

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,680

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,680 --> 00:00:06,280

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:06,280 --> 00:00:09,280

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,280 --> 00:00:11,880

What you are about to see is not a news broadcast.

5

00:00:16,880 --> 00:00:19,720

When Chad Langford, a 20-year-old Army MP,

6

00:00:19,720 --> 00:00:22,960

was found mortally wounded, a cap was stuffed in his mouth,

7

00:00:22,960 --> 00:00:26,200

a cord wrapped around his neck, and his ankles were bound.

8

00:00:26,960 --> 00:00:29,240

The Army believes Langford did these things to himself

9

00:00:29,240 --> 00:00:31,160

as a prelude to suicide.

10

00:00:31,160 --> 00:00:34,400

His family is convinced he was murdered.

11

00:00:34,400 --> 00:00:36,600

When news sessions of Thermopolis Royale

12

00:00:36,600 --> 00:00:39,200

agreed to store an old footlocker for a friend,

13

00:00:39,200 --> 00:00:41,040

he got more than he bargained for,

14

00:00:41,040 --> 00:00:45,160

an unidentified human skeleton, and a perplexing unsolved

15

00:00:45,160 --> 00:00:47,240

mystery.

16

00:00:47,240 --> 00:00:50,160

In 1978, a police chief in Oklahoma

17

00:00:50,160 --> 00:00:52,160

was mortally wounded during a shootout

18

00:00:52,160 --> 00:00:54,160

with two arms and a gunshot.

19

00:00:54,160 --> 00:00:57,160

Seven years later, his killer, David Gordon Smith,

20

00:00:57,160 --> 00:01:01,160

escaped from prison and vanished.

21

00:01:01,160 --> 00:01:03,160

For nearly eight years, David Smith

22

00:01:03,160 --> 00:01:05,640

lived on the run, successfully eluding capture,

23

00:01:05,640 --> 00:01:08,640

until he was recognized by one of our viewers.

24

00:01:08,640 --> 00:01:11,840

Join me for this dramatic update and more

25

00:01:11,840 --> 00:01:13,640

on tonight's unsolved mysteries.

26

00:01:54,160 --> 00:02:17,640

March 12, 1992, 7.40 PM.

27

00:02:17,640 --> 00:02:20,640

Along the deserted perimeter of Redstone Arsenal Army

28

00:02:20,640 --> 00:02:24,360

base in Huntsville, Alabama, 20-year-old military policeman

29

00:02:24,360 --> 00:02:27,520

Chad Langford was completing what should have been a routine

30

00:02:27,520 --> 00:02:31,240

patrol.

31

00:02:31,240 --> 00:02:34,560

30 minutes later, Langford radioed his base station,

32

00:02:34,560 --> 00:02:37,920

informing them he was stopping to investigate an abandoned car.

33

00:02:37,920 --> 00:02:40,640

I'm on pad and south.

34

00:02:40,640 --> 00:02:41,800

Roger, send you 28.

35

00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:49,200

Papa 2-1, say again.

36

00:02:51,600 --> 00:02:52,960

2-1, this is Redstone.

37

00:02:52,960 --> 00:02:54,880

Say again.

38

00:02:54,880 --> 00:02:56,480

Get a unit.

39

00:02:56,480 --> 00:02:58,800

All available units proceed to South Patton Road,

40

00:02:58,800 --> 00:03:01,000

low-cape Papa 2-1.

41

00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:02,120

All gates locked down.

42

00:03:02,120 --> 00:03:04,280

Secure the post.

43

00:03:04,280 --> 00:03:06,960

Approximately 10 miles from MP headquarters,

44

00:03:06,960 --> 00:03:09,480

a backup officer found unsettling evidence

45

00:03:09,480 --> 00:03:10,960

that Langford was in jeopardy.

46

00:03:13,520 --> 00:03:16,200

Close to the entrance of a civilian recreation area

47

00:03:16,200 --> 00:03:19,600

that is part of the base, he found Langford's military ID

48

00:03:19,640 --> 00:03:23,240

tag, his armband, and his portable police radio.

49

00:03:23,240 --> 00:03:24,800

They had been deliberately arranged

50

00:03:24,800 --> 00:03:25,920

in the middle of the street.

51

00:03:28,520 --> 00:03:31,080

A quarter of a mile away, the patrolling officer

52

00:03:31,080 --> 00:03:33,320

made the discovery he had been dreading.

53

00:03:33,320 --> 00:03:34,520

Redstone, this is Papa Sierra.

54

00:03:34,520 --> 00:03:38,640

I've located Papa 2-1 at bunker 8745.

55

00:03:38,640 --> 00:03:39,520

Officer is down.

56

00:03:39,520 --> 00:03:41,120

I request amulets and backup immediately.

57

00:03:41,120 --> 00:03:42,520

One, three, wait at the line.

58

00:03:42,520 --> 00:03:50,160

The officer was stunned by Langford's condition.

59

00:03:50,160 --> 00:03:54,080

The MP was bleeding from a head wound and breathing faintly.

60

00:03:54,080 --> 00:03:56,240

His cap had been stuffed into his mouth,

61

00:03:56,240 --> 00:03:59,160

and the cord from his radar unit had been wrapped around his neck.

62

00:04:01,880 --> 00:04:05,840

His pistol strap was tied around his ankles.

63

00:04:05,840 --> 00:04:08,720

Langford's handcuffs were clamped on his left wrist,

64

00:04:08,720 --> 00:04:10,920

and on his left hand was a cryptic message

65

00:04:10,920 --> 00:04:14,000

written in black ink, March 3, and what

66

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:17,600

looked like the name, Robert.

67

00:04:17,600 --> 00:04:19,160

How'd he still look like?

68

00:04:19,160 --> 00:04:21,040

How'd he get his shirt off?

69

00:04:21,040 --> 00:04:22,960

Careful, careful.

70

00:04:22,960 --> 00:04:25,600

Let's roll him over, check the rules, OK?

71

00:04:25,600 --> 00:04:27,880

Oddly, Langford's 45 caliber pistol

72

00:04:27,880 --> 00:04:29,960

was found under his left shoulder.

73

00:04:29,960 --> 00:04:31,120

Get that out of here.

74

00:04:31,120 --> 00:04:34,400

Later examination would show two rounds had been fired,

75

00:04:34,400 --> 00:04:36,640

although it could not be determined whether one of them

76

00:04:36,640 --> 00:04:37,540

had hit Langford.

77

00:04:37,540 --> 00:04:38,440

Get an ambulance here.

78

00:04:38,440 --> 00:04:39,240

Ace out.

79

00:04:39,240 --> 00:04:40,140

Go.

80

00:04:40,340 --> 00:04:42,860

Just hanging there like a buddy.

81

00:04:42,860 --> 00:04:45,260

Chad Langford was rushed to Huntsville Hospital,

82

00:04:45,260 --> 00:04:47,720

where he died two hours later.

83

00:04:47,720 --> 00:04:50,820

Langford was four months shy of his 21st birthday.

84

00:04:54,740 --> 00:04:56,460

Chad Langford's family had assumed

85

00:04:56,460 --> 00:04:58,540

he was killed in the line of duty.

86

00:04:58,540 --> 00:05:01,380

They were shocked to learn that the army apparently believed

87

00:05:01,380 --> 00:05:04,940

Chad had taken his own life.

88

00:05:04,940 --> 00:05:07,700

When I heard that, I was very upset about the whole thing.

89

00:05:07,700 --> 00:05:10,260

I know that my boy did not kill himself.

90

00:05:10,260 --> 00:05:12,140

There's no way.

91

00:05:12,140 --> 00:05:16,860

I feel that to someone who's covering something up here.

92

00:05:19,700 --> 00:05:22,260

Chad Langford was raised by his father and grandmother

93

00:05:22,260 --> 00:05:27,540

in the small Northern California community of Elk Creek.

94

00:05:27,540 --> 00:05:29,980

Chad joined the army right out of high school

95

00:05:29,980 --> 00:05:32,020

and soon found himself with US forces

96

00:05:32,020 --> 00:05:34,140

stationed in South Korea.

97

00:05:34,140 --> 00:05:39,060

There he earned several good conduct medals.

98

00:05:39,060 --> 00:05:41,100

At the conclusion of that tour of duty,

99

00:05:41,100 --> 00:05:45,300

he joined the military police at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama.

100

00:05:45,300 --> 00:05:47,900

According to his family, Chad loved army life

101

00:05:47,900 --> 00:05:50,660

and planned a reenlist.

102

00:05:50,660 --> 00:05:55,020

However, early in 1992, Chad's attitude suddenly changed.

103

00:05:58,180 --> 00:05:59,660

In January, he called me and told me

104

00:05:59,660 --> 00:06:03,660

that he'd been asked to do some undercover work.

