

SIR JAMES WILLIAM OLIVE, KBE KPM



James Olive was the first Metropolitan Police officer to attain the rank of Deputy Commissioner after having joined as a Police Constable. As such, he was always popular amongst the rank and file, because he 'was one of them', and not someone appointed straight to a senior rank purely because of cronyism, or 'old school tie'.

James William Olive was born in Parsonstown, County Kildare, Ireland, in 1854, and joined the Metropolitan Police at the age of eighteen in 1872. His rise was meteoric. Sergeant in 1877, Inspector in 1886, Chief Constable in 1918, before being appointed Assistant Commissioner in 1920, and Deputy Commissioner in 1922. He retired in 1926, and died in 1942.

Despite immense administrative capability, Olive's real legacy was the realisation by the hierarchy that police management can only be learned from the ground up.

CODE OF A KILLER

by

Robert Cozens

Having recently watched this television drama/documentary and been asked many questions about it, I thought you might be interested in my experience of the case as set out below.

In the late 1980s DNA profiling was used for the first time as evidence in a trial which led to the conviction of a man called Colin Pitchfork for the murder of two young women in Leicestershire. The recently screened ITV drama about the case, *Code of a Killer*, portrays Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys of Leicester University, as the person who used DNA to confirm that the murders were committed by the same person, and there is no question that he played the leading role in developing DNA profiling.

It is the case, however, that the Forensic Science Service (FSS) in the United Kingdom was also successfully working in the same field. It was the scientists working in the FSS who carried out the initial work on the Pitchfork case, and then collaborated with Leicestershire Constabulary to catch him. A minor point of difference perhaps, but it would be unfair to write the FSS out of DNA history, as they are the unsung heroes.

At the time of this investigation, I was a retired chief constable acting as senior adviser to the Police Science and Technology Group at the Home Office, which included the FSS. In that capacity, I received a call one day from Mike Hirst, the Chief Constable of Leicestershire.

He explained that they had a man in custody who had confessed to the recent murder of a young woman, but denied involvement in a very similar murder two years earlier. He said that he had heard about what was then called 'DNA fingerprinting', and wondered if the FSS could help prove that this man had