



KENNY WILLIAMS - one of the last pictures.

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."

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), stationed at Copperas Hill.
Con. Thomas CHANLEY (1855), 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 question: Did they cover up for a fifth - or even a sixth - policeman?

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. 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 sitting.

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

men, he said, sat opposite. But KIMM insisted he sat on the off-side with a uniformed man opposite. Williams, he thought, "was kneeling or sitting on the floor. I think he was facing the front of the vehicle."

CHANLEY gave another version. He was sitting at the rear nearside of the vehicle with Kimm facing. A uniformed officer was next to himself on the nearside.

Was anyone else sitting behind the driver, asked Mr Vernon Renshaw, 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 the driver."

That, of course, was the position Finegan was so sure he had been in. Was this confusion because they were covering for a fifth police officer, maybe of a higher rank? Or was it because none of them was sitting still at all during the journey?

THE NUMBER of men in the jeep was not the only thing the police were confused about. At some stage Kenny Williams' face became "a mask of blood" as one of them put it.

Beaumont, the driver, said Williams was "covered in blood" on Lime Street before he got into the Land Rover. But neither of the actual arresting officers - Kimm and Chanley - recalled this. All they were sure of was that the blood was there when they got to the bridewell.

Finegan didn't see any blood before they got into the Land Rover either. But by the time they reached the police station "it was all over his face."

Finegan remembered at the inquest that there was blood on the front of his mackintosh as well. Just how much blood was about was explained by the owner of the stolen car, Keith Oakes, who was interviewed later in the police Land Rover.

"The case was quite a lot. It was like somebody had had a very bad nose bleed. It was splattered about on the floor and on the sides."

What - the Coroner asked - was the explanation? Keith Oakes gave the interesting this reply: "The driver (Beaumont) said 'You have to excuse the blood, he had a slight accident didn't he?'"

The Free Press asked Keith Oakes the question the Coroner didn't ask. What did he take that ambiguous reply to mean? "It's the way he looked at me," Oakes said. "He just looked at me and took his hat off. You could see in the look he'd had a few goes."

Williams was certainly badly hurt when he arrived at Cheapside. On duty there was Inspector John Charles Tate and Sergeant Peter Ferguson.

Various doctors who examined Williams found two deep cuts on the top of his head, two black eyes, a suspected broken nose and a large bruise three or four inches in diameter on his stomach.

He could not remember Williams making any complaint or mentioning how he had been injured. Worse, he 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 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. Ferguson 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"

arms and said 'You're under arrest for being drunk and disorderly.' At that stage I just honestly thought it was some kind of a joke. I looked at the other two 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 shut."

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 me to the van.

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. [Ferguson] was twisting my middle finger with all his strength and at the same time punching me about the head and face. He eventually twisted my finger completely

out of joint. It's still the same today. [Bermingham] was stamping on me with his heel and shouting "You'll keep your fucking mouth 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. I was quite groggy after the beating and the desk sergeant said: "Oh we've got a bit of an arse 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 out of the town centre?" Anyway, the desk sergeant refused point blank at first and then said something to the effect of "It obstructs the true course of justice."

I protested that strictly if I was drunk then he wouldn't mind an independent doctor coming along 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. Two got hold of me one on each arm in a spread-eagled fashion only standing up. [Ferguson] started punching me about the head and body. The desk

sergeant just stood and watched. I don't know how long it went on but when they eventually let me drop to the floor someone 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 constables 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 and coughed up a lot of blood.

I think it was then they realised they might have gone a bit too far with the beating because about three quarters of an hour later I was examined by a police doctor.

[The doctor] went out and I could hear him speaking to someone outside. This turned out to 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?"

WILLIAMS INQUEST: THE COVER-UP GOES ON

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 Skelthorpe 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 Ibbison and Detective Inspector Roy Egan 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 admissible 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

to the railings provides a better guide to the force of the impact. The fact that the car was written off by the Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Company was very useful to the police case. It suggested that Williams could have been injured in a serious car crash.

But if the Ford Corsair was a write-off, it certainly wasn't 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.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE HOW WILLIAMS came by his injuries is one thing. Whether they caused his death, month later from pancreatitis is another. Unfortunately, his family had no independent medical evidence. And the surgeon who operated on him in Walton Hospital had since gone to America.

The jury were left with the evidence of Dr Charles St Hill, the Home Office pathologist. Dr St Hill reached no firm conclusions. On balance, he said, he was looking for a natural cause of death. The pancreatitis, he thought, was "accelerated by the presence of gallstones and alcoholism."

(He found two gallstones and there had been evidence that Kenny Williams liked his beer.) What about a blow to the stomach? "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 Deane had found Williams "anxious, sweating profusely, frightened." He complained he had been vomiting continuously and his pulse was rapid and irregular, Deane said.

Only three days later Williams would be rushed to Walton Hospital for an emergency operation.

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FAR LEFT: The slight damage to the railings suggests a minor collision, not a spectacular one. 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... 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.

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.