105

00:06:03,660 --> 00:06:06,420

He called me three or four different times.

106

00:06:06,420 --> 00:06:08,740

And each time, he gave me a little bit

107

00:06:08,740 --> 00:06:12,540

about his still working undercover

108

00:06:12,540 --> 00:06:18,220

and sounded quite frustrated if you had said sometimes.

109

00:06:18,220 --> 00:06:20,580

Hi, Dad. How are you doing?

110

00:06:20,580 --> 00:06:22,420

Yeah, OK, I guess.

111

00:06:22,420 --> 00:06:24,340

Listen, remember what I told you a few weeks ago

112

00:06:24,340 --> 00:06:26,700

about my new assignment?

113

00:06:26,700 --> 00:06:29,820

Well, it's getting pretty intense.

114

00:06:29,820 --> 00:06:32,540

I had asked him just exactly what he was working on.

115

00:06:32,540 --> 00:06:35,820

He said, with guns and drugs.

116

00:06:35,820 --> 00:06:38,820

Numerous times, he told me, probably two or three times,

117

00:06:38,820 --> 00:06:44,380

he told me that if he was found out that he was a dead man.

118

00:06:44,380 --> 00:06:45,380

Let me get in the threats.

119

00:06:45,380 --> 00:06:48,420

You know, phone calls and letters.

120

00:06:48,420 --> 00:06:49,660

No, I don't know who's sending them.

121

00:06:49,660 --> 00:06:51,820

I don't recognize his voice.

122

00:06:51,820 --> 00:06:54,780

I mean, it might be nothing, but I'm starting to get worried.

123

00:06:54,780 --> 00:06:56,140

I don't know what to do.

124

00:06:56,140 --> 00:06:57,220

That time I told him.

125

00:06:57,220 --> 00:06:58,220

I can't.

126

00:06:58,220 --> 00:06:59,020

I can't.

127

00:06:59,020 --> 00:07:01,060

I told him, Chad, you've got to get out of this.

128

00:07:01,100 --> 00:07:04,700

And that he came back with, I can't get out of it.

129

00:07:04,700 --> 00:07:05,700

I can't get out of it, Dad.

130

00:07:05,700 --> 00:07:07,180

And I said, well, you've got to get out of it.

131

00:07:07,180 --> 00:07:08,080

Yeah.

132

00:07:08,080 --> 00:07:10,220

Listen, I've got a couple to do here right now.

133

00:07:10,220 --> 00:07:11,820

OK.

134

00:07:11,820 --> 00:07:13,620

I will.

135

00:07:13,620 --> 00:07:15,940

Get my love to Grandma.

136

00:07:15,940 --> 00:07:18,700

Bye.

137

00:07:18,700 --> 00:07:20,660

When Jim Langford urged his son to talk

138

00:07:20,660 --> 00:07:23,460

to his undercover superior, Chad said he would not

139

00:07:23,460 --> 00:07:26,060

be able to for another 14 days.

140

00:07:26,060 --> 00:07:29,220

But in 14 days, Chad Langford was found bleeding

141

00:07:29,220 --> 00:07:31,180

from a fatal bullet wound to the head.

142

00:07:33,700 --> 00:07:37,180

The Army's Criminal Investigation Division, or CID,

143

00:07:37,180 --> 00:07:41,660

reviewed Chad Langford's death for four months.

144

00:07:41,660 --> 00:07:43,620

Their reports stated that Langford had not

145

00:07:43,620 --> 00:07:46,700

been involved in any undercover narcotics work.

146

00:07:46,700 --> 00:07:50,420

The CID finding echoed the Army's preliminary judgment.

147

00:07:50,420 --> 00:07:54,100

Chad Langford had taken his own life.

148

00:07:54,100 --> 00:07:58,180

The report included what the CID called a psychological autopsy,

149

00:07:58,220 --> 00:08:01,340

a post-mortem evaluation of mental health.

150

00:08:01,340 --> 00:08:04,180

It described Langford as having serious, lifelong,

151

00:08:04,180 --> 00:08:07,060

emotional problems.

152

00:08:07,060 --> 00:08:10,100

The report that they sent me, the psychological autopsy,

153

00:08:10,100 --> 00:08:11,100

they sent me, no.

154

00:08:11,100 --> 00:08:12,500

And that's so far out of whack.

155

00:08:12,500 --> 00:08:13,300

It's unbelievable.

156

00:08:13,300 --> 00:08:13,700

I'm sorry.

157

00:08:13,700 --> 00:08:15,300

I just can't believe that, any of that.

158

00:08:15,300 --> 00:08:17,620

I mean, I raised the boy for 20 years.

159

00:08:17,620 --> 00:08:19,540

I know him better than that.

160

00:08:19,540 --> 00:08:23,820

And the military has psychologists out to talk to you

161

00:08:23,820 --> 00:08:26,140

for a call you over the phone and talk to you for 10 minutes.

162

00:08:26,140 --> 00:08:28,540

And then they have the complete live story of everybody.

163

00:08:28,540 --> 00:08:33,500

And they're so far off the base, it's unbelievable.

164

00:08:33,500 --> 00:08:35,980

The report claimed that a deterioration in Chad's

165

00:08:35,980 --> 00:08:38,340

relationship with his girlfriend had triggered

166

00:08:38,340 --> 00:08:42,020

his final suicidal depression.

167

00:08:42,020 --> 00:08:45,260

The CID report said that Chad committed suicide

168

00:08:45,260 --> 00:08:49,420

for the distraught over my breaking up with him.

169

00:08:49,420 --> 00:08:52,420

But that wasn't true.

170

00:08:52,420 --> 00:08:53,500

I didn't break up with Chad.

171

00:08:53,500 --> 00:08:54,620

Chad broke up with me.

172

00:08:55,340 --> 00:08:57,060

I don't know what I should major on.

173

00:08:57,060 --> 00:09:00,940

In January of 1992, six weeks before his death,

174

00:09:00,940 --> 00:09:03,900

Chad had abruptly broken up with Roxanne.

175

00:09:03,900 --> 00:09:05,340

I mean, I've got to make up my mind soon,

176

00:09:05,340 --> 00:09:06,700

because after we get married.

177

00:09:06,700 --> 00:09:10,740

Roxanne, you need to talk.

178

00:09:10,740 --> 00:09:13,900

What?

179

00:09:13,900 --> 00:09:20,420

Listen, you're going to have to put off getting married.

180

00:09:20,420 --> 00:09:21,500

I don't understand.

181

00:09:21,500 --> 00:09:22,900

I mean, why?

182

00:09:25,180 --> 00:09:28,020

It's my work.

183

00:09:28,020 --> 00:09:30,380

This new assignment has taken a lot of my time,

184

00:09:30,380 --> 00:09:33,340

and it just wouldn't be fair to you.

185

00:09:33,340 --> 00:09:35,700

I mean, you deserve to have a lot of my attention.

186

00:09:35,700 --> 00:09:37,660

You still love me, don't you?

187

00:09:37,660 --> 00:09:39,340

I'm involved in things you don't even understand.

188

00:09:39,340 --> 00:09:41,100

I can't even talk about them.

189

00:09:41,100 --> 00:09:42,460

But why?

190

00:09:42,460 --> 00:09:43,980

I mean, why do we have to break up?

191

00:09:43,980 --> 00:09:44,780

Is there another person?

192

00:09:44,780 --> 00:09:45,900

Is that it? That's it, isn't it?

193

00:09:45,900 --> 00:09:46,780

Why do I have to break up?

194

00:09:46,780 --> 00:09:47,500

Why?

195

00:09:47,500 --> 00:09:48,580

Why do we have to break up?

196

00:09:48,580 --> 00:09:49,900

Can't you understand English?

197

00:09:49,900 --> 00:09:52,300

Shh.

198

00:09:52,300 --> 00:09:54,700

Just get out!

199

00:09:54,700 --> 00:09:55,600

I left.

200

00:09:55,600 --> 00:09:56,780

I don't want to be with you anymore.

201

00:09:56,780 --> 00:09:57,940

In a rage, Corrine.

202

00:10:03,580 --> 00:10:06,380

I had a feeling that someone was telling him

203

00:10:06,380 --> 00:10:08,780

to break it off with me.

204

00:10:08,780 --> 00:10:11,060

And I think Chad did it to protect me or something.

205

00:10:16,340 --> 00:10:18,460

Roxanne so chad for the last time,

206

00:10:18,460 --> 00:10:22,060

five days before his death at the base nightclub,

207

00:10:22,060 --> 00:10:24,420

he seemed to have changed dramatically.

208

00:10:24,420 --> 00:10:27,740

Chad was dressed all in black, gang style clothing.

