

## 1990 Press Cuttings

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# Hackney marches for brutality victims

HACKNEY'S Annual Commemoration

March for those who have died or been badly injured in the custody of Hackney police officers takes place on Monday January 8.

This years' procession will take place three years to the day in 1987 when Trevor Monerville had emergency brain surgery to remove a blood clot after being

held at Stoke Newington police station.

Colin Roach, who was shot dead in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station in 1983, was one in a catalogue of deaths at the hands of police officers in Hackney and throughout Britain in the seventies and eighties.

Before the march, relatives of those who have suffered will

address the marchers and supporters.

Wreaths will be laid by the families of those who have died along the route from Hackney police station, through Dalston, to Stoke Newington.

The "We Remember" torchlit procession will assemble at Hackney police station, Lower Clapton Road E8, at 7pm.

CT 2.1.90

**Police** AS DEMONSTRATORS gear themselves up to march on the borough's police stations in an annual protest against alleged brutality, Hackney's top cop has pleaded with them to let by-gones be by-gones.

Next Monday's torchlit procession has been organised by the Hackney Community Defence Association to commemorate people who have died or been injured in police custody.

They say it is meant both as a reminder to residents, and as a warning to police that illegal behaviour won't be tolerated.

Few would deny that relations between the police and the community have been stretched to breaking point

# chief calls for 'new beginning'

by STEWART FOWLER

in the past, reaching a low point with the 1982 riots. But the man in charge of Hackney's police, Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, has called for a "new beginning". He regrets the march has to take place at all.

"I would like to think that the unfortunate occurrences of the past can be laid to rest, and that a new beginning based upon the improved relationship between police and the local community can commence," he said.

ity can co-existence," he said.

And with the Stoke Newington "super-nick" opening shortly, he added: "I am confident that, barring the accidents that will inevitably happen from time to time with people who are under the influence of drink or drugs, no person is likely to die in police custody in the new police station."

But demonstrators have reacted angrily to his words.

A spokesman for the Hackney Community Defence Association said:

"This march on Monday night will go ahead as planned.

"This year, as have previous years, has been marred by a whole range of incidents in Hackney.

"There has still been no satisfactory explanation for past deaths and assaults, such as the death of Colin Roach or the beating of Trevor Monerville, who needed a brain operation after being held in Stoke Newington police station.

"The reference to accidents under the influence of drink and drugs is important, as Hackney police often use that explanation - particularly with young black men - after the event as a way of explaining what has happened before that has been established."



● Trevor Monerville: "no satisfactory explanation for his treatment."

## Supernick is set to open

STOKE Newington's "supernick" will finally open on April 2 it was revealed this week.

Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, said they will move in to the £1.2 million police station whether it's finished or not.

"This moving date is absolutely certain," he said. "We shall move in even if it's not ready." An official opening ceremony will be held about a month or two later, he said.

Work started after the original Victorian station was demolished in spring 1987. The new nick will give Stoke Newington police some of the most modern facilities in the country.

## Jamie Stewart family join inquest reform call

THE relatives of Jamie Stewart, the 22-year-old Stamford Hill electrician who died while in custody in Holloway police station, have joined a new pressure group calling for reforms to coroners' inquests.

An inquest into the death of Mr Stewart, of Wicklow House, is to be held on January 25. He died after being arrested for a minor driving offence.

His sister Dee Stewart has joined the United Families Campaign, consisting of the families of 18 people who have died in police custody.

They want the legal right for families to call their own witnesses at inquests and to address the coroner on the facts at an inquest.

They also want coroners to have the power to refer cases to further inquiry.

HC 5-1-90

# March against police brutality — see centre pages



*Relations of those killed or injured in police custody led Monday night's march from Hackney police station*

NEWSLINE

10.1.90



# victims on the march

BY AM GRAMAM

**N** MONDAY night 10 people marched through the streets of Hackney in East London in remembrance of all those killed or injured whilst in police custody.

Since 1971 there has been an alarming number of deaths in Hackney police custody.

Before the torchlight demonstration a rally was held to condemn the police brutality.

The marchers were welcomed by the Hackney Community Defence Association, and were told that the demonstration had changed in 1989, when the death of Jamie Pratt in July and the death of Joseph in the same month.

## Community

Tonight is our night to remember what the police have done to our community.

It was a victory for Trevor Monerville, who was beaten from the back of the head by a police officer at Stoke Newington police station in 1971.

I went out to enjoy myself on New Year's Eve. I woke up in the hospital and I never felt the same again.

After Trevor's ordeal he was taken to a coma and had surgery.

Safye Hassan, whose son was killed at Dalston police station in 1987, supported a 'dignity over death' march.

My son was a good and loving boy who loved to play.

They say that they didn't know who he was - it was a mistake.

My son was a good and loving boy who loved to play.

They say that they didn't know who he was - it was a mistake.

My son was a good and loving boy who loved to play.

**'It's not just my son I am fighting for - it's for every family who has lost their son'**  
**Mrs Safye Hassan**



SAFYE HASSAN

children. It's not just my son I am fighting for but every family who has lost their son.

I cry day and night waiting for my son to come back home. The police took my son away from me.

Famela Simms said she was at the demonstration on behalf of her mother Asela who died at Stoke Newington police station in 1971.

When I went to visit her body in the morgue she had been battered. Justice has not to be done, she said.

We were six children just waiting for their mother to come home, but when she died...

There were sixty-odd statements from independent witnesses and yet the DPP turned me down because they said there was insufficient evidence.

I was very frightened to speak here tonight but hearing the other speakers has encouraged me to say what has to be said.

It could have been my mother standing here remembering her dead son. We must remember all those who have suffered at the hands of the police.

police who rammed his motorcycle knocking him off it.

I was so terrified as they beat me that I was doing it in my mind. Surely we are human beings, yet they treat us like animals.

In the back of the police van I was begging for my life. I was handcuffed, and even though I pleaded for my life, for them to stop, they just kept on beating me.

We want justice! We want to be treated like human beings and not like how the Nazis would treat us!

After the rally outside Hackney police station, a torchlight demonstration marched to Dalston police station where a one-minute silence was held.

## Wreath

Tunay Hassan's mother laid a wreath for her son as did his sister, Sevilay Tecimer, in memory of all the other victims of police brutality.

Along the route of the march to Stoke Newington police station a contingent from the Workers Revolutionary Party and Young Socialists shouted 'Defend the youth from State Attack, Smash the Tory Police State, Release the Tottenham 3, Release the Birmingham 6 and 'Bomna now - kick the Tories out'.

Some of those taking part in the rally told the News Line what they hoped to see in 1990.

Safye Hassan said that her son's case was going to court this year and added: 'In 1990 we want to win our case for justice. I want to clear my son's name because he did nothing. He never hurt anyone.'

Trevor Monerville said: 'In the 1980s, everybody was looking for a change. The police need sorting out.'

