

Trina Guthrie Affidavit [from Murray, Gary, *Enemies of the State*, Simon & Schuster, 1993, pp199-203]

1. I am over twenty-one years of age and currently employed as a Publications Manager for the Royal Society for Nature Conservation based in Lincoln. In my spare time I act as an unofficial voluntary visitor to Her Majesty's Prisons where I offer general assistance to convicted prisoners.

2. I am making this statement at the request of Writer-Investigator Gary Murray who is of the opinion that I am in possession of important evidence relating to the outstanding murder of anti-nuclear protester HILDA MURRELL, who died in March 1984 shortly before she was due to appear at a public hearing convened in the County of Suffolk. It was Miss Murrell's intention to present her own researched thesis complaining of various aspects of nuclear waste and safety associated with the Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) that was at that time being planned for Sizewell B Power Station. I was a close friend of the deceased and had an intimate knowledge of her anti-nuclear views, I was also aware of the fact that she was preparing her own paper for presentation at the Sizewell B public hearing where she would have highlighted various aspects of waste disposal and security.

3. My relationship with Hilda developed when I was a young woman, after getting to know her via my mother. We became very friendly and occasionally went on holiday together. It would be accurate to describe our relationship as being very similar to that of an aunt and niece. I was aware of Hilda's passion for the countryside and her worries about the nuclear industry and pollution. This concern was such that she would write regularly to newspapers and members of Parliament. On one occasion she even wrote to the Prime Minister to voice her complaints. We would often discuss her views on nuclear issues and from time to time she would talk with me about her paper. During November 1983 Hilda passed to me for checking a draft copy of her lengthy paper, approximately 19 pages in all. I have passed this on to Gary Murray for safe keeping.

4. Throughout 1983 I was associating with a male friend who I shall now refer to as "LM". We were very close, and in fact lived together a short distance from Hilda's home in Sutton Road, Shrewsbury. LM, Hilda and myself would often spend time together at Hilda's house. We even went on holiday together to Anglesey a few months before the murder. On these occasions we would often discuss Hilda's paper. All three of us even attended meetings of The Shrewsbury Peace Group, a local organisation concerned about the threat of nuclear war.

5. Under normal circumstances such a three-way relationship between a high-profile campaigner and like-minded colleagues could well be considered nothing out of the ordinary. However, in this case there were a number of anomalies that appear to have been overlooked or perhaps conveniently ignored by police investigating the murder:

(a) I was a close friend and confidant in possession of documents passed to me shortly before the murder. The contents of these papers related to embarrassing deficiencies within the nuclear industry.

(b) My boyfriend, LM, was the son of a Signals Intelligence officer who was, and as far as I am aware still is, employed by the Ministry of Defence in Shrewsbury. His work is said to be top secret and he requires regular positive vetting by the Security authorities.

6. Immediately following the announcement of Hilda's murder, my boyfriend and I were initially in a state of deep shock, so much so it did not occur to us that we might be valuable witnesses. Consequently we did not bother to contact the police.

In any event friends, known to both myself and Hilda, and who had been interviewed, informed me that they had told police officers of my identity and the fact that I was a close friend of the deceased, and that I might assist their enquiry if they contacted me. I find it most strange that after eight years my boyfriend and I have been totally overlooked, despite assurances from the authorities that investigators have exhausted their efforts in a nationwide search for Hilda's killer/killers. I am unable to accept the official line, that she was murdered by a chance burglar.

7. After the hue and cry surrounding Hilda's death had subsided, I found that my own personal circumstances had changed, resulting in a move from Shrewsbury to my current address in Lincoln. I managed to resume a fairly normal life, until January 1988 when a series of unpleasant events led me to believe that my home had been searched and my telephone calls intercepted. However, after contacting a local solicitor my circumstances stabilised.

8. Despite my heavy work schedule I have never forgotten my close friend Hilda Murrell, and at every opportunity have sought advice and/or questioned numerous sources in the hope of uncovering some small clue that might lead to the truth.

It was on such an occasion in November 1991, when I was speaking to an ex-prisoner, that I was told a current serving prisoner had considerable knowledge of the Hilda Murrell affair. I obtained his identity and made arrangements to visit him.

9. I was astounded when he revealed that he had shared a prison wing with another long term prisoner who had stated that he had been in charge of a small group responsible for the surveillance of Hilda. I immediately contacted Gary Murray and after lengthy discussion it was agreed that I would visit this prisoner over a period, for the purpose of collating as much information as possible. I was specifically briefed by Mr Murray in methods of cross-examination, and also provided with a number of key questions that were designed to test my informant's reliability. Over a number of weeks throughout 1991 I carefully questioned my

source, whose full name and location have been made known to Mr Murray. The following story emerged.

10. Having been moved to a prison close to York, my informant shared a wing with a long term prisoner serving 15 years for armed robbery. They became close friends and it was as a result of this friendship that the following data came into the possession of my informant.

11. The armed robber, whose identity and location have also been made known to Gary Murray, stated that he had been in charge of what was described to me as a “cell”, a group of four men and one woman who had been engaged in regular freelance work for some kind of secret intelligence department. One of their assignments had been to search Hilda Murrell’s house for papers or information relating to signals intelligence, specific mention was made of the *Belgrano* and the Falklands. The most frightening aspect of the informant’s story is that the leader of the group was said to be reporting to the Cabinet Office via an MI5 Liaison Officer and that the team, in addition to their government work, were also engaged in all manner of other illegal activity, including armed robbery for which they were arrested some time after Hilda’s death.

12. On the occasion of the search of Hilda’s house in March 1984 there were allegedly three male and one female operatives searching the property when she unexpectedly returned home. Confusion and panic ensued and one of the perpetrators became very unstable and subjected Hilda to violence and threatened her with a knife, accompanied by obscene sexual acts involving masturbation. At this point in the proceedings one of the team, plus the woman member who dressed up in Hilda’s coat and hat, left the house and drove off, returning some time later, at which time Hilda was removed from the house and taken to a local area which has been described to me as some kind of military base or former American airfield known as “Little America”, or simply “America”. I understand that Gary Murray has located such an area just outside of Shrewsbury. Two days later Hilda was taken to the copse where her body was eventually found.

13. According to my informant, the other criminal activities of the team resulted in one of them dying of gunshot wounds during a police chase. A second male member of the team was, and still is, incarcerated in a secure psychiatric hospital. The team leader is currently serving 15 years for armed robbery and is insisting he was “fitted up”. The female operative received a two-year sentence on other criminal charges and has now been released. Nothing is known about the whereabouts of the remaining member of the group, who has been described as a Nazi enthusiast in the habit of adopting names of German military colleagues of the late Adolph Hitler.

14. I have applied considerable thought to the testimony and credibility of my informant and do of course understand the value of hearsay evidence.

However, given all the unusual and controversial circumstances surrounding the death of Hilda Murrell, I verily believe that it is in the public interest to activate either a public or judicial investigation into her death, and that in view of past, unrelated, events involving the use by Security Services of criminals on freelance assignments, serious consideration should be tendered to my informant's statement.

15. I would like to conclude by saying that I am fully aware of the offence of perjury and that I swear this affidavit with the sincere belief that the claims of my informant may well be relevant to the murder of Hilda Murrell. I am of sound mind and body and am not making this statement for any pecuniary advantage. The identities of the team said to have been responsible for Hilda's murder, along with the personal details of my informant have been supplied to Gary Murray.

16. Finally, I respectfully point out that as a prisoner isolated from society, my informant has no protection and should it ever become known that he has supplied me with this information and assistance, it is more than likely his life will be in danger.