209

00:10:27,740 --> 00:10:30,060

He now sported nearing and was hanging out

210

00:10:30,060 --> 00:10:35,060

with several rough looking men Roxanne had not seen before.

211

00:10:35,060 --> 00:10:38,580

Limeford's lifestyle changes tie in with another shocking CID

212

00:10:38,580 --> 00:10:42,100

allegation that he had been the mastermind of an aborted robbery

213

00:10:42,100 --> 00:10:44,900

plan targeting base PX funds.

214

00:10:44,900 --> 00:10:46,940

The CID report included interviews

215

00:10:46,940 --> 00:10:50,260

with three soldiers who identified Chad as the ringleader.

216

00:10:50,260 --> 00:10:51,580

One of you guys will have to shoot me.

217

00:10:51,580 --> 00:10:52,580

Shoot you?

218

00:10:52,580 --> 00:10:53,480

Yeah.

219

00:10:53,480 --> 00:10:54,700

But I'll be wearing a bulletproof vest.

220

00:10:54,700 --> 00:10:57,260

That way it'll look like I put up a fight.

221

00:10:57,260 --> 00:10:58,780

I'll probably have to fire off a couple of rounds

222

00:10:58,780 --> 00:11:00,220

so I don't look like a punk.

223

00:11:00,220 --> 00:11:01,120

All right.

224

00:11:01,120 --> 00:11:02,820

Now what about the other escort?

225

00:11:02,820 --> 00:11:04,980

Won't he be able to identify us?

226

00:11:04,980 --> 00:11:07,380

Well, I guess we'll just have to kill him

227

00:11:07,380 --> 00:11:08,420

unless we want witnesses.

228

00:11:10,860 --> 00:11:12,700

It seems very strange to me that somebody

229

00:11:12,700 --> 00:11:16,620

would come forward to the criminal investigation

230

00:11:16,620 --> 00:11:19,620

division after someone was killed and said, yeah,

231

00:11:19,620 --> 00:11:20,620

we're planning on rob.

232

00:11:20,620 --> 00:11:25,380

We were planning on robbing a PX fan for X amount of \$1,000.

233

00:11:25,380 --> 00:11:27,940

I just can't imagine anybody coming forward

234

00:11:27,940 --> 00:11:30,460

with that kind of information.

235

00:11:30,460 --> 00:11:34,220

It's really tough that he's not here now to be able to tell us

236

00:11:34,220 --> 00:11:35,180

what really happened.

237

00:11:35,180 --> 00:11:38,700

Now the plan is you'll be one of the escorts.

238

00:11:38,700 --> 00:11:40,420

You'll wear a bulletproof vest.

239

00:11:40,420 --> 00:11:43,300

Chad's father believes there is a legitimate explanation

240

00:11:43,300 --> 00:11:45,460

for any contact his son may have had

241

00:11:45,460 --> 00:11:48,660

with criminal elements on the base.

242

00:11:48,660 --> 00:11:50,940

Maybe they were trying to recruit him.

243

00:11:50,940 --> 00:11:54,620

Maybe this was right in his, what he was doing with the informant

244

00:11:54,620 --> 00:11:57,380

or other undercover work.

245

00:11:57,380 --> 00:12:00,180

Hours before his death, Chad left phone messages

246

00:12:00,180 --> 00:12:03,260

for several friends, but not for his family.

247

00:12:03,260 --> 00:12:06,780

The CID interpreted Chad's calls as goodbye messages

248

00:12:06,780 --> 00:12:10,020

to those he cared for most.

249

00:12:10,020 --> 00:12:11,820

When I got off work, my mother told me

250

00:12:11,820 --> 00:12:14,580

that there was a message on the machine from Chad

251

00:12:14,580 --> 00:12:16,580

that had been erased, but she heard it.

252

00:12:16,580 --> 00:12:16,980

Hi, it's me.

253

00:12:16,980 --> 00:12:22,660

It was him calling to say hi, and how was I doing?

254

00:12:22,660 --> 00:12:24,780

Was I taking care of myself?

255

00:12:24,780 --> 00:12:27,740

And that he would see me soon.

256

00:12:27,740 --> 00:12:30,380

Sorry I missed you.

257

00:12:30,380 --> 00:12:31,900

Give me a call.

258

00:12:31,900 --> 00:12:33,460

Bye.

259

00:12:33,460 --> 00:12:37,420

Didn't seem like a goodbye to me.

260

00:12:37,420 --> 00:12:40,860

Chad would have called me.

261

00:12:40,860 --> 00:12:42,500

I know he would have.

262

00:12:42,500 --> 00:12:46,100

He would have called me if something was to the point

263

00:12:46,100 --> 00:12:48,620

where he was going to commit suicide.

264

00:12:48,620 --> 00:12:50,700

I know he would have, but he didn't call me,

265

00:12:50,700 --> 00:12:53,420

and he didn't call his grandmother.

266

00:12:53,420 --> 00:12:57,020

So there weren't more goodbye calls as far as I'm concerned.

267

00:12:57,020 --> 00:13:01,540

I mean, I know he would have called me.

268

00:13:01,540 --> 00:13:04,420

The psychological autopsy claimed that Chad Langford had

269

00:13:04,420 --> 00:13:06,900

a profound lack of self-esteem and was

270

00:13:06,900 --> 00:13:09,060

desperate to create a new image even

271

00:13:09,060 --> 00:13:10,580

at the cost of his own life.

272

00:13:13,660 --> 00:13:16,820

According to the report, Chad felt that the glory eluding

273

00:13:16,820 --> 00:13:19,620

him in life would finally be his if he appeared

274

00:13:19,620 --> 00:13:21,820

to have died in a heroic last stand.

275

00:13:25,260 --> 00:13:28,060

Like a lot of the autopsy, Morales

276

00:13:28,060 --> 00:13:33,700

told us that he was doing this to make us feel good about him,

277

00:13:33,700 --> 00:13:39,460

because we wanted him to shine, and he was doing this

278

00:13:39,460 --> 00:13:44,860

to please us, and that he wanted to go out in glory.

279

00:13:44,860 --> 00:13:48,100

So this is why he set this whole thing up.

280

00:13:48,100 --> 00:13:50,780

This is why he drove out there and handcuffed himself.

281

00:13:50,780 --> 00:13:53,740

He didn't want it just to go out enough and go around the car

282

00:13:53,740 --> 00:13:55,180

and do with yourself.

283

00:13:55,180 --> 00:14:00,740

He just wanted to make it special.

284

00:14:00,740 --> 00:14:03,460

The official inquiry concluded that every aspect

285

00:14:03,460 --> 00:14:07,100

of Chad's death was methodically staged by Chad himself

286

00:14:07,100 --> 00:14:09,380

from his accounts of undercover assignments

287

00:14:09,380 --> 00:14:11,700

to the peculiar circumstances of his shooting.

288

00:14:25,340 --> 00:14:27,140

Right stone, this is Papa 2-1.

289

00:14:27,140 --> 00:14:29,500

Have a stranded vehicle.

290

00:14:29,500 --> 00:14:31,660

I'm on Pat and Sal.

291

00:14:31,660 --> 00:14:34,260

2-1, what's your location?

292

00:14:34,260 --> 00:14:36,140

I'm on Pat and Sal.

293

00:14:36,140 --> 00:14:37,220

Roger, city 28.

294

00:14:41,020 --> 00:14:44,500

2-1, say again.

295

00:14:44,500 --> 00:14:46,140

1, this is Redstone, say again.

296

00:14:49,260 --> 00:14:51,740

All available units, proceed to South Paton Road.

297

00:14:51,740 --> 00:14:54,100

It's OK, Papa 2-1.

298

00:14:54,100 --> 00:14:55,380

All gates locked down.

299

00:14:55,380 --> 00:14:57,860

Secure the boat.

300

00:14:58,380 --> 00:15:04,660

To start with, it was very bizarre, even from the night

301

00:15:04,660 --> 00:15:08,340

that it happened, because the Huntsville Police Department

302

00:15:08,340 --> 00:15:10,980

and other law enforcement agencies never heard a word

303

00:15:10,980 --> 00:15:12,580

from the Army about any of it.

304

00:15:12,580 --> 00:15:15,860

And generally, when there's a police officer that's shot,

305

00:15:15,860 --> 00:15:18,100

I mean, there'll be a manhunt everywhere.

306

00:15:18,100 --> 00:15:20,140

And everybody was really baffled because they weren't getting

307

00:15:20,140 --> 00:15:22,140

any information about it.

308

00:15:22,140 --> 00:15:25,220

You take into consideration that he was tied with his own equipment

309

00:15:25,220 --> 00:15:27,620

that it happened in a very remote area that,

310

00:15:27,620 --> 00:15:31,380

with easy access to the civilian recreation area,

311

00:15:31,380 --> 00:15:34,140

anybody could have gotten in and out there very, very easily.

