

The Murder Of Henry Tandy – May 30th, 1953

By Barry Ryder, Jan 2015 [[email](#)]

On June, 5th, 1953, the Walthamstow Guardian informed its wide readership that a resident of the town had been arrested and charged with an appalling crime. For the majority of people, this was the first that they had heard of the killing. But, for those who were closer to the accused, this harrowing story was already six days old. It had occurred on the 30th of May, almost a week previously.

LOCAL MAN CHARGED WITH BUNGALOW MURDER

"It wasn't meant. I am sorry for what I have done," was the statement alleged to have been made by a Walthamstow man, George James Newlands, 21-year-old metal caster, of Cogan-avenue, who was charged at Grays, Essex, on Monday with the murder on Saturday of Henry John Tandy, aged 65. Newlands was remanded until June 10th.

Supt. H. G. Faulkner said that at about 9.20 on Saturday morning, Mr. and Mrs. Tandy were living a happy, normal life in their bungalow at Grosvenor-road, Orsett, Essex. The bungalow is rather secluded, covered by trees and situated on the edge of Orsett Military Camp.

Mr. Tandy was seen at 9.20 a.m. in his garden, but at about 9.50 a.m. he was found in his kitchen by a neighbour, badly battered about the head and body and apparently dead.

Mrs. Tandy was found on her bed, also badly battered on the back of the head, and there was evidence by blood that she had been assaulted in her kitchen, but had managed to get to her bedroom.

Mrs. Tandy was conveyed to Tilbury Hospital in a critical condition, but was likely to recover.

After extensive inquiries in the

early hours of Sunday, Newlands was interviewed by Det.-Supt. Draper and Det.-Insp. Harris. He was asked to account for his movements, and made a long statement. In view of that statement, which Supt. Faulkner said he did not intend to put in at the moment, Newlands was arrested at 7.30 a.m. and taken to Grays police station. He made a further statement, which Supt. Faulkner again said he did not intend to put in at this stage.

Newlands was charged at 9.40 a.m. and, after being cautioned by Det.-Insp. Harris, said "It wasn't meant. I am sorry for what I done."

Supt. Faulkner said that although Newlands was dressed in Army uniform he was not now in the Services.

Newlands was remanded to Brixton Prison. Legal aid with counsel was granted.

Among those 'others' who were already aware of the accused and the charges against him, were his parents, friends and workmates. Two of his 'friends and work-mates' were Edna and Frank Ryder of Rosebank Grove, Walthamstow. They had met and later married whilst working at the same Walthamstow factory as George Newland.



Edna and Frank had married at St. Saviour's Church, Markhouse Road, on 24th March, 1951. At the time of the Tandy murder, in 1953, Edna was five months pregnant and I would be born to her in April of '54. She was my Mum and Frank was my Dad.

My Dad's 'involvement'

The initial Guardian article had reported the bare outlines of the case. (It also managed to spell Newland's name incorrectly!) But, there was an important detail which would not become common knowledge for a few more weeks.

In the early afternoon following the killing, after returning from Orsett, Newland had called on my Mum and Dad in Rosebank Grove. He offered to sell my Dad a brown suit; He wanted £2 for it. Unaware of its provenance, my Dad agreed to buy it. The suit had been stolen from the deceased Henry Tandy just hours earlier.

The Aftermath

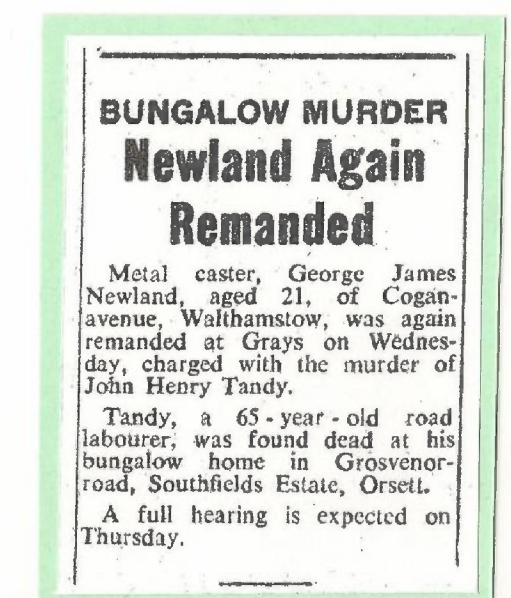
When Newland had fled the crime-scene he had assumed that both Henry and Honour were dead. He was wrong. Honour was still alive. Thanks to the care that she received at Tilbury hospital, Honour began to rally. By late that night she had been able to talk to the police. She told them that she and her husband both knew their assailant. He was 'Ginger' Newland and he lived in Walthamstow. In the early hours of the Sunday morning, the Essex police were headed toward Cogan Avenue.