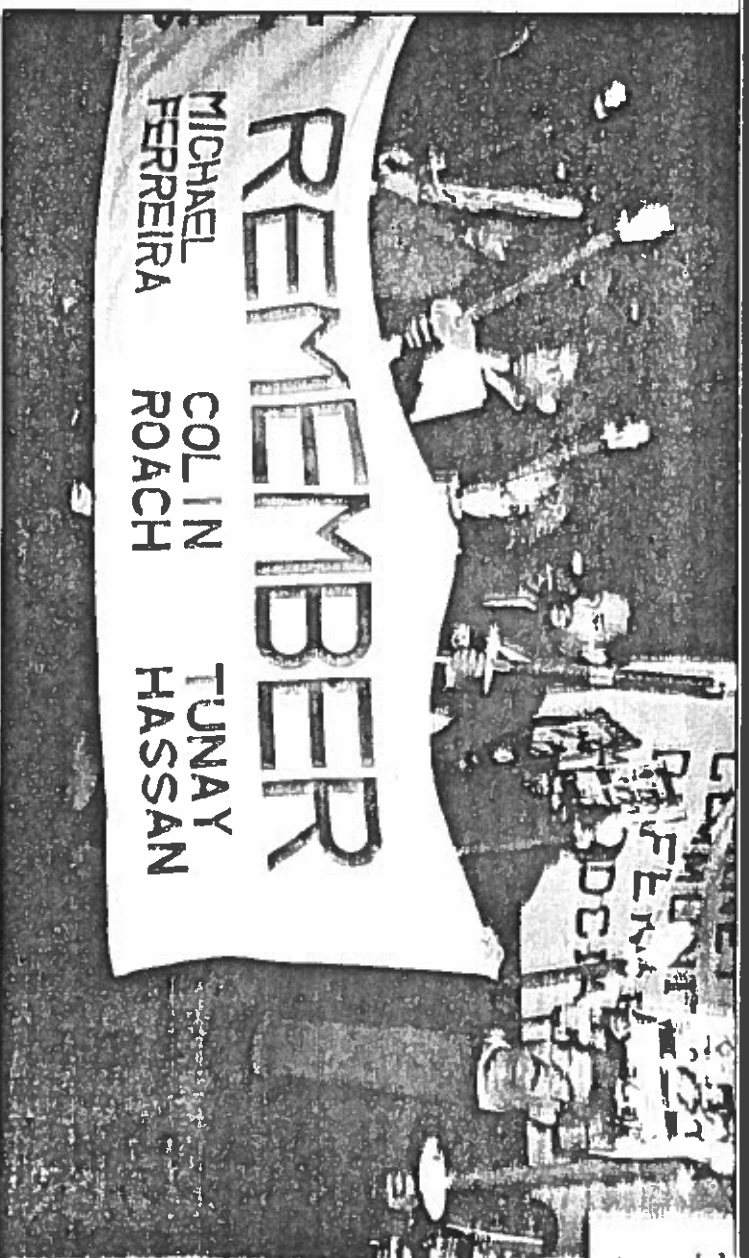
Gary Stretch said 'What if like a lot of people in 1980 is a lot of people get involved but not what until they've been affected.'

There were sixty-odd statements from independent witnesses and yet the DPP turned me down because they said there was insufficient evidence.

I was very frightened to speak here tonight but hearing the other speakers has encouraged me to say what has to be said.

It could have been my mother standing here remembering her dead son. We must remember all those who have suffered at the hands of the police.

Raphael Joseph told of how he was chased by the



The names of five victims of police brutality carry the banner at the front of the demonstration

My mum never got involved in anything until what happened to me.

She used to think the police were alright before but it was not just the police, it goes right down the line to what the government are doing. They even tell stories what they should do.

I feel very strongly about the ambulance workers despite I want to see people come together not when their family is affected or when ambulance workers lose their jobs.

'Ambulance workers are just the tip of the iceberg. We saw as with the miners that it goes right down the line.'

I am frightened of what is happening, people have got to stand up and say how they are being affected.



TREVOR MONERVILLE



FAMELA SIMMS (left) and her niece NICKY BOGLE - relatives of Asela Simms, killed by the police in 1971, at the front of the march with TREVOR MONERVILLE and the mother of Colin Roach (right)

# DEVIL DOG MAULS POLICEWOMAN

Police lead on  
illegal dog  
fighting ring

**A FEROCIOUS fighting dog savaged a volunteer policewoman this week.**

Now police are probing claims that a sadistic dog-fighting syndicate is operating in Hackney.

The devil dog - a pit bull terrier - cornered special constable Christine Staken, 20, in a bakery and ripped her heel off.

The animal was captured and taken to Hackney Police station to be destroyed. It was covered in scars consistent with the battle-wounds of an experienced fighting dog.

The frenzied attack adds new evidence to an ever-growing dossier of information which suggests the sickening "sport" has taken a foothold in Hackney.

A growing number of Staffordshire

by **MARTIN TALBOT**

**Family pets  
stolen to spar  
with pit bulls**

bull terrier pets have mysteriously vanished in recent weeks - feared kidnapped to act as sparring-partners for pit bulls.

Det Sgt Buzz Goodingham said: "We know dog-fighting goes on and that it could be happening in Hackney. We want to hear from anyone with information about this evil sport."

Hackney's RSPCA Inspector John Storey added: "My gut reaction is that there is something going on in Hackney. Hopefully I can meet with police to share our information and get to the bottom of this."

The RSPCA's top investigator Det

Supt Frank Milner added: "Dog fighting is a priority area for investigation. If there has been a spate of thefts in Hackney, we will look into it."

Belmal Green-based Special WPC Staken, who lives in Stoke Newington, was off-duty when she was chased by the snarling pit bull in Dalston Lane. It cornered her after leaping out from a disused shop on Wednesday morning.

Have-a-go bakery assistant Phillip Chattey, 17, of nearby Queensbridge Road, was repeatedly bitten on the arm as he tried to defend her.

Hackney has become London's centre for pit bulls, with hundreds of the borough's families owning the ferocious dogs as pets.

Two separate owners were told from different sources that their dogs had been stolen for "sparring" with pit bulls. One paid £100 to an anonymous caller who stole it back for her.

Now Enfield police are probing a possible link between the spate of Staffordshire bull terrier thefts in Hackney with a fighting ring in North London.

HC 12.1.90



● Demonstrators on the torchlight march.

## Tempers flare at police custody deaths demo

POLICE and campaigners have once again clashed angrily over the annual march to remember people who have died or been injured in police custody, with both sides lining up to trade insults.

Defiant protesters went ahead with the march in the teeth of opposition from Hackney's top cop, Chief Superintendent Peter Twist who had earlier called for the march to be scrapped as "a new beginning" in police and community relations.

Funeral wreaths were laid outside the borough's police stations on Monday night by demonstrators, led by Trevor Monerville, the young man who underwent a brain operation after being held at Stoke Newington police station three years ago. A minute's silence was observed as part of the remembrance ceremony.

The torchlight protesters carried banners and placards naming individuals who have been at the centre of controversy in the past few years, including Colin Roach, Tunay Hassan, Michael Ferreira, and Gary Stretch. Relatives and family members of many of those named took part in the procession.

But a war of words between the police and the Hackney Community Defence Association, who organised the march, marred what was supposed to be a dignified commemoration.

Chief Supt Peter Twist commented: "I am dismayed that I had to use my officers to police the march when there were so many other important things for them to do. The

### March ends in wreath laying



● Trevor Monerville

demonstrators were chanting that Hackney police should be shot and hanged - if they find such sentiments amusing they must have a very warped sense of humour.

"Numerous people who read their banners told them in no uncertain terms what they thought of them. Were it not for our presence I consider a breach of the peace would undoubtedly have occurred."

Campaigners quickly hit back, claiming the police were deliberately trying to provoke trouble on the march in the hope of banning it in future.

"They were very heavy-handed," said Graham Smith, one of the organisers. "We were there to remember the dead, but for the first time ever the police refused to stop traffic while we laid our wreaths and held a minute's silence, despite repeated appeals to do so."

"They showed no respect whatsoever, and think they were trying to provoke an incident. I certainly thought people were going to lose their temper with them."

"Peter Twist seems determined to condemn everyone on the march, and make as much political mileage out of it as he can."

## Tourist's passport wrangle ended in death plunge

A DESPERATE German tourist who was left stranded and virtually penniless after police refused to hand over his travel documents following his arrest on drugs and firearms charges, didn't necessarily kill himself in an inquest decided.

A friend of Jurgen Fuchs, 34, who was found dead after a fall from the 11-lington Social Services building Highbury Crescent on November 16, said he had become paranoid about the police while in Germany.

In a statement to St Pancras Coroner's court, hotel receptionist Jurgen Schimanski, 24, of Burma Road, Stoke Newington, said Mr Fuchs had taken cannabis and amphetamines since he'd known him, and worried constantly about being caught by the police.

Mr Schimanski said Mr Fuchs came to visit him and was arrested 10 minutes

after being collected at King's Cross Station on September 6.

