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**NO LINK IN STABBING DEATHS—POLICE**

# SMOKING CLUE IN 'GAY BLADE' KILLING

AN unusual tin of cigarettes has emerged as a vital clue in a Sydney murder tagged the gay blade killing.

Detectives have full descriptions of two men who smoked Benson and Hedges cigarettes from a tin as they chatted to victim Peter Parkes in a Kings Cross bar.

Mr Parkes, 41, a teacher at Sutherland College, was found bound, gagged and stabbed to death in his Potts Point flat three weeks ago.

Two days earlier 27-year-old Gerald Cuthbert was knifed to death in a Paddington flat.

Both men were homosexuals. But police doubt the murders are linked.

Detectives have interviewed boys as young as 14 in their hunt for the killers.

The men wanted for

By DOUG BUTTON

questioning a b o u t Parkes' death may have been with American sailors before meeting the victim, police believe.

The threesome drank beer in the bar for three hours before leaving in Parkes' white Toyota. They reached his flat at 11.30 pm.

One of the men left the flat between 5 am and 6 am the next morning with the victim's television set. He loaded it into the boot



The two murder victims . . . New Zealander Gerald Cuthbert (left) and school teacher Peter John Parkes.

of the Toyota and drove to Burwood, where he abandoned the car.

He is in his early twenties, has dark hair and wore casual clothes.

The other suspect left the flat between 6 am and 7 am, police said today. He is about the same age, 180cm tall, with light coloured shoulder-length hair

and a mole on his right cheek. He wore a grey jacket or jumper.

Many people had recognised the two men in circulated photofit pictures but

couldn't name them, police said.

"We have had a lot of co-operation from the gay community. It shouldn't be long before there is an arrest," said a detective.

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