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Case Number: 01020541/27

Subject: Stark, Obadiah James (a.k.a. The Tally Man)

Classification: Serial Killer

Intro: *During the years 1988 and 2003, the subject murdered no less than twenty-seven people (U.K. and U.S.) as verified by the Gardaí and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Subject was captured in May of 2003 in New Orleans (U.S.) and deported for trial to Ireland where he was tried and sentenced to death at ADX Absolom.*

Purpose of Study: *To identify social, physiological, and psychological factors that could lead to better profiling of serial killers.*

Methodology: *Forensic evidence, crime-scene reports, interviews with FBI and Gardaí investigators, as well as direct subject interviews over a three year period (2007-2010). Additional biographical information was gathered from school teachers, judges, solicitors, psychologists and correctional staff currently*

employed at ADX Absolom. Credit is to be given to Warden Richard Sabitch, who was instrumental in arranging private sessions with the subject.

Subject classification: *During the mid-1970s, the FBI agent Robert K. Ressler*

coined the phrase 'serial killer' after serial movies 1. Supporting this, Akira

Lippit argued that, 'Like each episode of a serial movie, the completion of

each serial murder lays the foundation for the next act which in turn

precipitates future acts, leaving the serial subject always wanting more,

always hungry, addicted 2.'

Investigators describe three

types of killer who commits multiple murders; the mass murderer who kills

several people at one time, spree killers who go on a rampage with knives or

guns, killing one person after another; and the serial killer, who dispatches

victims one at a time, sometimes with a gap of several years between

murders. Serial killers pose a special problem for criminal investigators because

their motives are often far less obvious than those of someone who commits

a single murder.

Obadiah Stark fits firmly into the serial killer category. His crimes took

place over a period of eleven years; taking the lives of twenty seven people

known to the authorities (this figure is based upon Obadiah's 'tally', located

on his back in the form of a tattoo. It is suspected his number of victims is greater than twenty seven, but this will be touched upon later on the report).

Psychopathology: Prior to the commissioning of this report, a request was made by this author to perform an electroencephalogram on Obadiah to assess possible enhanced brain activity. The intent was to evaluate the possibility of whether patterns that define serial killer behaviour are linked to the mind. The request was refused by both Warden Richard Sabitch and Obadiah himself.

A medical examination of Obadiah after his arrest revealed a biochemical imbalance present in his blood and urine tests, [REDACTED]. Though widely contested in the medical profession, [REDACTED] is believed to be an inborn genetic abnormality in the haemoglobin causing the production of [REDACTED] a protein that binds with the essential nutrients of vitamins B6 and zinc. [REDACTED] causes the protein to be excreted into the urine as [REDACTED] potentially manifesting itself as irritability, anger episodes and an inability to deal with stress. The condition is believed to be responsible for a wide range of behavioural

conditions such as schizophrenia, depression, paranoia and certain types of

violent behaviour, though this remains mostly theoretical. Historically often misdiagnosed, the symptoms of excess production of urinary ██████████ can manifest themselves as behaviour abnormalities ³. Present in up to 70% of diagnosed schizophrenic and depressive patients, it has also been found in the blood of alcoholics, children with learning disabilities and in approximately 10% of the non-psychiatric stressed population. It is also common in most cases of lung cancer. Certain ethnic groups such as ██████████ show an increased percentage of ██████████. This is interesting given Obadiah's family background ⁴.

Subject history: Obadiah James Stark was born ██████████ ██████████. He was raised in a working class Catholic household by his biological parents. Subject's father, Eli Stark, worked at an iron works in Kerry. Subject's mother, Aideen Stark nee Reed, worked as a cleaner at a local school. Anecdotal reports from neighbours indicated that Subject's father was prone to beating Obadiah and his mother. Police records for Eli Stark indicate numerous arrests for drunken behaviour. One report highlighted an incident where Obadiah had to be admitted to hospital having been knocked unconscious following Eli shoving him into a wall. Discussion with neighbours

and former school teachers describe a child who would spend a great deal of his time alone. Records attained from the local church confirm Subject served as an altar boy between the ages of seven and ten. Neighbours confirm subject had established a friendship with Thomas Jacques, a fellow church goer whom he was often seen with after service.