After Mr Fuchs made several appearances at Highbury Magistrates' Court charged with possessing cannabis and a CS gas gun the prosecution was dropped, said Mr Schimanski. His friend then had difficulty getting his travel documents back.

"He couldn't leave, his ticket and passport had been taken and he couldn't get them back, even after his case had been discharged," said Mr Schimanski. "He became very distressed and asked his parents in Germany to send money."

Det. Sgt Peter Myers said that the case was discharged because of a police laboratory hold up. But when the evidence arrived on November 13, just four days after Mr Fuchs' last court appearance, he decided to re-charge him.

"Mr Fuchs called at Dalston police station wanting his papers, but I told him he would be re-charged, and a decision would arrive from the Crown Prosecution Service within two weeks," said DS Myers.

"He didn't seem to me to be distressed or depressed," said the officer who added that, ironically, Mr Fuchs' wish for a photocopy of his papers so that he could release bank funds, was granted on November 16 just hours after his death.

Pathologist Dr Vesna Djurovic who carried out the post mortem on Mr Fuchs said he died of severe head injuries and substantial multiple injuries, including a fractured skull.

Coroner Dr Douglas Chambers recorded an open verdict after deciding there was insufficient evidence to suggest that Fuchs would take his own life.

## Pub' nor claims police assault

THE TENANT of a Bethnal Green pub who claims he was assaulted and intimidated by police has issued a High Court writ.

Publican John Davies says he was assaulted at the White Hart pub in Bethnal Green Road on October 2, 1987. He is claiming damages, exemplary damages and aggravated damages from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

### Detained

Mr Davies, now of Balsam Street, Plaistow, alleges he was falsely imprisoned, wrongfully arrested and unlawfully detained, and maliciously prosecuted for matters arising from arrests on four separate occasions in 1986.

Alternatively, he is seeking damages for alleged negligence by the Commissioner in "permitting him to be so assaulted" and "further caused by acts of nuisance or unlawful harassment or intimidation" between January 25, 1985, and April, 1987.

The writ also seeks alternative damages for alleged conspiracy between police officers, and trespass caused by allegedly unlawful police raids in 1985 and 1986.

## Pc cleared of assault was 'a victim of mistaken identity'

A POLICEMAN accused of hitting an off-duty soldier over the head with a truncheon after an England-Wembley soccer match was found not guilty at Wood Green Crown Court on Tuesday due to lack of evidence.

Pc Alexander Danks, 29, based at Hackney, had been charged with assaulting Mr Gareth Arnold outside Wembley Stadium on March 23, 1988, causing him actual bodily harm.

Mr Arnold, a 22-year-old soldier now based in West Germany, told the court a police officer struck him on the forehead with a truncheon in an unprovoked assault.

He said he had travelled from Hampshire with fellow off-duty soldiers and they were making their way back to their car when the incident happened.

They were ushered on to a crowded walkway. There was "a lot of pushing and shoving, but I did

not see any violence," said Mr Arnold. After police made an opening through the centre of the crowd using horses, Mr Arnold said he saw a policeman "leaning over and beating a man who was lying on the floor, with his truncheon."

Mr Arnold said he approached the officer saying words like "you can't do that" or "leave him alone".

He continued: "Then he glanced at me and swore. I proceeded towards him and said: 'I want your number.'"

### Cut forehead

Mr Arnold said the officer struck him over the head with one vertical blow with his truncheon, making him fall to the ground and causing a cut to his forehead.

Mr Andrew Baillie, prosecuting, told the court the case may rest on a question of identity. Pc Danks was only charged with the assault when, two days after the incident, he said he recognised Mr Ar-

nold as the man who was wielding an iron bar.

Mr Arnold and his friends had failed to recognise Pc Danks as the officer involved in the incident and counsel for the defence argued that a guilty verdict would be "unsafe".

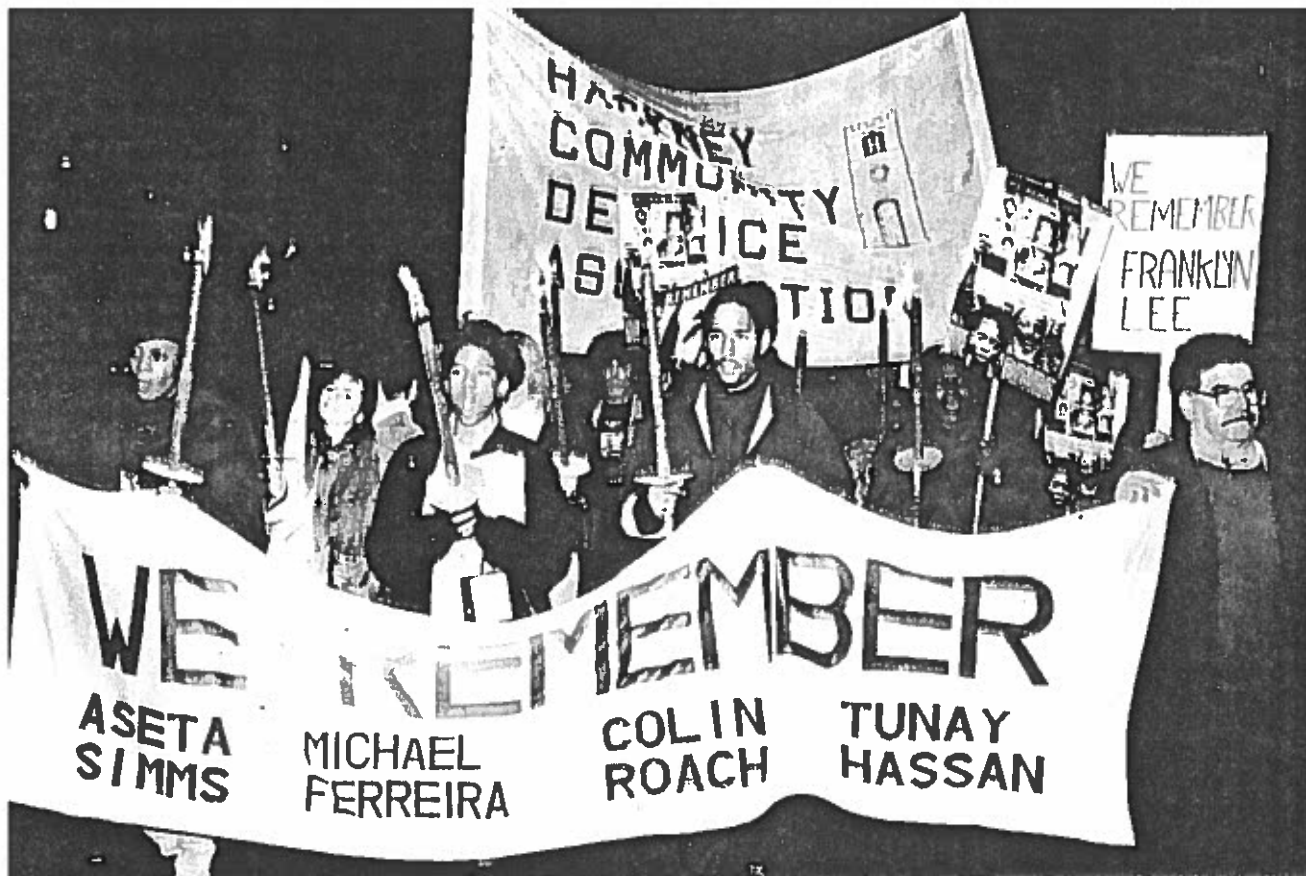
Mr Brian Lett said it was all a matter of mistaken identity. Mr Arnold could not possibly identify Pc Danks and likewise Pc Danks was mistaken to suggest that Mr Arnold was the person wielding the iron bar.

Mr Lett added that it had been established from police videos that Mr Arnold could not have been the person involved because of his location and clothing.

Judge Leonard Gerber directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty, saying: "I haven't the slightest doubt that Mr Arnold was assaulted and that it was a disgraceful incident."

"But it would be a greater injustice to convict the wrong man," added the judge.

