enquiry and one was seen leaving the village at speed around the time of Genette's abduction.



Location of Aylesbeare A showing its proximity to Exeter Airport and Exeter



A reconstruction of Genette's last sighting together with her two friends using a stand-in with similar clothing and appearance

Black had a particular fascination for girls on bikes as they were vulnerable and easy targets. It also seems highly improbable that Genette was his first murder victim when he was 35 years old considering the acts committed when he was a 17 year old.

In 1979 Suzanne Lawrence age 14 went missing from Essex and during the 1990s was considered as one of Black's victims.

On Wednesday the 12th of August 1981 exactly a fortnight after the wedding of Princess Diana to Prince Charles Jennifer Cardy 9 years old of Ballinderry, near Lough Neagh, County Antrim in Northern Ireland was cycling to meet a friend when she vanished her red bike was found in a field beside a hedge. Her naked murdered body was found by two fisherman 6 days later at McKee's Dam near Hillsborough, Belfast.



More than a decade later it was established that Black was delivering posters in the area at the time of her abduction and there was a petrol receipt which put him within two miles of the spot where she vanished from and he was first quizzed about Jennifer's murder during a 2005 cold case review.

In September 2007 Devon & Cornwall Police submitted a File to The Crown Prosecution Service on Robert Black in connection with Genette Tate.

In mid-December 2009, Detectives from Ulster travelled to Wakefield Prison in West Yorkshire to serve a summons relating to the murder on Robert Black then aged 62years old and he is to stand trial. The move came a year after

police warned the family of Black's other three victims that he was likely to face a further trial.

Black appeared at Northern Ireland, Lisburn Magistrates Court on the 22nd of January 2010 charged with Jennifer Cardy's Murder and he was remanded in custody. There was a vast amount of documents and statements that had to be disclosed to defence lawyers and this significantly delayed his future trial. Following a five week Trial at Armagh Crown Court Northern Ireland during September and October 2011 Black then aged 64 years was finally convicted on Thursday the 27th of October 2011 of the abduction and murder of Jennifer Cardy.

In November 1981 16 year old Pamela Hastie was found half naked raped and strangled in Rannoch Woods near Johnstone in Scotland another man was arrested and confessed to the murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

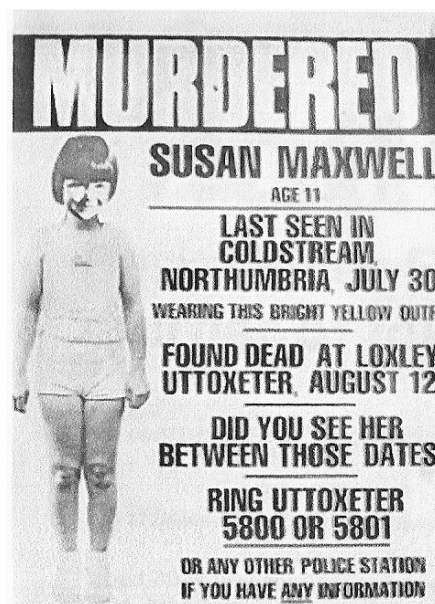


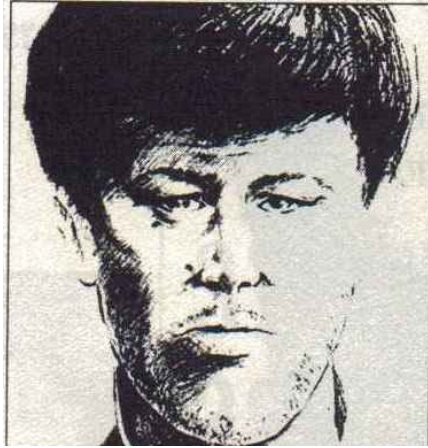
But on the day of the murder a van driver was driving past the wood about a quarter of an hour after Pamela died and saw man ran full pelt out of the wood across the road and collided with the side of his van. He stopped and the man said he was ok the van driver reported the incident and a few days later the police said they had located the man presumably from local hospital records and that his name was Robert Black! The driver didn't think any more of it until

13 years later when he saw Black's photograph on TV and recognised him as being the man who had ran out of the wood that day in 1981.

“Susan Maxwell Caroline Hogg and Sarah Harper”

On Friday the 30th of July 1982 some eight months later than Pamela Hastie's murder on a hot summer's day 11 year old Susan Maxwell was abducted from her Northumberland village of Cornhill-on-Tweed near Coldstream just south of the Scotland/England border when she was walking home after playing tennis. Thirteen days later her body was found 264 miles away dumped on land in a lay-by used by van drivers near Uttoxeter in Staffordshire she had been sexually mutilated and murdered.





Artist's Impression of Susan Maxwell's Abductor

Sarah Soar aged 9 was abducted from Nottingham sometime during 1983. Further details of this case are unknown but she was later mentioned after Black's 1990 arrest.

