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THE MOST AUSTRALIAN MAGAZINE

MARCH 14 1992 \$2.00*

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NAKED IN THE DREAMTIME



STUNNING PHOTOS

'Post' March 14 article continued

Help find Australia's MOST WANTED MAN

AUSTRALIA'S most wanted criminal, described as a lethal war machine who could kill if approached, is probably still hiding out in North Queensland.

He's small and baby-faced and the average Aussie bloke would reckon he could take him on easily.

But police warn that mild-looking David Francis Everett, 30, could turn and "stick two fingers in your throat and kill you, in two seconds flat".

He's staged his own elaborate kidnap or killing in Perth (WA), turned up in Townsville (Q), evaded police and has been the subject of major manhunts.

Armed teams of police are called out each time it appears Everett might have been spotted.

He is a former elite military agent, highly trained by the Special Air Service regiment in killing with weapons or his bare hands, in anti-terrorism, jungle warfare, explosives, escaping capture, resisting interrogation and bush survival.

In Western Australia he faces more than 27 charges including armed robbery, deprivation of liberty, breaking and entering, abduction and conspiracy to import heroin.

Last year, Everett was at his sister Mary's home in Carlisle (WA) on "home detention" awaiting trial. A security guard checking on him found the front door open and damaged, the house empty and the furniture tossed around.

There was blood on the lounge floor, a .22 bullet lodged in the wall and two empty cartridges lying around. The TV set was still on and the phone had been ripped out.

Prisoners on home detention wear a special electronic wrist device which gives away their whereabouts. That was lying on the floor.

find Australia's MOST WANTED MAN



• Mug shots show the many faces of David Francis Everett.

... but don't go near ... he's deadly

Everett's reading glasses were aise on the floor, but police say he doesn't need them ... he wears glasses to suit his needs of appearance. All his shoes seemed to be in the house.

Neighbors say there was a bang and some shouting about the time Everett vanished.

The September hoax with its blood, bullets and mayhem fitted with fears Everett had told his family about — that someone wanted to kill him.

It seems clear now the hoax was meant to avoid his mum and sister having to pay the \$200,000 bail surety they pledged for him. They now face the bitter prospect of having to sell up their homes when the money's called in.

Mary asked the media in Perth to relay a message to Everett to give himself up and said his whole family is suffering.

After his flight, Everett stayed in hostels around the country posing as a backpacker. He used false names, police say, often from among his SAS buddies or commanders he admired.

Then, just before Christmas,

Townsville drug squad detectives stumbled on Everett by accident. They went to nearby Magnetic Island on a routine drug raid and nobody would have been more surprised to see them than Everett, who thought his Perth kidnap or murder hoax was working spot-on.

The detectives who found him didn't know who they had. Everett was helping out at a local business as a "rag jumping" instructor. The business was run by a former SAS mate, who told police he had no idea of Everett's West Australian life of crime.

Everett tricked his way out of police grasp and fled out the window leaving his loaded pistol and ammunition, spare magazines and a notebook containing the names, addresses and phone numbers of some Perth policemen.

It was the gun that led police to realise they'd located Everett.

Detective Constable Chris Sang, in Brisbane, told POST that checks on the Sauer 9mm semi-automatic pistol showed it to have been stolen during a Perth break-in already allegedly linked to Everett.

But the notebook has police con-



• Police say Everett, a former SAS soldier, is a "deadly weapon".

cerned that officers, who have been chasing Everett, could be in danger.

Some of the charges he faces are said to stem from crimes committed while with James William Reynolds, another former SAS soldier, who apparently committed suicide in a remand cell last June.

Everett is claimed to have helped abduct a cinema manager and his pregnant wife so the theatre safe could be robbed.

Police say at least two and possibly more other former SAS members formed a dangerous criminal gang with Everett, and that they busted into the homes of service station owners, all-night stores and chemists, taking the businessmen and their wives hostage.

A gang member would stay with the women, using them as leverage to force the businessmen to go to their shops and hand over the profits.

Everett was brought up in Tasmania, and joined the army at 15 as an apprentice engineer in Melbourne. After he left the SAS in

1980, he is said to have worked as an arms dealer and fought as a mercenary in Burma, training local anti-government rebels in the combat techniques he knows so well.

A year later he was back in Australia and married his wife, Amanda. They have a son Nicholas, 2, named after one of Everett's fellow soldiers in Burma, and a baby daughter. Amanda is reportedly now seeking a divorce.

Everett is described as 160 cm (5ft 3in) tall, with blond hair (sometimes dyed), blue eyes, a proportionate build, and with the word "Chubbie" tattooed on his left wrist.

The eyes may not be blue. Detective Chris Sang told POST Everett is known to have visited an optometrist in Adelaide and found out about tinted contact lenses that would make his eyes appear brown.

Police are fairly convinced Everett is still hiding out in the North Queensland area.

If you think you've spotted Everett, call the nearest police station and let them handle it.

Diggers for hire

Soldiers of fortune: Hundreds of our trained troops are selling their skills in the world's hotspots



By BRETT MARTIN

OFFICIALLY, AUSTRALIA HAS NOT been in a ground war since Vietnam, but Australian freelancers and mercenaries are on the battlefields of the world. Hundreds of Australian-trained troops have left the military and are selling their skills in such varied tasks as mine clearance, riding shotgun on gold and diamond shipments, anti-piracy patrols and as bodyguards. In Bosnia, their involvement is more direct.

These soldiers are not mercenaries in the *Dogs of War* sense. Indeed, they disdain the glory-seeking image of the traditional soldier of fortune. Rather, they are professionals, often highly trained officers from the Special Air Service or engineering regiments, taking their skills to the open market with the tacit approval of the Australian government.

Much of the work done by these freelance Diggers is, in fact, humanitarian. Dennis Savage is a former warrant officer in the engineers and currently one of the directors of EXAT (Explosives and Ammunition Technology). The company has 150 Australians on its books, bomb specialists in mine clearance, bomb disposal and security, and is now working in a joint venture with the Vietnamese government to clear mines and other ordnance left as a legacy of the Vietnam War. "Both myself and my partner [former senior ammunition technical officer Major Grahame Crane] served in Vietnam during the war, so we know what sort of problems they have," Savage says.

"We tried to get into Kuwait, but the Americans have that sewn up. We did

some work in Cambodia but it is too unstable - we were getting shot at - so we won't be going back to Cambodia until it settles down and they have a rational plan."

Savage describes EXAT's work as capitalist/humanitarian:

"We have to make a living but it is good work. There are heaps of mines out there - 100 million, would be an understatement. The civilian casualties each year are horrific. Being an ex-serviceman and in the game for 25 years, I hate to do things - the only at war is to stop making them."

Savage says Australians are also involved in mine clearance in Afghanistan, Madagascar and Mozambique: "Whoever you go to in the world, you run into an Australian in the business. And it is a business. The United Nations can give no accurate figures on the number of Australians working in the turmoil of the former Yugoslavia (most are subcontracted to the UN through innocuous shelf companies based in places like the English Channel island of Jersey), but anecdotal evidence suggests there may be up to 100 - and not all are peacekeepers."