HC 12.1.90



ie Simms, Monerville and Hassan families lead the protesters through Hackney's streets

# Protestors defy Hackney police to remember those who died in custody

AST LONDON residents last week defied a request by Hackney's Chief Superintendent Peter Twist to abandon a demonstration to commemorate the people who have died or suffered serious injury whilst in custody of Hackney,

Stoke Newington and Dalston police stations. The demonstration took the form of a rally outside Hackney police station which was addressed by Trevor Monerville, the young man who underwent a major operation following his arrest by Stoke Newington officers in January 1987.

Trevor's short address to the assembly maintained that he remembered being arrested and later waking up in hospital days later. Other speakers included Mrs Munur, the mother of Tunay Hassan, the man who lost his life in suspicious circumstances following his arrest by Dalston police officers in 1988; Pamela Simms, who spoke of the trauma she experienced aged eleven years when her mother died following a confrontation with Stoke Newington police officers in 1971; Gary Stretch, the local youth who was taken to hospital to save his car after a run-in with seven local police officers; and Rafael Joseph, who alleged that the serious injuries he suffered last summer were a direct result of his arrest by eighteen police officers.

The march was well-ordered and disciplined, although mourners and organisers felt that the police's refusal to halt traffic during the one minute's silence in memory of Tunay Hassan at Dalston and Aseta Simms.

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Colin Roach at Stoke Newington was unreasonable. One organiser questioned the decision as the police had accorded the proper respect on previous years.

## Rejected

Chief Superintendent Twist rejected the demands for an independent public inquiry into policing amongst the three stations and said further that he felt that the march wasted his officers' time as there were "more important things for them to do".

"All deaths in police custody have been properly investigated and those which took place after the formation of the independent Police Complaints Authority have been referred to them. I don't see any need for this," he said.

Chief Superintendent Twist referred to the transfer of nine off-duty Hackney officers involved in the recent stag night rampage on two local bars predominantly frequented by black patrons as "a regrettable incident" that was being investigated by Scotland Yard's complaints board.

## Prosecution

"The allegations are also being investigated by the Director of Public Prosecutions and if proved may lead to the removal of the officers from the force," he continued.

None of the transferred officers have been charged with any offence.

CT 16.1.90

## Police accused of smear campaign

A STOKE NEWINGTON man is being victimised by police officers because he is suing them for assault, battery and false imprisonment.

So say watchdog group Hackney Community Defence Association, who have taken up the case of Raphael Joseph.

Mr Joseph is suing the Metropolitan Police after he ended up in hospital suffering multiple injuries during a high-speed chase and arrest in July last year.

In August, Mr Joseph, 50, from Kyverdale Road, was arrested again after a dispute in the street. He was taken to Dalston police station where, according to HCDA, an officer said: "You are famous now" and told another officer: "Charge him with assault".

Last week the Crown Prosecution Service dropped all charges against Mr Joseph just one week before he was due to appear at Highbury Magistrates' Court. HCDA say the whole point of the second arrest was to smear Mr Joseph and ruin his chances of success in a legal action.

"This represents yet another attempt by the police to criminalise those who fight back against police injustice by portraying them as aggressive and violent criminals," say HCDA.

Chief Supt Peter Twist, of Dalston police, was unavailable for comment as the Gazette went to press.

HC 19.1.90



# MARSH PROBE COPS GO HI-TECH

## Ex-boxing champ quizzed at 'state of the art' station

### Police accused of smear campaign



● Former world boxing champion Terry Marsh.

FORMER world boxing champion Terry Marsh, arrested in connection with the shooting of promoter Frank Warren, was quizzed at Hackney police station because it has some of the most sophisticated, hi-tech interview rooms in the country.

When the 31-year-old former world light-welterweight title holder was arrested at Gatwick Airport on Wednesday morning, detectives rushed him straight to the station in Lower Clapton Road.

Investigations into November's shooting of Islington-born Warren outside the Barge Aground pub in Barking had been based at North Woolwich.

But police switched to Hackney once Marsh was arrested after flying in from Newark, New Jersey.

"Terry Marsh is being held at Hackney police station because we have very good facilities here," Hackney's top cop, Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill, told the Gazette on Wednesday.

"We have one of the best crime investigation suites that you can find."



● Frank Warren.

#### Equipment

Two years ago, Hackney was the first station in East London to get the new equipment. It is now used nationwide.

Detectives were questioning Stepney-born Marsh in one of two sound-proofed rooms which cut out unwanted noise from the rest of the station.

Both rooms are equipped with expensive twin cassette decks which are designed to end legal disputes over what is said during interviews.

#### Tape vault

Two tapes of the police interview with Marsh will have been made. One will be copied, so that both detectives and Marsh's solicitor will have a record.

The other tape is immediately sealed and sent off to a "tape vault" in Cricklewood, where they are kept for at least two years.

They can only be unsealed on the orders of a judge.

The system is designed so the tapes cannot be tampered with. All recordings are time-coded to ensure they cannot be edited, and police say the taping puts an end to allegations that confessions are obtained under duress.

#### Involvement denied

Marsh is one of about 5,000 people a year who are interviewed using the system.

As the Gazette went to press at midday on Thursday, no charges had been laid and Marsh was still being questioned.

Through his solicitor he had denied any involvement with the shooting of Frank Warren.

## No way to develop a trusting relationship

DID the Gazette send a reporter, as well as a photographer, to the march against Hackney police violence? If you had, he or she would have known that there was never any risk of a "breach of the peace" occurring between marchers and onlookers.

I was therefore astonished to read in your article the quote from Chief Supt Twist claiming "numerous people who read the banners told them in no uncertain terms what they thought of them". The only reaction I saw from passers-by were a few waves and smiles from the top of a bus.

The big banners only carried the names of the organisations like Hackney Community Defence Association - not exactly provocative, except perhaps to a very paranoid police chief. The little ones, which had details of what the march was about, were printed in tiny writing in red on black (don't ask me why!) so, as it happens, were totally illegible to anyone more than a foot away.

Obviously, the event was a painful one for the police: people who had lost their nearest family in police custody and people who had been savagely beaten by police gave moving accounts of what had happened, and the police had to stand and listen.

But if the most intelligent and compassionate response the local police chief can make is to invent a story suggesting that we, the marchers, threatened violence on the streets, it seems that indeed no lesson has been learned. How can Supt Twist possibly hope to develop a relationship of trust with the community when he lies about us? - KATE DE SELINCOURT, LAWLEY STREET, LOWER CLAPTON.

# Man vindicated as CPS drops charges

RAPHAEL JOSEPH, the Stoke Newington man who is suing Dalston police officers for alleged assault and battery and false imprisonment last July, has seen the Crown Prosecution Services drop preferred charges of assault against a police officer just one week before he was due in court.

The charges against Mr Joseph relate to an incident which took place last August and led to Mr Joseph being picked from a group of people by officers. At Dalston station Mr Joseph says one police

officer told him he was "famous now" before charging him with assault.

The CPS have decided not to proceed with the prosecution due to lack of evidence.

The local Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA) have cited Mr Joseph's case as an example of the type of harassment east London police officers inflict on citizens who decide to pursue civil actions against them.

"The entire community condemns the police's persecution of a person who has challenged their abuse of power," said an HCDA spokesperson.

CT 23-1-90

# Wrongful arrest threat as drug charge is dropped



● Glenford Lewis - lost two jobs over case.

A MAN who claims Dalston policemen beat him up and tried to frame him is planning to sue them for wrongful and malicious arrest.

Charges against Dalston's Glenford Lewis of possessing and intending to supply a prescribed drug were dropped at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Monday.

The prosecution said a police officer offering crucial evidence was too ill to turn up - the same officer Mr Lewis claims planted drugs in his car.

But Mr Lewis, who has protested his innocence since his arrest last May, claims police were afraid the court would realise the evidence was fabricated.

Now he is consulting his solicitors over plans to take out a civil action against the police. Hackney Community Defence Association are supporting his case.

