**Murder by a Military Man**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In November 1940, five hours after a fifteen-year-old girl had gone out to get the evening paper; her body was found close to some railway tracks near her home. She had been sexually assaulted and strangled to death. A forensic expert called to the scene found a small piece of fabric near the girl’s body. The piece of fabric appeared to be a finger bandage that had mud and blood upon it. No blood from the victim was found on or near the body as the victim had been strangled to death. Therefore, it was speculated that the suspect had lost the fabric finger bandage during the murder.

When the bandage was analyzed, traces of a disinfectant, used commonly by the military, were found within it. This led forensic investigators to suspect that the culprit was a member of the military. Upon further investigation it was discovered that a local man named Samuel Morgan had recently deserted the military and was a suspect in an attack upon another local woman.

When Samuel Morgan was brought in for questioning he had a deep cut upon his right thumb. Investigators found out that Morgan had been living with his brother and sister- in-law. When his brother was questioned he said that on the night of the murder Samuel had told him he had to leave town and had begged him for money. The suspect’s sister- in-law admitted that she had earlier dressed his finger wound and had applied disinfectant from Morgan’s military kit.

Microscopic analysis of the fibers of the bandage found at the crime scene matched fibers of the bandages from Morgan’s sister-in-law. Also, trace elements found in the dirt at the crime scene matched the trace elements found in dirt found upon the finger bandage and Morgan’s clothing. Testimony from relatives, as well as the fiber and trace element evidence, led to the conviction and eventual hanging of Samuel Morgan.

*Related Questions:*

1. What led investigators to conclude that the bandage found at the crime scene had been left behind by the suspect?
2. How did testimony provided by Samuel Morgan’s family members lead to his arrest and conviction?

3. Describe the fiber evidence that helped support the case against Samuel Morgan.

4. A piece of the bandage is waiting for you, the evidence collector, to properly collect, document and package. Go to pages 26-28 in your text book and make notes on the proper steps to follow to properly package, seal, and label the evidence in a paper bindle and evidence bag. Be thorough because you will have to complete this task (using these notes) as part of your quiz grade for this unit.

**NOTES and DIAGRAMS:**

**Come up front to complete you collection of the bloody bandage. It has been dried out for you.**

* I properly handled and packaged all materials considered evidence into a bindle.
* I properly bundled and packaged all materials considered evidence into a bag or plastic bag and completed the Evidence Inventory Sheet for each evidence bag.
* I properly sealed and labeled all evidence containers.
* I wrote my signature across the seals on all evidence I collected.
* I completed the chain-of-custody information for each evidence bag.

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_





