

John Straffen



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| Date | Age | Life Event |
|------------|-----|--|
| 02/27/1930 | | Born at Borden Camp in Hampshire, England |
| 1932 | 2 | Moved to India when his father was relocated by the Army |
| 1936 | 6 | Suffered, "wide and severe damage to the cerebral cortex, probably from an attack of encephalitis in India at the age of six." |
| 3/1938 | 8 | Moved back to Britain, settled in Bath, Somerset |
| 10/1938 | 8 | Referred to a Child Guidance Clinic for stealing and skipping school. |
| 6/1939 | 9 | Went to Juvenile Court for stealing a purse from a girl, and was given two years' probation. |
| 6/1939 | 9 | Certified as a mental defective |
| 1940 | 10 | A report was compiled on him in 1940 which gave his Intelligence Quotient as 58 and his mental age 6 |
| 1940 | 10 | Local authority sent him to a residential school for mentally defective children, St Joseph's School in Sambourne. |
| 1942 | 12 | Moved to Besford Court school |
| 1944 | 14 | Suspected of strangling two prize geese owned by officer at his school |
| 1946 | 16 | School reevaluated his intelligence. IQ was 64 and his mental age 9 years 6 months and recommended his discharge. |
| 1946 | 16 | Returned to Bath. |
| 3/1946 | 16 | Medical Officer of Health examined him and found he still warranted certification under the Mental Deficiency Act |
| 1946 | 16 | Became machinist in a clothes factory |
| 1947 | 17 | Began burglarizing unoccupied homes |

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| 07/27/1947 | 17 | Although not connected to Straffen until later, a 13-year-old girl told police that a boy named John had assaulted her by putting his hand over her mouth and saying "What would you do if I killed you? I have done it before." |
| 8/1947 | 17 | Strangled five chickens belonging to the father of a girl with whom he had quarreled. When arrested, happily admitted to several burglaries. |
| 8/1947 | 17 | Remained in custody. Medical Officer of Horfield prison examined him, certifying that he was feeble-minded. |
| 10/1947 | 17 | Committed to Hortham Colony in Bristol under the Mental Deficiency Act 1913 |
| 7/1949 | 19 | Resulting from good behavior, he was transferred to a lower-security agricultural hostel in Winchester. |
| 2/1950 | 20 | Stole a bag of walnuts, and was sent back to Hortham |
| 8/1950 | 20 | Went home without leave, resisted arrest |
| 1951 | 20 | Reevaluated at Bristol hospital, where electro-encephalograph readings showed that he had suffered serious brain trauma |
| 1951 | 20 | Considered sufficiently rehabilitated to be allowed a period of unescorted home leave. |
| 1951 | 20 | On unescorted home leave, got a job at a market garden |
| 1951 | 20 | Hortham licensed him to the care of his mother |
| 1951 | 21 | Reexamined by Hortham, found improvement to mental age of 10 |
| 07/15/1951 | 21 | Murder of Brenda Goddard |
| 08/08/1951 | 21 | Murder of Cicely Batstone |
| 10/17/1951 | 21 | Stood trial for murder. Deemed unfit to plead. Sent to Broadmoor Institution in Berkshire. |
| 04/29/1952 | 22 | Escaped from Broadmoor. Killed Linda Bowyer. Recaptured a few minutes later. |
| 5/1952 | 22 | Sent to Brixton Prison. |
| 07/21/1952 | 22 | Trial resulted in death sentence |
| 8/1952 | 22 | Home Secretary David Maxwell Fyfe had recommended to the Queen that Straffen be reprieved |
| 9/1952 | 22 | Moved to Wandsworth Prison |
| 9/1958 | 28 | Moved to Cardiff Prison |
| 5/1968 | 38 | Moved to Durham Prison |
| 12/19/2007 | 77 | Straffen died at Frankland Prison in County Durham |

General Information

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sex | Male |
| Race | White |
| Number of victims | 3 |
| Country where killing occurred | England |
| States where killing occurred | Somerset |
| Cities where killing occurred | Bath |
| Type of killer | Disorganized/Antisocial |
| Height | 5'11" |