Under fire: Many are there legitimately, such as former Australian Army engineer Captain Ian Bottrill, who last year took extended leave from the Army and served a 12-month contract with the UN to provide engineering and logistical support for a British Army contingent

A former Australian SAS officer close

based in Bosnia. Bottrill found the work rewarding, a chance to practise long-held skills under fire, but was doubtful he would ever tour again.

"It was a profound experience; it took me about six months to get over it," he says. "My job was to manage all aspects of technical support for the British forces in my region. It was rather dangerous; we were shot at by every weapon known to man. My motivation was that I thoroughly enjoyed the adrenaline rush of not knowing what was going to happen next - using my skills to meet exciting challenges."

Bottrill says he has met six Australians working for the UN and "a number of Australians fighting as mercenaries on various sides. There were some Australians doing mercenary work there. They had been brainwashed into fighting for the motherland and found themselves in the worst nightmare you can imagine," he says.

Information about traditional mercenary work - fighting as infantry - is hard to unearth. It is a closed shop. *The Bulletin* inquiries established that there was a pool of Australians keen to break into the market, ready to sell whatever skills they had to the highest bidder, but most of these were "would-be" mercenaries, according to one source.

A former Australian SAS officer close

to the scene says: "Most mercenaries these days are motivated by national fervour or ideology - they don't have the training to be effective."

"Commissions for traditional soldier-of-fortune tasks still exist, but not in Australia - it is too far away from the action. You have to go overseas. Some of the warlords in South America and South-East Asia still hire people for their specific skills."

Australians have a history of mercenary work, usually poorly planned endeavours that ended badly.

In 1969, Australian mercenary pilots flew for Biafra in that nation's bloody attempt to break away from Nigeria. Also in 1969, at least two Australian mercenaries died in a CIA-backed operation in Cambodia. In the late 1970s a wave of Australians, including many Vietnam War veterans, went to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to support the minority white government in its civil war. This triggered federal legislation, the Crimes (Foreign Incursions and Recruitment) Act 1978, which carries penalties ranging from seven to 14 years' jail for Australians recruiting, training, preparing for or actually "entering a foreign state with intent to engage in a hostile activity".

In 1988, three Australians were charged under the act for planning a counter-coup in the Comoros Islands, a tiny Indian Ocean nation that had been conquered the year before by the notorious French mercenary Bob Denard. All three served prison sentences ranging from eight months to two years.

Drug lord: Six years later, Australian Terry Tangney, from Cabramatta in Sydney, was accused by the American NBC television network of training a Colombian drug lord's private army. Australian Federal Police investigated but no charges were laid because Tangney never returned to Australia. He is believed to be living in South Africa.

Soon after, the name of former SAS trooper David Everett surfaced as one of three fellow Australians fighting for the Karen rebels in Burma. After returning to Australia in 1988, he was charged under the mercenary laws, but those charges were dropped when two journalists refused to give evidence. Everett went on to commit a string of armed robberies and kidnappings in Western Australia and was sentenced in 1992 to serve 14 years in jail.

More recently, the mysterious "Captain" Dragan, reportedly a one-time corporal in the Australian Army,



Right and inset with UN troops wanted to test his skills under fire

Experience as a senior ammunition technical officer has benefited the Vietnamese



and officers on its books, was involved in anti-piracy patrols off Indonesia and Malaysia. There are reliable, but unconfirmed, reports that Australians based in the Philippines and the Bahamas are still involved in this dangerous activity. Former Australian military personnel are also reportedly employed in Papua New Guinea, providing security against gangs of armed rascals, riding shotgun on gold shipments and providing security for individuals.

Terrorism: There are several companies in Australia that offer the services of former special forces officers to the corporate world. This is the quality end of the security game - the covert end - offering everything from close personal protection for people or goods (notably the movement of diamonds) to the rescuing of executives caught in the middle of uprisings. Former troopers and officers from the estimated 450-strong Perth-based Australian SAS are particularly sought after because of their discipline, reliability and extensive training in specialist military skills such as counter-terrorism.

The Sydney representative of one of these companies told *The Bulletin* that his organisation had 20 full-time staff trained in all facets of risk assessment, crisis planning and counter terrorism. "Our staff are drawn from a number of areas including ex-special forces (SAS and commando) through to police special operations squads and from ASIS [Australian Secret Intelligence Service] and foreign affairs," he says.

"We provide a security service worldwide, including crisis management and emergency evacuation planning and training. A crisis is anything outside of the norm - anything from natural disasters through to insurrections, riots and major revolts by labour forces - anything really. If you are in the shit, we pull you out of it. We also selectively provide one-on-one protection - escorts for executives visiting difficult cities and countries.

"The people we employ are usually ex-special forces officers - the nature of the work requires men - the ability to get your head around concepts, identify dangers before they confront you."

Another former SAS officer explains why freelance soldiering is so attractive: "The Australian armed forces are respected, but Australia is a backwater militarily; the army hasn't seen real operational service since Vietnam. I can understand why the Australian SAS are very frustrated, doing three to six years' training with no opportunity to test those skills in a live situation."

has been reported as leading a Serbian force in the former Yugoslavia.

It is the involvement of Australians in this theatre that most worries Australian law officials. A spokesman for the Attorney General's Department said that any Australian serving with forces other than the UN in Bosnia would be liable for prosecution under the act. He said Australians involved in freelance military activity such as mine clearance or subcontracting to the UN were not liable under the act because "their actions are humanitarian in nature and therefore not hostile".

Involvement of Australians in anti-piracy patrols in the South China Sea and the Caribbean is a greyer area under the law. The spokesman said these activities were probably not against the law because there was no "foreign state" involved.

As recently as 1991, Perth security company Arpad Security Agency, which claimed to have 60 former SAS troopers

THEY HAD BEEN BRAINWASHED AND FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE WORST NIGHTMARE

Crown's weak case made conviction unlikely

It is more than a year since a Supreme Court judge decided Everett was unlikely to be convicted on any of the charges he faced at the time because the prosecution case was so weak.

Despite opposition from State and Commonwealth prosecutors, Justice Gpp passed bail to Everett, who was later released on the new home detention scheme.

Everett's mother and some others have been ordered to pay a sum of \$1200,000 - money - and - money -

By ROY GARDNER

conditions were imposed, including visits by security guards to his mother's home in New Street, East Victoria Park.

When Everett appeared on a bail appeal in the Supreme Court in July last year, he was facing a charge of tampering in support houses, several charges of armed robbery, 18 of possession of liberty-restricting

instruments and entering and being in unlawfully using motor vehicles.

Justice Gpp said the charges were extremely serious and that Everett had to show exceptional circumstances to justify bail.

However, it was important to realize that the witness had sworn to identify Everett as the person who committed any of the crimes and there was no evidence of any collusion by him.

In relation to the home

tampering charge, Justice Gpp said the Crown failed to prove identification over the admissibility of two statements by James William Reynolds, who had also been charged with tampering but had converted to Catholicism.

There was not enough admissible evidence to fix Everett with the alleged tampering, he said.

Dealing with other charges said to have been committed in a Family Act's jurisdiction, Justice Gpp said

the main evidence seemed to be a bag found in Everett's possession and which was similar to that used by the perpetrator.

The other possession of such a bag did not constitute evidence as to what Everett was likely to be involved.

