

Eres the stuff I Arf inched +  
thez some photos Tel giv us  
before the lads got banged up  
he sed to gard em wiv me life  
+ ive kept em All this time  
so dont go losin em or nofing  
keep yer ed down. Rozzers know  
suminks up coz weve even bin in  
the papers!

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# A Shut And Open Case

EMBARRASSED Scotland Yard chiefs are playing down "a minor burglary" which took place last week from the Public Records Office in Kew, West London.

Staff found doors open leading to the Office's crime records rooms, where Scotland Yard and the Department of Public Prosecutions deposits its closed crime files. A spokesman for the research centre in Kew confirmed that there was negligible damage to property, with only a small number of documents missing, relating to a sixteen year old Post Office robbery.

The fact that Scotland Yard has taken over the investigation into this incident is a signal that there is more to this theft than meets the eye. The stolen papers consist of transcripts of suspect interviews from a London Post Office robbery that took place on 6 April 1985. Under the 'thirty year rule', these records would not have been available for examination by the general public for some time, yet the thief clearly couldn't wait any longer.

The original case seemed equally enigmatic when it hit the headlines later that year. Antiques dealer Terence Clark, market

By Matt Edwards and Nick Perry

trader, Stuart Finch and mini-cab driver Ray Eastham were arrested in December 1985. They were subsequently convicted of the robbery at the Old Bailey in March 1986 after the jury took just 15 minutes to find the gang guilty. All three had pleaded not guilty despite offering what prosecuting barrister Colin Wilkinson QC, famously referred to in his summing up, as a defence 'riddled with lies so obvious, you would be forgiven for thinking the defendants are somewhat simple. Make no mistake; these men are rotten to the core.' Gang leader, Clark, responded angrily at the time, ranting at the jury. "Ignore the lies and the truth will out."

Clark was subsequently convicted of manslaughter in 1987 following a violent fight in Wormwood Scrubs between the gang members, which resulted in the deaths of Finch and Eastham.

Crime historian Michelle Ball points out that the proceeds of the 1985 robbery,

which included a 'George and Dragon' gold sovereign from a special display at the Post Office, have yet to be found. Ball thinks, "The defendants could well be more quick-witted than they might have had the court believe." Clark is due to be released on parole later this year, and if the booty from the 1985 raid still remains hidden, Clark will be keen to get his hands on it. Ball suggests "the gang's original statements could well hide instructions for Clark's associates on the outside. As Clark is likely to have his prison visits supervised, and his movements closely scrutinised, on release, he won't want to retrieve the proceeds himself."

Scotland Yard has refused to add any weight to Ball's theory saying only, "Any theft from the national archives must be treated seriously, regardless of the circumstances." It has appealed for any member of the public with ideas or information on this case to contact them at [athc@shutandopencase.co.uk](mailto:athc@shutandopencase.co.uk).

It would seem this case is not as tightly shut as the Met might have originally believed.

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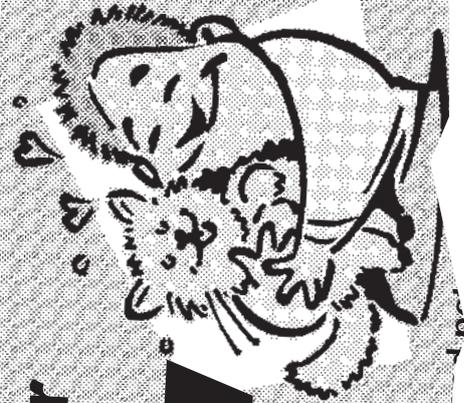
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## M25 Limits

Continued from Page 1

excessive. Convicted motorists will be expected to stay within the confines of the M25 throughout the enforcement period.





METROPOLITAN POLICE

## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Interviewee Terence Joseph CLARK Case Ref. ROBBERY/85/ATHC  
Interviewing Officer(s) D.I. Paul CAESAR Document Ref. 17/GFJKTFUV  
Station / Room SK / Interview Room 1 Date / Time 10 December 1985 / 12:30p.m.

What were you doing on the night before the robbery, Friday 5th April?