Excerpt taken from interview with [REDACTED] at same time as Obadiah):

“He was a bit of a loner. He never really talked about what went on at home, but I had an idea. I just felt bad for him, so one day I invited him fishing. We spent an hour together by the lake. He was very fidgety. We started messing around, skimming rocks. He managed to hit a duck near the shore. Next thing I know, he’s in the water, had grabbed it by the neck, beat it to death against a tree trunk, then tore off its head. I remember laughing, but really I was scared. He seemed unfazed by the whole thing. Almost calm. I avoided him after that. Thankfully he moved to the States.”

Additional information: *Eli Stark's acceptance of a job for* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *meant that Obadiah moved with his parents to New Orleans in 1989. There he attended* [REDACTED], *one of many in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans. Despite the opportunities such a change of location may have presented, police and medical records indicate that Eli's pattern of alcohol-fuelled violent behaviour increased during this time. They had been there less than a year when Aileen Stark died after apparently drowning whilst in the bath. Evidence pointed to her having fallen asleep after drinking heavily. The police, suspecting foul play, questioned Eli following the incident and his history of violent behaviour towards his wife. No charges were brought against him.*

One week later Obadiah's father was found dead inside his car.

According to the police report, Eli Stark had been the victim of a botched robbery attempt, though there was no evidence that anything had been stolen. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *with the injuries suggesting a personal attack. Obadiah was questioned in relation to Eli Stark's death, and subsequently released. He was*

█ years of age. Following this period Obadiah became a ward of the state, spending time in various care homes. Social workers at the time highlighted that he displayed unpredictable behaviour, often reacting to situations with sudden, violent outbursts. One report recounted a situation where he beat a boy bullying him almost to death with a metal clothes prop following a disparaging remark made against him. Carers at the various establishments Obadiah spent time living in noted that, despite his developing violent disposition, he also became noted for his ability to manipulate other residents. Such coercion was noted as involving the promotion of gambling amongst other residents and the encouragement of others to commit theft. Entries in his social records indicated numerous warnings regarding the aforementioned, as well as cautions concerning violent behaviour. Such behaviour accounted for Obadiah's transfer to different facilities over the course of six years until he turned twenty one and thereby no longer the responsibility of the state.

Though such events and actions can perhaps be considered common place in an environment where children from broken homes congregate, it may also be suggested that in such places, Obadiah began to understand how his

intellect and understanding of human behaviour could be used to satisfy his own needs. In this case, basic power and control over others and a developing narcissistic belief that he was above the law.

It is the author's opinion that all of the aforementioned, his abuse as a child and its subsequent introverting effects on his personality, may well have led to the development of his sociopathic tendencies. However, it is important to note that I also believe these characteristics were already present in Obadiah's personal makeup and simply suppressed, only coming to light when he underwent an emotional trauma. It is a sad truth that many children suffer physical, sexual and psychological abuse, but a great many do not grow up to be malcontents, murderers, rapists or paedophiles. As discussed under the heading psychopathology, genetic factors may be contributory to a person's development, both morally and emotionally. Obadiah's relocation to a foreign land and the reaching of his threshold of endurance for suffering at the hands of his parents may have only compounded his feelings of alienation. In Obadiah's case, this alienation then channelled him towards a destructive path consisting of murder.

References

1 Ressler, Robert, K and Tom Schachtman (1992) *Whoever Fights Monsters*, St. Martin's, New York.

2 Lippit, Akira Mizuta (1996). *The infinite series: fathers, cannibals, chemists...* *Criticism*: 1-18.

3 Kraus, R.T. (1995) *An enigmatic personality: case report of a serial killer*. *Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine* 10, 11-24.

4 Hoffer A (1995). *The discovery of Kryptopyrrole and its importance in diagnosis of biochemical imbalances in Schizophrenia and in criminal behaviour*. *Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine*, 10 (1):3.