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PAGE 2

MALLARD TELLS ABOUT MURDER SUSPECT

HE STARED AT ME IN PRISON



Andrew Mallard

EXCLUSIVE
By COLLEEN EGAN

WRONGLY convicted Andrew Mallard shared a small prison section with the man now suspected of murdering Pamela Lawrence in 1994.

Mr Mallard was shocked yesterday when he saw a photograph of Simon Rochford, who committed suicide in Albany Prison on Friday morning after being named as the new prime suspect in the brutal killing.

"I remember him staring at me in the remand prison when we were both

waiting for our trials (in 1994-95)," he said.

"The other prisoners would confuse me with him because we were both in there for bashing-type murders.

"They'd say, 'You're the guy with the body in the boot', and I'd say, 'No, I didn't kill anybody.'"

Mr Mallard was struggling to come to terms with the latest twist in his ordeal, which started when he was interrogated by police in the days after Mrs Lawrence's murder in Mosman Park.

He had hoped the recent discovery that Rochford's palm print was left at the scene would assist in drawing the matter to a close for his family and the Lawrences.

The Sunday Times understands the method of Rochford's suicide rules out foul play. He is believed to have bitten his wrists and bled to death.

Mr Mallard is still concerned about being investigated by the police, who attempted to interview him this week on video. And he wants an investigation into why the palm print was not revealed to his lawyers in 2002, despite a subpoena specifically requesting that kind of evidence.

There was speculation last night that Rochford may have left a suicide note, but authorities refused to confirm or deny it.

More reports: Pages 8-9



Simon Rochford

KIZON JURORS REVEAL: WE WEREN'T INTIMIDATED

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Murder suspect 'stared at me'

By COLLEEN EGAN

WHEN Andrew Mallard entered the remand section of Canning Vale Prison after the murder of Pamela Lawrence in 1994, he was confused and frightened.

All the other prisoners scared him, including a much shorter Englishman who arrived about the same time.

Mr Mallard didn't know his name was Simon Rochford, but remembers his face because Rochford used to stare at him as he walked past.

"I don't remember him saying anything — we definitely didn't have a lengthy conversation. I just remember him staring at me," he said.

"The other prisoners would confuse us and say, 'You're the guy with the body in the boot' and I'd say, 'No, I didn't kill anybody'.

"It was not because of our appearance — he was a short fellow.

"It was because of the similarity of the crime."

Mr Mallard did not realise he had met the new suspect until yesterday, when he stared at his photograph.

"The name didn't ring any bells," he said.

"I felt awful for the guy when I first heard of the suicide, because I thought maybe he was worried about being stitched up.

"Now I don't know what to think.

"If it was him, he watched what happened to me and said nothing.

"I suppose that's the difference between someone with no conscience, someone criminally insane and someone like me."

Mr Mallard said he had not met Rochford before remand prison and did not recall seeing him when they were both in Casuarina after their trials, at which they were both defended by the same young Legal Aid lawyer.

"I hardly spoke to anyone in prison," he said. "I was scared for my life the whole time.

"For me, the nightmare goes on.

"I'm angry, I'm upset and I'm frightened the police are still trying to link me with this guy.

"I'm trying to get on with my life, but I can't."

• Colleen Egan has been investigating the Mallard case since 1998. During those years, she has been a supporter of Mr Mallard's family and his legal team.



WAITING FOR JUSTICE: Andrew Mallard has suffered another setback to getting his name cleared, with Simon Rochford's apparent suicide in Albany Prison on Friday.

Dead killer

Rochford doctor opens up

EXCLUSIVE

By PETA HELLARD

SIMON Rochford was a "true archetypal psychopath" who felt no remorse for killing and would make a quick decision to murder anyone who stood in his way, according to a leading psychologist who knew the convicted murderer.

Forensic psychologist Guy Hall first met Rochford in early 1994 when the charismatic Brit began dating Brigitta Dickens, the daughter of his Fremantle neighbour.

Mr Hall, who has analysed some of WA's most infamous criminals, met Rochford several times before he murdered Ms Dickens in July 1994 and said he appeared to be a normal, friendly person.

"He was a reasonably agreeable young man and got on well with most people around the place — there was nothing untoward about him at all," he said. "But he was a lying, manipulative charmer and would be the typical psychopath."

Mr Hall likened Rochford to movie psychopath Tom Ripley from *The Talented Mr Ripley*, with the backpacker using his good looks, charm and talent at lying to get into the lives of unsuspecting people for his own means.

What was believed to be a one-off domestic homicide, now sees the killer suspected of at least two other murders — that of Mosman Park jeweller Pamela Lawrence in 1994 and an unidentified German tourist in a London hotel where he was staying in 1993.