Additional pieces of evidence were almost entirely based on the testimony of two key witnesses, including Everett, but their blood was

More Everett charges tipped

DAVID EVERETT could be charged with further serious offences when detectives complete investigations which led to the tactical response group's arrest of the fugitive in a Crawley suburb on Wednesday night.

The 29-year-old father-of-two has been charged with a string of offences related to the kidnaping of a 16-year-old boy, the kidnaping of a 16-year-old girl, and the kidnaping which destroyed a Maldivian express passenger last week.

Senior officers agreed that they are trying to trace the statements and other evidence from the incidents and have requested public help to trace Everett's movements in Perth.

Blind across WA police agencies coordinated the operation leading to the arrest of the suspect which led to Everett's kidnaping after which he was being in the passenger seat of a car parked on Hackett Drive, about 200 metres from Stirling Highway.

The State Police Division said the car had been under surveillance for some time. Spot search being by TRU officers had resulted in Everett showing no significant resistance.

A search of the car had produced two matched semi-automatic handguns, he said.

The operation - code-named Sinatra because of Everett's piercing blue eyes - ended an 11-month national search for the former Special Air Service man who allegedly fled his own abduction while on leave December last year on various charges, including deprivation of liberty, armed robbery and assisting to transport forces

By HELEN WINTERGON

He is believed to have returned to Perth about six weeks ago.

Mr Paul French, who at last week referred his son was told, said that when he called his from the coast, he thought the kid had returned to think he was all right.

"He says you're worth me," she said. "I just love him and will never let him go. You've got to stick by your children."

Everett appeared in East Perth Magistrate's Court yesterday morning, handcuffed to a police officer. Two others were positioned around the courtroom.

Everett stood in the dock and grinned as he recalled members who were taking the kid, saying that his best experience.

He later smiled again as Magistrate Vincent French said that he had been charged with 21 new offences including six counts of kidnapping and one of unlawfully taking a ship.

Everett's lawyer made no plea application and Magistrate French reserved him to remedy until next week.

The Correctional Services Department confirmed yesterday that Everett would spend his remand period in custody at WA's maximum security, Casuarina Prison.

A \$20,000 surety, supplied by his mother and his sister, Mary, when Everett was released in June, amounted to two things in the balance and both women have losing their houses when the matter is dealt with next month.



Everett before he escaped.



Everett in Queensland last year.



BLUE EYES: A police photograph of Everett after Operation Sinatra, so-called because of his piercing blue eyes.



Sunday Times

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WA 'RAMBO' HAS POLICE HIT-LIST

Trick's a right piece of pizzazz

EASY, it'll taste!
Actor Dennis Waterman, right, has just shown Eileen Bond and playwright Keith Waterhouse that he's a dab hand at London pub tricks.

Waterman, who is playing a boozing English journalist in *Jeffrey Bernard is In* well at His Majesty's Theatre, demonstrated his knack at an after-show party in a nearby coffee house.

The trick, which the actor uses on stage, involves an egg balanced on a matchbox which is placed on a biscuit tin lid on top of a glass of vodka.

The lid is then whacked away with a club to allow the egg to fall unscathed into the vodka.

Waterhouse, who taught Waterman the trick, is highly chuffed that his pupil can pull it off with such ease. On or off the stage.

© Review, Page 23



A RAMBO-STYLE ex-cummando on the run had a hit-list of WA police officers on his trail.

Queensland police disclosed yesterday that the names of more than a dozen WA officers were found in a notebook allegedly owned by ex-GIA member David Francis Everett.

Everett, 38, is regarded as Australia's most wanted criminal.

He escaped a police road lay last year on a house on Magenta Island off Townsville.

The list is said to have contained the home phone numbers and addresses of 12 Perth detectives whom work led to him being charged with a series of armed hold-ups and other crimes last year.

It is believed special security precautions have been made to protect the officers and their families.

An internal investigation is thought to have been ordered to find out how Everett, who has linked operations in Burma, got such sensitive information.

Perth police yesterday refused to comment on the Queensland police report.

But police sources said they were highly disturbed especially about the prospect of confidential information getting to a man topping Australia's most dangerous list.

A spokesman said Everett was regarded as dangerous not because of his training

than his disposition. But other police said Everett was a highly-trained commando who had gone more than a little crazy.

Weapons and other items found in the home on Magenta Island point to a man who has fallen back on his jungle warfare training.

They include a SIG Sauer semi-automatic pistol, a box of ammunition spare parts magazines, hunting knives, black tactical stake-out gloves and a binoculars.

Along with them were the notebook containing the police names and addresses, two identification papers and identity personal files.

Everett made headlines in WA when he was granted home detention by a supreme court judge in August.

A week later he had failed his own disappearance until a staged abduction from his sister's home in Cairns.

The solar and nuclear now face the prospect of losing a \$100,000 contract that put up to have been released.

Queensland police believe Everett may have gone to ground in Townsville where it is possible he has set army traps.

They and Everett was arrested in 1981 and serving when they raided the home in 1989 on Friday, December 8. He allegedly ran off while local drug squad officers searched the house.

© Continued Page 2

Everett's mission of terror

□ Nearly a year after his arrest, David Everett pleaded guilty in the Supreme Court this week to charges related to kidnapping and armed robbery.

□ While many people may believe the court appearance marks the end of the David Everett saga, the legacy of his actions is sure to remain in the hearts of many, including his children.

□ And his piercing blue eyes will never be forgotten by the victims who looked into the face of one of Australia's most wanted men. HELEN WINTERTON reports.

DAVID EVERETT made a frightening statement when he blew up a 30-tonne Baldy's explosive magazine on a quiet August night last year.

It was Australia's biggest criminal-initiated explosion and as close to an act of urban terrorism as WA had seen.

If WA police had ever doubted the power of Everett — soldier of fortune, kidnapper and armed robber — the Baldy's blast proved he knew no bounds.

Officers who had hunted Everett around Australia for almost a year had to assume he'd used the blast to cover the theft of explosives for later use and this made them anxious.

They were right to be worried.

Everett left Baldy's armed with 24kg of plastic explosive, 3kg of power gel and a big amount of detonator cord. Throw in a couple of military-style weapons fitted with laser sights, handcuffs, manacles, and his Special Air Service training, and Everett was a one-man army.

The explosion also marked his return to Perth. After 11 months on the run from home detention bail, Everett was on a new mission aimed at stealing money to repay the \$200,000 surety his mother, Fran, and sister, Mary, would probably lose.

At the time of the blast he had already terrorised two Perth families and was planning to use the stolen explosives to damage communication facilities during an armed robbery on the Youanmi goldmine, 140km south-east of Mt Magnet.

According to Everett's guilty pleas to 24 charges in the Supreme Court this week, his crime spree began more than a year earlier, in January 1991, when a cinema manager and his pregnant wife were abducted from their Maylands home.

The couple were taken by three armed men wearing balaclavas and driven to a derelict house where the woman was blindfolded, handcuffed and manacles put around her toes.

She was guarded by one bandit while her husband was taken to the Canning cinema complex and forced to open a safe containing the takings from the Australia Day long weekend.

He was ordered to live at his sister's Carlisle home, with extra security checks by automatic telephone calls and security guards. Everett saw his chance for freedom and worked on an elaborate plan to stage his own disappearance to ensure his mother and sister would not lose their surety.



