

KENNY WILLIAMS - one of the last pictures.

men, he said, sat opposite.

vehicle.'

the driver.'

self on the nearside.

But KIMM insisted he sat on the

off-side with a uniformed man oppo-

site. Williams, he thought, "was

kneeling or sitting on the floor. I

think he was facing the front of the

He was sitting at the rear nearside

of the vehicle with Kimm facing. A

uniformed officer was next to him-

Was anyone else sitting behind

the driver, asked Mr Vernon Ren-

shaw, solicitor for the Williams

family. "I don't think so. I don't

think there was," replied Chanley

"I cannot remember whether there

was another officer sitting behind

That, of course, was the position

Finegan was so sure he had been in

Was this confusion because they

officer, maybe of a higher rank? Or

sitting still at all during the journey

was it because none of them was

THE NUMBER of men in the jeep

was not the only thing the police

Kenny Williams' face became "a

mask of blood" as one of them

were confused about. At some stage

Beaumont, the driver, said Will-

iams was "covered in blood" on

Lime Street before he got into the

Chanley - recalled this. All they

Finegan didn't see any blood before

police station "it was all over his face."

Finegan remembered at the in-

was explained by the owner of the

stolen car, Keith Oakes, who was

"There was quite a lot. It was

like somebody had had a very bad

the explanation? Keith Oakes gave

'The driver (Beaumont) said 'You

the inquest this interesting reply:

have to excuse the blood, he had

The Free Press asked Keith

Oakes the question the Coroner

Oakes said. "He just looked at

ambiguous reply to mean?

didn't ask. What did he take that

"It's the way he looked at me."

me and took his hat off. You could

when he arrived at Cheapside. On

duty there were Inspector John

Ferguson.

Charles Tate and Sergeant Peter

Williams was certainly badly hurt

a slight accident didn't he?' "

on the floor and on the sides.'

they got into the Land Rover either,

But by the time they reached the

Land Rover. But neither of the

were covering for a fifth police

**BLOOD IN THE JEEP** 

CHANLEY gave another version.

CORONER Roy Barter opened the inquest on Kenneth Williams with a promise: "I'm very anxious," he said, "that what is heard here is a full and complete inquiry.' It was a hollow promise and Bart-

er knew it. A full and complete inquiry was impossible. Impossible because the solicitors

acting for the Williams family were acting 'blind'

They had not been allowed to see the police photographs in the case. And worse, they had not even seen the statements made by the police officers involved. This meant that effective cross-examination of police witnesses was impossible. So much for Barter's promise.

### POLICE CONFUSED

AT LEAST four police officers are at the centre of the Williams case. They are the ones known to have taken Kenny Williams from Lime Street to the main Bridewell in a Land Rover. They are:

Con. James Peter FINEGAN (No. 3045), then at Copperas Hill but now stationed at St Anne Street. Con. David BEAUMONT (2861), sta-

tioned at Copperas Hill. Con. Thomas CHANLEY (1685), stationed at St Anne Street and attached to the Task Force. Con. Eric KIMM (2746) also attached

to the Task Force. But the evidence of these four raises the or even a sixth - policeman's

Kenny Williams told his wife he was attacked by six police. And at least two of these trained observers were not quite sure how many of them were in the Land Rover.\*

P.C. FINEGAN was sure. He was in the back with the two plainclothes men, Chanley and Kimm. P.C. Beaumont was driving

But Chanley and Kimm had doubts. front of his mackintosh as well. KIMM thought there were possibly three uniformed men in the Land Rover (including the driver).

His Task Force colleague, the nervous P.C. CHANLEY, was equally uncertain. In a statement made two days after Williams died, Chanley referred to "either one or two" uniformed men in the back of the Land Rover. At the inquest he said there were "maybe" two uniformed men in the back.

The possibility of another policeman in the Land Rover could explain a further clash in the police evidence.

The three police definitely in the back with Williams each told a different story about where they were

FINEGAN: "Williams was sitting on the floor with his back to the driver. I sat on the off-side of the vehicle (i.e. behind the driver) holding his arm." The two Task Force

THE WILLIAMS inquest attracted a lot of publicity in newspapers and on television. But it is not widely known that the news coverage of the case was interfered with.

Early on the second day of the inguest Mr Nicholson, the solicitor acting for the police, telephoned the Liverpool Daily Post. He complained about unfair treatment of the police case. The Post news desk naturally passed on his comments to their young reporter.

