



# Black Out Ripper

SERIAL KILLER

World War II

# Blackout Ripper

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The man who took control of the blackout scare.



From 1940 to 1941,  
the Germans attacked the British army.



The British endured **BLACKOUT** for nearly  
3 years.

The blackout was a perfect opportunity for  
evil-doers.<sup>1</sup>





Victims

# Day1

## Evelyn Margaret Hamilton

Age: 40 years old

Occupation: pharmacist

She was last seen getting into a cab.

No one knows where she went.<sup>2</sup>



# Day2

## Evelyn Oatley

Age: 35 years old

Occupation: Part-time actress and Prostitute

A fingerprint was found on a thrown away can opener.

It showed that the killer was **left-handed**.

The fingerprints did not match those kept by the police, so the killer was found to have NO CRIMINAL RECORD.<sup>3</sup>



# Day3

## Pearl Lowe

Age: 43years old

Occupation: prostitute

She was attacked when she left home to pay her daughter's school tuition.<sup>4</sup>



# Day4

## **Doris Uoa**

Age: 32 years old

Occupation: prostitute and housewife

Though She is married, she headed to the crime scene to meet her new boyfriend and jumped right into the path of the Blackout Ripper.<sup>5</sup>





# Day5

## Greta Hayward

Age: 32 years old

Occupation: unknown

She escaped death.<sup>6</sup>





# Background of the case

The London police were short-staffed.

Crime had increased by 50% between 1939 and 1945, and the understaffed police force was unable to cope with the looting and extortion that was endemic in the capital.

The London police were short-staffed.

⇒ This was convenient for the killers.

Everything was in short supply, the black market was thriving, and the confusion of the bombings provided a hiding place for thieves as well as killers.<sup>7</sup>

# Investigation

All the victims were prostitutes or potential prostitutes

All the crimes were committed in the evening and early morning

All took place in central London.



The police thought...

they were all being done by the **same** man.



# Real Criminal

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Gordon Frederick Cummins  
(1914~1942)<sup>8</sup>





# Gordon Frederick Cummins

- Killed 4 people
  - 28 years old
  - Airman
  - Married man
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- Because of his refined manner and his noble family background, his nickname was “The Count.”
  - He had no criminal record and was not considered a violent man.<sup>9</sup>

# The arrest

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He was arrested on February 16.

The killer left a **gas mask case** at the crime scene.

The gas mask case had the identification number 525987, which Air Force records identified as belonging to Gordon Frederick Cummins.



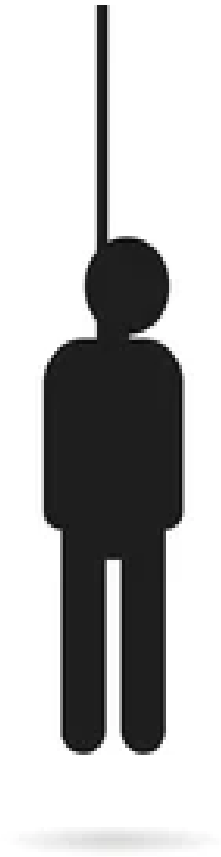


# Evidence

- ✓ Gas mask case
- ✓ The victim's cigarette case (found in his uniform pocket)
- ✓ The victim's fountain pen (found in his room)
- ✓ Fingerprints found on a can opener

In addition, it turned out that Cummins was actually a womanizer and left-handed.





# Execution

**He was hanged on June 25, 1942.**

His wife believed in his claim of innocence to the end and continued to support him.<sup>10</sup>

1. <https://www.keymilitary.com/article/blackout-ripper>
2. <https://www.murdermiletours.com/blog/murder-mile-true-crime-podcast-25-the-blackout-ripper-part-1-evelyn-margaret-hamilton>
3. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11463439/Rampage-blackout-ripper-Gordon-Cummins-crimes-forgotten-fog-Blitz.html>
4. <https://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk/article/the-blackout-ripper-a-serial-killer-in-wartime-london>
5. <https://www.murdermiletours.com/blog/murder-mile-true-crime-podcast-28-the-blackout-ripper-part-four-doris-elizabeth-jouanett>
6. <https://www.murdermiletours.com/blog/murder-mile-true-crime-podcast-28-the-blackout-ripper-part-four-doris-elizabeth-jouanet>
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11463439/Rampage-blackout-ripper-Gordon-Cummins-crimes-forgotten-fog-Blitz.html>
8. [https://criminalminds.fandom.com/wiki/Gordon\\_Cummins](https://criminalminds.fandom.com/wiki/Gordon_Cummins)
9. <https://fullybooked2017.com/2016/07/12/the-blackout-killer/>
10. <https://crimescribe.com/2024/01/23/gordon-cummins-the-blackout-ripper-hanged-during-an-air-raid/>