

- vi. The fact that there are "very significant haemorrhagic effusion both left and right" (D789/8) (haemothoraces) shows that the circulation (in the sense of a beating heart) must have continued for a period of time to enable the haemothoraces to accumulate. Instantaneous death would not be associated with a haemothorax of any significant size.

Specimens

- vii. The exact site of sampling of the blood specimens taken on 31st August 1997 must be in doubt although it appears most likely that all of the blood samples were taken from the haemothorax, most probably from the left side.
- viii. The exact number of blood samples taken on 31st August 1997 is also in doubt, Prof Lecomte variously states that three (VED1155, S129) and five (D1323, D4412) were taken.
- ix. Samples taken from a haemothorax should have been labelled as such and not labelled as Cardiac Blood.
- x. There appears to be a general lack of clarity about sampling, labelling and documentation of the samples taken on 31st August 1997. Prof Lecomte (D1155) stated that "exhibiting is not an issue for the medical examiner" however Major Mules records (OD422 /2006) that that it should have been his job to seal the exhibits but Prof "Lecomte didn't follow this protocol and insisted on overall control herself".
- xi. The samples taken on 4th September 1997 have been labelled and documented with much greater care.
- xii. The toxicologists need to be aware of the exact site of sampling especially if it is from an unusual site or contained in a bottle labelled as originating from some other site.
- xiii. In general terms knowledge of the presence or absence of preservative would be of importance to the toxicologist.

Alcohol Abuse

- xiv. We understand that it is or may be suggested that Henri Paul was a chronic alcoholic. Chronic alcohol abuse will commonly result in visible changes to the liver. However it is recognised that not all chronic alcohol abusers have gross naked eye evidence of a fatty liver.
- xv. The liver was described as "non cirrhotic or steatotic (*sic*)" by Professor Lecomte (UK300) based on gross examination at autopsy.
- xvi. Histological examination would have been more likely to have detected fatty change (steatosis) and other features of alcohol abuse, if it was present.
- xvii. No histological examination appears to have been conducted at any time despite the retention of a sample of liver by Professor Lecomte. (S129, UK300) for three years.