CHANGING FACE: Everett before his January 1991 crime spree, in disguise on Magnetic Island, December 1991; and after his capture on August 19, 1992.

Armed robbery squad detectives launched an operation code-named Zulu Zulu and in March that year arrested six men, including Everett and his former SAS mate, Jim Reynolds.

Everett and Reynolds were charged with the cinema robbery and faced further charges related to an alleged conspiracy to sell heroin worth \$1 million. A Supreme Court jury found Everett not guilty of the heroin charge on Wednesday.

Both men were sent to the Canning Vale remand centre to await a bail hearing. But on June 25, the night before they were to appear in court, Reynolds snapped.

At 11pm prison officers found him dead in his cell, a plastic bag covering his face.

In a Coroner's Court hearing into Reynolds' death, Everett rejected a suggestion he was happy to hear of the suicide because it weakened the prosecution case against him.

Shortly after his mate's death, Everett was released on home detention bail by a Supreme Court judge. Despite strong opposition from State and Commonwealth prosecutors, Everett was granted bail, with a \$200,000 surety shared by his mother and sister.

He was ordered to live at his sister's Carlisle home, with extra security checks by automatic telephone calls and security guards. Everett saw his chance for freedom and worked on an elaborate plan to stage his own disappearance to ensure his mother and sister would not lose their surety.

Less than a week after he was granted bail, Everett was gone, leaving his distraught family confused about whether he had been kidnapped.

The dramatic scene he left in the house — cartridges, the kicked-in front door, blood and overturned furniture, signalled the worst. But WA police were suspicious.

Meanwhile, Everett was working as an abseiling instructor on Magnetic Island in Queensland for an old regiment mate.

Everett had dyed his hair and was using an identification card in the name of John Murray, a name linked to his old regiment days.

But his stint as an instructor ended when Townsville CIB carried out a drug raid on a house where he was staying. He panicked and fled through a window, leaving a 9mm handgun, balaclava, camouflage paint and documents at the house.

The items were traced to Everett. Among the documents was a list of the names of several detectives who had worked on Operation Zulu Zulu.

Finally, Perth detectives had photographic and fingerprint evidence that Everett was alive.

No one knows how Everett felt that day when he realised the predicament of his family. His mother and sister would almost certainly lose everything to pay the \$200,000 surety.

At some stage he decided, in his own bizarre way, to do the right thing by his family.

Like a bloodhound chasing the scent of a fox, Everett

showed unwavering determination to fulfil his boy mission and find face with his heartbroken family.

He used skills honed and practised on the previous raid to target two Perth families who were connected to the Asda supermarket chain and had access to store safes.

On August 2, Everett went to the Balcatta home of the chain's Armadale manager and terrorised his family for more than two hours. He tied up the man's wife and two children, forcing the manager to drive him to the supermarket and open the store safe.

Later that night Everett went to the Bentley home of another store manager. He broke into the house and tied up the manager and his wife. After discovering the manager didn't have the store keys, he fled in the family car.

The family later discovered their rottweiler dog had been killed with a sharp instrument.

By now an armed robbery squad operation code-named Sinatra after Everett's piercing blue eyes, was in full swing. The end of his cat-and-mouse game with police was near.

On August 19, while most of Perth slept, armed robbery squad and tactical response group officers were staking-out a Crawley carpark.

When Everett drove into the Hackett Drive carpark, tactical response group members swooped and arrested him. Police found two loaded semi-automatic handguns in the car.

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Eye to eye with enigma

By CARINA TAN-VAN BAREN

CLEAN-CUT and mild-mannered, David Everett could have passed as just another blue-suited office worker as he sat quietly taking notes.

Each morning he walked to the dock with a bouncing step and a bundle of papers under his arm.

Those who caught his eye found a ready smile that lit up a boyish face.

Was this the masked and muscled former SAS soldier portrayed in prosecution evidence as a callous mercenary?

It was hard to reconcile the different faces of David Everett.

For the first four days of his Supreme Court trial last week, jurors stole curious looks at the man they were to judge.

On the fifth, he took the witness stand, and within minutes had jurors involuntarily smiling as he responded to cross-examination with charming confidence bordering on cheek.

Everett admitted being the gun-wielding soldier filmed training Burmese rebels in a remote bush camp.

He admitted supplying arms.

But the slender 31-year-old seemed untroubled by such evidence of his violent nature.

Not with facing a drug conspiracy charge with a maximum penalty of 20 years' jail.

"Was he a little fib, a little bit too good to be true?" Brian Martin QC asked as he summed up the prosecution case.

If so, Everett's confidence was well-placed because, just before 5pm on Wednesday, 12 jurors filed back into court No. 2 and pronounced David Everett guilty.

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ABOVE: The Superstar (left) and the Madrid bars... the Bangkok connection.

BANGKOK'S Patpong Road is infamous for sex and sin and every night of the week wide-eyed, grinning tourists flock to its bars and discos.

Film, coffee-coloured Thai girls wearing brief bikinis dance on raised platforms to Western rock 'n' roll. Few speak English or any other foreign language so they wear plastic numbers clipped to their panties and clients can sample their fancy simply by calling a number.

But beneath this glittering, decadent surface runs a sinister undercurrent.

Among the sin-seekers in two of Patpong's bars sit ill-looking, grim men with only half an eye for the flesh. They cluster in twos and threes and, if you listen closely, their conversation can be heard to revolve around "commies," the "war up country" and the merits of the latest weaponry.

These types with short-cropped hair gather in the Madrid bar and the Superstar because they are either mercenaries or the riff-raff that tag along with them — the effete puppies of war.

It was in the Madrid bar in September 1985 that Australian Special Air Services soldier Martin Donnelly was recruited as a mercenary for the Karen tribe against the Burmese.

Frenchman Jean-Philippe Coureges-Clerq was also approached in this bar.

A shady character known as Jimmy the Belgian told both these former soldiers that the Karen would pay the equivalent of \$300 a month for their services.

They accepted and were taken by tortuous routes to the Karen headquarters on the Burmese side of the Moei River, several hundred kilometres north of the Thai border town of Mae Sot.

They got through Thai military checkpoints by saying they were part of a French medical team that was in the area.

Another Australian, a former special-forces soldier, was recruited

Treachery and little fortune is the reward



“(the recruiter) was a swine with no allegiance to anyone and took a Burmese pay-off for the information.”

“I found that I loved the people. They are ... a gentle, warm people and I cannot imagine a more perfect society.”

— Australian Steve Wilson, who joined the Karen rebels as a mercenary and became a volunteer.

National Liberation Army HQ in Kawthoolei. Wilson, Donnelly and Coureges-Clerq took part in a battle. They and about 80 Karen attacked a Burmese stronghold at Oaola.

Wilson told me last week: “The plan was to attack two knolls; we wanted to hit one, grab an 81mm mortar and get out fast. We were supposed to have about 300 Karen reinforcements.”

But as the attack was being pressed I realised that the Burmese knew we were coming. They had many more than the 30 men our intelligence told of.

“We attacked the first knoll with mortars and rockets and moved in with small-arms fire. Donnelly was firing his AK on automatic into a Burmese trench when a Burmese Carl Gustav rocket burst in the trees above.”