It was well known that Granada Television had a film on the William. case which was due to go out on Granada Reports the day the inquest

Fifteen minutes before the programme was due on the air Granada received an uncoded bomb warning. Granada reports, including Geoff Seed's report, was hurriedly cut short and cartoons substituted as the studio was evacuated.

Geoff Seed has since done other stories embarrassing for Liverpool's police. At Christmas he received an anonymous card. It said simply: "Stay out of Liverpool.

KENNETH WILLIAMS, a 27-year-old father of four from Kirkby, was arrested in Liverpool city centre on the night of Friday, July 19 last year. Four weeks later he died.

The police had stopped Williams in a stolen car. Stupidly, he drove off and dragged a police sergeant along with him. The car struck railings at Skelhorne Street and Williams was tackled and brought down by two plainclothes police as he ran along Lime Street.

From there he was taken to the main Bridewell in Cheapside in the back of a police Land Rover.

Before he died Williams told three people - his wife, his brother, and a solicitor's clerk - that he was severely beaten on the way. He said he was kicked, punched, and hit on the head with a metal radio set.

But even before the November inquest and the 'misadventure' verdict, the police had cleared themselves. Detective Superintendent Bernard Ibison and Detective Inspector Roy Eglan had carried out a disciplinary enquiry.

Their report went to the Chief Constable of Merseyside and then to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The DPP decided no charges could be brought against any police officer.

An important factor in that decision would be that 'hearsay evidence' — what Williams told people — is not admissable in most criminal proceedings. Dead men tell no tales in court!

But court action is not entirely ruled out. There is certainly nothing to stop a full public inquiry. Here we examine in detail the evidence at the inquest, and some later developments, including -

- The wrecked car that wasn't
- The constables who forgot
- The sergeant who got his lines wrong
- The coroner's hollow promise
- And the police surgeon's amazing statement

police account.

Williams' condition seemed to have been preying on Sgt Ferguson's mind. The Coroner asked him a

perfectly routine question: Did Williams make any reply when charged? This was Ferguson's strange so I assumed the injuries were were sure of was that the blood was caused in the traffic accident.

there when they got to the bridewell. But that was the answer to a completely different question which the sergeant must have been expecting the question: How did Williams account for his injuries?

Was it a question which worried the sergeant so much he fluffed his

quest that there was blood on the UNEXPLAINED INJURIES Just how much blood was about

EQUALLY WORRYING for the police was the medical evidence. interviewed later in the police Land And, ironically, the evidence of the police surgeon was the most damning of all.

Various doctors who examined nose bleed. It was splattered about Williams found two deep cuts on the top of his head, two black eyes, a What - the Coroner asked - was suspected broken nose and a large bruise three or four inches in diameter on his stomach.

The police surgeon, Dr Maurice Kirwen, was the first to see Williams at Cheapside in the early hours of the morning. Kirwen was, not surprisingly, a difficult witness for the family's solicitor. He has been

the police surgeon for 25 years. He could not remember Williams making any complaint or mentioning how he had been injured. Worse, he see in the look he'd had a few goes." couldn't even remember asking. 'Sometimes what they tell me isn't true," Kirwen said. "I can't always

> accept what they tell me.' What he could remember was putting eight stitches in two deep

Turner promised a full internal inquiry if he forgot obviously thinking they had made some kind of

cuts on Williams' head. Dr Kirwen had seen it all before:

"They (the injuries) were well within the limits of people being arrested or involved in an accident, he told the inquest. And the cuts were of a particular type. They were incised wounds,

Kirwen explained, caused by "a sharp edge of some sort - metal or glass. Kenny Williams had explained the

cuts alright. He told his wife he had been beaten over the head with a police radio set.

A radio set like the one Finegan had; or the one Kimm had; or the one Chanley thought he had. The fact is that Kenny Williams'

version was never really challenged at the inquest. It remains extremely likely that he was telling the truth about the radio sets. No other explanation was offered for those deep cuts on his head.

The police solicitor, Mr R.H. Nicholson, tried to blame the car crash and the subsequent struggle for Williams' other injuries. But not the cuts: There was no broken glass or sharp objects in the car, or where he fell in Lime Street.