At about 3:00 a. m. on Sunday morning, the police had arrived at The Newland home. They demanded entry and Newland's bemused parents allowed them in. They roused the suspect and began to question him. By 7:30, that same morning, he had been arrested on suspicion of Henry Tandy's murder. He was taken to Grays police station and, at 9:40, he was formally charged with the killing.

As a result of Newland's statements to his interrogating officers, they were able to track down the stolen cigarettes and the suit. It was at this point that my Dad was interviewed.

The police took possession of the suit and questioned my Dad about how he had come to have it. In due course, they were satisfied that my Dad's 'involvement' had been entirely innocent and he was not considered to be a suspect. However, he was informed that he would certainly be called as a prosecution witness at Newland's trial. He would be required to give evidence against a workmate in a case that that might exact the ultimate penalty. My dad was twenty-four years old. His predicament can hardly be imagined.

On the 19th, the local newspaper reported this short up-date:



The following week a full hearing was conducted.

BUNGALOW MURDER:

'I Needed Money For New Suit'

— Alleged Statement

WHEN George James Newland, aged 21, metal caster, of Cogan-avenue, Walthamstow, appeared at Grays yesterday (Thursday) accused of murdering Henry John Tandy, 65, at The Bungalow, Southfields Estate, Orsett, on May 30th, he was further charged with the attempted murder at the same time and place of Mrs. Honor Grace Tandy.

Mr. R. L. D. Thomas, opening the case for the prosecution, said that on the morning of May 30th, Mr. Tandy and his wife were found at their home with severe head injuries caused by a coal hammer.

Mr. Tandy was dead and his wife seriously injured, but she had made a remarkable recovery.

Counsell said: "Mrs. Tandy remembers being struck a very violent blow by the accused."

When Newland was seen by the police the following day, he was alleged to have said, "Yes, I did it. I don't want Mum to know."

"I WAS DESPERATE"

—ALLEGED STATEMENT

Newland was alleged to have made a statement saying: "I was in need of money for a new suit. I turned desperate. It just had to be that way because I was desperate."

Later, the alleged statement declared: "I really got into my mind a 'cosh boy' picture I saw the other day."

It was stated that when charged and cautioned, Newland said: "It was not meant. I am sorry for what I have done."

One week later, my Dad's name was included in the Guardian's 3rd, July coverage:

BUNGALOW MURDER : Youth Committed To Autumn Assizes

ACCUSED of murder, George James Newland, 21, metal worker, of Cogan-avenue Walthamstow, was committed for trial to Chelmsford Autumn Assizes by the Grays Magistrates on Thursday last, charged with murdering Henry John Tandy, 65, at the Bungalow, Southfields Estate, Orsett, on May 30th, and further with attempting to murder at the same time and place Mrs. Honor Grace Tandy.

Newland pleaded not guilty to both charges and reserved his defence.

His counsel (Mr. Newey) pointed out that the next Assizes at Chelmsford were only two or three weeks ahead. "It is obvious what line of defence we shall take, but it will take a long time to prepare our case," he said.

The Magistrates committed Newland for trial to Chelmsford Autumn Assizes.

Mr. R. L. D. Thomas, prosecuting, said that Mr. Tandy and his wife were found at their home with severe head injuries caused by a coal hammer.

Francis Vincent Ryder, of Rosebank-grove, Walthamstow, said that on May 30th, Newland showed him a brown suit. Ryder said he agreed to have it, but did not part with any money at the time. It had previously been arranged that he should pay £2 for the suit.

Det. Supt. William Draper said that at 3.30 a.m. on Sunday, May 31st, in company with Det. Insptr. Harris, he visited Newland's home. Newland was roused from his bed and in a statement told of visiting Orsett Camp on the morning of May 30th, and of calling on Mr. and Mrs. Tandy to purchase some cigarettes.

Det. Insptr. Harris accompanied Newland to his bedroom, said Supt. Draper. Shortly afterwards he (Draper) was sent for and Newland blurted out: "Yes, I was in a bit of trouble. I wanted some money badly to buy a new suit, and I got desperate, but don't tell Mum."

Newland was taken to Grays Police Station and on arrival began to weep and said: "I didn't want Mum to know about it up there. Now I am ready to tell you why I did it." He was cautioned and made a statement which he signed.

