

British Mail Robbery Still Mystifies Scotland Yard

By HARRY J. STATHOS
 United Press International
 LONDON (UPI) — Three months ago this week a gang operating with the efficiency of commandos robbed a British royal mail train and escaped with the largest cash haul in history.

Despite Scotland Yard's best efforts the case remains largely a mystery.

Although 19 persons have been arrested and charged in

connection with the sensational robbery, the gang's leaders apparently are still at large and most of the 2,631,749-pound (\$7,368,995) loot is still missing.

Scotland Yard's famed "Flying Squad" detectives have chipped away at the crime that startled the world last Aug. 8 when the Royal Mail train from Glasgow to London was held up near Cheddington, northwest of London.

Working day and night, sift-

ing clues from the scene of the underworld "stool-pigeons" seeking a share of a record offer of 260,000-pounds (\$728,000) reward money, Scotland Yard made the first arrests only one week after the robbery.

Since then—so far as the public knows—the case has been bogged down in an on-again, off-again pre-trial hearing at Aylesbury, not far from the scene of the crime, where the government has been present-

ing charges against the 16 men and three women so far accused.

Describes Robbery
 The prosecution opened its case by describing how on the night of Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 6:30 p.m., 70 sorters locked

themselves in two 60-foot-long post office coaches at Glasgow for the 401-mile trip to London.

At 3:02 o'clock the next morning, Jack Mills, 57, driver of the mail train, slackened his speed from 80 miles an hour to obey an amber signal—rigged by the

robbers. A faked red signal stopped him. Mills' fireman, David Whitby, 26, climbed down in the dark to investigate, saw a shadowy figure and asked the classic British question "What's up, mate?" He soon found out. "If you shout," said the stranger. "I will kill you."

In the cab, Mills was slugged from behind.

The overall-clad bandits, armed with blackjacks, crow-bars and one axe, took 120 bags of old five-pound and one-pound notes—destined for destruction by the bank of England—from the train, loaded the haul onto a truck and two jeeps, and sped off into the night. The entire operation took 20 minutes.

Farmhouse Raided
 The first break in the case came five days after the robbery when Flying Squad detectives—acting on a telephone tip—raided a lonely farmhouse in Buckinghamshire County and found the hideout of the gang. When detectives and police ar-

rived at "Leatherslade Farm," about 17 miles from the scene of the robbery, they found evidence that the gang had fled hurriedly. They also found a litter of empty mail bags.

Acting from clues presumably found in the hideout, Scotland Yard carried out a series of raids in London and surrounding areas and the first arrests in the case were made Aug. 15. Two men were picked up at the seaside resort of Bournemouth and one man and two women were arrested at their homes in London. Within the next few days police recovered 274,297 pounds (\$768,131) apparently dumped or hidden in panic.

Among the top suspects still hunted were a 28-year-old racing driver, Roy John James, called "The Weasel," and two antique dealers, John Thomas Daly, 32, and Bruce Richard Reynolds, 41.

Almost from the beginning it has been rumored that the man

in charge of the great mail robbery was a onetime commando officer known as "The Major." So far as is known, "The Major" is still among the missing.

Under British law the state must show at a pre-trial hearing that it has enough evidence to warrant putting the suspects on trial.

The prosecution said 15 men took part in the train robbery and then holed up at Leatherslade Farm, where they whiled away the first hours after the robbery playing "monopoly" and drinking beer.

Even as the hearing dragged on, Scotland Yard gave out 50,000 copies of posters bearing photographs of five men and four women wanted for questioning. This made it evident that regardless of the men and women in custody, Scotland Yard did not claim to have the case wrapped up.

Barbara Maria Allan, 22, and Frances Reynolds. Their pictures were widely publicized, too.

Interpol, the international police organization which had been called into the case almost immediately, was asked to check reports that Daly and Reynolds might have gone to Germany or Austria seeking plastic surgery to change their looks. They have been hunted since all over Europe, and Britain.

Public Prefers To Use Own Cars

DENVER, Colo., (UPI)—Denver University traffic engineers say monorail or other types of rapid transit will not become a reality in Denver until the cost of driving becomes prohibitive.

The engineers said the public refuses to leave cars at home and use mass transit. The Denver Tramway Corp. carries only about one-third as many passengers as it did in World War II.

Today's automobiles may have a dozen electric motors.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

YOUNG SHAMUS O'TOOLE, born and raised in the deep South, got tired of being called "That so-and-so Irishman" by various townspeople. He said, "I'm going back to the land of my forefathers—where EVERYBODY is Irish, and I won't be called 'That Irishman any longer.'"

He moved to County Cork, Ireland. And he was right. In Ireland they called him "That so-and-so American."



Mrs. Wilson was delighted last week when her teen-aged daughter Liz hung up the phone after only twenty minutes—only one-third the time of one of her average calls. "Your friend must have had a date she couldn't keep waiting," observed Mrs. Wilson sarcastically. "That wasn't a friend," said Liz. "It was a wrong number."

PUNS WORTH REMEMBERING:
 F.P.A.'s "She was suffering from falling archness."
 Addison Mizner's "Absinthe makes the heart grow fonder."
 Carolyn Wells' "Every dogma must have its day" and "One man's fish is another man's poison."

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