P.C. Finegan had a theory of his own: "I can only presume that when we put him into the vehicle he hit his head on the back partition," he had said.

The police surgeon destroyed that one. Dr Kirwen had been asked to examine the interior of the Land Rover: "I couldn't see anything that would have produced an incised wound like the one I treated, he said.

Pressed by Mr Vernon Renshaw, he said he thought it "unlikely"

that a radio set had caused the wounds. Walton Hospital had since gone to CAR WASN'T WRECKED

ALL THROUGH the inquest the police suggested Williams' other injuries were probably the result of crashing the stolen car

First, Williams could not have

been badly hurt in the crash. He got

out of the car quickly, brushed past

A heavy blow to the stomach from

a constable, and ran several hun-

dred yards before he was arrested.

the steering wheel - to cause the

bruise - would surely have winded

Second, the car. A great deal of

The photo shows what the layman

would describe as slight damage:

The front nearside headlamp was

smashed, and the grill and the side

panel damaged. But the windscreen

The evidence of P.C. Eric Ford,

was intact, all four tyres inflated

who said he saw the crash, was

simply unbelievable. According to

him, the car was going so fast it

jumped two-and-a-half feet in the

air over bollards at the bottom of

Skelhorne Street before hitting the

Our picture of the slight damage

and the bonnet undamaged.

mystery surrounds this Ford Cors-

air car. The police have refused to

release their photograph taken .

after the crash. But our reporter

saw it during the inquest.

was looking for a natural cause of Evidence was given that the car was death. The pancreatitis, he thought, "a write-off". At one stage the police's was "accelerated by the presence solicitor spoke of the car travelling at of gallstones and alcoholism." 50 m.p.h., jumping over bollards, and embedding itself in railings. The evidence does not support the

(He found two gallstones and there had been evidence that Kenny Williams liked his beer.) What about a blow to the stomach?

o the railings provides a better

guide to the force of the impact.

to the police case. It suggested

that Williams could have been in-

But if the Ford Corsair was a

wreck. It is now back on the road

and being driven by a proud new

owner somewhere in Cumbria. He

bought it from a garage in Holme, Lancs, for around £550.

OW WILLIAMS came by his in-

uries is one thing. Whether they

caused his death a month later from

Unfortunately, his family had no

ndependent medical evidence. And

The jury were left with the evid-

Dr St Hill reached no firm con-

clusions. On balance, he said, he

ne surgeon who operated on him in

MEDICAL EVIDENCE

pancreatitis is another.

Office pathologist.

write-off, it certainly wasn't a

ured in a serious car crash.

The fact that the car was written

off by the Guardian Royal Exchange

Assurance Company was very useful

'Because of the prolonged timing between the injury and the onset (of pancreatitis) the likelihood is extremely low." the doctor said. It is difficult to comment on this part of the medical evidence. But it would be frighteningly easy to comment on the sort of medical attention Williams got in Risley Remand Centre.

There was Dr James Mills who gave Williams "a particularly meticulous" examination on arrival - and failed to notice one of the cuts on his head.

There was Dr Lomax who saw Williams when he was finally admitted to hospital a week later. According to Lomax, "He did not look seriously ill" and he treated him for a peptic ulcer.

Yet less than an hour earlier Prison Officer Deaney had found Williams "anxious, sweating profusely, frightened. He complained he had been vom-

iting continuously and his pulse was rapid and irregular, Deaney said. Only three days later Williams

would be rushed to Walton Hospital for an emergency operation.

SURPRISE WITNESS

ON THE LAST day of the inquest a surprise witness turned up. Thomas Cox, a taxi driver, had seen the arrest in Lime Street. He came forward because he felt the police were getting an unfair press.

Cox was the only independent witness to the arrest. It is interesting that neither he, nor any other non-police witness was found by the investigating officers from Lancashire. Lime Street is, after all, still fairly busy just after midnight.

Cox's evidence contradicted the police on a very vital point. Constables Finegan and Beaumont had claimed they had difficulty gett ing Williams into the Land Rover. But they agreed that once inside,

Cox said he was quiet before he got into the Land Rover. When he first saw him, Williams was lying quietly on the ground surrounded by the police. He was then led quietly ence of Dr Charles St Hill, the Home to the Land Rover

Williams became quiet.

At that stage, said Cox, he saw no sign of blood on Williams.