Mr Rochford, who was found dead in his cell at Albany Prison on Friday morning, was named by the ABC on Thursday night as the chief suspect in the murder of Mrs Lawrence after a cold-case review linked a partial palm print at the scene to him.

Mr Hall said he believed that if Rochford — who then went by the alias of Simon McDonald and was being searched for by police for deportation after overstaying his visa — had felt in some way threatened by Mrs Lawrence he would not have hesitated to kill her.

"Unlike serial killers, who get a thrill from the act, psychopaths kill because it is in their interest to do so at the time," he said. "He very much did not want to be caught by police and deported. If he felt Mrs Lawrence could identify him he would not have stopped at anything to silence her."

Brigitta's father, Peter Dickens, told *The Sunday Times* he was shocked when his ex-wife Linnea had called this week to tell him the killer of their daughter had apparently committed suicide in custody after being linked to the murder of another woman.

"It is almost an admission of guilt (over the Lawrence killing)," he said from his home in California.



MYSTERY: Pamela Lawrence

"Why else would someone commit suicide after all this time when he had only four more years left to serve unless he was guilty?"

Mr Dickens — a former RAAF pilot who owns a US-based company that delivers planes around the world — said he was extremely disappointed that prison authorities had not put Rochford back on suicide watch after he saw the ABC report.

"It would be nice to see him serving more time," he said. "If he murdered the German tourist and then Pamela Lawrence, it was probably becoming very easy for him (to kill)."

"He showed absolutely no remorse for murdering Brigitta."

Mr Dickens, 61, said he felt extremely sorry for Mrs Lawrence's family and for Andrew Mallard. He urged police, who have refused to reveal the result of a five-hour interview with Rochford at Albany Prison on May 11, to come clean and make the details public.

"Pamela Lawrence's family will now have a hard time getting closure after his death," he said. "I feel very sorry for Andrew Mallard and I am hopeful that he will be recompensed for his time in jail.

"I think it would help if the thoughts of the police who interviewed him (Rochford) were now released."

The Dickens family said the photo of a woman in news reports over the past two days was not Brigitta.

200 rally for Walsham trio

By ESTELLE BLACKBURN

MORE than 200 people attended a public meeting on Friday night to support the three men convicted of murdering Phillip Walsham.

They rallied in support of Salvatore Fazzari, Jose Martinez and Carlos Pereiras and to raise funds for an appeal against their conviction two weeks ago.

The editor of western suburbs weekly *The Post*, Bret Christian, and wrongfully convicted John Button, whose innocence Mr Christian helped prove, addressed the rally.

Mr Christian said he listened hard and took copious notes at the trio's trial in the Supreme Court in March and April.

"What struck me was the absence of a scrap of credible evidence that connected the men to the crime," he said. "I thought, here we go again — John Button, Darryl Beamish, Peter and Ray Mickelberg, Rory Christie and Andrew Mallard all over again.

"They were wrongfully and shamefully jailed by an unfair investigation and justice system and I have no doubt that we will one day add to that list the names of Martinez, Fazzari and Pereiras."

Mr Christian said that to be fair to the jurors, who put their lives on hold for 10 weeks, they made a decision based on what they were allowed to hear in court and what they were told by the judge at the end of the trial.

But there were a lot of things the jury was not allowed to hear.

Mr Christian said a reporter's job was to sit on the sidelines and just report what happened.

"But we are also all citizens of this city, state and country," he said. "Like many others, I am unable to sit back and say it's none of my business, I'm not getting involved."

He said Mr Button had been the first and the hardest to have exonerated, and that was not until there had been a big campaign and some mighty hard work by a lot of people.

"In those days, very few people believed the system could get it so wrong," he said. "The only way to prove John was not guilty was to prove that his car had not hit the girl he was charged with killing.

"This took a fair bit of doing, but we did it. I fully expect that the appeals of these three men will be just as hard.

"This is not a popular cause out there among the general public. But neither were the others until they were exonerated. These three men now in jail are fighting a big and powerful state machine, and they only have limited resources to fight it. Finding justice will take a lot of time, energy and money."

The meeting, in a Dianella hall, aimed to establish Innocence Project WA, with the case of Fazzari, Martinez and Pereiras top priority.

The three men are due to be sentenced at the end of the month.

No pressure to lie: police

POLICE have responded to last week's story on the Walsham murder case in which Alberto Magistro explained why he could not accept a police indemnity against prosecution. Mr Magistro said he could not accept it because he couldn't tell police what they wanted to hear.

"At no stage did police pressure Magistro to lie," Insp Scott Higgins said. "We believed that he was the one most likely to co-operate with police and that's why he was offered the indemnity by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

"There's nothing unusual about one of a number of suspects being offered an indemnity for information about a crime. Nor is there anything sinister about that person later being charged if they refuse to co-operate."