312

00:15:34,140 --> 00:15:37,540

And then even before the Army ruled that it was suicide,

313

00:15:37,540 --> 00:15:39,780

there was just wild speculation as to what could have happened

314

00:15:39,780 --> 00:15:40,580

to him.

315

00:15:40,580 --> 00:15:43,660

People were saying espionage, drug deals, all kinds of things.

316

00:15:43,660 --> 00:15:47,500

Then it perpetuated itself as it went with the CID reports.

317

00:15:50,860 --> 00:15:54,020

According to Langford's family, even some of the evidence

318

00:15:54,020 --> 00:15:56,060

gathered from the death scene conflicts

319

00:15:56,060 --> 00:15:58,220

with the suicide findings.

320

00:15:58,220 --> 00:16:01,500

Investigators recovered 245 caliber casings,

321

00:16:01,500 --> 00:16:05,340

but they found no bullets of any kind in or near the body.

322

00:16:05,340 --> 00:16:08,220

Without bullets, authorities were unable to determine

323

00:16:08,220 --> 00:16:12,140

what type of gun killed Langford.

324

00:16:12,140 --> 00:16:15,100

In addition, lab tests did not conclusively

325

00:16:15,100 --> 00:16:17,620

prove Langford had even fired a weapon.

326

00:16:17,620 --> 00:16:19,140

And there was never an explanation

327

00:16:19,140 --> 00:16:22,060

of how he came to be lying on top of his own gun.

328

00:16:24,980 --> 00:16:26,700

They also said there wasn't a struggle,

329

00:16:26,700 --> 00:16:27,700

but there was a struggle.

330

00:16:27,700 --> 00:16:29,940

I mean, there's no doubt about it.

331

00:16:29,940 --> 00:16:34,180

They found two buttons in the front seat of the car.

332

00:16:34,180 --> 00:16:37,340

And those two buttons were supposedly

333

00:16:37,340 --> 00:16:40,340

pulled off his uniform when the medics got there.

334

00:16:40,340 --> 00:16:41,900

This was Eric's explanation to me

335

00:16:41,900 --> 00:16:44,180

that when they ripped open his shirt,

336

00:16:44,180 --> 00:16:46,980

both buttons flew in the front seat of the car.

337

00:16:46,980 --> 00:16:49,580

And that's completely impossible,

338

00:16:49,580 --> 00:16:53,660

because I've reset that up and there's no way.

339

00:16:53,700 --> 00:16:58,100

From where he was laying and beside his buttons were on,

340

00:16:58,100 --> 00:16:59,660

his buttons would have went the other way.

341

00:16:59,660 --> 00:17:01,340

They wouldn't have went into the car.

342

00:17:04,580 --> 00:17:07,380

Jim Langford also believes that MPs responding

343

00:17:07,380 --> 00:17:10,380

to his son's distress call squandered opportunities

344

00:17:10,380 --> 00:17:13,820

to question possible suspects.

345

00:17:13,820 --> 00:17:16,140

Within a mile of where Chad was found,

346

00:17:16,140 --> 00:17:18,980

MP stopped two different cars.

347

00:17:18,980 --> 00:17:21,860

However, contrary to military regulations,

348

00:17:21,860 --> 00:17:24,260

no record was made of the driver's names

349

00:17:24,260 --> 00:17:27,780

or of either car's make, model, or license number.

350

00:17:27,780 --> 00:17:30,500

The drivers were never questioned about Langford's death.

351

00:17:32,980 --> 00:17:37,740

Just letting him go, I mean, it's absolutely crazy.

352

00:17:37,740 --> 00:17:40,980

You're talking about a murder here.

353

00:17:40,980 --> 00:17:42,820

And it appears to me that anybody

354

00:17:42,820 --> 00:17:46,140

within three or four mile radius of that place

355

00:17:46,140 --> 00:17:49,340

should have been stopped and held for some time.

356

00:17:49,340 --> 00:17:50,340

They didn't do that.

357

00:17:50,340 --> 00:17:51,060

Let the man go.

358

00:17:53,860 --> 00:17:55,860

A source close to the investigation

359

00:17:55,860 --> 00:17:58,540

has said that one of the drivers was named Robert.

360

00:17:58,540 --> 00:18:01,140

The name found scrawled on Langford's hand.

361

00:18:06,860 --> 00:18:10,100

Those who believe Chad Langford was working undercover

362

00:18:10,100 --> 00:18:12,420

are convinced his sudden violent death

363

00:18:12,420 --> 00:18:14,060

was nothing less than murder.

364

00:18:15,060 --> 00:18:19,060

I feel that he went down there on that part of base

365

00:18:19,060 --> 00:18:22,060

because he was supposed to meet somebody down there.

366

00:18:22,060 --> 00:18:26,060

And when I talked to him on the first part of March,

367

00:18:26,060 --> 00:18:28,060

he told me he couldn't talk to his contact

368

00:18:28,060 --> 00:18:29,060

for at least two more weeks.

369

00:18:29,060 --> 00:18:30,060

And that was just about the same time

370

00:18:30,060 --> 00:18:32,060

he was supposed to talk to his contact.

371

00:18:32,060 --> 00:18:34,060

And he drove down at the end of that road down there,

372

00:18:34,060 --> 00:18:38,060

and there was a vehicle there, but he knew who was in that vehicle.

373

00:18:38,060 --> 00:18:43,060

And he phoned in just to get away from his radio.

374

00:18:43,060 --> 00:18:45,060

I'm still in this Papa 2-1.

375

00:18:45,060 --> 00:18:47,060

I'm checking out a stranded vehicle.

376

00:18:47,060 --> 00:18:49,060

I'm on Patton South.

377

00:18:53,060 --> 00:18:56,060

They would have taken more than one person to, uh,

378

00:18:56,060 --> 00:18:58,060

to Handelshad.

379

00:18:58,060 --> 00:19:01,060

He, uh, was very strong, very agile.

380

00:19:01,060 --> 00:19:05,060

Uh, and then again, he knew these people.

381

00:19:05,060 --> 00:19:07,060

I know he knew these people.

382

00:19:14,060 --> 00:19:16,060

Redstone, this is Papa 2-1.

383

00:19:16,060 --> 00:19:18,060

I need backup now. This is Papa 2-1.

384

00:19:24,060 --> 00:19:27,060

I think Chad was involved in, um,

385

00:19:27,060 --> 00:19:29,060

involved when he was telling me he was involved in.

386

00:19:29,060 --> 00:19:32,060

He was an in-between person with some drug dealing.

387

00:19:32,060 --> 00:19:34,060

Um, I think he was put in that position

388

00:19:34,060 --> 00:19:36,060

by somebody on that base,

389

00:19:36,060 --> 00:19:38,060

whether military or civilian.

390

00:19:38,060 --> 00:19:40,060

He put somebody putting there.

391

00:19:40,060 --> 00:19:42,060

And I think he was a middleman,

392

00:19:42,060 --> 00:19:44,060

and I think he was set up.

393

00:19:44,060 --> 00:19:47,060

I really feel he was set up.

394

00:19:47,060 --> 00:19:50,060

And, uh, I'm going to find out.

395

00:19:53,060 --> 00:19:57,060

Chad Langford's final hours remain shrouded in mystery.

396

00:19:57,060 --> 00:19:59,060

Did he invent a tale of undercover intrigue,

397

00:19:59,060 --> 00:20:02,060

and then stage a heroic death?

398

00:20:02,060 --> 00:20:04,060

Or did Chad Langford truly die a hero,

399

00:20:04,060 --> 00:20:07,060

gunned down in the line of duty?

400

00:20:08,060 --> 00:20:11,060

Next, thanks to our viewers,

401

00:20:11,060 --> 00:20:13,060

a convicted killer has been captured

402

00:20:13,060 --> 00:20:16,060

nearly eight years after he escaped from prison.

403

00:20:27,060 --> 00:20:31,060

Just after 8 a.m. on September 1, 1978,

404

00:20:31,060 --> 00:20:33,060

in Catoosa, Oklahoma,

405

00:20:33,060 --> 00:20:35,060

police chief J.B. Hamby

406

00:20:35,060 --> 00:20:37,060

responded to an emergency call

407

00:20:37,060 --> 00:20:39,060

from an auto-license tag agency.

408

00:20:39,060 --> 00:20:40,060

Freeze!

409

00:20:40,060 --> 00:20:41,060

Get out of here!

410

00:20:48,060 --> 00:20:50,060

20 rounds ricocheted through the small store

411

00:20:50,060 --> 00:20:52,060

in a matter of seconds.