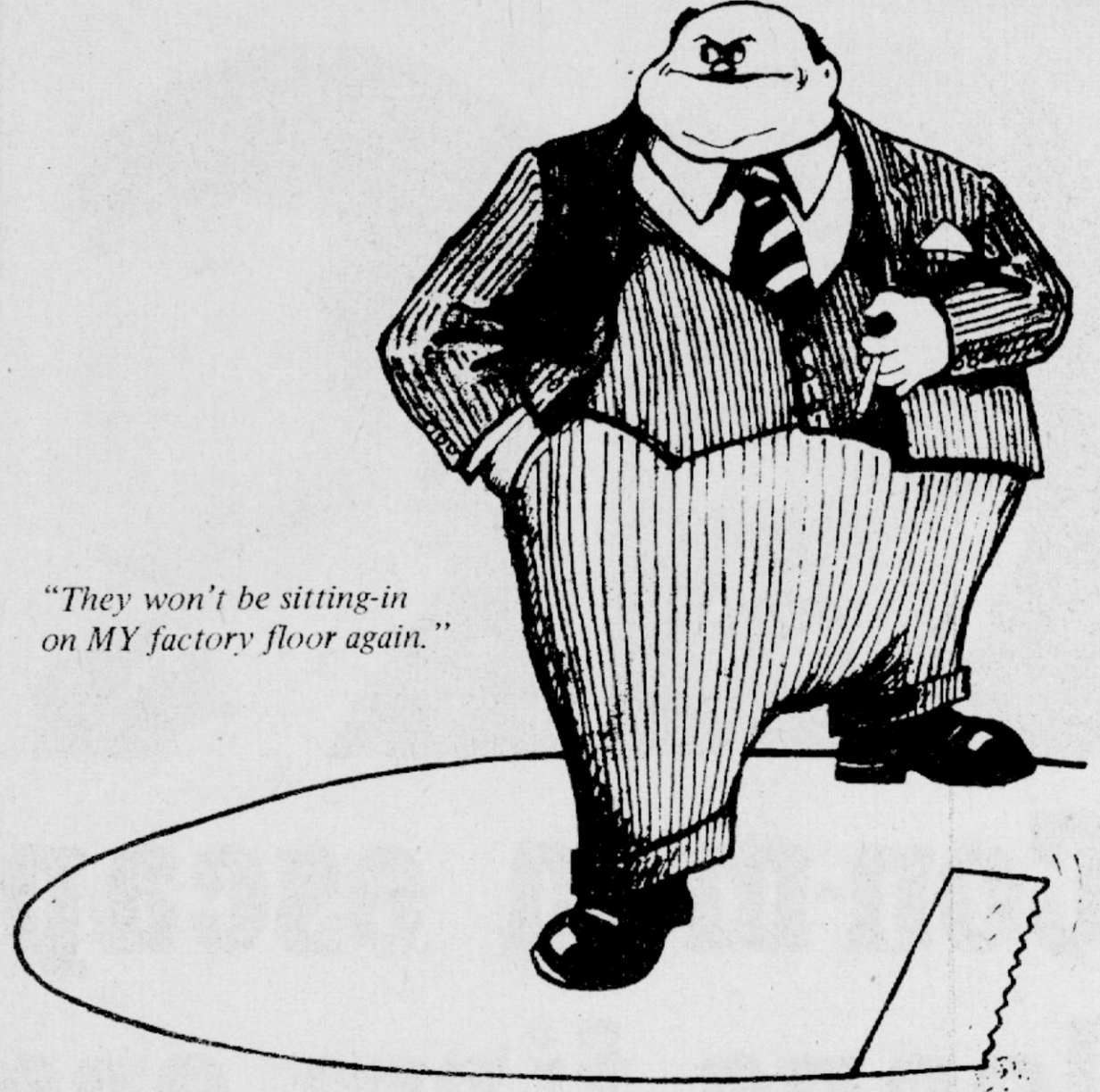
Did the stomach injury cause Williams' death? That is a matter for the medical experts. The inquest jury had to rely heavily on the opinion of the Home Office Pathologist. But the opinion of the surgeon who operated on Williams in Walton Hospital is surely equally valid. It is very unfortunate that the 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. It did not.

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 whether or not they actually killed him.



"They won't be sitting-in on MY factory floor again."

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 using aliation 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 aliation dogs. The use of a "private army" like this against workers has important implications for all of us. (Imagine the reaction to pickets with dogs.)

All 17 who took part in the sit-in were sacked. Most of them are taking 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 too expensive.

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 aliation dog.

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

A mass meeting of the day-shift decided to take no action and leave it to "the union". Two days later Bill 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.

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 officials.

"Be quick and make a good job of it," Eddie Pritchard told them. In all, 17 men barricaded themselves into the dough room, the bakers' 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 allow the union branch secretary in to speak to the men and negotiate.

At 9.30 a.m. security guards removed one of the dough-room barricades, while keeping the men back with a dog.

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NEWS FROM NOWHERE Advertisement section listing various books for sale, including 'Leaving the Twentieth Century', 'The Clay Cross Story', 'The Sexuai Politics of Sickness', 'Mavakovsky and his circle', 'Morrow - Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain', and 'The Iron Heel'. Includes contact information for 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.