

IDENTIFICATION

ON THE CASE... WITH SAFRAN!

Solving crimes has come a long way since Alphonse Bertillon* ... But the basic principle remains the same, since no two persons are ever alike. And Safran is there to tell the difference.

PARIS, AVENUE DE NEW YORK, 2:30 PM.

"There's no such thing as a perfect crime." That's what I learned at police school. But did the older officers really believe that? Today, I'm beginning to have my doubts. We've been in this apartment for over five hours now. It's got a beautiful view overlooking the Seine, and plenty of space, about 150 square meters I'd say. But then there's that beautiful young woman stretched out on the carpet in the hallway. From where I stand, you might think she was asleep. But she's dead, stone cold dead. Which is only natural I guess, since she took a bullet right in the heart, from pointblank range. No weapons found in the apartment of course, and no other clues. It seems to have been a thoroughly professional job; what you might call a very premeditated murder.



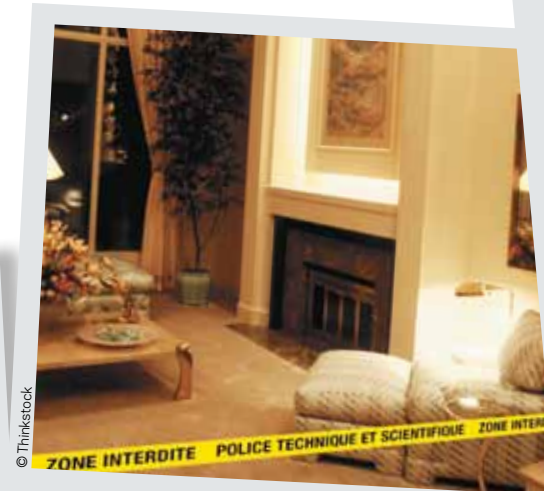
My colleagues have gone through everything with a fine-tooth comb, and I have to say our equipment is really state-of-the-art. We no longer have to spend hours in the basement back at HQ comparing fingerprints. We've got the MetaMorpho system by Sagem Sécurité. We were on the crime scene right away, ready to use this automated palm and fingerprint identification system, or APFIS, which turns us all into experts. It calls on cutting-edge technologies, especially the most powerful algorithms in the world. In just a few short minutes, the system is ready to roll: a camera and PC hooked up, and we can access the central database in real time. Through Sagem Sécurité's LiveScan system and MorphoEVA software, we have already collected tens of millions of fingerprints, and now we can compare them to any traces left at the scene of the crime. No more paper, everything is electronic.

But for this to work, the criminal has to leave a trace. And whoever committed the crime knew what they were doing. They took the weapon of course, but they also made sure not to leave any prints. They shot her right in the hallway, and

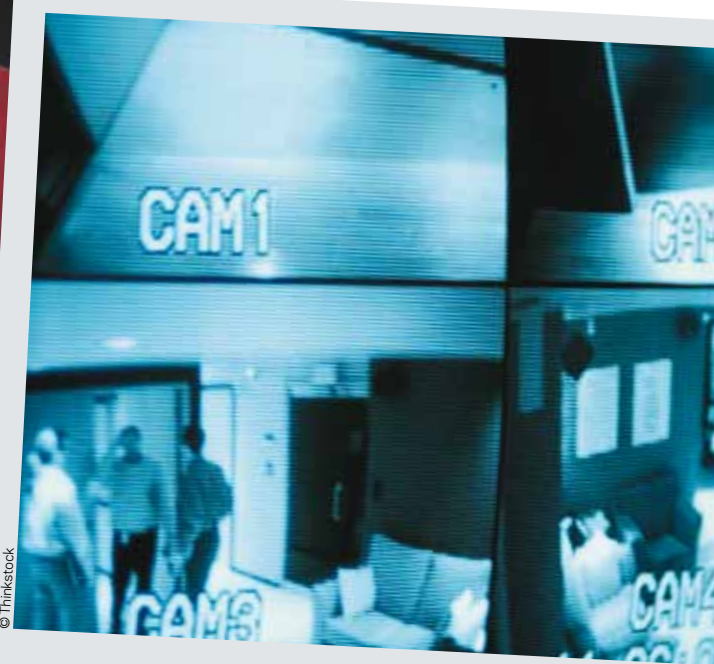
didn't touch anything except the door – and they wore gloves to close it, since we didn't pick up any prints on the knob. All we know is that the young lady must have been expecting someone and opened the door, because there are no signs of a break-in. It looks like we'll have to leave without finding the slightest clue. I'm going to "lock down" the premises, as we say, but for the moment it's just for the sake of form. Remember that game we all used to play as kids, hide & seek? Well, in this case we're not getting hot, we're still very, very cold.

PARIS, QUAI DES ORFÈVRES, 5:00 PM

My men sometimes seem to have a sixth sense. I didn't see it right away, but there was a tiny surveillance camera, hidden in a corner of the lobby. And because a foreign diplomat lives in the building, the camera is connected directly to a private security company, who were able to help us right away. I sent an inspector there to see everything filmed by the camera since midnight. No use going back any further, since the medical examiner says the crime was commit-



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ted early this morning. Of course, the murderer could have been a neighbor, but almost nobody was in the building, and there's nothing to indicate this was the case.

- Hello.
- We looked through all the video recordings. Four people entered the building from 5 to 8 am, and one of them left exactly six minutes later.
- Masked?
- No.
- Bring me the video, we'll run it through MorphoFace Investigate.

MorphoFace Investigate is an automated facial recognition system developed by Sagem Sécurité, using a database comprising known criminals, as well as missing or wanted persons. It enables us to identify faces even if they're not seen straight on. I have to admit that it's considerably reduced the time we need to search for a match – and multiplied our efficiency.

The guy who entered the building this morning isn't the milkman! In fact, he's a professional well known to Interpol. But he's not

somebody who operates on his own... After all, that would make things way too simple! ■

Philippe François

* Alphonse Bertillon (1853 - 1914), a French criminologist who founded the first criminal identification laboratory in 1870, and invented the "Bertillon system", a "biometric" identification method based on fingerprints and facial photos that was used throughout Europe and in the United States.

Safran, partner to the FBI

In 2009, Safran was chosen by the world-famous FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) of the United States to supply a new automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) connected to its database that comprises tens of millions of fingerprints. "This will be the largest police AFIS in the world," says Frédéric Biarnes, head of AFIS Solutions at Sagem Sécurité. Every day, it will carry out tens of thousands of searches. And the data volume will keep growing, since the FBI intends to expand its database to include facial and iris recognition. Once again, Safran will be offering its expertise in this area. "With not only fingerprints, but also the iris, portraits and perhaps even DNA some day, the concept of identification has considerably expanded its scope," adds Biarnes.