“I saw something fly off the side of his head and he went down. Burmese snipers were firing too, so it could have been them or the shrapnel.”

“The Frenchman rallied some Karen and began moving to the second knoll when a sniper got him.”

“We turned our mortar on the second knoll to try to get him out but the Burmese were pumping his body full of bullets. He was obviously dead. Then we ran out of mortar ammunition. I looked for the reinforcements but someone had stuffed up — only six made it to support us.”

“The battle had been on for about 45 minutes when we heard that two Burmese columns were moving to cut us off.”

“As we retreated I checked Donnelly. His brain was exposed through the big hole in his head. We assumed that he was dead so we left him. Later we were surprised to see him come staggering in at the rendezvous on his own.”

Donnelly was taken to a Thai hospital where the Karen paid for his treatment. He recovered and flew back to Australia.

“Soon after he returned he died — from a type of hepatitis normally contracted by old people,” Wilson said.

Information was that Burmese agents had arranged for Donnelly to be given contaminated blood in a transfusion, Wilson said.

“Back in Bangkok I did a little snooping and found that Jimmy the Belgian had tipped off the Burmese about us,” he continued. “I also found out that the Karen were paying him \$1200 a month to recruit foreigners. He was a swine with no allegiance to anyone and took a Burmese pay-off for the

information I wanted to sort him out but with the Burmese howling to the world's Press about the presence of foreigners in the battle, Bangkok was too precarious so I flew back to Australia.”

Wilson never did get his money — and he did not care. During his weeks with the Karen tribe he began to identify with their cause. He planned to return.

“I found that I loved the people,” he told me.

“They are Christians and abhor drugs, crime is virtually unknown, as is adultery. Despite fighting for their lives they are a gentle, warm people and I cannot imagine a more perfect society.”

“It makes their struggle against the Burmese all the more tragic. Many of their weapons, for which they pay through the nose on the

black market, are worn out and their continuing defence of their State is achieved more by sheer guts and faith in God than anything else.

“I fought for them because I believe in their cause — and because no one else is doing anything to help.”

It was largely through Wilson that photographer Derek Hobbs and I were able to negotiate our way through secret routes and a succession of “safe” houses, dodging Burmese agents and Thai military intelligence, to reach Kawthoolei to file our report on the forgotten war.

Last week we visited a military camp where Wilson supervised intensive training for the Karen. I noticed that the commanding officer accepted Wilson almost like a son.

When we were climbing into a boat to cross the Moei River back into Thailand, the CO stood on the bank in the fading light and with his hand over his heart told Wilson:

“It grieves me that you are going. You have become one of us. May God go with you and grant you a safe return to us some day.”

Their eyes locked and Wilson, in unwitting parody of the words of a much more famous soldier, said: “I’ll be back.”

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Threats to associate cut Everett's freedom

By HELEN WINTERTON

THE big breakthrough in the hunt for Australia's most dangerous man came after David Everett so frightened a Perth associate that he ran to police for help.

Everett returned to Perth last year and made his biggest and final mistake on August 12 when he met a man to discuss plans to raid a goldmine.

The error signalled the end to an investigation which had involved between 50 and 60 police and a nationwide hunt.

The man told Det-Sgt Geoff Maloney, the officer in charge of Operation Sinatra, he had met Everett the night before on Canning Bridge, near the Raffles Hotel.

Everett had wanted his help in preparing for an armed raid on the Youanmi goldmine near Mt Magnet — but his threats forced the man to go to police in fear of his life.

From that day, police knew almost every move Everett would make.

"I received an open ticket to conduct the necessary investigations as I saw fit. I was sanctioned by Commissioner Brian Bull to pull out all stops to capture Everett," Sgt Maloney said.

Detectives used the man to set up two meetings with Everett. The first monitored meeting took place on August 16 in a Kings Park carpark near the war memorial.

During both meetings, Everett was under surveillance by the tactical response group and armed robbery squad officers.

"We established that once he had committed the armed robbery on the Youanmi goldmine he was to go on a crime spree that would stretch the state's resources to the limit," Sgt Maloney said.

If Everett had gone ahead with his plans, Perth would have experienced urban terrorism at its worst.

Sgt Maloney said Everett wanted to raid the Reserve Bank in St Georges Terrace and would bomb police headquarters in Adelaide Terrace, East Perth, as a decoy.

Sgt Maloney said Everett had enough intelligence and firepower to do it.

"If the evidence was available Everett would have been charged with these crimes," he said.

On August 19, police set up the second monitored meeting between Everett and the man at a carpark in Hackett Drive, Crawley.

Police had planned to arrest him during a third meeting set up outside the metropolitan area to ensure public and police safety. But at the Crawley meeting it became apparent the time was ripe for Everett's arrest.

The deserted carpark allowed the TRG team to move in on Everett using one of his greatest weapons — the element of surprise.

Sgt Maloney said Everett was distraught when arrested.

Everett said to an armed robbery squad officer: "I thought one of you blokes would have had the guts to do it."

The policeman asked him what he meant and Everett replied: "Give me a bullet and finish the job."

Sgt Maloney said that during interviews with police that night, Everett put on an act of bravado and it almost appeared he was playing out a film role.

When he was taken to the East Perth lockup, he asked an officer: "Do you think I was number one?"

The officer asked why. "It's just good to know," Everett said.

Despite Everett's arrest, Operation



FRIGHTENING FIREPOWER: Sgt Kan Anderson looks over some of the weapons seized from David Everett. Picture: TONY ASHBY

DAVID EVERETT

BORN: January 3, 1962
1983: Awarded beret as member of SAS.
1987: Left SAS.
 Fought as a mercenary with Karen rebels in Burma.
1991: Charged with armed robbery and kidnapping after Operation Zulu.
September 21, 1991: Faked own abduction to escape home detention bail.
December 6, 1991: Escapes from Queensland police drug raid on house on Magnetic Island.
August 1, 1992: Abducts a supermarket manager and his family. Steals thousands of dollars from store.
August 2, 1992: Takes another family hostage. Family's pet dog killed.
August 11, 1992: Steals explosives from the army's magazine at Baldivis, then blows it up.
August 19, 1992: Arrested in Crawley after being under police surveillance.
July 1993: Pleads guilty to kidnapping and armed robbery.
September 1993: Sentenced to 14-and-a-half years.



Sinatra continued with the squad urgently trying to find a cache of stolen explosives and Everett's military-style firearms.

In November, a contact led detectives to a bush camp in sand dunes behind Everett's old stamping grounds — the Special Air Service Regiment barracks at Swanbourne.

The camp was hidden under a small covering of brush, overlooking the Swanbourne nudist beach. Bags of firearms and explosives had been buried at the campsite.

"Finding those weapons was the icing on the cake," Sgt Maloney said.

Detectives then sifted through the mountain of intelligence gathered during the monitored meetings and investigated a suggestion Everett had committed an insurance crime in NSW for a Sydney crime boss.

Everett had bragged he was paid to steal and burn an expensive vehicle so the person could collect insurance on it.

Detectives travelled to Sydney and later confirmed that a car belonging to the person had been stolen, set on fire and pushed over a cliff in Katoomba, in the Blue Mountains. Further inquiries led to dead ends.

