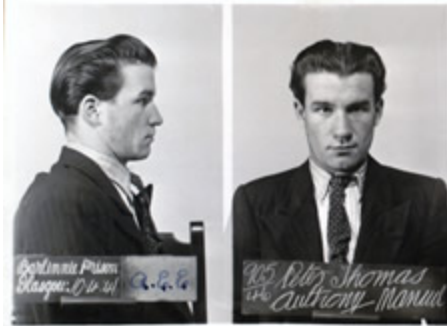


Peter Manuel

Beast of Birkenshaw



Information researched and summarized by:
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Date	Age	Life Event
03/15/1927	0	Born in Misericordia Hospital, Manhattan, New York. Peter has an older brother, James who was born in 1925.
1932	5	Moved from U.S. to Motherwell, Scotland, due to father being terribly ill and mother wanting to be around family for help
1934	7	Sister Teresa is born.
1937	10	Attended Park St. Roman Catholic School in Motherwell, Scotland
1938	11	Family moved to Coventry, England
1939	12	First court appearance. Was bound for over 12 months for shoplifting, breaking and entering, and larceny
1942	15	Broke into his teacher's house, attacked his wife by beating her with a candle stick holder, and then hid in the school's nativity scene during the day. Charged with assault and breaking and entering.
06/24/1942	15	Went to Southport Juvenile Court on three charges of breaking into houses.
03/15/1943	16	Appeared in front of the Market Weighton Court and was committed to a borstal (youth prison) for two years.
1943 or 1944 (not real clear)		Manuel was struck on the right side of his forehead by a piece of steel from an air raid bomb attack. He was knocked unconscious for few hours and was "blank minded" for a few days.
1944		Received an electric shock from his job that resulted in a loss of consciousness as well as burns – three coworkers died in the incident. Peter had memory problems in the years following the accident.
March 1945	17	Released from Rochester Borstal Institution
02/17/1946	18	Arrested for breaking into a home and stealing a watch.
02/21/1946	18	Released on bail.
03/03/1946	18	Attacked a mother of a 3-year old child in Mt. Vernon Glasgow. He

		kicked and beat her brutally, but did not rape her.
03/07/1946		Four days after first attack, he attacked young nurse along Calder Rd Bellshill, only 6 miles from Mt. Vernon Glasgow, but didn't rape her.
03/08/1946		Attacked a 26-year old female on Ferry Rd, Bothwell. He banged her head against the ground and raped her.
03/09/1946		Arrested for the attack of the March 8 victim.
03/21/1946	19	Sent to prison for 12 months for 15 charges of breaking and entering into houses.
06/26/1946		Appeared at High Court of Judiciary in Glasgow for the rape charge.
1946		Convicted of committing rape.
1946		Appeared at Coventry, Ely, Cambridge, Darlington, Manchester, South Port, Hull, Beverly, Market Whiton, and Yorkshire courts for breaking and entering into houses and shops.
1946-1952		Convicted for crimes not specified and spent the next 6 years in prison.
1953	26	Released from prison
1953		Received a job at the Gas Board Company
1955		His engagement to Anne O'Hara was called off due to differences about religion.
1955		The same day his engagement was called off he abducted Mary McLaughlan at knife point and attempted to rape her.
01/01/1956	28	Killed 1 st victim in series, Anne Kneilands
		Killed 2 nd victim, Sydney Dunn
September 1956	29	Gets a gun from Peter Hamilton
09/16/1956		Killed 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th victims (the Watt family)
09/17/1956		Watt family bodies are found by their housekeeper
12/28/1957		Killed 6 th victim Isabelle Cooke
01/01/1958		Killed 7 th , 8 th , 9 th victims (the Smart Family)
01/02/1958		Gave Constable Robert Smith a ride to search area for Isabelle Cooke
01/13/1958		Arrested for murder
01/16/1958		Body of Isabelle Cooke found. Manuel provides a written confession for the four sets of murders.
05/12/1958	31	Trial begins
05/29/1958	31	4:00 p.m. – 13 th day of trial, Peter announces he's representing himself
05/29/1958		13 th day of trial – Manuel refutes the charges against him: Charge 1: murder of Anne Kneiland on 2 Jan 1956 Charge 2: break-in at Platt house in Sept. 1956 Charge 3 & 4: break-ins and murders at Fennsbank Ave. in Sept. 1956 Charge 5: break-in and theft at Mt. Vernon 25 Dec 1957 Charge 6: murder of Isabelle Cooke 28 Dec 1957 Charge 7 & 8: murders of Smart Family and theft of their car 01 Jan 1958