In the alleged statement Newland spoke of visiting Grays carrying a carrier bag, in which was a hammer belonging to his father, and of visiting the Tandy bungalow, and continued: "I was in two minds what to do. I was in need of money for a new suit, so I turned desperate. It just had to be that way because I needed it."

The alleged statement said he hit the woman first and then went to the wash-house and hit Mr. Tandy.

"I am sorry I did this, but I was desperate. What really got into my mind was a cosh-boy picture I saw the other day. It just got into my mind and I thought of them two."

On 13, November, 1953, George Newland was tried at Chelmsford Crown Court for the murder of Henry John Tandy. My Dad was required to give evidence against him. The proceedings lasted less than two days. The jury required only half-an-hour to declare Newland guilty. He was sentenced to death.

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Vol. LXXXIII, No. 4367 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1953 THREEPENCE
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BOARDMANS OF STRATFORD

'Cosh Boy' Film Got Into My Mind—Accused Man

Bungalow Murder: LOCAL MAN SENTENCED TO DEATH

'Deliberate, Cold-blooded And Frenzied Attack'—Counsel

References to a "cosh Boy" film he stated he had seen a few days previously were made at the Essex Assizes on Friday during the trial of a Walthamstow man charged with the murder of a 65-year-old man at Orsett, near Grays.

After a 30 – minute retirement at the end of the two-day trial the jury found George James Newland, aged 21, of Cogan – avenue, Walthamstow, guilty of the murder of Henry John Tandy, at his home, The Bungalow, Southfields Estate, Orsett.

Passing the death sentence, Mr. Justice Streatfield told Newland: "You have been found guilty of a most shocking murder." Before he was led from the dock Newland said: "I am not guilty of murder."

The execution has been provisionally fixed for December 4th.

The dead man was found lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the floor of the bungalow after what prosecuting counsel described as a "deliberate, cold-blooded and frenzied attack" with a hammer. His wife was found unconscious and bleeding in a bed but has since recovered.

MERCILESSLY

BATTERED

Mr. K. F. Levy, Q. C., prosecuting said on May 30 Henry John Tandy, aged 65 was most brutally battered to death with a hammer and it was the case of the prosecution that the hand that wielded the hammer was the hand of the accused, Newland.

Mr. Levy said the Tandy's bungalow was just outside the boundary of the Military Camp and from that bungalow they used to sell cigarettes and tea, very largely to soldiers at the Camp.

Newland had been stationed at the Camp for some months before February but he had completed his service and had been discharged. He knew the Tandy's for he had bought cigarettes from them and had been in their bungalow, and he was known to them and to many other people in the district as "Ginger".

The bungalow had an outside lavatory and a shack in which an old man named Davis lived. Shortly after 9 a. m. on May 30, Davis came out of his shack and saw Mr. Tandy and at 9.20 a. m., a Mr. Morgan, who was delivering

newspapers, saw Newland going towards the bungalow. Some little time after that Davis heard groans coming from the bungalow.

He opened the door and went into the scullery, where he saw, lying on the floor, Tandy in a pool of blood and to all intents and purposes dead.

Mr. Davis immediately gave the alarm and about that time Newland was in the Camp visiting friends. He saw Miss Hood, a Lance Corporal in the W. R. A. C. and she noticed he had a carrier bag. After a little time he asked her if there were a towel in the lavatory and he went there and washed himself. Later he said "Goodbye" and left her.

By 10.20 a. m. Det. Sgt. Ambrose had come to the bungalow and he saw Tandy lying on the floor with shocking injuries and he found Mrs. Tandy lying unconscious in a bed and bleeding from multiple injuries.

"She also had been most mercilessly and horribly battered about the head and face", said Mr. Levy. Most miraculously she has recovered and she will tell you something of what happened on this horrible morning."

BLOODSTAINED

HAMMER

Det.-Sgt. Ambrose found a number of drawers had been rifled and were empty of anything of value. On the floor of the living-room he found a hammer which was stained and covered with blood..

"That hammer," said Mr. Levy, "was the property of Newland's father."

At about 11 a. m. Newland was in Grays and met a Miss Baker and he told her that he wanted to change a cheque. By one o' clock that day he was in Walthamstow and he sold 200 cigarettes to a shopkeeper he knew. At 1:45 p. m. he was still in Walthamstow and he sold a suit of clothes to a man for £2 – that suit was the property of Tandy.