So, if Williams was unhurt at that stage he must have come by his injuries after he was put in the Land Rover. By that time, according to the police themselves, he had stopped resisting. So why should he be injured?

The Coroner thanked Mr Cox for coming forward. And promptly forgot him. In his summing up Mr Barter referred only to the police version of the arrest.

That is not the only criticism of Barter's summing up. He made no mention of the cuts on Williams' head, for instance.

And he offered the jury a choice between two alternatives: A verdict of 'misadventure' or 'natural causes'. Only later in his summing up did he refer separately to the possibility of an 'open verdict'.

\* The number of police in a jeep was a crucial question in a case at Liverpool Crown Court in 1971, when Mr Lennie Cruickshank (a black man) was acquitted of possessing cannabis. Cruickshank maintained that the cannabis was planted, and that he had been manhandled by five police in a jeep

The police denied there were five citing a regulation that only four men were allowed in a jeep. But during the trial Cruickshank spotted the fifth policeman in another part of the court building and had him call ed as a witness. This ruined the prosecution's case.

deliberately and viciously. The probable explanation is that one or more of the officers involved lost their heads when their colleague was injured. And that they later lied to the inquest to cover up.

The known facts point to the truth of what Williams himself said, when he told his wife he was kicked, punched and beaten over the head. Why should he lie to his wife? He did not, for instance, lie to her about stealing the car.

FAR LEFT: The slight damage to the railings suggests a minor collison, not

LEFT: Mrs Williams and her children-

still waiting for a full inquiry.

It happened

in the back

of a police

land Rover

THE INESCAPABLE conclusion

from the evidence is that Kenny

Williams was attacked by the police ...

a spectacular crass

The two deep cuts on Williams' head provide, perhaps, the strongest evidence against the police. Williams said they were caused by a police radio set. They probably were.

No-one, not even the police, tried to blame the car crash for the cuts. There was no broken glass or other sharp edge in the car to cause them.

Williams did not receive the cuts in the street, The only independent witness (so far) says Williams appeared uninjured when he was arrested; he was not hurt and not resisting when

he was put into the Land Rover. The only other place he could have received the cuts is the police Land Rover. All the police agree that by the time they reached Cheapside Williams was bleeding profusely.

What's more, the cuts were deliberate. The police surgeon ruled out an accident. They could not have been caused by an accidental bump against anything in the Land Rover, he said.

But how did Williams receive the blow to his stomach - the massive bruise that may have caused or contributed to his death? The police did try to blame the car crash for this, but once again the weight of evidence

points towards the Land Rover. Our picture of the railings, and the picture of the car which the police have, suggest a minor collision

and not a serious crash. • Immediately after the collision Williams was able to jump out and run several hundred yards before being arrested. This would surely have been impossible if the bruise on his stomach had been caused by the steering wheel

as the police suggested.

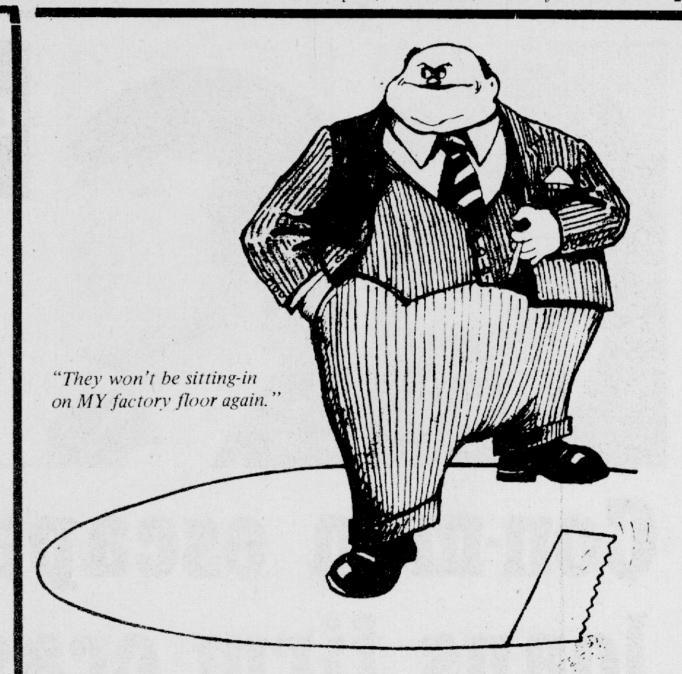
Did the stomach injury cause Williams' death? That is a matter for the medical experts. The inquest jury had to rely heavily on the opinion of the Home Office Pathologist. But the opinion of the surgeon who operated on Williams in Walton Hospital is surely equally valid. It is very unfortunate that the inquest was held after the surgeon had gone to America and he could not be asked his opinion on the cause of Williams' pancreatitis.