Enjoying a film at the cinema, as I recall. I closed the shop as usual and spent the early evening at home. I went upstairs to my flat, made a pot of tea, and settled down with the paper. I hadn't actually been planning to go out, but I made a spur of the moment decision - I was reading a review of 'Out of Africa' - the paper had given it five stars. So I got changed and drove to the cinema for the eight o'clock show. I bought a packet of wine gums, watched the film and then drove home, just in time to catch the start of News at 10.

Several witnesses have told us that your shop remained closed all day on Saturday 6th April. You had a notice on the door reading 'BACK IN 10 MINUTES' but there was no sign of you. Why was that?

Trick of the trade - nothing more sinister than that. When my more well-heeled clients pay a visit, I prefer to keep the browsers and tourists out on the street. Personal service makes all the difference if you want them to pay top dollar. [long pause] My ledger shows that on that day I spent several hours with an old chap who comes in regularly from Chelsea, and I eventually sold him some of my best pieces: a Regency gilt-framed mirror, a pair of Edwardian chairs, a bronze of Iris the river goddess, and a set of six silver candlesticks.

Witnesses say your shop remained closed on Sunday 7th April, until you opened it at around 11.20am. But we understand you normally open at 9am on Sundays. Where were you until so late?

Under my covers, snoozing. I open when I choose on Sundays, and that morning I chose to stay in bed. Eleven isn't late for me. I remember quite clearly that I was woken by the grandfather clock I'd recently acquired, striking the hour in the shop downstairs. It actually struck twelve, because I don't change the valuable clocks for the summertime - it can play havoc with the internal mechanisms. So yes, I must have got up about eleven and opened the shop shortly afterwards. I never open too late on Sunday, as I get a lot of trade from collectors returning from car boot sales.

In the weeks leading up to the robbery, you were seen in the Post Office examining the walls and displays. What were you looking for?

Pictures of some new insect stamps actually. I have an elderly client north of the river who collects stamps, philately gets you everywhere in this trade. Although a bit of a drunk - he downs whisky like you or I drink water - he does have a damn good eye for collectibles. Every month I take him my latest stamps, and I usually call at the Post Office on my way there. He particularly likes wildlife, so I wanted to get my hands on a set released in March - a lovely set of insects. In fact I still have a set back at the shop if you'd like to see them - Wart Biter Bush Cricket, Buff Tailed Bumble Bee and a fabulous Emperor Dragonfly on the 34p stamp.

How long have you known Stuart Finch?

A little over three months, I'd say. He came into my shop looking specifically for an anniversary present for his wife. He got distracted by my coin cabinet, and being a collector himself, we just got talking. As he put it "what's a decade of marriage compared to the centuries of history in coins?" I showed him some of the finer pieces from my private collection and he agreed to bring in some of his for valuation. As it happens, he didn't end up buying anything for his wife, because he wanted something appropriate - Ivory. I don't trade ivory on principle. Unless you count piano keys I suppose.



METROPOLITAN POLICE

## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Interviewee Stuart Paul FINCH Case Ref. ROBBERY/85/ATHC  
Interviewing Officer(s) D.C. Brian VIGENERE Document Ref. DLV/DOQHCO  
Station / Room SK / Interview Room 4 Date / Time 10 December 1985 / 10:28a.m.

We know that you telephoned Terry Clark a couple of weeks after the robbery. What did you talk about?

Victory! For me that is - I like the odd flutter now and again and Terry often takes my bets. I called him to gloat a bit - truth be known. I laid a wager on the FA Cup semi finals, and both my teams had come through. I wanted to arrange a time to pick up my winnings. Terry called me a lucky... er... so and so, but it wasn't luck, it was good judgement. I just picked the two teams playing at home. The roar of the home fans is often worth an extra goal on the big occasions. And it certainly was this time - much to Terry's annoyance.

So you didn't meet up with Terry Clark on Saturday 6th April?

No - not with Terry - not with anyone in fact. I stayed in my flat the whole day and didn't speak to anyone. I just relaxed in front of the telly and watched that Bob Geldof concert thing. It was fantastic. All my favourites, Quo and Queen were the best of course, they really are something else when they play live. Rockin All Over the World... We Are the Champions... Great stuff. In fact it was so good that I thought of donating five quid.

A witness has told us that you returned to your flat at 11:30pm on Sunday 7th April. What were you doing out so late?