Mr Lewis, 33, of Dalston's Holly Street Estate, told the Gazette: "I feel really bad about this whole thing. I've twice lost a job over this - it has cost me a lot."

"The police were saying I was using my car for dealing in drugs. But I haven't been near it for a year, it just simply can't be driven. At the end of the day I'm free which is good, but it's only because of luck."

Mr Lewis, who was jailed after a first offence of possession of drugs in 1988, had been out of prison for three months when he was arrested in May. He was thrown in the back of a van in Dalston's Sandringham Road and beaten up by about six plain-clothes policemen, he claims.

The men said he "had not got a long enough sentence last time," he says, and he was taken

to Dalston police station and accused of drug dealing.

A strip-search found no drugs and detectives took Mr Lewis to his car, parked near his home on the Holly Street Estate. He claims a detective planted a matchbox containing cocaine in the car, along with a current newspaper to prove it had been used recently.

But Mr Lewis says he hadn't seen the car since it was confiscated by police on his arrest for the previous offence 12 months before. It had been picked up from the police compound by his girlfriend a month before he was released from prison, he claims, and the only set of keys were with his mother.

The car had a flat battery, no MOT, insurance or road tax and the tag from the police compound was still tied to the front windscreen wiper, he said. Forensic tests on the newspaper and the matchbox later found no fingerprints belonging to Mr Lewis.

Martin Walker of Hackney Community Defence Association said: "The police realised that because there were none of Glenford's fingerprints on the newspaper or the matchbox, there would have been serious repercussions if they had gone ahead with this."

Dalston's top cop, Chief Superintendent Peter Twist said: "The officer in question is seriously ill with a long-term back problem which meant that for the foreseeable future his attendance at court is medically out of the question."

"If Mr Lewis, or his solicitor would care to contact me personally, I will arrange for a formal complaint against police to be recorded, and their allegations will be rigorously investigated."

## Police scrap height rules to get new recruits

PINT-SIZED police are set to make a big impact on the streets of Hackney, after the Metropolitan Police scrapped their height rules this week.

The borough's top cops hope the plan will end the shortage of new ethnic minority trainees and improve their dismal record on recruiting Asian officers.

Out of 800 policemen in Hackney there are just 12 ethnic minority officers - a pitiful 1.5 per cent of the borough's establishment.

### Stand

But that could all change after Monday's decision by the Met to scrap the rules stating policemen have to stand at least 5ft 8ins tall, and policewomen 5ft 4ins. This will open the door to hundreds of Bangladeshi, Vietnamese and Chinese applicants who want to join the force, but are too short under existing rules, they say.

Supt Dave Dugmore, the chief of Hackney's community liaison unit, welcomed the idea: "The relaxation of this rule could open the way to lots of applications from the ethnic minorities," he said.

"I've often spoken to people in Hackney who have longed for a career in the police, but have given up because of their height."

"We are not happy with the current level of ethnic minority officers in Hackney. They are very important as they tend to have a better knowledge and awareness of the differences in cultures, and are often in a position to communicate more effectively with members from the respective communities."

But he ruled out claims that short police officers will be picked on by thugs and thieves. "Some short people are very well built and very fit," he said. "Besides, it's not simply a matter of physical prowess but approaching situations with the right attitude that makes a good police officer."



# Police shame-faced in drugs frame-up

**SHAME-FACED** Dalston police officers last week shied away from giving evidence to Snaresbrook Court after a defendant accused them of planting drugs on him.

Glenford Lewis was attacked by six plain-clothes officers last May and taken to Dalston police station where he was charged with drugs possession after an officer claimed he had found an empty package which was discarded by Mr Lewis in

his attempt to escape arrest.

However, later tests found that the package had never actually contained drugs.

## Possession

Mr Lewis was taken to his car, which had lain undriven outside his mother's home for three months, and was charged with possession with intention to sell after Detective Constable Northcote claimed he had taken a matchbox containing several wrapped packages of cocaine from

the vehicle.

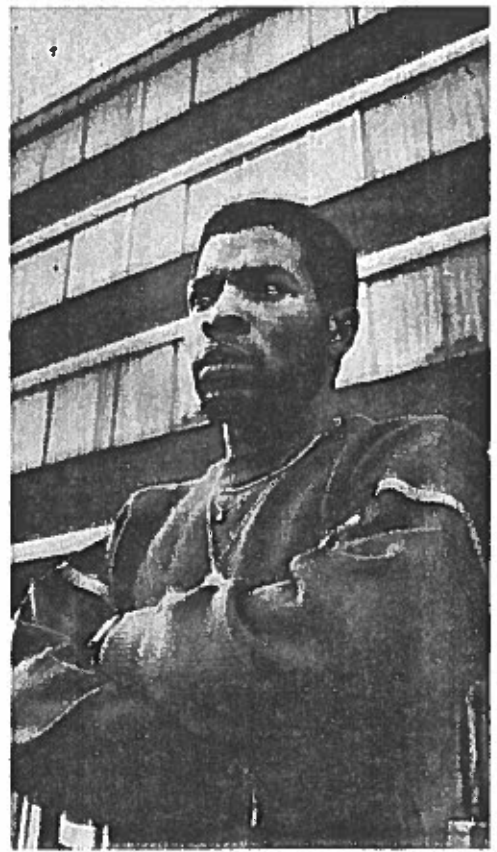
However Mr Lewis said "I watched him (Northcote) take the matchbox out of his pocket place it in the car under a copy of a new newspaper to suggest I was using the car regularly and then claim he had found it in the car."

Mr Lewis' solicitor, Neil Russell, was forced to take out an injunction before the police would release the articles for forensic analysis.

The forensic tests proved that Mr Lewis

could not have handled either the newspaper or the matchbox as his fingerprints did not match those on the box or the paper.

DC Northcote has been on sick leave ever since Mr Russell took out the injunction last July. When DC Northcote refused to attend Snaresbrook Crown Court last week the other officers - only three out of the six - claimed they were unable to present their testimony adequately in his absence.



Glenford Lewis - set up?

Dalston's Chief Superintendent, Peter Twist, said DC Northcote was suffering the effects of a back complaint which made it impossible for him to attend court but said that Mr Lewis, or his solicitor, could register a formal complaint.

Mr Lewis says the incident has cost him two job opportunities

and intends to take out a civil action against the Metropolitan police force and the arresting officers.

A spokesperson for the Hackney Defence Association (HCDA) said the association was demanding that the arresting officers be suspended from duty until the case be brought to court.

CT 30.1.90

## Drugs 'Fit-up' Claim

A Dalston man who claims police attacked, threatened and planted him with drugs walked free from Snaresbrook Crown Court last week after the police offered no evidence against him. Glenford Lewis now plans to sue for damages. He claims he was seized and punched in the face by several plain clothes officers last May, and that one later planted a matchbox containing cocaine in his car. The drugs charge against Lewis was dropped last week because the same policeman was said to be too ill to attend court and because Lewis's fingerprints were never found on the matchbox. The 33-year-old welder told *Time Out* the officers taunted him with the prospect of a five-year sentence, saying he 'hadn't got long enough last time' — a reference to his six-month sentence on a previous drugs charge, to which he pleaded guilty. Lewis says the officers involved 'aren't fit to wear a police uniform'. Days before, Hackney police dropped an assault charge against a second man, Raphael Joseph, again because of lack of evidence. He claims the police were trying to harass him because he had earlier launched a civil action against them for assault and battery and wrongful imprisonment.



TO 31-1-90

# Allegations of assault by police made at inquest

A CONCENTRATION of 75 milligrammes of cocaine was found in the blood of Jamie Stewart, who died while in custody at Holloway police station, an inquest heard.

Mr Raymond Fysh, a police forensic scientist, told St Pancras Coroner's Court that if that amount had been taken orally, seizures would have occurred in a matter of minutes and death would have followed within an hour.

He said it was the highest level he had come across.

Mr Stewart, a 22-year-old electrician of Wicklow House on Stoke Newington's Stamford Hill Estate, was found unconscious at the station in the early hours of July 1 last year, the inquest was told.