May 1958		Manuel discussed what happened at these times:
		<p>Charge 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -He was working in East Kilbride on 04 Jan 1956 when he found out a dead girl had been found at Caplerig. -One week later he saw Superintendent Hendry of Lanarkshire CID (11 Jan 1956) -Hendry asked Peter if he'd been in East Kilbride and when Peter answered "no", Hendry said a bus conductress had said otherwise -11 Jan 1956: police take Peter's clothing from his dwelling and when they return Peter assures them he was not in East Kilbride, his proof is that he got into a fight in Glasgow and went drinking the following night (02-03 Jan 1956) -14 Jan 1956- Manuel's photo was to appear in the <i>Scottish Daily Press</i> next to a brief article about the murder
		<p>Charge 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Peter was in possession of an electric razor he said to have been given to him by Tallis
		<p>Charge 3 & 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -claimed he didn't break into Mrs. Martin's house -claimed Tallis boasted about being paid to break into a house on that avenue -July 1956: Tallis showed Peter two .38's -Peter arranged to meet Tallis 16 Sept (day before Watt murders) at Woodend Hotel- Tallis didn't show, Peter went home with a woman -Tallis goes to Manuel's (Sr.) at 10:00am on 17 Sept 1956, later Manuel challenges Tallis about three murders in Burnside -After 18 Sept. 1956 Manuel finds a .38 in the dining room table drawer along with 5 empty shells -23 Sept 1956 Tallis admits to leaving the gun in the drawer -Tallis claims Watts admitted to killing his wife
		<p>Charge 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Manuel denied crime- claimed to be watching a program about boxing and could describe what he watched after that
		<p>Charge 6:</p>

		-Manuel said he couldn't have committed the crime because he was in Glasgow at the time of the killing
		<p>Charge 7 & 8:</p> <p>-Peter claimed he knew Smart family, and had since 1953</p> <p>-Prior to 25 Dec 1957, Smart asked Manuel if he could get him a gun</p> <p>-31 Dec 1957, Manuel and Smart meet at Royal Oak for gun exchange</p> <p>-Manuel went to Smart's house on Smart's request, where Peter found all three family members dead- said it looked like a murder suicide (essentially by today's standards), he then took the gun from beside Smart's body</p> <p>-Manuel called in the murders when he didn't hear about them in the papers</p>
May 1958		-Manuel claimed that he wrote the confession so that the police would leave his family alone (they threatened him)
May 1958		-Manuel is cross-examined by Mr. Gillies
May 1958		<p>Manuel explains his claims about all charges against him:</p> <p>Kneiland charge: Peter's facial scratches were explained by his previous fight, no skin samples were taken from victim's body.</p> <p>Platt charge: said the razor had been in his house long before the time of the break-in</p> <p>Martin charge: Tallis knew full descriptions of the rings; Tallis said he read about them in the paper on 17 Sept, when they weren't officially confirmed to be missing until 21 Sept.</p> <p>Watt murders: Watt had no motive to kill his family, but Manuel had even less of a motive to shoot these 3 people</p> <p>Houston house breaking: claimed to be watching television at the time and could give detail on the programs he watched.</p> <p>Cooke murder: Manuel was at the cinema at the time of the murder; claimed if he killed someone he'd take care to not be seen (an eye witness picked him out)</p> <p>Smart murders: the link between him and the murders was "extremely thin"; also not being the "confessing type" it was inexplicable for him to have simply confessed on his own free will</p>
May 1958		The judge reviews Manuel's speech with the jury
05/29/1958		4:50 p.m.- jury confirms they have a verdict

		<p>The verdicts stand:</p> <p>Charge 1: Murder of Anne Kneiland – not guilty</p> <p>Charge 2: Platt break-in – guilty</p> <p>Charge 3: Martin break-in – guilty</p> <p>Charge 4: Watt murders – guilty of capital murder</p> <p>Charge 5: Houston break-in – not proven</p> <p>Charge 6: Cooke murder – guilty of murder</p> <p>Charge 7: Smart murders – guilty of capital murder</p> <p>Charge 8: Theft of Smart’s car – guilty</p>
05/29/1958		Manuel found guilty and sentenced to death.
05/30/1958		Newspaper headlines read “Manuel to Hang”
06/20/1958		Manuel is seen slightly frothing at the mouth, his stomach is then pumped but nothing of consequence is found
06/24/1958		<p>Taken to Appeal Court</p> <p>6 Grounds of Appeal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written and verbal “confessions” should not have been admitted 2. Judge had misdirected the jury as to the burden of proof relating to the special defenses 3. The verdict in the Martin housebreaking was “contrary to evidence” 4. The jury were misdirected as to the question of motive regarding Watt murders 5. Judge failed to summarize the evidence of the witnesses Taylor and Morrison fairly in support of the special defense of impeachment of William Watt 6. The judge misdirected the jury in directing them that the finding of the body and shoes in the Cooke murder could be regarded as independent evidence capable of corroborating the alleged confession
July 1958	32	Petition for clemency was turned down by the Scottish Secretary, John McClay
07/11/1958	32	Died 08.01 hours at HM Prison Barlinnie, Glasgow. The cause of death was “Judicial Hanging.”
General Information		
Sex		Male
Race		White