412

00:20:52,060 --> 00:20:54,060

One robber was killed,

413

00:20:54,060 --> 00:20:55,060

the other was hit twice,

414

00:20:55,060 --> 00:20:57,060

but somehow managed to escape.

415

00:21:04,060 --> 00:21:06,060

Less than five minutes later,

416

00:21:06,060 --> 00:21:08,060

Chief Hamby died from gunshot wounds.

417

00:21:08,060 --> 00:21:11,060

He was a 24-year veteran of law enforcement

418

00:21:11,060 --> 00:21:14,060

and the only police officer in Catoosa.

419

00:21:17,060 --> 00:21:19,060

On June 15, 1979,

420

00:21:19,060 --> 00:21:23,060

the surviving gunman, 25-year-old David Gordon Smith,

421

00:21:23,060 --> 00:21:27,060

began serving a life sentence for the murder of J.B. Hamby.

422

00:21:27,060 --> 00:21:29,060

Open 43!

423

00:21:30,060 --> 00:21:32,060

Smith became a model prisoner

424

00:21:32,060 --> 00:21:34,060

and eventually achieved trustee status.

425

00:21:34,060 --> 00:21:37,060

Seven years after he murdered Chief Hamby,

426

00:21:37,060 --> 00:21:39,060

David Gordon Smith took advantage of his status

427

00:21:39,060 --> 00:21:41,060

to escape and to disappear.

428

00:21:43,060 --> 00:21:46,060

When we first aired this story last October,

429

00:21:46,060 --> 00:21:48,060

we received more than 75 leads,

430

00:21:48,060 --> 00:21:50,060

but none of them panned out.

431

00:21:50,060 --> 00:21:52,060

However, one thing we have learned on unsolved mysteries

432

00:21:52,060 --> 00:21:55,060

over the years is never to give up.

433

00:21:55,060 --> 00:21:57,060

The story aired again in March,

434

00:21:57,060 --> 00:21:59,060

and this time on a small South Dakota town,

435

00:21:59,060 --> 00:22:01,060

the right viewer was watching.

436

00:22:01,060 --> 00:22:03,060

He called the local authorities,

437

00:22:03,060 --> 00:22:06,060

and they immediately contacted the FBI.

438

00:22:06,060 --> 00:22:10,060

One day following the airing of the David Gordon Smith case

439

00:22:10,060 --> 00:22:12,060

on unsolved mysteries,

440

00:22:12,060 --> 00:22:14,060

an anonymous tip was received,

441

00:22:14,060 --> 00:22:17,060

giving us his location.

442

00:22:17,060 --> 00:22:21,060

He was working as a service manager

443

00:22:21,060 --> 00:22:25,060

in an automobile dealership in Spearfish, South Dakota.

444

00:22:25,060 --> 00:22:30,060

Agents of the FBI, local authorities in South Dakota

445

00:22:30,060 --> 00:22:32,060

went to his place of employment.

446

00:22:32,060 --> 00:22:34,060

He was arrested without incident,

447

00:22:34,060 --> 00:22:38,060

and he readily admitted his identity and questioned him.

448

00:22:40,060 --> 00:22:43,060

When David Gordon Smith is brought back to Oklahoma,

449

00:22:43,060 --> 00:22:47,060

he'll go immediately into our system.

450

00:22:47,060 --> 00:22:51,060

He'll be classified as a maximum security inmate,

451

00:22:51,060 --> 00:22:55,060

and because of his escape,

452

00:22:55,060 --> 00:22:58,060

he will be in our maximum security prison

453

00:22:58,060 --> 00:23:01,060

for a long time.

454

00:23:02,060 --> 00:23:05,060

There's a tremendous amount of relief.

455

00:23:05,060 --> 00:23:12,060

It was equivalent to a long-term, gigantic debt being paid off.

456

00:23:29,060 --> 00:23:33,060

You!

457

00:23:33,060 --> 00:23:35,060

Back in your back!

458

00:23:35,060 --> 00:23:37,060

Over the side!

459

00:23:37,060 --> 00:23:40,060

On December 14, 1983,

460

00:23:40,060 --> 00:23:43,060

a masked gunman held up a fast food restaurant

461

00:23:43,060 --> 00:23:45,060

in Toledo, Ohio.

462

00:23:45,060 --> 00:23:47,060

As he rushed to escape,

463

00:23:47,060 --> 00:23:49,060

he shot a police officer at close range,

464

00:23:49,060 --> 00:23:52,060

seriously wounded.

465

00:23:52,060 --> 00:23:55,060

The next day, Morgan Anthony Miller,

466

00:23:55,060 --> 00:23:57,060

a 27-year-old musician, was arrested

467

00:23:57,060 --> 00:24:02,060

after being identified by two eyewitnesses.

468

00:24:02,060 --> 00:24:04,060

Miller never denied that he and two friends

469

00:24:04,060 --> 00:24:07,060

had been in the restaurant that night.

470

00:24:07,060 --> 00:24:09,060

However, he always insisted that the robbers struck

471

00:24:09,060 --> 00:24:13,060

sometime after they left.

472

00:24:13,060 --> 00:24:16,060

Everything that they said that I had done

473

00:24:16,060 --> 00:24:18,060

was totally ridiculous.

474

00:24:18,060 --> 00:24:21,060

There's no way a real criminal

475

00:24:21,060 --> 00:24:24,060

would drive his own car up to a restaurant

476

00:24:24,060 --> 00:24:28,060

and talk to a waitress who works there.

477

00:24:28,060 --> 00:24:32,060

And 30 seconds later, rob the place

478

00:24:32,060 --> 00:24:34,060

and not expect to get caught.

479

00:24:34,060 --> 00:24:37,060

I'm not crazy.

480

00:24:37,060 --> 00:24:40,060

A month later, the case took a surprising twist

481

00:24:40,060 --> 00:24:43,060

when police arrested 35-year-old Joseph Clark

482

00:24:43,060 --> 00:24:46,060

in an unrelated case.

483

00:24:46,060 --> 00:24:48,060

During questioning, Clark admitted

484

00:24:48,060 --> 00:24:50,060

that he had robbed the restaurant

485

00:24:50,060 --> 00:24:52,060

and shot the police officer.

486

00:24:53,060 --> 00:24:55,060

But when detectives pressed him for details,

487

00:24:55,060 --> 00:24:58,060

Clark recanted.

488

00:24:58,060 --> 00:25:01,060

Five months later, Tony Miller was convicted

489

00:25:01,060 --> 00:25:03,060

of armed robbery and assault.

490

00:25:03,060 --> 00:25:08,060

He was given a sentence of 20 to 40 years in prison.

491

00:25:08,060 --> 00:25:10,060

I absolutely did not commit to robbery

492

00:25:10,060 --> 00:25:12,060

or the shooting of the police officer.

493

00:25:12,060 --> 00:25:16,060

And I would never do anything like that.

494

00:25:16,060 --> 00:25:18,060

I'm a musician and artist.

495

00:25:18,060 --> 00:25:21,060

I'm not a criminal.

496

00:25:23,060 --> 00:25:25,060

Update.

497

00:25:25,060 --> 00:25:27,060

Tony Miller is now a free man.

498

00:25:27,060 --> 00:25:29,060

On the night of our broadcast,

499

00:25:29,060 --> 00:25:31,060

one of the prosecution witnesses from Tony's trial

500

00:25:31,060 --> 00:25:35,060

called our telecenter and corroborated Tony's story.

501

00:25:35,060 --> 00:25:38,060

The man had seen the robber flee the area,

502

00:25:38,060 --> 00:25:41,060

but had never been asked to identify Miller.

503

00:25:41,060 --> 00:25:44,060

After viewing our story, the witness said, quote,

504

00:25:44,060 --> 00:25:47,060

it was the first time I had seen photographs

505

00:25:47,060 --> 00:25:49,060

of Tony Miller and the other man.

506

00:25:49,060 --> 00:25:52,060

Based on those photographs in my recollection that evening,

507

00:25:52,060 --> 00:25:56,060

the man who ran past me was not Tony Miller.

508

00:25:56,060 --> 00:26:01,060

On December 2, 1992, Tony Miller's conviction was reversed.

509

00:26:01,060 --> 00:26:03,060

A week later, he was released from prison

510

00:26:03,060 --> 00:26:06,060

after eight and a half long years.

511

00:26:06,060 --> 00:26:08,060

For a while, you'd think that, you know,

512

00:26:08,060 --> 00:26:10,060

this is just like a dream.

513

00:26:10,060 --> 00:26:13,060

It's just hard to describe.

514

00:26:13,060 --> 00:26:15,060

It feels so good.