At least one newspaper reported that the inquest cleared the police.

An inquest is held to establish the cause of death only. Thus the coroner in this case instructed the jury that "the starting point must be the medical evidence."

A full public inquiry would have a different starting point: simply to discover what happened to Williams in police custody.

A full public inquiry could consider a possibility the inquest did not -That the police assaulted Williams



## Sit-in men to sue

over dogs attack

THE BAKERY WORKERS who were attacked and thrown out of Scott's Netherton bakery by security guards with alsation dogs are taking legal

action against the firm. Scott's ruthless American-style tactics ended a brief sit-in by 17 bakers on the first day back at work

after their strike. Six out of eight Scott's shop stewards were among those sacked. The union has been virtually destroyed at

the Netherton bakery. Scott's defeated the sit-in by bringing in Kirkland Security Services of Rainford along with eight alsation dogs. The use of a "private army" like this against workers has importthe reaction to pickets with dogs.) All 17 who took part in the sit-in were sacked. Most of them are taking, moved one of the dough-room barri-Scotts to an industrial tribunal. claiming wrongful dismissal. Some

intend taking further legal action for assault and false imprisonment. Not surprisingly, all this will be without the backing of the Bakers' Union. The union's executive committee decided legal support would be

### THE SACKING

too expensive.

Two of the 17, Kenny Hughes and Michael Varnie, explained what happened the night they were sacked: At the start of the night shift Kenny Kenny, as senior steward, asked to see the shift log. This was normal procedure to check they were properly manned. The shift manager refused.

Director Peter Scott told Kenny he intended to man the shift with nonunion and management staff. When Kenny refused to accept this he was told to clock off and go home. Security guards prevented him from

consulting with other stewards. Bill Caldwell, a steward who came outside to speak to him, was also sus-

Eventually they got union district secretary Eddie Pritchard over from Manchester. But by 2 a.m. Scotts were not budging. The men could return to

work only alongside non-union labour The stewards decided on a sit-in. This tactic had been agreed to meet any victimisation at the mass meeting which voted to end the strike. The stewards also had the backing of their union official.

"Be quick and make a good job of it." Eddie Pritchard told them. In all, 17 men barricaded themselves into the dough room, the bakery's nerve centre. As far as they

knew, they had the support of the other workers. At 3.20 a.m. Peter Scott gave a ten-minute ultimatum, sacked them and locked the doors from the outside

At 6 a.m. management refused to ant implications for all of us. (Imagine allow the union branch secretary in to speak to the men and negotiate. At 9.30 a.m. security guards re-

cades, while keeping the men back with a dog. The security men and the dogs, backed up by management men and some drivers, then turned the 17 out

The men say they were pushed and roughly handled Later three stewards were intercepted by management on the way to the pay office. There was a struggle and Kenny Hughes was bitten by an

alsatian dog. A day-shift man who rushed out of the canteen to intervene was sacked

A mass meeting of the day-shift decided to take no action and leave it to "the union". Two days later Bil Caldwell was smuggled in to speak to the night-shift. He says management threatened to break up the meeting with dogs. This meeting also took no action.

The Bakers' Union executive are not renowned for their militancy but the men already have the support of some union branches. • Further support: Scotts Action

Committee, c/o Millie Hughes, 30 Deerbarn Drive, Netherton, L 30.

New law would make sit-ins a crime

### **NEWS FROM NOWHERE**

Now in Stock: Leaving the Twentieth Century (80p), documents from the Situationist International with a history of the SI by Chris Gray. 2. The Clay Cross Story (65p). 3. Schumacker–Small Is Beautiful (75p). 4. Jack London-The Iron Heel (75p) 5. Upton Sinclair-The Jungle (65p) 6. Ivan Illich-Medical Nemesis (£1.25) 7. The Sexuai Politics of Sickness (50p) 8. Sklovsky-Mayakovsky and his circle (£2) 9. Morrow-Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain. Plus a selection of hardback books at reduced prices.