He had been arrested a few hours earlier in Hanley Road, Finsbury Park, in connection with an alleged offence relating to car documents.

Responding to questions from Mr Adrian Fulford, counsel for Mr Stewart's family, Mr Fysh said his life might have been saved if he had had his stomach pumped.

The pathologist, Dr David Rouse, who performed a post mortem, said Mr Stewart had died from cocaine poisoning. He had found scratches on his head, right arm and feet, but these did not contribute to his death.

The circumstances surrounding Mr Stewart's arrest were described by Adolph

Modeste, who was in the car with Mr Stewart and two other friends when it was stopped by police.

At the police station he was searched, said Mr Modeste, and when Mr Stewart began to walk towards an open door he was jumped on by two or three officers.

Other officers joined in, he said, and Mr Stewart was handcuffed. The policemen were kicking Mr Stewart, he alleged.

Questioned by Mr Fulford, Mr Modeste said by the time Mr Stewart was handcuffed he was choking and red in the face.

Pt Anthony Sullivan who was on duty as custody officer on the night said that at 1.44 am he went to Mr Stewart's cell and found him lying on his front with blood coming from his mouth. He asked for an ambulance to be called.

Pc Gordon Deans was on duty as station officer when Mr Stewart was arrested. He said he received bruises and cuts from Mr Stewart while trying to restrain him, and he reported these immediately.

Det Sgt Geoffrey Eaton, of the Police Complaints Bureau, said he had interviewed prisoners who were held at Holloway police station on the night Mr Stewart died. All of them said they had heard nothing except one, who refused to give a statement.

● The hearing continues.

HC 2.2.90

# DEAD ON ARRIVAL?

# DEAD ON ARRIVAL?

THE inquest into the death of Jamie Stewart last week heard that the police officers who last saw him alive had taken part in a physical attack on him.

Jamie, 22, died in the cells of Holloway police station last July within one hour of his arrest for an alleged driving offence.

The Stewart family elicited the support of Kingston North MP Jeremy Corbyn, who sat with them at St Pancras Coroner's Court throughout last week's hearing, in their demands for an independent public inquiry into the circumstances leading to Jamie's death.

One witness, 14 at the time of the incident, told the inquest that police had stopped the car and pulled up the seats and carpets.

by Michael Maslivo

She said the police told Jamie: "You've got to be hiding something."

Adolph Modeste, another passenger, told the inquest that the police had ordered Jamie to drop his trousers on the street.

When Jamie refused both he and Mr Modeste were taken to Holloway Road police station, leaving their two young passengers in the car. Mr Modeste further stated that some five to seven officers jumped upon Jamie immediately as he reached the station.

Mr Modeste said Jamie was dragged into a cell out of his eyesight but he heard sounds which led him to believe Jamie was being beaten.

Through a hatch in the door he said he saw

officers drag Jamie from the cell and attempt to resuscitate his apparently unconscious body.

Police Constables Stephen Joyes and John Sim claimed they stopped Jamie because he was driving above the speed limit. They further claimed that Jamie became "violent and aggressive".



Jamie Stewart

The Stewart family's solicitor, Adrian Fulford, told PC Joyes that he believed Jamie was incapable of standing for himself when he was placed in a cell.

Custody officer

Sergeant Anthony Sullivan denied the charge.

However, PC Joyes admitted that he was among several officers who piled atop Jamie during a struggle in the station's foyer.

"The struggle continued and we all ended up on the floor... we turned him onto his front and handcuffed his hands behind his back," said PC Joyes.

"We then escorted him to a cell and left him face down on the floor," he added.

Duty officer Inspector Anthony Macrae claims he gave instructions that Jamie be visited every half hour.

**JAMIE STEWART**  
BORN 1967 - died in police custody July 1st 1989

continued on p.13

continued from p.1

He further claimed he had been called away to the telephone and when he returned Jamie "was not moving at all".

Police forensic scientist Raymond Fysh told the coroner he believed Jamie had swallowed 15 grammes of pure cocaine.

The toxicologist claimed that it was the highest level ever recorded and that it was enough to kill a man within one hour of ingestion.

A plastic bag found on the floor of the cell where Jamie died was believed to have been part of Jamie's vomit, he said.

The inquest returned a verdict of misadventure.

However, the Stewart family are far

from satisfied with the conduct of the coroner or the jury. The family believes that the police had an unfair advantage given they had four barristers lining up to cross-examine three witnesses - two of whom were underage - as opposed to one barrister representing the family's case.

"The verdict claims Jamie died of a cocaine overdose but makes no attempt to explain when or how he took it," said a member of the Stewart family.

"There has been no attempt to question the conduct of the arresting officers despite their testimony suggesting they had ill-treated Jamie at the station," she continued.

"The verdict may stand but we refuse to accept it," she said.

**THE RECORD THAT SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN** - known names of some of those who died whilst in police custody or at police hands during the 1980s

1981 - Winston Rose

1982 - John Sague, Simeon Collins

1983 Colin Roach, Matthew Paul, Nicholas Ofusu

1985 - John Mikkelsen, Cynthia Jarrett

1986 - Anthony Lemard

1987 - Clinton McCurbin, Neneh Jalloh, Mark Ventour

1988 - Oakley 'Ram I Dreadlocks' Ramsey

1989 - Jamie Stewart, Edwin Carr, Vincent Graham, Sullivan Bharwani, Bharat Persaud

## Police charges thrown out

A MAGISTRATE last week threw out serious charges made by Hackney police officers against a local cab driver because he disbelieved them.

Mr William Alexander Gordon faced Old Street Magistrates on charges of assault of a police officer, possession of an offensive weapon and flagrantly ignoring police demands to stop.

On November 3 1989 Mr Gordon attracted the attention of a police patrol car after he had beeped another vehicle which

made an illegal right turn on Mare Street, east London.

The officers insisted on searching Mr Gordon's car and discovered a penknife.

When Mr Gordon told PC McGowan that his car had been fitted with an intercom radio for the purpose of conducting his business as a mini-cab driver he was called a "lying black cunt".

When Mr Gordon protested he was hurled face down to the ground and handcuffed behind his back. Within moments some 10-15 police officers arrived on the scene to

take Mr Gordon to Hackney station.

Mr Gordon further claimed he had been assaulted in the van on the way to the station.

The prosecution claimed that 51 years-old Mr Gordon had been abusive to PC McGowan and had knocked him into the path of an oncoming bus.

### Eye-witnesses

However, eye-witnesses contacted by the Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA) through an appeal, refused the police's allegations.

The magistrate told the court that he regarded Mr Gordon and his witnesses to be credible and honest citizens and said he believed the police may have made up some of their evidence.

The HCDA, which has assisted three successful defences in the past four weeks, has demanded that police officers who have been found lying in court should be reprimanded immediately after the magistrate has indicated his dissatisfaction with their testimony.

"It is not good

enough for police officers proved to be violent and racist to be allowed to continue policing the community once they have been discovered lying in court," said an HCDA representative.

### Punishment

"Police officers should be subjected to some form of punishment in the same manner as members of the public who are found guilty of some offence in court," he continued.

Mr Gordon is presently considering taking civil action against the police.

CT 6.2.90

# Hackney police branded 'liars'.

Three men who claim they were assaulted by police in East London, are planning to sue.  
**QUENTIN McDERMOTT** reports.

A magistrate inferred last week that two young officers from Hackney police station had brought false evidence to court. The constables appeared to explain why they had arrested part-time mini-cab driver William Gordon last November. Gordon, who is 51, stood accused of assaulting one of the officers, by punching him in the jaw and pushing him into the road, of possessing an offensive weapon - a pen-knife - and of failing to stop his car on police instructions.

No witnesses were called by the police, but Gordon, who protested that he had been assaulted by one of the officers, called three witnesses to back up his version of events.