515

00:26:15,060 --> 00:26:17,060

I just wanted to scream, but I'm scared

516

00:26:17,060 --> 00:26:21,060

that he'd lock me back up, so I didn't scream.

517

00:26:21,060 --> 00:26:24,060

I was really happy.

518

00:26:24,060 --> 00:26:28,060

Tony is one of the most enjoyable people I've ever met,

519

00:26:28,060 --> 00:26:31,060

and having him out of prison has just increased

520

00:26:31,060 --> 00:26:33,060

his natural joy and happiness.

521

00:26:33,060 --> 00:26:36,060

He's a very special person.

522

00:26:41,060 --> 00:26:43,060

When you know you're innocent, you know,

523

00:26:43,060 --> 00:26:45,060

there's no doubt about it in your mind

524

00:26:45,060 --> 00:26:47,060

that you haven't done a crime.

525

00:26:47,060 --> 00:26:49,060

And you know what? You can't give up,

526

00:26:49,060 --> 00:26:52,060

especially when you have support of your family.

527

00:26:52,060 --> 00:26:54,060

You know, a lot of my family members, Granny,

528

00:26:54,060 --> 00:26:57,060

I love her daily, to know that they're fighting as hard

529

00:26:57,060 --> 00:27:02,060

as they possibly can, to simply get to the truth.

530

00:27:02,060 --> 00:27:06,060

Because the truth will surface, regardless of how long it takes.

531

00:27:06,060 --> 00:27:09,060

It comes to the top every time.

532

00:27:15,060 --> 00:27:18,060

In a city as large as Philadelphia,

533

00:27:18,060 --> 00:27:21,060

police operators receive literally thousands of reports

534

00:27:21,060 --> 00:27:24,060

every day regarding possible criminal activity.

535

00:27:24,060 --> 00:27:28,060

Most of the calls are routine, but some are so unbelievable

536

00:27:28,060 --> 00:27:31,060

that even the most world-weary detected

537

00:27:31,060 --> 00:27:33,060

can be taken by surprise.

538

00:27:33,060 --> 00:27:35,060

On September 10, 1991,

539

00:27:35,060 --> 00:27:38,060

the police were arrested for the crime of murder

540

00:27:38,060 --> 00:27:41,060

and the police were arrested for the crime of murder.

541

00:27:42,060 --> 00:27:45,060

On September 10, 1991,

542

00:27:45,060 --> 00:27:48,060

Detective Pat Brennan was stunned to receive not one,

543

00:27:48,060 --> 00:27:51,060

but three telephone calls from a convicted rapist

544

00:27:51,060 --> 00:27:53,060

named Julius Patterson.

545

00:27:53,060 --> 00:27:56,060

Those calls would launch one of the most bizarre

546

00:27:56,060 --> 00:28:00,060

and disturbing murder investigations the city has ever known.

547

00:28:03,060 --> 00:28:07,060

Out of the blue, Patterson confessed to a shocked Brennan

548

00:28:07,060 --> 00:28:09,060

that he and his girlfriend, Paulette Haight,

549

00:28:09,060 --> 00:28:14,060

had killed two people, one in 1986 and the other in 1988.

550

00:28:22,060 --> 00:28:25,060

Incredibly, Patterson admitted that one of the victims

551

00:28:25,060 --> 00:28:27,060

was his own sister,

552

00:28:27,060 --> 00:28:30,060

even revealed where her body could be found.

553

00:28:35,060 --> 00:28:37,060

He was like a man on a mission.

554

00:28:37,060 --> 00:28:40,060

He was like a man, anyone else that would listen to him,

555

00:28:40,060 --> 00:28:42,060

that what he had to say was real

556

00:28:42,060 --> 00:28:45,060

and he was out to make the police act on it.

557

00:28:45,060 --> 00:28:48,060

With this urgency in his voice and the detail

558

00:28:48,060 --> 00:28:50,060

to what he was saying to us,

559

00:28:50,060 --> 00:28:53,060

just made me feel that everything he was saying was the truth

560

00:28:53,060 --> 00:28:55,060

and would be found it.

561

00:28:58,060 --> 00:29:00,060

Detectives were immediately dispatched

562

00:29:00,060 --> 00:29:02,060

to the address Patterson had given.

563

00:29:02,060 --> 00:29:04,060

Hi, ma'am, I'm sorry to bother you.

564

00:29:04,060 --> 00:29:07,060

The current resident had lived there for several months

565

00:29:07,060 --> 00:29:11,060

and had a difficult time believing there might be a body in the basement.

566

00:29:11,060 --> 00:29:13,060

How do you know it was a challenge of truth?

567

00:29:13,060 --> 00:29:15,060

Well, we have to check it out, ma'am.

568

00:29:15,060 --> 00:29:17,060

It's probably just a crying call, hopefully.

569

00:29:17,060 --> 00:29:19,060

You don't want to be here all night.

570

00:29:19,060 --> 00:29:20,060

Are you sure this is the right house?

571

00:29:20,060 --> 00:29:22,060

Yes, it is.

572

00:29:22,060 --> 00:29:26,060

Patterson had told detectives to look for a discolored patch of cement.

573

00:29:26,060 --> 00:29:28,060

What are you going to do if you find anything?

574

00:29:28,060 --> 00:29:30,060

We probably won't.

575

00:29:30,060 --> 00:29:31,060

We'll have to check it out.

576

00:29:31,060 --> 00:29:32,060

Is there a car?

577

00:29:32,060 --> 00:29:35,060

At the foot of the steps, under an old tattered carpet,

578

00:29:35,060 --> 00:29:38,060

they found an area which fit the description.

579

00:29:38,060 --> 00:29:41,060

But it remained to be seen what, if anything,

580

00:29:41,060 --> 00:29:44,060

might be buried beneath the floor.

581

00:29:47,060 --> 00:29:49,060

At almost that same moment,

582

00:29:49,060 --> 00:29:53,060

Detective Brennan received another call from Julius Patterson.

583

00:29:53,060 --> 00:29:56,060

Earlier, he had said that his girlfriend, Paulette Hyde,

584

00:29:56,060 --> 00:29:59,060

could be found at a motel in New Jersey.

585

00:29:59,060 --> 00:30:01,060

He was a couple of them to Jersey.

586

00:30:01,060 --> 00:30:03,060

Now, I need you to come in and give us a statement.

587

00:30:03,060 --> 00:30:07,060

Now, he was demanding to know if she had been arrested.

588

00:30:07,060 --> 00:30:09,060

I don't know if they haven't called us back yet, but we need you to come in.

589

00:30:09,060 --> 00:30:12,060

Once I confirmed for him that detectives were at the crime scene

590

00:30:12,060 --> 00:30:15,060

and that there were detectives in the room to South Jersey,

591

00:30:15,060 --> 00:30:17,060

he stated he would call back.

592

00:30:17,060 --> 00:30:21,060

He hung up the phone and he never called back.

593

00:30:21,060 --> 00:30:24,060

Using sledgehammers and shovels,

594

00:30:24,060 --> 00:30:27,060

the anxious investigators began to excavate.

595

00:30:28,060 --> 00:30:31,060

Soon, their worst fears were confirmed.

596

00:30:36,060 --> 00:30:39,060

Julius Patterson had been telling the truth.

597

00:30:41,060 --> 00:30:45,060

Julius Patterson has to be the worst type of person possible.

598

00:30:45,060 --> 00:30:50,060

For somebody to want to kill your sister, it's just mind-boggling.

599

00:30:50,060 --> 00:30:54,060

Like I said, I've never seen that in my entire police career.

600

00:30:54,060 --> 00:30:56,060

Something that tragic, especially.

601

00:30:58,060 --> 00:31:02,060

Police soon learned that from 1984 to 1986,

602

00:31:02,060 --> 00:31:06,060

Julius Patterson, Paulette Height, and Julius' sister Jesse

603

00:31:06,060 --> 00:31:08,060

had lived together in the house.

604

00:31:11,060 --> 00:31:14,060

Other members of the Patterson family confirmed

605

00:31:14,060 --> 00:31:18,060

that Jesse had mysteriously vanished in July of 1986.

606

00:31:24,060 --> 00:31:27,060

Testing later confirmed that the bones were the remains

607

00:31:27,060 --> 00:31:30,060

of Julius Patterson's 26-year-old sister Jesse.

608

00:31:30,060 --> 00:31:34,060

She had been born blind, deaf, and mute.

609

00:31:34,060 --> 00:31:36,060

It is almost too horrible to imagine

610

00:31:36,060 --> 00:31:39,060

that her brother who'd been entrusted with her care had murdered her,

611

00:31:39,060 --> 00:31:42,060

and apparently is part of a devious scheme

612

00:31:42,060 --> 00:31:45,060

to cash in on her social security benefits.

