

BABCOCK WORKER JAILED FOR KILLINGS

Stressed 46-year-old shot 2 people with pistol

A BABCOCK workman who admitted killing his annoying neighbour and then his own wife by shooting them in the head has been jailed for 14 years.

German-Russian Dimitri Simonov from Neuenbeken, a suburb of Paderborn, shot 76-year-old Helmut Hoischem on the pensioner's doorstep at night following a long-running feud.

When Simonov told his wife Olena what he had done, she became hysterical and he aimed the handgun at her head and pulled the trigger – after first firing a warning shot.

Father-of-three Simonov denied murder, claiming he was stressed at the time he committed the acts in May of this year.

However, he told a Paderborn court through a lawyer: "I have wiped out two lives, brought unspeakable suffering to the Hoischem family and destroyed the lives of my children."

"It is a terrible tragedy that I must answer for."

Last Tuesday (November 24) the 46-year-old, who worked as a civilian heating engineer in BFG for two years, was found guilty of murder, in the case of Helmut Hoischem, and manslaughter, in the case of Mrs Simonov, at a hearing at the Schwurgericht.

The court heard how the workman for Babcock, which provides facilities management services to BFG, had an ongoing dispute with the neighbour that came to a boil on May 12.

by Phil Welsh
and Sina Wollgramm

The pensioner was said to be angered by the untidy state of Simonov's property, and the two had run-ins over a compost heap and boundary lines.

ARGUMENT

On May 11, the day before the incident, the defendant had learned that his youngest child had been diagnosed with a serious medical condition, which led to an argument with his wife.

Shortly after midnight, Dimitri Simonov rang Herr Hoischem's doorbell, and when he opened the door, the defendant shot him without warning.

Judge Bernd Emminghaus said: "Herr Hoischem could not have expected a violent attack, let alone a life-threatening one."

There had never been any physical altercation between them up to that point, although Herr Hoischem had used harsh words, the court heard.

The court believed that Simonov, who had served in the Russian army, hid his revolver behind his back as he stood at Hoischem's front door.

"We have no doubt that this first version of events [that he told police after his arrest] is correct," the judge said, adding there was an apparent element of malice.

Prosecutor Fabian Klein, who wanted two murder convictions, said: "Helmut Hoischem had no chance to defend himself, no chance to get away."

The court accepted that the defendant had no motive to intentionally kill his wife, believing that he had reacted to Olena's becoming hysterical. He had first

fired a warning shot before blasting her in the head.

The court heard that police also found many knives, a machete, ammunition and an assault rifle, without a permit, in the defendant's home.

Although he was convicted of one charge of murder, which carries a life sentence, Simonov was sentenced to a total of 14 years behind bars after a psychologist testified he could not rule out the possibility that the defendant's mental state was seriously diminished at the time of the crimes.

The serious health issue of the defendant's youngest child, the resulting marital problems as well as the increasing tension with the neighbour had been a heavy burden on the 46-year-old, the court heard. There was an indication of impulsive, emotionally disturbed behaviour on the night in question.

Defence lawyers Holger Rostek and Jann Hendrik Popkes argued that neither of the killings was carried out with malice and should be seen as manslaughter.

"He is not a monster, a professional killer or a war criminal," stressed Mr. Rostek. "He is a human being."

Moreover, the defendant had a spotless character before the shootings. In court, colleagues described the defendant as friendly, reliable and helpful.

The defence team saw the verdicts as a partial success, as their client did not receive a life-long jail sentence. However, they believe the conviction of murder for the "malicious" killing is wrong and plan to appeal the court's decision.

They hope to get the murder conviction reduced to manslaughter and thereby get Simonov a lighter sentence.

● Lt Col Stu Whittle, Station Commander Elmpt/CO 16 Sig Regt, presents Rudy Campos, 80, with a certificate and plaque for his long service to Elmpt Station



Heartfelt thanks to Rudy

SPRIGHTLY octogenarian Rudy Campos has been commended for his long and exceptional service to the Elmpt Community.

The barber and former driver was issued with the Station Commander's Certificate of Appreciation and a commemorative plaque by Lt Col Stu Whittle, Station Commander Elmpt/CO 16 Sig Regt, just prior to closure of Javelin Barracks.

Rudy arrived at Elmpt in 1953 (the year the Soviet Union leader Joseph Stalin died) as an 18-year-old RAF Supplier, and upon demobilisation in 1954, he transferred to the Motor Transport department as a driver.

Following his completion of service, Rudy moved straight

by Rex Thompson
Photo: Charlie Booker

across to be a locally employed civilian driver.

RETRAINED

Still somewhat enamoured with Elmpt, he retrained as a barber as he approached retirement age (between bus driving jobs he would perform the odd haircut) and upon his 65th birthday officially retired from his driving duties and set up a barber shop on Elmpt Station.

Now approaching his 81st birthday, Rudy is once again retiring. He will be fondly missed for his larger than life character, his positive zest for life and his wicked sense of humour.

Film buff Hal sets a world record



● Chuffed – BFBS presenter Hal Stewart proved he knows films well by setting a new world record for naming the most film quotes identified consecutively

BFBS Radio's Hal Stewart has set a brand new Guinness World Record for naming the most film quotes identified consecutively.

The producer and presenter proved his dedication to big screen banter as he wowed colleagues and two adjudicators by naming 100 film quotes out of 100.

"I've been preparing for this moment my entire life. I watch far too many movies and would definitely describe myself as a film buff – this is also the only time I can describe myself as 'buff' without people laughing," said Hal.

The film quotes were lifted from the American Film Institute's list entitled AFI's 100 Years... 100 Movie Quotes, and there was no room for error.

MEMORY

Films had to be recalled solely from memory, within five seconds of the final word of the quote spoken by the adjudicator, and the title had to be given in full.

"I was surprised at how much I enjoyed the whole experience even though it was tense and nerve-wracking!" added Hal. "I'm just delighted to win a world record for BFBS, roll on next year!"

Hal was tested on his film facts during Guinness World Records Day on November 12, when radio stations across the UK were given the opportunity to break one of four specific records.

Watch a clip of Hal setting his Guinness World Record on Forces TV <http://forces.tv/79918565>

ADVENTURES IN REVLAND

HAVE you ever noticed that the last two weeks in November go missing? Either missing or they pass by at PTI-sprint while you're maintaining a padre-shuffle.

Suddenly, it's December and you haven't bought an Advent Calendar, the plan to send Christmas cards is once again unrealistic, the ferry isn't booked and the present-count is zero.

In fact, you haven't even got your winter tyres (let alone a bottle of port for your favourite padre). The only way I survive these times is by remembering that sometimes 80 per cent is good enough.

So rather than putting off the overwhelming task of writing 100 Christmas cards, just take half an hour with a cup of tea to knock out 10 to the most important people you won't see this Christmas.

If you manage that you may find time for another cup of tea and 10 more somewhere down the line.

I'm always looking for that perfect moment when the house, car and wife are all sorted and happy; when my work is cleared for the weekend, when the to-do list is all checked.

The truth is that there's always another thing to do, an-



by Rex Brutus Green

other person to see, another 10 minutes work that could improve your project.

Sometimes you need to step back and say, 'What's absolutely necessary here? What do I need to do that'll mean I can sit back and enjoy the moment, sit down with the family – or a glass of Glühwein – and relax?'

At the end of the day a stable was good enough for Mary and Joseph on Christmas Eve, and those Advent Calendars would look a lot less picturesque if Jesus was born in a Travelodge, or if they'd never made it to Bethlehem because they were still hammering out Christmas cards to old aunties in Wales.