Gordon told the court that he was arrested after tooting his horn at a van which was making an illegal right turn at a junction on Mare Street. Instead of stopping the van, the officers pulled him in. He stopped as soon as he could. Gordon says one of the officers called him 'a lying black cunt', after searching his car, and pushed him on to the bonnet, before both PCs dragged him on to a grass verge. Gordon was pulled to the ground, and one of the officers sat on the small of his back. He was screaming in pain. 'I felt as if I was going to

die,' he recalled. Gordon says he was thrown on the floor of a police van, and slapped in the face.

The officer Gordon accused of pushing and racially abusing him, Pc McGowan, claimed Gordon had pushed him into the road, into the path of an oncoming bus. Both officers denied abusing Gordon, or over-reacting when they arrested him. Both claimed only to have used 'authorised police holds' in restraining him.

But at the end of the case, the magistrate dismissed the charges. He accepted that the pen-knife was not an offensive weapon, and said he had found William Gordon a 'truthful' witness.

The magistrate said that, in his judgment, the bus referred to by Pc McGowan 'did not exist.' He added: 'It is quite clear that there was a scuffle which was started by a push by the officer.' Gordon had been justified in responding, and the officers had then 'over-reacted.'

After the hearing Gordon accused the officers of lying, and said he is planning to sue. In doing so, he joins an increasingly long list of aggrieved men who have been charged by east London police after claiming to have been maltreated. In recent weeks,

serious charges against two other men - Raphael Joseph and Glenford Lewis - have been dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service. Joseph had been charged with assault after officers were called to a fight in Stamford Hill at the end of August. A month earlier he had been arrested and charged with several driving offences. Joseph was convicted of those offences, but is now suing the police for assault and battery and false imprisonment, relating to this earlier arrest. The officers who arrested him deny they beat him up.

Glenford Lewis is also suing for damages, after the CPS offered no evidence against him, on serious drugs charges, at Snaresbrook Crown Court. The main prosecution witness, an officer who, Lewis alleges, planted a matchbox containing cocaine, during a search of his car, was 'too ill' to attend court. The officer suffers from a back problem, and was 'not physically capable of attending court,' Superintendent Roy Clark, from Dalston, told *City Limits*. Lewis' fingerprints were never found on the box, and he claims he was punched in the face, and threatened by officers.

The Hackney Community Defence Association, which has campaigned

## Bunch of MI5s

As Colin Wallace's allegations finally sunk in at Westminster last week, memories were being stirred, albeit on a more parochial level, of the way MI5 and Special Branch operate in London.

In 1986 Anne Doyle, an Irish woman, found herself being followed continually by members of Special Branch who broke into the women's refuge where she worked and stole papers belonging to her. Two cars which kept the women's refuge under surveillance were traced by *City Limits* to a mews garage in Mayfair, close to the Curzon Street headquarters of MI5. Surveillance experts confirmed that the operation had almost certainly been ordered by MI5.

Now Anne and her sister Nuala are being harassed again. Nuala, a young republican from Northern Ireland, arrived in London three weeks ago to stay with her sister. The Saturday before last the two sisters joined the Bloody Sunday march through London, walking the route with Daddie McGuinness from Sinn Fein, who spoke at the rally.

Anne first came to London from Northern Ireland in 1984. A long-time political activist, she worked for Camden Council's women's unit, helping to push through two resolutions calling for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and for an end to strip-searching in Armagh. But she went back to Ireland after 1986 'because I couldn't cope with what was happening. I lay low as far as politics was concerned.'

On Tuesday last week a number of unidentified men called at Anne's flat. Nuala, who was alone, refused to answer the door. This was followed by a series of anonymous phone calls. On one occasion there was silence at the other end, followed by the sound of a radio calling 'Roger 242.' Anne says she was also followed to a bus-stop by two men who watched her get on the bus and then walked away. She believes she recognised one of the men, and says they 'made it really obvious they were following me.'

Anne says the Special Branch harassment is following 'the same pattern as before.' Her case is being supported by the Troops Out Movement, which has relayed her experience to MPs, solicitors and trade unions. **QUENTIN McDERMOTT**

## Mystery over 'cocaine' death

Mystery continues to surround the death of a young Afro-Caribbean man, Jamie Stewart, in Holloway police station last July.

An inquest last week recorded a



Jamie Stewart

verdict of death by misadventure, due to an 'excessive' overdose of cocaine. But no explanation was offered to the court as to how Stewart managed to ingest over 15 grammes of pure cocaine, which produced more than three times the lethal level of the drug in his blood. Stewart's family are convinced that vital evidence was withheld from the court and are considering legal action against the police.

Stewart died within an hour of being arrested for allegedly failing to produce driving documents. With him in the car were three minors. Two of them, aged ten and 14, were left at the side of the road to make their own way home.

The jury at last week's inquest heard that Stewart co-operated with the police. Despite this, the minors claimed, officers 'strip-searched' Stewart at the side of the road. The officers denied this, claiming that Stewart had been 'agitated and aggressive.' One of the arresting officers alleged that following an attempt to search him a violent struggle took

place at Holloway police station. During the struggle, which involved several officers, Stewart was said to have spat out the remains of a plastic bag with traces of cocaine. Stewart was escorted to a cell, and left lying face-down. He died shortly afterwards.

At Whittington Hospital, medical registrar Dr Nicola Simmonds says she was told Stewart had a history of epilepsy, had banged his head, and been placed in a cell. After heavy breathing was heard, his cell had been opened, and attempts had been made to resuscitate him. But the officer who spoke to the doctor denied having relayed this version of events.

Stewart's family feel that many questions remain unanswered. 'We still do not know how his hands and feet were mashed, nor how he got the bruises on his head and other parts of the body,' Jamie's sister Lee Stewart said. 'The police contradicted each other all the time, but were represented by four barristers, to our one. We do not feel that we received justice.' **RASHID MEER**

CL 8.2.90

# Traffic wardens to run police station

DALSTON police station becomes a makeshift HQ for the borough's traffic wardens next month, when police officers move into their new £1.5 million "supernick" in Stoke Newington.

Traffic wardens will still provide a public counter service at Dalston, but once more suitable premises are found for them, the Victorian building in Dalston Lane is likely to be bulldozed.

The decision to shut the police station was confirmed officially by senior officers at last week's meeting of Hackney's police community consultative group.

But it brought an angry response from members who accused the police of ignoring the wishes of the community and "making a mockery" of the consultative process.

The group gave the thumbs down at its last meeting to a suggestion from Dalston top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, that traffic wardens instead of police officers should man a 24-hour public counter service, once Dalston ceases to function as an operational station.

But his deputy, Supt Roy Clarke, told last week's meeting it would be too costly for a

round-the-clock counter service to be manned by police officers.

Instead, traffic wardens will deal with inquiries and advise callers at the station, but the counter won't be manned at night or on Sundays.

There will, however, be a telephone installed outside the station with a direct link to the new Stoke Newington police station, he told the group.

"The whole thing makes a mockery of consultation with the group," said Green party representative, David Fitzpatrick, "because they haven't listened to what we told them."

"We were approached by Ridley Road Market Traders' Association and local residents who want a police presence to remain in an area of high crime."

Consultative group chairperson, Betty Blomfield, said she was "astounded" by the decision.

"Several people expressed real concern at what was being proposed at the last meeting because we didn't feel traffic wardens were

competent to deal with queries.

"We were given an assurance that they would be taken back, bearing in mind our objections and reasons. But without any further consultation it has been implemented."

Supt Clarke said the police management team who took the decision had been mindful of the views of the group, but it was not economic or efficient to keep the station open.

"It would have cost over £100,000 a year just to have a policeman man the counter, which means he wouldn't be available where we want him, out on the streets."

"The station is old and decrepit and located 200 yards from the southern part of our division when the new station is just half a mile away, and slap bang in the middle of it."

"It is a policy decision of the Met to reduce the number of police buildings, because we haven't got the money to maintain them. The more we spend on buildings the less we have to spend on policemen."

"I am certain we can supply a better service to our part of the borough from a single site."

## Misadventure verdict will not stop family's probe demand Jamie Stewart inquest told of coke overdose

A MASSIVE cocaine overdose killed Jamie Stewart, the 22-year-old Stamford Hill electrician who died after being arrested by police for an alleged driving offence.