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like a psychopath

Evidence gets cold case review

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS



SIMON ROCHFORD

But he (Simon Rochford) was a lying, manipulative charmer and would be the typical psychopath.

- Forensic psychologist Guy Hall



JOHN QUIGLEY

I will complain of the disobedience to the subpoena by the police, who the solicitors assure me were summonsed to produce all fingerprint evidence during the course of the appeal and clearly failed to do so.



MALCOLM McCUSKER

We should have been given the opportunity to make inquiries overseas. It could have saved Mr Mallard four years in jail.



ANDREW MALLARD

If it was him, he watched what happened to me and said nothing. I just remember him staring at me. I hardly spoke to anyone in prison. I was scared for my life the whole time.

By COLLEEN EGAN

ENGLISH cold case investigation expert David Barclay will meet other forensic scientists in the UK in the next few weeks to discuss findings in the Pamela Lawrence murder review.

Engaged by WA police about six weeks ago to assist with the investigation, Prof Barclay has already provided a draft report.

Deputy Commissioner Chris Dawson said he confirmed overnight that the report was intended for discussion within the investigation team, not public release.

Mr Dawson said a blood spatter analysis report into a set of clothing would soon be completed and presented to the UK meeting for discussion.

He said the Corruption and Crime Commission was overseeing coronial and police inquiries into the death of suspect Simon Rochford on Friday morning.

Meanwhile, Malcolm McCusker QC will complain about an attempt by police last week to interview Andrew Mallard.

Mr McCusker claimed detectives were trying to link Mr Mallard with Rochford so they could claim he was implicated in the crime.

Mr McCusker was contacted about lunchtime on Thursday and told the police wanted to interview his client on video before 7pm, when ABC TV was expected to reveal the suspect's identity.

"Later, it transpired that the police had clearly intended to use that interview for the purpose of supporting a statement made to the ABC that they were investigating 'possible links' between Andrew and Rochford," Mr McCusker said.

Mr Dawson said on Friday the investigation team needed to visit every line of inquiry into persons connected with the Mosman Park area on May 23, 1994.

The findings of a psychiatric assessment, which was completed on Rochford before his sentencing in 1995, are unlikely to ever be released, because of confidentiality laws.

Mr Hall said Rochford's psychopathy might not have been diagnosed in the interview because he was an adept liar used to fooling people and the psychiatrist would likely have only been questioning him about the murder of his girlfriend.

Scotland Yard was unable to provide information on the case of the murdered German tourist and could not confirm whether anyone had served time over the murder, or if it had remained unsolved.

Robert Lindsay, who originally represented Rochford while then acting head of Legal Aid, said that during interviews in prison he remembered Rochford to be extremely suave and charismatic, with a ready excuse that her death was an unfortunate accident during a fight.

"He was a good-looking bloke and he would have been very attractive to women," Mr Lindsay said. "He was very slick and self-confident and personable."

Palm print was kept secret

By COLLEEN EGAN

ANDREW Mallard's lawyers believe he could have been spared years in prison if the police had honestly answered a request for fingerprints during his appeal process in 2002.

Barrister Malcolm McCusker QC said the most recent technology would have been sought overseas if the Mallard team had known about an unidentified palm print taken from the scene of Pamela Lawrence's murder.

A plaque of the print, lifted in May 1994, was enhanced using new technology six weeks ago and immediately matched with convicted murderer Simon Rochford.

"It's possible that technology did exist in the US or the UK before now," Mr McCusker said.

"At least we should have been given the opportunity to make inquiries overseas. It could have saved Mr Mallard four years in jail."

A subpoena to the Police Commissioner requesting any "notes, reports, diary entries or documents whatsoever evidencing fingerprint detection or analysis" was issued in 2002. The reply, on December 9, 2002, was: "No fingerprint analysis was done."

A follow-up response a day later indicated the scene was too bloody for fingerprints to have been taken.

Mr McCusker said it would be "sophistry" to suggest that the request should have included the words "palm print" as well as fingerprint.

He said it was of great concern that no mention of a palm print was recorded in the major crime squad running sheets supplied to Mr Mallard's legal team.

There were concerns raised during Mr Mallard's appeal process that the complete running sheets, which should record every action of every officer involved in the 1994 investigation, were not handed over.

Deputy Commissioner Chris Dawson said he could not explain why Mr Mallard's lawyers were not told of the palm print in 2002.

"No, I can't," he said. "I don't have personal knowledge of that. That is obviously an avenue of inquiry."

The Sunday Times understands that a national fingerprint database has included comparison palm prints since about 2001.

Labor MP John Quigley, a Mallard supporter and former lawyer, said he would ask the Corruption and Crime Commission to examine the issue.

"I will complain of the disobedience to the subpoena by the police, who the solicitors assure me were summonsed to produce all fingerprint evidence during the course of the appeal and clearly failed to do so," he said.

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