The Perth detectives were able to confirm that Everett had conducted surveillance on the homes of officers involved in Operation Zulu which resulted in his initial arrest in 1991.

At one stage, Everett had a list of the detectives, their addresses and telephone numbers.

Sgt Maloney is unwilling and unable to reveal his views on the severity of Everett's 14½-year sentence.

But there are few people who believe David Everett, the man who snubbed authority and carried out his crimes with calculating accuracy, will never be heard from again.

In Everett's words: "Vengeance is good."

Terror will not go away

THE victims of David Everett's terrifying crimes will never forget the man with the piercing blue eyes who turned their whole lives upside down.

The following are extracts from the statements by the victims, who cannot be identified, about the impact Everett had on their lives and the legacy he left behind.

One victim was a few months' pregnant when Everett abducted her and her husband from their home.

"It was the terror and the fear of my losing my life that I will never forget," she said. "I have lost the feeling of being safe."

From being in such a vulnerable and helpless position it has instilled a fear I will never fully recover from."

Another victim sold his home after his family of four could not recover from the intrusion on their safety.

"After having been woken by the cold metal

of the rifle resting on my cheek with a light in my eyes I have never been able to settle back into my home," he said.

"Sleep is still something I am unable to achieve."

"I have and still suffer nightmares and regularly relive this horrible event."

"Now at home, work or out in public I become very nervous."

"I have lost faith in society and in particular in the judiciary system as I believe the community is not protected but the criminals are."

A third victim also speaks of losing her sense of security after Everett's late night visit.

"The time until David Francis Everett was caught was stressful," she said. "I remember looking at everybody's shoes, staring at people with bright blue eyes and just looking at people in general."

"I used to hang the washing up after dark. I cannot do that anymore and I do not throw the rubbish out at night."

Police monitor park meeting

ON AN August night last year, David Everett was sitting in a car in Kings Park, overlooking the city lights.

He had left his primitive bush camp near the Swanbourne nudist beach to meet a person he was forcing to help with his master plan of destruction and vengeance.

Everett was unaware the meeting was being monitored by a big team of police, including the tactical response group and armed robbery squad officers.

Everett was excited. He had just blown up the Baldivis

explosives magazine and had the firepower to carry out even his wildest plans.

"You can't comprehend, with a crack like I've never heard before — all I saw was this brilliant flash," he told the person he was meeting.

"I was one kilometre away, flash, bang, crash, TNT sounds like when it goes off."

"Oh God, it was terrific."

Everett said he had initially planned to watch the explosion, which was heard 25km away, from a distance of a couple of hundred metres, but was glad he hadn't.

He spoke swiftly and excitedly to the person, recounting how he abducted a family and stole money from an Armadale supermarket safe about two weeks earlier.

"I've got to make two hundred grand to pay for the houses, to get the family back on side," Everett said.

Police believe Everett's burning desire to repay the \$200,000 sum lost by his mother and sister when he faked his abduction from home detention had been the reason he returned to Perth.

That same night, Everett des-

cribed the two ends as innocent families who were threatened with a military-style firearm and bound with black tape and ties.

Everett also explained his method of waking his sleeping victims.

"I worked out how to wake (them) up without scaring them, torch and shake the little toe," he said. He then puts on an accent and pretends he is threatening the victims: "Don't move, or I'll blow a hole in your..."

"Explosives have been delivered

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Everett bashed in jail

THE Justice Ministry has charged a notorious Casuarina inmate with the jail bashing of high-security prisoner David Francis Everett.

Australian Nationalists Movement murderer Wayne Napier was charged with assault after the attack on February 3.

Everett was taken to Fremantle Hospital two weeks later.

He has lodged a claim for compensation against the State over his extensive injuries.

Everett's lawyer, Malcolm Bateman, called for a CAT scan of Everett's injuries and said his family would sue the State further if there was any residual damage.

His family, who found out about the bashing only this week when his mother visited him, claimed the injuries had been left too long for doctors to do anything - bones

By JANET WAINWRIGHT

were already knitting together.

But the Ministry said doctors had confirmed the original treatment at the jail's hospital was good and nothing could have been done until facial swelling had gone down.

Everett, a former SAS trooper, was once classified as Australia's most wanted man and is serving an 18-year sentence.

He was in the special handling unit when Napier, serving 20 years, allegedly attacked him.

Napier is the only man to have escaped from Casuarina Jail.

It is alleged Everett was king hit while in his cell in the special handling unit where high-security prisoners are housed.

He fell on his face, smashing many bones, and fragments were

still being ejected from his nose this week. He had been unconscious for a time.

Mr Bateman said it was important Everett had a CAT scan and this should have been done before in case more loose bones were floating in his forehead.

He said Everett was still suffering trauma from the attack and needed to be examined by an orthopedic surgeon, not just a prison doctor.

"I cannot understand how it was he could be assaulted in what is effectively solitary confinement. The family expects the prison authorities to investigate this and discipline anyone guilty of neglect," Mr Bateman said.

It is claimed Everett was too scared to lay charges or seek a police investigation.

Everett was believed to be one of the whistleblowers in the case against 11 prison officers charged

with bashing prisoner Derek Chapman in September 1992. That case is now before the court.

Justice Ministry chief executive David Grant said Everett insisted he had fallen but prison officers did not believe him and laid charges against Napier.

"If it was found that Everett had been assaulted because of his links to the Chapman case and officers had turned a blind eye, I would act strongly but evidence points to the reverse being the case - the officers laying charges despite no cooperation from Everett," Mr Grant said.

Everett's violent crime spree began in January 1991 when he was arrested and charged jointly with Jim Reynolds on a robbery and heroin charge (later dismissed). The night before they were due to appear in court, Reynolds killed himself.

Everett, released on home deten-

tion bail despite strong opposition from prosecutors, faked his abduction less than a week later.

He was on the loose for more than a year before recapture.

In the Supreme Court this week lawyer David Dempster, representing the Director of Public Prosecutions, was refused a six-month delay for a claim for \$11,000 seized from Everett when he was arrested. Everett was not in court.

Mr Dempster wanted the delay to set up a video link between Casuarina Jail and the court, claiming high costs and security risks in bringing Everett to court.

Napier, serving 20 years for killing ANM whistleblower David Locke in 1989, broke out of Casuarina in a sealed box soon after the jail was opened in 1991.

He was on the run for two weeks before giving himself up in Kununurra.

Begorrah! It's such a great day for the Irish

TWO-year-old Christine Joyce is making a big name for herself in the family business.

She, her father, Robert, and the Irish community will be doing a jig and kicking up a bit of dust.

RIGHT: Christine Joyce and her father, Robert, get into the swing of things Irish. Picture - IAN CUGLEY



3 arrests in police pursuit

By MATT TRINCA and NICK TAYLOR

TWO police vehicles were rammed during a high-speed chase through Perth's northern suburbs early yesterday.

Three youths in a stolen Holden Commodore were arrested after the 12-minute pursuit.

Nobody was hurt, despite the youths hitting a power pole.

The youths abandoned the car in Padbury.

The chase began when the Commodore refused to stop on Hepburn Ave at 1.15am.

Police abandoned the pursuit when the car crossed to the wrong side of Hepburn Ave.