Then on the 8th of July 1983 a smaller child to Susan Maxwell 5 year old Caroline Hogg was abducted from near a funfair at Portabella near Edinburgh on a route between two swimming pools many witnesses report seeing a scruffy looking man looking at her playing on the playground near her home and later at the amusement arcade holding her hand. Her body was found in a lay-by in Leicestershire again some 308 miles away from her abduction she had also been raped and murdered.



Caroline Hogg



Artist's Impression of Man Seen at Fun City with Caroline Hogg

And Photo of Robert Black Taken in 1982

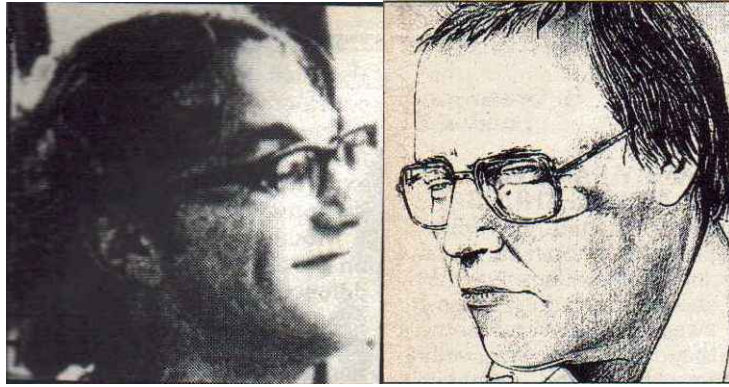
Susan Maxwell, Caroline Hogg and the next girl Sarah Harper were found in a 24 mile radius later known as the "Midlands Triangle" when Sarah Harper was found dumped in the river Trent.

Also during 1983 11year old Tracey Waters was sexually assaulted and murdered in Johnstone Scotland at the time her Uncle was a suspect but there are similarities with this crime and Black's Modus Operandii (MO)

There then seems to be a gap of 24 months until the evening of Wednesday the 26th of March 1986 when 10 year old Sarah Harper was walking home from a corner shop in Morley near Leeds after buying bread.



Sarah Harper

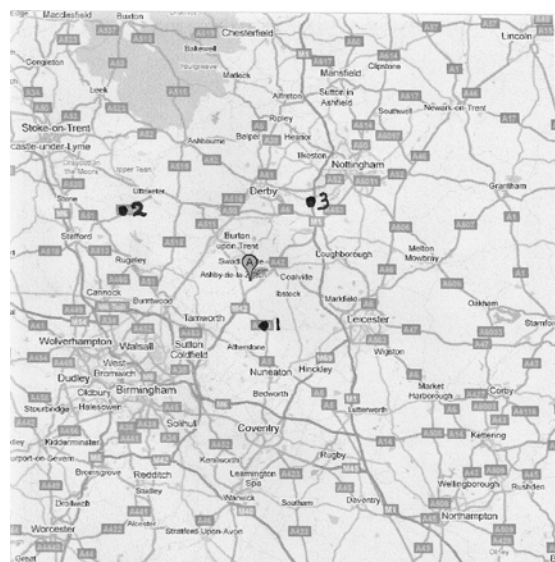


Robert Black Clean Shaven and Artist's Impression Sarah Harper Abductor

Her naked murdered body was found inside sacking in The River Trent at Nottingham on the 19th of April that year. A Post Mortem examination found that she was still alive when she was thrown into the river and that she had been violently assaulted in both her vagina and anus described as “terrible injuries” it would appear that her body went into the water between junction 25 and 24 of the M1 Motorway where the motorway crosses the Trent at Sawley near Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire. This discovery completed “The Midlands Triangle”.



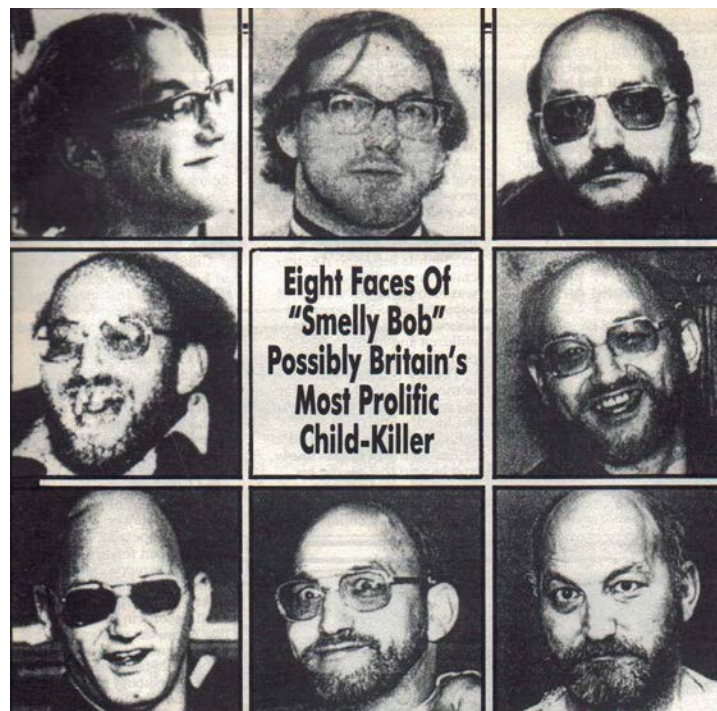
Where the four abductions took place from