Childhood Information

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Date of birth | 2/27/1930 |
| Location | Borden Camp in Hampshire England |
| Birth order | 3 rd of 3 |
| Number of siblings | 2 |
| XYY? | No |
| Raised by | Both parents |
| Birth category | Youngest |
| Parent's marital status | Married |
| Family event | Death of Sister |
| Age of family event | 22 |
| Problems in school? | Assaulted 13-year-old girl. Strangled prize geese. |
| Teased while in school? | No |
| Physically attractive? | Average |
| Physical defect? | Head trauma |
| Speech defect? | No |
| Head injury? | Suffered, "wide and severe damage to the cerebral cortex, probably from an attack of encephalitis in India at the age of six." |
| Physically abused? | No |
| Psychologically abused? | No |
| Sexually abused? | No |
| Father's occupation | Military |
| Age of first sexual experience | Unknown |
| Age when first had intercourse | Unknown |
| Mother's occupation | Housewife |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol | No |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol | No |
| Cognitive Ability | |
| Highest grade in school | Mental Age: 6 years old |
| Highest degree | Not completed |
| Grades in school | Low |
| IQ | 58 first testing, 64 next testing |
| Source of IQ information | Wikipedia |
| Work History | |
| Served in the military? | No |
| Branch | N/A |
| Type of discharge | N/A |
| Saw combat duty | N/A |
| Killed enemy during service? | N/A |
| Applied for job as a cop? | No |
| Worked in law enforcement? | No |
| Fired from jobs? | Yes |
| Types of jobs worked | Machinist at clothing factory. Tended market garden. |
| Employment status during series | Employed at a market garden |
| Relationships | |
| Sexual preference | Heterosexual |
| Marital status | Single |
| Number of children | 0 |
| Lives with his children | 0 |
| Living with | Parents. Juvenile schools |
| Triad | |
| Animal torture | Strangling two prize geese, belonging to an officer at his |

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| | school |
| Fire setting | No |
| Bed wetting | No |
| Killer Psychological Information | |
| Abused drugs? | No |
| Abused alcohol? | No |
| Been to a psychologist? | Yes |
| Time in forensic hospital? | Cumulative of 3 years throughout lifetime. |
| Diagnosis | Mental Defective |
| Killer Criminal History | |
| Committed previous crimes? | Assaulting 13-year-old girl. Burglarizing unoccupied homes. Animal cruelty. |
| Spend time in jail? | Yes |
| Spend time in prison? | 50 years. Longest in British history. |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| Serial Killing | |
| Number of victims | 3 |
| Victim type | Young Girls. |
| Killer age at start of series | 21 |
| Date of first kill in series | 7/15/1951 |
| Date of final kill in series | 4/29/1952 |
| Gender of victims | Female |
| Race of victims | Caucasian |
| Age of victims | 5-9-5 years old |
| Type of victim | Random unsupervised children at play |
| Method of killing | Strangulation. Bashed head of Brenda Goddard on a rock. |
| Weapon | No weapon. Used rock in first murder to bash Brenda Goddard's skull. |
| Was gun used? | No |
| Type | N/A |
| Did killer have a partner? | No |
| Name of partner | N/A |
| Sex of partner | N/A |
| Type of serial killer | Disorganized/Antisocial |
| How close did killer live? | Walking distance to home in first and second murders. Third was located walking distance from Broadmoor where Straffen had just escaped. |
| Location of first contact | Victims garden |
| Location of killing | Behind a fence in the victim's garden |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | In backyard of victim |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | No |
| Victim abducted or killed at contact? | At contact |
| Behavior During Crimes | |
| Rape? | No |
| Tortured victims? | No |
| Stalked victims? | No |
| Overkill? | No |
| Quick & efficient? | Yes |
| Used blindfold? | No |
| Bound the victims? | No |
| After Death Behavior | |

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sex with the body? | No |
| Mutilated body? | No |
| Ate part of the body? | No |
| Drank victim's blood? | No |
| Posed the body? | No |
| Took totem – body part | No |
| Took totem – personal item | No |
| Robbed victim or location | No |
| Disposal of Body | |
| Left at scene, no attempt to hide | Yes |
| Left at scene, hidden | No |
| Left at scene, buried | No |
| Moved, no attempt to hide | No |
| Moved, buried | No |
| Cut-up and disposed of | No |
| Moved, too home | No |
| Sentencing | |
| Date killer arrested | 9/9/1951 For first two murders. Again in 4/29/1952 |
| Date convicted | 7/21/1952 |
| Sentence | Originally sentenced to death. Received reprieve resulting in life imprisonment. |
| Killer executed? | No |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No. Plead not guilty. |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | N/A |
| Name and state of prison | Frankland Prison in County Durham |
| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | 11/19/2007 |

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