The police helicopter, Polair One, shadowed the Commodore when the trio tried to flee.

The youths were charged with various offences, including stealing motor vehicles, burglary and assaulting a police officer.

Logging 'bad business for tourism'

By FRASER GIBCO

A BUSINESS investigation has led to a renewed attack on logging in WA's old-growth forests.

The WA Small Business and Enterprise Association has spent weeks on aerial and ground research.

It claims old-growth forests are being systematically destroyed.

Executive director Philip Achurch said the investigation had been launched because of concern by some tourist operators that their major attraction - old-growth, high conservation-value hardwood forest - was being destroyed.

"The real point is that our last remaining pockets of high conservation value old-growth forest are still being reduced through totally destructive practices such as clearfelling where everything including trees, flora and fauna, is literally flattened or destroyed," Mr Achurch said.

He said this must be

stopped and logging roads must not be pushed through the Peak, Mosey and Sharpe blocks in the southern forest region.

The Havelle and Gidley blocks, near Pemberton, also had to be left alone.

"Surely it makes more sense to receive foreign income on a perpetual and sustainable basis using old-growth forest for selected tourism developments, than to receive quick-gain short-term foreign income via the continuing destruction of virtually the last vestiges of these irreplaceable forests," Mr Achurch said.

The forest-based tourism industry needs resource security.

However, guides who take tourists through Buntings timber mill at Pemberton said the thousands of visitors each year were impressed by what they learnt on tours and mill tours.

Fears for jail rebel

NEVER-say-die Jan ter Horst is heading for the record books after spending two months in jail for contempt of court.

Ter Horst, whose only "crime" is his refusal to hand over a land title, has been behind bars for 58 days.

His supporters say he will soon become the longest-serving contempt prisoner in WA history.

They are concerned he will end up the forgotten man of the WA jail system.

Ter Horst was jailed on January 13 for ignoring a District Court order to hand over the duplicate certificate of title for

By MARVIN LASON

a block of land in Beaconsfield.

He sold off the subdivided block some years ago but he refuses to hand over the title because of a long-running wrangle over the height of a partly built house on the property.

Ter Horst has lost two court cases over the issue but he refuses to accept the verdict.

After he was jailed, he went on a hunger strike in protest at the way he says he has been treated by the WA justice system.

He did not eat for more than five weeks, ending up in the

infirmary at Casuarina Prison. He was in a wheelchair, too weak to walk.

He told supporters he would stay on hunger strike to the bitter end.

But at the urging of friends, Ter Horst finally relented two weeks ago and started eating jelly.

His physical condition has improved and he can walk with the aid of a stick.

Earlier this week he was moved from maximum-security Casuarina to the Wooreston prison farm.

But it appears he stayed there only one night - in a special security cell - before

being moved to Casuarina Vale jail apparently because of concerns for his safety.

He is due to transfer to Karrakatta prison later this week.

In 1988 convicted criminal John Cullen was sentenced to six months in jail in WA for contempt of the District Court.

Cullen, a licensed safe-cracker, had refused to tell the court the name of the person he claimed was the real culprit in a safe-break. He had been acquitted of the crime.

But Cullen was released from prison after spending just 74 days behind bars after the Executive Council remitted the sentence.

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Top dogs give farmer a kick

By GRAMAME ARMSTRONG

GIVEN a choice, Jerdacutup farmer Eric Atherton would choose this dog ahead of the best tractor on the market.

He says his champion kelpies — Gemma, pictured, and her son, Jade — do more work on his property, 40km east of Ravensthorpe, and are more valuable than anything the mechanical world has to offer.

And he would rather team up with Gemma and Jade at sheepdog trials than go to a big football match.

"The big kick I get out of these dogs is that they're real good farm dogs," he said.

"You can leave them 14km away with a mob of sheep and they'll show up at the shed all on their own."

Competing with the dogs in trials was sheer pleasure, he said.

Mr Atherton and his two dogs will represent WA at the Australian sheepdog championships from October 2 to 6 at Muresk Institute of Agriculture, near Northam.

More than 100 of the nation's best sheepdogs and 40 handlers will compete.

After the trials, the best dogs will give demonstrations at the Royal Show from October 8.

Pictures: NIC ELLIS

Everett wasn't a terrorist: lawyer

DAVID FRANCIS EVERETT had not been a terrorist and deserved a sentence less than Jack van Tongeren's 18 years, his lawyer told the Supreme Court yesterday.

Lawyer Richard Bayly said Everett took care not to harm people.

But Director of Public Prosecutions John McKechnie QC asked for more than 20 years' jail for Everett, saying recorded conversations showed the former SAS soldier had a chilling and callous view of people.

Justice Wallwork reserved his decision.

Everett, 31, formerly of Tanner Place, Morley, pleaded guilty last month to 24 charges relating to a violent crime spree in 1991-92.

They related to the kidnappings of two families during the robberies of a Hoyts cinema and a supermarket in 1991, the taking of his abduction from home detention and the theft of explosives from a Baldisar magazine last August.

By CARINA TAN-VAN BAREN

Mr Bayly said van Tongeren, the former leader of the racist Australian Nationalists Movement, had waged a campaign to drive Asians from WA in the late 1980s and had fire-bombed Chinese restaurants.

Some charges were similar, including causing an explosion, but Everett had more mitigating factors and had pleaded guilty.

"Van Tongeren pleaded not guilty to all charges and was seen by the trial judge as obstructive," Mr Bayly said.

"The Full Court found that he was the organiser of a campaign of terror against the Asian community — there was a terrorist objective."

"We would say that Everett's offending is less serious as there was no ultimate objective to have a particularly adverse effect on a section of the community."

Mr Bayly said Everett had escaped home detention and fled to Queensland in 1991 because he thought authorities were victimising him and feared for his life.

He was concerned about media reports that he was Australia's most wanted criminal — "a Rambo-style lethal war machine that could kill" — and returned to WA when told his mother and sister would forfeit their homes to pay his \$200,000 debts.

The robberies were an attempt to pay the debts.

Mr McKechnie said Everett's behaviour and secretly taped conversations indicated a lack of regard for others.

Without mitigating factors, he would be eligible for more than 30 years' jail.

There had to be light at the end of the tunnel for Everett, but his crimes were horrendous, Mr McKechnie said.

Tapes fail to implicate Jacko

LOS ANGELES Videotapes seized from his homes did not link Michael Jackson to sexual molestation, according to a high-ranking police source.

The lack of physical evidence had left investigators scrambling to get statements from other potential victims.

"There's no medical evidence, no taped evidence," the source said.

With little, if any, physical evidence to implicate Jackson in the

allegations involving the 13-year-old Los Angeles boy at the centre of the probe, investigators are interviewing other youngsters close to the entertainer to determine whether any was sexually abused.

The probe took a new turn with a report that Jackson recently rejected a bid by the 13-year-old boy's Beverly Hills dentist father to set up a \$50 million film deal.

In Bangkok, Jackson gave his second concert yesterday after a 48-hour delay.

Jackson, who turns 15 tomorrow, had postponed the concert twice on orders from his doctor after becoming dehydrated during his first open-air performance in hot, humid conditions on Tuesday.