613

00:31:45,060 --> 00:31:48,060

But the investigation was just heating up.

614

00:31:48,060 --> 00:31:51,060

Julius Patterson had confessed to a second murder

615

00:31:51,060 --> 00:31:54,060

and had identified the victim as Gordney.

616

00:31:57,060 --> 00:32:00,060

Police eventually learned that during the 1980s,

617

00:32:00,060 --> 00:32:04,060

a man named Hall Luther Gordon, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease,

618

00:32:04,060 --> 00:32:08,060

had also been under the care of Julius Patterson and Paulette Height.

619

00:32:10,060 --> 00:32:12,060

Though unlicensed, Height made her living

620

00:32:12,060 --> 00:32:14,060

by providing home care for the elderly.

621

00:32:14,060 --> 00:32:17,060

She had met Gordon at a local boarding house.

622

00:32:17,060 --> 00:32:20,060

He was last seen in July of 1986.

623

00:32:20,060 --> 00:32:25,060

Around the same time, his two caretakers moved away from the neighborhood.

624

00:32:27,060 --> 00:32:30,060

If you look at both of the individuals,

625

00:32:30,060 --> 00:32:33,060

Hall Luther Gordon and Jesse Patterson,

626

00:32:33,060 --> 00:32:37,060

both of these people, for totally different reasons,

627

00:32:37,060 --> 00:32:40,060

were incapable of taking care of themselves

628

00:32:40,060 --> 00:32:45,060

and were completely at the mercy of the people that were entrusted with their care.

629

00:32:45,060 --> 00:32:48,060

Because someone took advantage of that situation,

630

00:32:48,060 --> 00:32:52,060

and that in itself is not that unusual, unfortunately.

631

00:32:52,060 --> 00:32:55,060

But the fact that they actually went on to kill them,

632

00:32:55,060 --> 00:32:59,060

for no other reason than to increase their own wealth,

633

00:32:59,060 --> 00:33:02,060

yes, that did take a special significance for us.

634

00:33:03,060 --> 00:33:06,060

These pictures of Julius Patterson and Paulette Height

635

00:33:06,060 --> 00:33:12,060

were taken by a bank ATM camera in August and September of 1991.

636

00:33:12,060 --> 00:33:15,060

Authorities believe that over a 10-year period,

637

00:33:15,060 --> 00:33:20,060

the pair may have stolen as much as \$150,000 from their victims.

638

00:33:23,060 --> 00:33:27,060

FBI agent Richard Kane and detective Duzak

639

00:33:27,060 --> 00:33:31,060

traced the missing fugitives to a motel in South New Jersey.

640

00:33:31,060 --> 00:33:36,060

They arrived only to discover that Patterson and Height

641

00:33:36,060 --> 00:33:38,060

had moved out the week before.

642

00:33:38,060 --> 00:33:40,060

He was here almost a year.

643

00:33:40,060 --> 00:33:47,060

We were able to track Paulette to another hotel down the road

644

00:33:47,060 --> 00:33:52,060

and found that she had stayed there for a night or two under an assumed name

645

00:33:52,060 --> 00:33:56,060

and had left there hurriedly abandoning possessions.

646

00:33:57,060 --> 00:34:03,060

Julius Patterson and Paulette Height were last seen in Philadelphia in September of 1991.

647

00:34:03,060 --> 00:34:07,060

The couple robbed an old friend of the Patterson family at gunpoint

648

00:34:07,060 --> 00:34:10,060

and then promptly dropped from sight.

649

00:34:12,060 --> 00:34:14,060

Julius Patterson is 38 years old.

650

00:34:14,060 --> 00:34:18,060

He is 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs 150 pounds.

651

00:34:18,060 --> 00:34:22,060

He is wanted for questioning regarding the death of his sister Jesse

652

00:34:22,060 --> 00:34:25,060

and the disappearance of Hall Luther Gordon.

653

00:34:25,060 --> 00:34:30,060

He is also wanted for armed robbery, assault and parole violations.

654

00:34:31,060 --> 00:34:34,060

Paulette Height is 44 years old.

655

00:34:34,060 --> 00:34:38,060

She is 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighs 190 pounds.

656

00:34:38,060 --> 00:34:42,060

She uses the aliases Collette Hoop or Paulette a Price.

657

00:34:42,060 --> 00:34:44,060

She is wanted on charges of armed robbery

658

00:34:44,060 --> 00:34:47,060

and fraudulent receipt of social security payments.

659

00:34:47,060 --> 00:34:53,060

She is also wanted for questioning regarding Jesse Patterson and Hall Luther Gordon.

660

00:34:54,060 --> 00:34:57,060

Following our most recent broadcast of the story,

661

00:34:57,060 --> 00:35:00,060

a former employer Paulette Height called our phone center

662

00:35:00,060 --> 00:35:06,060

to report that Height had been working in a fast food restaurant in Cliffside Park, New Jersey, under an assumed name.

663

00:35:06,060 --> 00:35:11,060

Here's what happened next, according to Philadelphia police lieutenant Joseph Whitty.

664

00:35:12,060 --> 00:35:15,060

It gave us the social security number she used in the FBI track,

665

00:35:15,060 --> 00:35:19,060

that social security number to a Wells Fargo recipient in New York City.

666

00:35:19,060 --> 00:35:25,060

FBI agents in New York City Police Department staked out the location where she was to pick up her checks.

667

00:35:25,060 --> 00:35:29,060

At that time, both Julius Patterson and Paulette Height were apprehended.

668

00:35:30,060 --> 00:35:36,060

After the arrest, Julius Patterson led police to this empty warehouse in North Philadelphia,

669

00:35:36,060 --> 00:35:40,060

where he said he had left the partial remains of Hall Luther Gordon.

670

00:35:41,060 --> 00:35:46,060

Police records confirm that some human bones had been found there in 1989.

671

00:35:46,060 --> 00:35:50,060

The police now believe that they were the remains of Hall Luther Gordon.

672

00:35:51,060 --> 00:35:55,060

Three weeks later, Patterson led police back to the same area,

673

00:35:55,060 --> 00:35:58,060

claiming that he had buried yet another victim there.

674

00:35:58,060 --> 00:36:01,060

During the search, the unexpected happened.

675

00:36:02,060 --> 00:36:07,060

While behind the factory, he saw one of the detectives knocking him down,

676

00:36:07,060 --> 00:36:13,060

and then ran down Jason Railroad tracks and jumped off a railroad truss that was about 10 feet tall,

677

00:36:13,060 --> 00:36:16,060

onto a street and then made his escape.

678

00:36:19,060 --> 00:36:24,060

Three days later, Julius Patterson was captured in an intersection in North Philadelphia.

679

00:36:24,060 --> 00:36:27,060

When he was apprehended, Patterson was standing at a bus stop,

680

00:36:27,060 --> 00:36:30,060

wearing severed handcuffs concealed under a coat.

681

00:36:55,060 --> 00:37:00,060

Sometimes from the most unlikely elements comes a tantalizing mystery,

682

00:37:00,060 --> 00:37:04,060

and confirmation that the truth is stranger than fiction.

683

00:37:04,060 --> 00:37:08,060

The mystery might start, say, with this broken-down footlocker.

684

00:37:08,060 --> 00:37:13,060

Who can guess what the old trunk might contain, or where it might lead?

685

00:37:15,060 --> 00:37:19,060

Perhaps to a small town in Wyoming called Thermopolis.

686

00:37:20,060 --> 00:37:26,060

In 1986, a long-time resident whom we will call Gabby moved away from Thermopolis.

687

00:37:26,060 --> 00:37:31,060

He left some of his belongings, including the old locked trunk and a shed.

688

00:37:31,060 --> 00:37:35,060

He left the shed with a friend, Newell Sessions.

689

00:37:36,060 --> 00:37:38,060

Six years crept by.

690

00:37:43,060 --> 00:37:46,060

Finally, Newell couldn't stand the suspense,

691

00:37:46,060 --> 00:37:48,060

another minute.

692

00:37:48,060 --> 00:37:51,060

Let's just see what's in here.

693

00:37:51,060 --> 00:37:53,060

No telling what we'll find.

694

00:37:53,060 --> 00:37:55,060

I doubt if you'll find much of anything.

695

00:37:55,060 --> 00:37:56,060

Uh-oh.

696

00:37:56,060 --> 00:37:58,060

My goodness, it's a skeleton.

697

00:37:58,060 --> 00:38:00,060

It's human.

698

00:38:00,060 --> 00:38:04,060

What do you think about that?

699

00:38:04,060 --> 00:38:07,060

It's been in there a long time.

700

00:38:07,060 --> 00:38:12,060

Nobody could believe that we had uncovered a human skeleton.