Early on the Sunday morning, Det.-Supt Draper and Insp Harris interviewed Newland at his home and when asked to give an account of his movements, he made a long and rambling statement. Then the police officers searched Newland's room and clothing and found a scissor's case in which was a cheque made out in favour of Tandy. When he saw the officers had the cheque accused said, "Yes, I did it, but I don't want Mum to know." Later he said, "I wanted some money badly to buy a new suit and I got desperate, but don't tell Mum." In a statement he said he first hit the woman as she was sitting in a chair and afterwards he went out and hit the man. There was £8 15s in his pocket and the statement continued: "I was satisfied when I saw what I had got, and I left." The

statement went on: "I am sorry I did this. I was desperate. What got into my mind was a Cosh Boy picture I saw the other day."

Mr. Levy commented: Cosh Boy picture! You may think that people who make this type of picture share the very heavy load of responsibility in the demoralisation that so often takes place."

Counsel ended: "The prosecution say this was a deliberate, cold-blooded and frenzied attack made by this man who came from Walthamstow with the express purpose of violently assaulting if not killing these people."

"HE HAD A STRANGE LOOK"

In evidence, Mrs. Tandy said when accused knocked at the door and asked to be let in, he had a "funny look" on his face. He asked her for some cigarettes – then "he gave me one with his fist and I became unconscious." Later she saw her husband lying on the scullery floor in a pool of blood.

Answering Mr. Marlowe Q. C. defending, witness said Newland had a strange look, as if he was going to do some mischief.

Did he look like a lunatic?

Yes, like a lunatic.

He looked quite mad, did he? – Yes.

Dr. Camps, pathologist, said deceased had fourteen wounds – nine in the head and five in the body and the wounds indicated that he was attacked from behind.

'I DON'T REMEMBER'

In the witness box, Newland said that he could not properly remember what happened that day in the bungalow.

His Counsel, Mr. Marlowe, asked him: Do you remember making two statements to the police? – Newland: Yes, sir.

Do you remember saying: 'I hit the woman first as she was sitting in the chair?' – I do not remember saying that.

Did you go to Tandy's bungalow? – Yes.

When you were asked about that by the police officers, what did you say? – The inspector asked me if I had hit any of them. I said I might have done, but I did not know.

Did you know? – No, sir.

Do you remember whether or not you hit them? – Yes, sir. Faintly.

Did you know at the time you were hitting them? – No

When did you first remember? – When I was walking out of the garden.

When you went into the bungalow that day, had you any intention of hitting anyone? – Definitely not.

Were you in any need of money at that time? – No, sir.

Had you any ill-feelings against the Tandy's? – Definitely not.

'I REMEMBER DOING SOMETHING WRONG'

Mr. Marlowe then asked Newland about the part of his statement to the police in which he said: "I am sorry for what I have done. I was desperate. What really got into my mind was a cosh-boy picture I saw."

"How did you come to say that?" Counsel asked.

Newland: The Chief Inspector asked me if I had anything else to say, and I said 'no'. He asked: "Don't you even want to say you are sorry?" I said #: "If I have done it, I am more than sorry. I may have mentioned a cosh film".

Counsel: Do you now remember something about the incident in the bungalow? – Yes, faintly. I remember doing something wrong.

Cross-examined by Mr. Levy, accused said he did not know what had happened before he reached the bungalow to make him suddenly lose his memory.

Mr. Levy: How did you come to tell the inspector you had seen a 'cosh-boy' film? – I cannot say.

Was it because you knew you had coshed somebody? – No, sir.

'NO EVIDENCE OF INSANITY' – BRIXTON M. O.

Newland was the only witness for the defence, and after his evidence, Mr. Levy told the Judge: "It seems obvious that the defence is one of insanity, and I would like to call medical evidence on that point."

Dr. John C. Mathieson, principal medical officer at Brixton Prison then gave evidence. He declared that he had had accused under constant observation during his five months in prison and he found no evidence of insanity.

Accused intelligence, he said, was about average, and there was no indication of mental disease.

Cross-examined by Mr. Marlowe, Dr. Mathieson described a brain test made by an electrical process. This test, he agreed, showed an abnormality of an unspecific character.

Mr. Justice Streatfield asked witness: "Is it possible that a temporary loss of mind, real or pretended, could be due to a person, having done something very terrible, trying to forget in his mind that he had done such a thing?"

Dr. Matheison agreed that it was very possible.

Newland appealed. (Walthamstow Guardian, November 27, 1953.)