Coca-Cola yesterday took out advertisements making him of Jackson and his Pepsi-Cola sponsors.

"Dehydrated" There's Always Coke," the advertisements published in Bangkok's newspapers said.

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REPORTS PAGES B2-94

Everett linked to hostage drama

WA's most dangerous fugitive, David Francis Everett, is the prime suspect of police investigating Saturday night's abduction of a family of four and an attempt to kidnap another family just hours later.

Police have launched a search for the gunman, believed to be the notorious gangster who staged his own kidnapping from home detention last September.

Acting Det-Sgt Adrian Stone said the gunman was extremely dangerous and it was feared he would strike again.

In the first incident a masked gunman matching Everett's description broke into the Balclutha home of Action Food Barn's Armadale manager at 8.30pm and terrorised his family for more than 2½ hours.

The man tied up the manager, his

By NEIL STANBURY

wife and two small children, aged five months and two. He then untied the manager and forced him to drive him to the coast.

He fired at least one shot from an assault rifle while ordering the manager to open the office safe. He then escaped in the family's car with an undisclosed sum of money.

While police were investigating the first robbery, the gunman broke into the Balclutha home of the chairman of the club's Board (1000 hours).

The manager and his wife were bound and gagged but their sleeping children were left alone.

After discovering the man didn't have keys to his work premises, the paintings escaped in the family's white Ford Merit station wagon (registration number 20A 497).

The family's rottweiler dog also disappeared.

In both cases the victims described their assailant as about 1.8m tall, of medium build and wearing dark clothing and brown sandals.

Although he also wore a hat, the gunman was said to have fair hair and blue eyes. While with the first family, he carried the Balclutha, including a two-litre flask which only recently obtained his insurance.

If Everett is, carried out the attack it would mark an astonishing return to WA by one of the nation's most wanted men.

A former SAS soldier, Everett escaped from home detention while on bail on charges including armed robbery, abduction and possession of firearms.

He fled to Queensland where Toronto detectives almost captured him by chance in December

when they raided a Magnetic Island house in which he was living.

A highly trained soldier who was once a mercenary for Britain's Karen rebels and is known as a master of disguise, Everett has eluded police since.

In one of two alleged raids by Everett on a Farmer Jack's supermarket in Beaufort more than a year ago a guard dog was poisoned.

Everett was granted home detention but after he was alleged to have kidnapped a Theatre cinema manager and his pregnant wife in June last year.

His family offered to pay up \$500,000 ransom.

When he disappeared from home detention, police found furniture upturned in the house where the ex-mercenary was staying, cartridge cases and Everett's blood on the floor but they were not convinced he had been abducted.

The Director of Public Prosecutions began moves recently to revoke the writ.

Everett is understood to have worked under an alias as an outdoor activities instructor in Queensland since he disappeared.

Police concern about Everett was heightened by the discovery of a notebook during the Queensland raid. It contained names and some addresses of WA detectives involved in the hunt for him.

They also found a short handgun, documents, photographs, a hatbox and camouflage paint.

Foodland director and former Action Holdings managing director Neville Peck said last night his firm had to improve their security.

"The first thing is to have two-way sales, so that you have to be able to contact two people," he said.

Prison ends Everett terror

CONVICTED kidnapper and robber David Francis Everett planned to blow up the Reserve Bank, police headquarters and detectives' homes in a vengeful spree, police claimed yesterday.

His plans to "up-rod Perth as we know it" were shattered when Everett was arrested in August last year after a 2½-year investigation by Perth's armed robbery squad and tactical response group.

Everett, 31, was sentenced yesterday to 14½ years' jail after pleading guilty to 25 offences committed from January 1991.

These included kidnapping, armed robbery, blowing up a

By CARINA TAN-VAN BAREN

Balclutha munitions store and faking his abduction from home detention.

Supreme Court Justice Wallwork commended police for risking their lives to capture the former Special Air Service soldier.

"It is obvious that the police officers concerned should be given very much credit for capturing you without any persons, including yourself, being killed or seriously injured," he told Everett.

"By your conduct you were inviting physical harm to innocent people."

Outside court, defence lawyer

Richard Dayly said the sentence was fair for both Everett, formerly of Tanner Place, Modley, and the community. Everett is eligible for parole.

Director of Public Prosecutions John McKechnie QC supported Justice Wallwork's comments that police handled the investigation well.

At police headquarters, the investigation head, Det-Sgt Geoff Mulrooney, said he respected the finesse with which Everett had planned and executed his offences.

But he was relieved Everett was in custody after information that he planned to blow up Perth buildings and had the private addresses of

detectives involved in his arrest in March 1991.

Everett sparked a nationwide hunt in June 1991 after faking his abduction from home detention bail on charges of kidnapping a Maylands couple, armed robbery of a cinema complex and conspiracy to import heroin.

A Supreme Court jury acquitted him of the heroin charge in July.

Everett returned to Perth 11 months after his escape, committed more kidnappings and armed robberies and planned to use stolen explosives to rob Yassamni goldmine before he was arrested.

"It is the most difficult investigation I have ever undertaken

and the comments that the judge did make were appreciated in the light of the dangerous person we were chasing," Sgt Mulrooney said.

Everett put his SAS anti-terrorism training to advantage by using the element of surprise on his victims.

"He didn't have to physically injure them to obtain his results, he obtained them through mental trauma," Sgt Mulrooney said.

"It became a situation whereby we had Australia's most dangerous criminal at large and we had to select a situation where we could apprehend him without endangering a member of my inquiry team or member of the public."



AFTERMATH John Hanley and Kevin Southall, of the Department of Minerals and Energy, sift through the magazine's rubble. Picture BARRY BAKER

Foul play feared in blasts

By JANE WAINCH
and JOHN TRILEY

POLICE suspect foul play after a series of blasts rocked Baldvis yesterday, demolishing a magazine containing two tonnes of explosives.

The blasts, heard 25km away in Pinjarra, smashed apart the double brick and steel mesh magazine, breaking windows of a gatehouse 200 metres away and setting alight an adjacent pine plantation.

The destroyed 30-tonne capacity magazine was one of three owned by the Department of Minerals and Energy. No one was hurt in the explosions, which left a 400m circle of destruction and shattered the peace of nearby residents.

Department spokesman Chris Hawkins said an investi-



BEFORE The Baldvis magazine before the blast.

gation had revealed the resette was the object of "certain illegal entry". He said there were two possible motives for the raid, which happened about 4am when one of four people broke through the roof of a magazine containing detonators.

The detonators were used to set a big explosives charge in a

second magazine containing specialised oil-well explosives, fuses and safety cartridges.

Mr Hawkins said it could have been an act of destruction by someone with a grudge or rivalry. The second, and more sinister possibility, was that the explosion was a cover-up for the theft of explosives.

He said there was speculation that former SAS soldier and fugitive David Francis Everett could have been involved.

"I have heard the view put forward that Everett is involved, although it would be the wildest conjecture at this point. It's obvious that the person who did this has a great degree of knowledge of explosives," he said.

Local resident Jane Powell said she was shaken by what she thought was thunderclap. Though her house was unaffected by the blast, she said other people claimed their windows were shaken.

Department of Minerals and Energy explosives and dangerous goods division director Ken Price said residents in the area were in no danger from the blasts.