

OUR OBSERVATIONS

1. The face had suffered considerable degeneration. The ears were intact and the nose had only the cartilage of it. Nothing was left of the eyes though the sockets were not empty - they seemed to be filled with something opaque. The two jaws were tightly pressed against each other with a portion of the tongue protruding from the right side. Although the skin was peeled off, on close examination some hairs of his french cut beard was visible on the chin and on one side of the face.
2. The scalp was more or less intact since no portion of the skull was visible. Some of his long scalp hairs well attached to the body were present on the back side.
3. There was a gaping site on the chest appearing like a wound. The chest was enlarged. The ears and the feet looked smaller.
4. Except for the face, the greater part of the body: torso, hands and the legs were well preserved and did not suffer any degeneration. Except during the time when we were taking the body from the mortuary to the crematorium after post mortem sitting very close to the body we never got any smell of decomposition. The mark of identification mole on the right leg was clearly visible.
5. The color of the skin had changed considerably. It was much fairer, paler and seemed extremely smooth [almost transparent]. Several of the veins particularly the arm veins were visible underneath because of their blue color. There were red patches all over the body which looked like bruises but actually not so because the skin was intact and these were under the skin.
6. The body looked rigid/stiff but there was no rigidity associated with the neck.
7. An unusual feature which I have never seen before was : Both hands were rigidly close to but raised above the chest with the right arm substantially higher up at an angle of about 45 degrees and the right palm fully stretched and erect.
8. There were no maggots on any part of the body.
9. The body was identified by shape of the ears, the shape of the erect palm and M.I. mole on the right leg.