701

00:38:12,060 --> 00:38:16,060

And there wasn't too much said at that time.

702

00:38:16,060 --> 00:38:20,060

I think it was my wife asked me what we was going to do with it.

703

00:38:20,060 --> 00:38:26,060

I said, I think that the best thing we could do with it would be to take it out here and take a hole and give it a proper burial.

704

00:38:26,060 --> 00:38:28,060

Newell's wife put her foot down.

705

00:38:28,060 --> 00:38:30,060

She told him he had to call the sheriff.

706

00:38:30,060 --> 00:38:34,060

Before he did, though, Newell felt obliged to contact Gabby.

707

00:38:34,060 --> 00:38:36,060

I've got Karen and the kid.

708

00:38:36,060 --> 00:38:37,060

Oh, they're just fine.

709

00:38:37,060 --> 00:38:39,060

So what's up?

710

00:38:39,060 --> 00:38:43,060

Well, uh, you remember that shed you left up here?

711

00:38:43,060 --> 00:38:44,060

I sure do.

712

00:38:44,060 --> 00:38:48,060

Uh, you remember the foot locker that was in the shed?

713

00:38:48,060 --> 00:38:50,060

Yes, I was going to put it in the locker.

714

00:38:50,060 --> 00:38:53,060

Gabby told Newell that he'd never even opened the foot locker.

715

00:38:53,060 --> 00:38:55,060

He thought he'd bought it at a garage sale.

716

00:38:55,060 --> 00:39:00,060

But when it came to the time and the place, Gabby's memory failed him.

717

00:39:00,060 --> 00:39:04,060

Well, when I cut the lock off, I found a human skeleton in the trunk.

718

00:39:04,060 --> 00:39:07,060

You were, uh, a little too young.

719

00:39:08,060 --> 00:39:12,060

You were, uh, not serious about this, are you, Newell?

720

00:39:12,060 --> 00:39:18,060

He act probably as surprised as I did when I opened the trunk,

721

00:39:18,060 --> 00:39:19,060

that he couldn't believe it.

722

00:39:19,060 --> 00:39:21,060

He thought I was kidding him.

723

00:39:21,060 --> 00:39:23,060

And I told him, no, I'm not kidding you.

724

00:39:23,060 --> 00:39:25,060

There is a human skeleton in there.

725

00:39:25,060 --> 00:39:27,060

We've got Johnny.

726

00:39:27,060 --> 00:39:32,060

Newell's sessions contacted John Lumley, the sheriff of Hot Springs County.

727

00:39:32,060 --> 00:39:36,060

Right from the start, Sheriff Lumley smelled her out.

728

00:39:37,060 --> 00:39:38,060

Newell doesn't know much.

729

00:39:38,060 --> 00:39:40,060

He said Gabby doesn't know much.

730

00:39:40,060 --> 00:39:44,060

I've talked to a lot of people about this case, and everybody's said

731

00:39:44,060 --> 00:39:50,060

almost 99.99% or more that they would have opened it immediately upon purchase in it.

732

00:39:50,060 --> 00:39:52,060

They said if they went to a yard sale or garage sale,

733

00:39:52,060 --> 00:39:54,060

bought a trunk that's half the excitement.

734

00:39:54,060 --> 00:39:55,060

It's like a Christmas present.

735

00:39:55,060 --> 00:39:57,060

Can't wait to get home to open it.

736

00:39:57,060 --> 00:40:00,060

I don't think my curiosity is any less than the others,

737

00:40:00,060 --> 00:40:03,060

although it apparently has a tendency to antropy.

738

00:40:04,060 --> 00:40:06,060

Because I know I took the thing home.

739

00:40:06,060 --> 00:40:08,060

I didn't have a hacksaw.

740

00:40:08,060 --> 00:40:10,060

I was going to cut the lock on it.

741

00:40:10,060 --> 00:40:13,060

And that's a lot of work.

742

00:40:13,060 --> 00:40:16,060

Two days later, another bombshell.

743

00:40:16,060 --> 00:40:19,060

X-rays revealed a bullet lodged in the skull.

744

00:40:19,060 --> 00:40:23,060

Now Sheriff Lumley thought he might have a murder case on his hands.

745

00:40:23,060 --> 00:40:27,060

He decided he'd better have a chat with Gabby.

746

00:40:27,060 --> 00:40:29,060

Where did you buy the trunk at, Gabby?

747

00:40:29,060 --> 00:40:32,060

Oh, I guess it was 73.

748

00:40:32,060 --> 00:40:35,060

Gabby was awfully vague about the details.

749

00:40:35,060 --> 00:40:40,060

He said he might have bought the trunk in Wyoming, or in Iowa, Illinois,

750

00:40:40,060 --> 00:40:42,060

or maybe Oklahoma.

751

00:40:42,060 --> 00:40:46,060

It might have been as early as 1973, but it might not have been.

752

00:40:46,060 --> 00:40:48,060

Gabby just couldn't be sure.

753

00:40:48,060 --> 00:40:50,060

He's trying to find furniture for the new place.

754

00:40:50,060 --> 00:40:56,060

Well, my being a suspect, I first off, I wasn't the least bit worried about.

755

00:40:56,060 --> 00:40:59,060

Why? What do I have to worry about?

756

00:40:59,060 --> 00:41:02,060

I mean, really, you know, I know I didn't do the guy.

757

00:41:02,060 --> 00:41:06,060

You know, I didn't shoot this dude.

758

00:41:06,060 --> 00:41:12,060

I'm barely, in fact, I'm not even as old as the gun that shot him.

759

00:41:12,060 --> 00:41:15,060

Gabby is in his mid-40s.

760

00:41:15,060 --> 00:41:20,060

The footlocker and the lock were made back in the 30s time period.

761

00:41:20,060 --> 00:41:27,060

I don't believe that Gabby was the person that caused the death to this person.

762

00:41:27,060 --> 00:41:32,060

My thoughts have always been that he has knowledge of who the person the trunk is

763

00:41:32,060 --> 00:41:35,060

or where they came from.

764

00:41:35,060 --> 00:41:37,060

I have to put tools in.

765

00:41:37,060 --> 00:41:43,060

For the record, Gabby says he doesn't know one single thing about the bones in the footlocker.

766

00:41:43,060 --> 00:41:47,060

And at this point, he's a little irked by the whole mess.

767

00:41:49,060 --> 00:41:56,060

On March 31, 1992, Sheriff Lumley turned the skeleton over to the Wyoming State Crime Lab in Cheyenne.

768

00:41:57,060 --> 00:42:01,060

Maybe the bones could tell him what Gabby couldn't.

769

00:42:03,060 --> 00:42:06,060

It sure doesn't look like there's any organization to these bones, are they?

770

00:42:06,060 --> 00:42:07,060

Not really.

771

00:42:07,060 --> 00:42:10,060

OK, well, let's start laying it out.

772

00:42:14,060 --> 00:42:19,060

He was in his 50s to mid-60s.

773

00:42:19,060 --> 00:42:23,060

Probably stood about 5'8", plus or minus an inch and a half.

774

00:42:23,060 --> 00:42:26,060

He was a Caucasian male.

775

00:42:27,060 --> 00:42:43,060

The bullet was then turned over to our firearms examiner who was able to identify it as coming from a 25 caliber weapon that was produced in the early 1900s, 1904,

776

00:42:43,060 --> 00:42:47,060

and then available in the United States about 1908.

777

00:42:50,060 --> 00:42:52,060

Here's a plastic bag.

778

00:42:52,060 --> 00:42:57,060

Also in the trunk was a rotted plastic bag from a supermarket chain called Hi-Vees.

779

00:42:57,060 --> 00:43:03,060

The bag with that particular logo was not manufactured until the early 1950s.

780

00:43:08,060 --> 00:43:16,060

Investigators figured that the skeleton had been buried once, only to be dug up and crammed unceremoniously into the footlocker.

781

00:43:17,060 --> 00:43:25,060

In an effort to identify the victim, Sandra Mays fashioned a three-dimensional reconstruction in clay.

782

00:43:29,060 --> 00:43:31,060

The result is uncanny.

783

00:43:31,060 --> 00:43:33,060

Only the eyes and hair are guesswork.

784

00:43:33,060 --> 00:43:40,060

Otherwise, this should be a good likeness of the man who somehow got a bullet in his head sometime after 1908.

785

00:43:40,060 --> 00:43:44,060

Strangely, both of his lower leg bones and one hand were missing.

786

00:43:44,060 --> 00:43:49,060

On his ribcage, there were several nicks which might have been made by bullets.

787

00:44:08,060 --> 00:44:13,060

For every mystery, there is someone, somewhere who knows the truth.

788

00:44:13,060 --> 00:44:18,060

Join me next week for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.