"The Midlands Triangle" where three bodies were dumped

At the time the significance of Donisthorpe A in the centre was not known

As well as April Fabb 1969 and Genette Tate's 1978 disappearances and their obvious abduction there were a series of other unsolved similar child abductions or murders dating back to the late 1960s through to the late 1980s committed in England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Holland (Amsterdam) and Germany. If this wasn't complex enough each force had its own parochial card index system for their major crime as at that time there were no National computerised system for feeding major crimes onto a data base for cross reference checking and analysing until 1986. These following the problems experienced inter force by "The Yorkshire Ripper" case of the late 1970s and early 1980s when the first generation of "HOLMES" Home Office Large Major Enquiry System was developed.



The Many Faces of Robert Black

On the 28th of April 1988 Teresa Thornhill a 15 year old who looked much

younger being under 5 feet tall with a girlish figure no makeup and who didn't look like a teenager had been to a park in Nottingham with friends. When she was on her own she noticed that a blue van had stopped just ahead of her on the opposite side of the road the driver had got out and was looking under the bonnet. As she approached the man shouted to her "Can you mend engines?" Uneasily she replied that she could not and walked on. The next thing she knew was that this man grabbed her from behind in a bear hug picked her up and was carrying her across to his van. She said later "I will never forget his hairy arms, sweaty hands and smelly T-shirt" she managed to grab him between the legs and knocked his glasses to the ground screaming all the while her teenage boy friend heard her screams and ran towards the van and called out "get off her you fat fucking bastard!" Teresa was dropped and the assailant drove off otherwise she would have been the next national statistic of Robert Black.

Years later it was revealed that very same day Black was delivering posters in Nottingham then using a Blue Transit Van owned by PDS and his description then of photographs taken of him was identical to the one in this attempted abduction. Also after Black's room was searched the police found an old newspaper from 1988 carrying the report of this attempted abduction.

On the 14th of July 1990 Black was finally to be arrested in the act of Abduction and later almost certainly ending in the murder of another little girl M W. She was the Daughter of a policeman and was aged 6 years and from near the borders village of Stow she was wearing yellow shorts the same as in Susan Maxwell's case. She was walking past a parked van when a member of

the public saw her being bundled into the van and took the registration number.

He alerted the police who chased and stopped the van one of the officers being the child's father who was on duty at that time. He found his Daughter tied up, gagged and stuffed inside a sleeping bag and close to death from asphyxiation she had been initially sexually assaulted and then kept in the back of the van for his further "enjoyment" later. A psychologist later extracted from Black that he would have kept the little girl until he had done his drop in Galashiels a bit further down the road and when he had the opportunity strip her from the waist down and further assault her and put objects in her private parts. At the time Black's address was a rented attic bedroom in an Edwardian Terrace close to the red light district of West Bank Stamford Hill, Hackney, in London; for this crime Black was sentenced to Life Imprisonment.

This offence then came to the attention of Police investigating the other unsolved crimes and he was interviewed in Wakefield Prison about them but they realized that they would have to find their evidence the hard way. Using ANACAPA a Crime Intelligence Analysis system they plotted his daily movements for the decade pre-ceding his arrest for the crimes against little M W. By careful examination of his ex work records, wage books, fuel receipts, etc they were able to put him at or very close by all of the abduction and murder crime scenes at the material times, of Susan Maxwell in Northumberland, Caroline Hogg in Edinburgh and Sarah Harper in Leeds and the Attempted Abduction of Teresa Thornhill in Nottingham. He was also in the areas of where Genette Tate went missing from in Devon and the abduction and murder of Jennifer Cardy in Northern Ireland.

His Trial began on Wednesday the 13th of April 1994 at Moot Hall, Newcastle he pleaded Not Guilty but was found Guilty by a Jury on Thursday the 19th of May the same year. He given 10 life sentences with a minimum term of 35 years and not considered for release until at least 82 years old. He should have been executed for such appalling crimes.

In July 1994 there was a high level Police Conference held in Newcastle to consider the possibility of Black's involvement in the similar abductions and murders as outlined above. One senior officer was quoted in the Daily Express as saying "We know he killed Genette Tate and April Fabb and we believe that their bodies are buried somewhere in the Midlands Triangle". However as far as April is concerned her disappearance was 7years before Black's van job and before the Rayson's moved to the Midlands.