BUNGALOW MURDER

Newland To Appeal

The Under-Sheriff for Essex, Mr. A. D. Thompson, announced on Saturday that notice of appeal has been lodged by George James Newland, aged 21, a metal toy maker, of Cogan-avenue, Walthamstow, against his conviction at Chelmsford Assizes on November 13 for the murder of Henry J. Tandy, 65, at his bungalow at Orsett, near Grays.

Provisional arrangements for the execution of Newland at Pentonville Prison on December 4 have accordingly been cancelled.

The condemned man's petition was dismissed on the 7th of December. The Guardian broke the news in its December 11th edition.

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Vol. LXXXIII. No. 4370

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1953

EDITORIAL : LAR 4301-3, 1368. REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER. POSTAGE 2d.
Member Audit Bureau Circulations. Participant Greater London's Greater Pr

BUNGALOW MURDER APPEAL DISMISSED— Walthamstow Man To Die

INSANITY PLEA FAILS

GEOERGE JAMES NEWLAND is to die. The appeal of the 21-year-old metal caster, of Cogati-avenue, Walthamstow, against the death sentence for the murder of an old man at Orsett has been dismissed.

In the Criminal Court of Appeal on Monday, the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Goddard) said it was clear there was no evidence of insanity.

Newland's own counsel had earlier declared that this was the only possible defence that he could find, but he could find no supporting evidence to put before the court.

Newland was sentenced to death at Essex Assizes last month for the murder of 65-year-old Henry John Tandy, of The Bungalow, Southfields Estate, Orsett.

"FRENZIED ATTACK"

The dead man was found lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the floor of the bungalow after what prosecuting counsel described as "a deliberate, cold-blooded and frenzied attack" with a hammer. His wife was found unconscious and bleeding in a bed. She has since recovered.

References to a "cosh boy" film Newland said he had seen a few days before the murder were made at the two-day trial.

At the trial, Dr. John C. M. Mathieson, principal medical officer at Brixton Prison, gave evidence. He said he had had accused under constant observation during his five months in prison, and he found no evidence of insanity.

Jack Warner Will Give The Prizes

English stage and screen comedian Jack Warner will present prizes to local winners in the Road Safety "shopping week" contest at the Granada, Walthamstow, cinema on Monday, December 21st at 9 p.m. The "shopping week" begins tomorrow (Saturday) and owners of special carrier bags printed with Road Safety Slogans should be on the look-out for "Mr. Wise," who gives the test question which may win you a prize.

NO INDICATION OF MENTAL DISEASE

Accused's intelligence, he said, was about average, and there was no indication of mental disease. Cross-examined, Dr. Mathieson described a brain test made by an electrical process. This test, he agreed, showed an abnormality of an unspecific character.

Mr. Justice Streetfield asked Dr. Mathieson if it was possible that a temporary loss of mind, real or pretended, could be due to a person having done something very terrible, trying to forget it in his mind that he had done such a thing. Dr. Mathieson agreed that it was very possible.

The execution will take place at Pentonville Prison on December 23.

On the morning of December 23rd, in amongst stories and articles looking forward to the coming Christmas season of good-cheer, were these, stark words:

Bungalow Murder
NEWLAND
DIES TO-DAY

THERE is to be no reprieve for 21-year-old George James Newland, of Cogan-avenue, Walthamstow, sentenced to death at Essex Assizes for the murder of Henry John Tandy, aged 65, at his bungalow at Southfields Estate, Orsett, Essex, on May 30th.

The execution will take place at Pentonville to-day (Wednesday).

His appeal against conviction was dismissed on December 7th.

At his trial the prosecution stated that Newlands attacked Mr. and Mrs. Tandy with a hammer.

Mr. Tandy died but his wife made a "miraculous" recovery.

In a statement, Newlands said that he got into his mind a "Cosh Boy" picture he had seen, and was desperate because he wanted money for a new suit.

George Newland was only 21 years-old when he met his fate at Pentonville prison just two days before Christmas of '53. The previous man to have been executed on that very gallows, just five months before, had been John Reginald Halliday Christie. I'm sure that all readers will know where he lived.

Barry Ryder

[Sources: The Walthamstow Guardian, 'The Encyclopaedia Of Executions', by John J. Eddleston, published by John Blake, 2004, p. 845 and oral/family history of the Ryder family.]

NB: Some portions of the Guardian reports have been re-typed. This is because in the original publication they were presented as long, vertical columns, as is customary for newspapers. Unfortunately this makes 'spacing' for this medium rather uneconomic, hence the revised layout.