That's a joke. Who told you that? They must need their eyes testing. In fact the buses were really crowded that day, so I got a cab back from Picadilly in the early evening. I wanted to get back to listen to the charts on the radio. I remember being well pleased that Frankie Goes to Hollywood had made it to number one. I'd bought a load of 'Frankie says Relax' T shirts from a bloke I know and it's much easier to sell stuff when the band's on the radio all the time - all the kids want them then you see.

You say that you met Terry Clark through a poker circle that meets in a local pub. How do people join this little group?

Apply to the landlord. He's a top fella, old George; he lets me sell my T shirts and scarves in the bar. I get rid of a lot of stock through old Ge. He's well over the hill and as mad as a hatter, named his dog Rubik after that Hungarian bloke that invented the cube thing. He started the poker circle at the first pub he owned, a few yards down the lane. We usually play on the 25th of each month, and our Terry's a right little regular.

END OF INTERVIEW -----

**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT**

Interviewee Raymond EASTHAM Case Ref. ROBBERY/85/ATHC  
Interviewing Officer(s) D.C. Elaine BEALE Document Ref. 10-13-18/9-19-3  
Station / Room SK / Interview Room 1 Date / Time 10 December 1985 / 14:45p.m.

Witnesses report seeing you in your minicab, parked up for over three hours, just across from the Post Office on the day of the robbery. What were you doing?

Reading a book - that's all. I'd just brought some blokes back into town from Heathrow airport and the traffic was appalling. I needed a break so I pulled over to read my book 'First Among Equals'. I remember it well because one of the blokes said he was a Tory MP, and the book is about MPs so I picked the book up and waved it at it him, saying "Oh I know all about you lot now". The fare told me he knew the author well - he'd just been made Deputy Party Chairman or something. It's a good book and I got quite engrossed reading it.

You were seen arguing with Terry Clark in a local pub on the 16th March. What were you arguing about?

Now and again, I place bets with Terry - he fancies himself as a bit of a bookie. Though why a man who doesn't even know the offside rule takes bets on football, goodness only knows. I'd lost a pony on the Millwall versus Luton quarter final match a few days earlier, and I reckoned the FA would void the game because of the Millwall fans rioting. I tried to tell Terry he should give me my money back. He told me to stop being such a bad loser, so I threatened to punch his lights out; and it all got a bit out of hand. But it was only raised voices in the end - no fists went flying. We argue about bets all the time - and ninety five percent of the time we're best mates again within a few minutes.

How often do you place bets with Terry then? Why not use a licensed bookmaker?

Go to the high street boys and they want tax and all that. At the moment, a couple of times a week I'll place maybe a score with him - though it depends what's on and how flush I'm feeling. On special occasions I might go a bit mad. Back at the start of the season Tel gave me 11-4 on a nag I'd had an inside tip on at Aintree. I desperately needed a monkey to pay for new gearbox on my sherbet dab - I was dead broke but I managed to borrow a ton, which I placed on this dead-cert. And voila, new gear box for Raymondo.

Since the day of the robbery, no-one has seen your minicab. What happened to it?

Don't talk to me about that old rust bucket. It broke down during a long distance fare I had. I took some big cheese from Paddington to Leeds. It could have been a great day, if a bit long. It was a half past eight pick-up, but it paid good money. I dropped the guy off OK, but on the way back the car started blowing smoke at Watford. I had to wait two hours for the AA to come, but it barely took him a couple of minutes to write off the car. So I'd started the day with a great fare, and ended up without my car. And all before midday!

We found 200 13p stamps at your flat. Where did you get them from?

Our next door neighbour - he works at the local Post Office. I saw him leaving for work, and with only a couple of weeks to go to Christmas, I asked him to bring me home two hundred first class stamps. My wife has an extended family and she insisted we send the cards first class, cos she doesn't trust the post at Christmas.



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## Alterations to District Line Services

Sunday 8 September

We're sorry, but because of engineering works there will be no service between Earl's Court and Kensington Olympia this Sunday. A special bus service will run between 11 am and 4 pm, and tube tickets will be accepted on routes 2 and 27.

For further information call the information line during office hours on 01-200 78 95.

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