## NEWS FROM NOWHERE

48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1. (051-227 2514) (End of Victoria St., near tunnel entrance)

# THE P.C. THEY INVESTIGATED BEFORE

One of the officers involved in the Williams case, Constable James Peter Finegan, was the subject of another internal police inquiry three years ago.

The man who made u. complaint was Brian Egerton, a young, intelligent man who lives with his wife and children in a comfortable new house in

On February 8, 1972, he was fined £50 for assaulting two police officers from Copperas Hill police station. One was P.C. Philip David Bermingham and the other was P.C. Finegan.

The Liverpool magistrates chose to believe the police version of the events which led to the court appearance. But Brian Egerton has consistently maintained he is innocent. He claims he was the one assaulted by the police. After the case he intended to appeal at his own

expense. But then an Inspector Turner from West-

minster Road police station called at his home.

about an appeal.

action has ever been taken against either Finegan or

The Free Press is aware that many unfounded allegations are made against policemen. But after meeting and talking to Brian Egerton we have decided to print his story. We have also spoken to one of the two men he

was arrested with. Both his friends were fined for being drunk and disorderly. The one we spoke to said they pleaded guilty "because it was the simplest thing to do.' This is what Brian Egerton says happened to

him when he met Constable Finegan after an early evening drink in the city centre... BRIAN EGERTON'S STATEMENT

We were walking up Seel Street just chattering and laughing. I walked on ahead to unlock the car and the Krooklock. I was about 30 yards in front when I heard this voice shout 'Come here you.

Anyway, I walked back towards the policeman

mistake. When I reached him he got hold of my

and disorderly.' At that stage I just honestly thought it was some kind of a joke. I looked at the other two heel and shouting "You'll keep your fucking mouth they eventually let me drop to the floor someone who were still standing there in amazement. He said: "We've been following you for the last

ten minutes, you've been singing and shouting all the way down Lord Street. I replied: "You're either mistaken or telling lies because we've just this minute come out of the Hanover and if you come back we'll prove it by asking the barmaids.

He then grabbed me by the throat and shoved

me up against the wall leading to the multi-storey car park, and said: "Keep your fucking mouth ...Just then the police van which had been called for by the other policeman arrived. About four policemen jumped out and dragged me into the van where they forced me to lie on the floor. They

were all laughing about the way they had dragged I had my new clothes on and was trying to get into a sitting position when my head was forced down and they started stamping on me. [Finegan] was twisting my middle finger with all his strength

[Bermingham] was stamping on me with his shut in future, big shot" or words to that effect. On arriving at the police station I was carried out bodily and flung onto the police station floor.

sergeant said: "Oh we've got a bit of an actor here eh?" When I eventually got to my feet I asked if I could use the telephone. He just smirked and kept making silly remarks such as "Serves you right" or "Why don't you stay and coughed up a lot of blood. out of the town centre?" Anyway, the desk sergeant I think it was then they realised they might refused point blank at first and then said something have gone a bit too far with the beating because

to the effect of "It obstructs the true course of I protested that surely if I was drunk then he wouldn't mind an independent doctor coming along speaking to someone outside. This turned out to to prove it. I was then told I had "too much fucking lip" by the desk sergeant.

[Bermingham] then came up behind me and got hold of me in a sort of head-lock. I started struggling to get some air as he was choking me. There were still police officers standing around. doctor walked back in. A moment or two later

I don't know how long it went on but when started kicking me. After the beating up someone started to drag me by the hair to a cell but was told I had had enough by one of the con-

I was quite groggy after the beating and the desk stables standing round. I was put in a cell where I lay down on the bunk. I think I might have dozed off but I was aware of people coming in from time to time. On one of these occasions I started coughing fairly violently

> about three quarters of an hour later I was examined by a police doctor. ...[The doctor] went out and I could hear him be the desk sergeant. The conversation went as far as I could hear something like:

"What exactly have you got this chap in for because as far as I can see he isn't drunk?" I could hear footsteps walking away and the Two got hold of me one on each arm in a spread- he was joined by the desk sergeant who said: "He's and at the same time punching me about the head eagled fashion only standing up. [Finegan] started in for assaulting two police officers." That was and face. He eventually twisted my finger completely punching me about the head and body. The desk the first I knew of being charged with assault. whether or not they actually killed him.