Number of victims	9 killed
Country where killing occurred	Scotland
States where killing occurred	
Cities where killing occurred	Glasgow, Birkenshaw, Lanarkshire
Type of killer	Power Killer
Height	5'4"
Childhood Information	
Date of birth	March 15, 1927
Location	Misericordia Hospital Manhattan, NY
Birth order	2 nd of 3
Number of siblings	2
Birth category	Middle
XYY?	
Raised by	Both parents
Parent's marital status	Married
Did serial killer spend time in an orphanage?	No
Did serial killer spend time in a foster home?	No
Was serial killer ever raised by a relative?	No
Did serial killer live with a step-parent?	No
Family event	Moved to Britain because father turned very ill
Age of family event	5 years old
Problems in school?	Yes
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	Yes
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Air raid hit by missile
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	No
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Welder by trade, but had many different jobs
Age of first sexual experience	N/A
Age when first had intercourse	N/A
Mother's occupation	Stayed at home
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	Grammar school
Highest degree	Did not receive one
Grades in school	N/A
IQ	High IQ but never identified a number
Source of IQ information	A.M. Nicol Book pg.
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	None
Type of discharge	None
Saw combat duty	None
Killed enemy during service?	None

Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No, but he did help solve some cases that he said he had valuable information for the police.
Fired from jobs?	No
Types of jobs worked	Laborer
Employment status during series	Employed by a rail station
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single; He was engaged for 3 months but his girlfriend called it off b/c of differences in religious beliefs
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	None
Living with	Occasionally with his family, by himself, and with other people he did not know and they didn't know he was living in their home with them.
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)?	No
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	No
Diagnosis	Memory loss, & Psychopathic Personality Disorder
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes, he started with petty theft, and went to sexual assault before he started series
Spent time in jail?	Yes
Spent time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	9
Victim type	Families, young man & young women
Killer age at start of series	29
Date of first kill in series	January 2 nd , 1956
Date of final kill in series	January 1 st , 1958
Gender of victims	Male & Female
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	Varied in age: 17, 45, 16, 41, 36, 17, 45, 42, 10
Type of victim	Two Families, Two young women, one young man
Method of killing	1 st Victim: 17 year old woman, he bashed her head in with a tree stump 2 nd , 3 rd , & 4 th (Family) Victims: 45, 16, & 41 killed with a .38 revolver 5 th Victim: .38 revolver that left a 5inch gash in his throat 6 th victim: 7 th ,8 th ,9 th (family) victims: shot in the head

Weapon	Tree stump, .38 revolver
Was gun used?	With the 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th victims
Type	.38 revolver
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	
Sex of partner	
Relationship of partner	
Type of serial killer	Psychopath
How close did killer live?	Never specified but was within walking distance
Location of first contact	1 st victim: on the street 2 nd , 3 rd , & 4 th (Family) victims: at their house 5 th victim: at the train station 6 th victim: outside her house 7 th , 8 th , 9 th (Family) victims: at their house
Location of killing	1 st victim: golf course 2 nd , 3 rd , & 4 th (Family) victims: at their house 5 th victim: 150 yds. from his taxi 6 th victim: in a field 7 th , 8 th , 9 th (family): at their house
Killing occurred in home of victim?	1 st : No 2 nd , 3 rd , & 4 th (Family): Yes 5 th : No but did occur 150yds from his taxi cab which was his employment 6 th : no but took her from her home 7 th , 8 th , 9 th (Family): Yes in their beds
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	1 st : Killed at contact 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th (Family): killed at contact 5 th : killed at contact 6 th : victim abducted 7 th , 8 th , & 9 th (Family): killed at contact
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	6 th victim yes
Tortured victims?	He liked to hear them beg. It got him aroused
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	3 rd victim yes
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	7 th , 8 th , 9 th victim
Robbed victim or location	Last murder with his 7 th , 8 th , and 9 th victims yes
Disposal of Body	

Left at scene, no attempt to hide	1 st (Anne Kneilands): left at scene 2 nd ,3 rd ,4 th (Watt Family): left at scene 5 th (Sydney Dunn): left at scene 150 yards in front of his taxi 7 th ,8 th , & 9 th (Smart Family): left at scene
Left at scene, hidden	
Left at scene, buried	6 th (Isabelle Cook): left at the scene but buried her
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-op and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	January 13 th , 1958
Date convicted	May 29 th , 1958
Sentence	Death
Killer executed?	Yes, he was hanged
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No plea
Did serial killer confess?	Yes, he had confessed to Anne Kneilands death even though he had been acquitted for it prior to his sentencing.
Name and state of prison	HBP Peterhead, Glasgow
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	July 11 th , 1958
Cause of death	Hanged

REFERENCES

Nicol, A.M. (2008). *Manuel: Scotland's first serial killer*. Edinburgh, SCT: Black & White Publishing Ltd.