A jury at St Pancras Coroner's Court returned a verdict of misadventure, adding that his death was caused from a drug overdose.

But the verdict has failed to satisfy campaigners who are fighting for a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

Mr Stewart, of Wicklow House on the Stamford Hill Estate, was found unconscious in a cell at Holloway

police station in the early hours of July 1 last year. He was taken to the Whittington Hospital but was dead on arrival.

During the five-day inquest the jury heard that Mr Stewart was arrested when he could not prove ownership of the car he was driving. Witnesses to the arrest claimed he was strip-searched in the street.

But police claimed that Mr Stewart became violent while in the police station, and that they were forced to restrain him.

A youth who was with him and also taken to the police station, 16-year-old Adolph Modeste, claimed police had kicked and beaten Mr Stewart.

While at the police station Mr Stewart had vomited and a plastic bag was found on the floor which police at first thought was a piece of kebab.

Metropolitan Police toxicologist Raymond Fysh said he had found 7.8 grammes of pure cocaine in Mr Stewart's stomach, and a level of 75 milligrammes of cocaine in his blood. He said a lethal level is 25 milligrammes, and he estimated Mr Stewart had swallowed 15 grammes of pure cocaine, the highest level he had ever recorded.

After the inquest, the family's solicitor, Raju Bai, told the Gazette: "As far as the family were concerned the inquest was worthwhile in that it was their first opportunity to see for

themselves what the police had to say.

"What was said has left a lot of questions unanswered."

Mr Bai alleged that the inquest had brought out a number of discrepancies in the police version of the events leading up to Mr Stewart's death.

He could not comment on what the family would do next. "The family hasn't had an opportunity to go through a period of mourning. Now that the inquest is over, they will need time before considering their next step."

"We will then consider all the possible options open to us. As far as we are concerned, it certainly isn't the end of the matter."

## Minicab driver plans to sue after he's cleared of assault

# 'Police beat me up'

A MAN who claims the police beat him up was acquitted on all three charges when he appeared at Old Street Court on Wednesday last week.

Now the man, 51-year-old William Gordon, a minicab driver of Clepeley Court, Hoxton, is planning to sue the police for assault.

Mr Gordon said: "Before this incident I thought the police were people who I could rely on or depend on if I had any difficulty or problem. But this has changed my outlook."

"For the first few weeks after this incident I couldn't eat or sleep properly. I never thought it could affect me so much." He added that he is now drawing up plans to sue the Metropolitan Police over the incident.

Mr Gordon claims he was attacked by police after turning from Reading Lane into Mare Street, Hackney, last November. Police say he turned too sharply but when they tried to wave him down he drove on.

They claim that when Mr Gordon stopped he attacked the two officers, punching one so hard he stumbled into the road and was almost hit by a passing bus.

But two people from nearby

by MARTIN TALBOT

shops say they witnessed the whole event, and they didn't see Mr Gordon throw a single punch.

Mr Gordon says the police attacked him, kneeling hard on his back and punching him again before throwing him into the back of a police van. A search of his car found a pen-knife with a four-inch blade, and he was later charged with possession of an offensive weapon.

Mr Gordon claims he used the knife for peeling oranges and he'd had it in the car for five years.

He was taken to Hackney police station and also charged with failing to stop on police instructions and assaulting a police officer. But when Mr Gordon appeared at Old Street last week magistrates cleared him of all three charges.

A spokesperson for Hackney Community Defence Association said: "This is yet another example of every day violence that black people have to put up with from police officers with no means of redress."

He said the HCDA has no confidence in the Police Complaints Authority because investigations against police are carried out by other officers.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, of

Hackney police, said he had no knowledge of the case and as far as he knew no official complaint had been made.

"If a complaint is made, you may rest assured it will be dealt with in accordance with the law," he added.

"I, and any other police officer, will not tolerate misbehaviour by colleagues. We as an organisation are committed to supplying quality service to the public and without detailed knowledge of any particular case I cannot comment any further."

The case strikes the latest in a series of blows against police in Hackney, coming just a week after Glenford Lewis, 33, of Dalston,



Changed outlook - William Gordon

claimed police had been beaten him up and framed him.

Last month Stoke Newington's Raphael Joseph, 50, announced plans to sue the Met, claiming he was being victimised by the police.

# 'Computer error' harassment allegation

The police have been accused of harassing a 19 year-old Hackney man – possibly as the result of a computer error. **QUENTIN McDERMOTT** reports.

**M**atthew Butler, who works as a security guard and spends much of his spare time helping as a Minister at his Baptist church, is due in court this week to face committal proceedings on charges of attempted robbery and malicious wounding. The charges arise out of an attack and attempted robbery of a man in Hatton Garden last October. Butler was charged following an identification parade. His supporters, who say there is no other evidence against him, regard it as a 'classic identification case'.

The Hackney Community Defence Association has written to the Crown Prosecution Service, drawing attention to several other incidents involving Butler and the police, which occurred towards the end of last year.

In late September five police officers called at his home in the early hours of the morning, hand-cuffed him, and took him to City Road police station. During the next five hours he was interviewed about a series of street robberies in Hackney. He was also asked questions about two of his brothers, both of whom have criminal records, but neither of whom see Butler regularly, or live with him and his parents. While he was being held, his home was searched, to no effect. He was told to return in October, and when he did so, was told he wouldn't be charged.

In early December, shortly after being arrested for the Hatton Garden incident, he was again visited by City Road officers and told to attend an identification parade. When he did



Matthew Butler

so, accompanied by his solicitor, he was told no parade had been arranged, no stand-ins contacted, and no witnesses brought to the station. 'They just said it was a wasted journey,' Butler said. 'They didn't even know there was going to be a parade – and yet they came to my house about eight different times in two days to remind me about it.'

In a later conversation with the officer in charge of the case, the HCDA alleges, Butler's solicitor was told he had not been considered a serious suspect. He was given no further explanation, or apology. Butler is planning to sue the police on this matter.

Within weeks, there were two more incidents. In the first, Butler, sitting in his car on night duty guarding premises in Enfield, was surrounded by officers and questioned. It was only after Butler, who was wearing his security guard's uniform, opened a door with his key that the Enfield officers were satisfied that he was not about to burgle the premises.

In the second incident, Butler was driving home from work when officers in a Panda car stopped him. Butler says he noticed the car parked as he left the premises. 'As soon as I passed they switched their lights on and came after me; they followed for about five minutes, then flashed me.' Butler was breathalysed – he hadn't been drinking – and sent on his way.

Martin Walker from the HCDA, said Butler 'has been an inspiration and an example to many of the black youth who attend his church. This is one of the first cases I've seen where I assume there's been a mix-up with the police computer, or the police's information,' he added. 'They've hounded him because, I assume, they believe he's some one else. It's bizarre – and a very serious matter.'

Matthew Butler himself, who was never in trouble with the police before last September, has clearly been shaken by the past few months' events. He says he stopped driving his car because he thought he was constantly being followed, and started suffering from depression. 'It's affected me a lot, he told CL.

CL 15. 2. 90

Property room that's known as Dixons of Dock Green!

# Aladdin's cave of stolen stereos

IT'S known as Dixons of Dock Green down at Hackney police station.

It's a room full of stereos, amplifiers, TVs and computers, stacked up to the ceiling and looking remarkably like a high street electrical shop — except this hi-fi equipment is definitely not for sale.

It was stolen in dozens of burglaries on homes in Hackney and East London.

And it was found when police searched the home of one of a gang of housebreakers they recently nabbed.

"It sounds incredible, but all this lot was stored

by **RUSS LAWRENCE**

in a tiny flat," said Det Con Tim Smales.

"It's a wonder the floor didn't collapse with the weight of it.

"What we recovered is just the gear the gang had problems finding buyers for. There are record decks remaining from stack and midi hi-fi systems, so you can assume that the other parts of the systems have been sold off as separates."

Now police want to trace the rightful owners so they can return the property to them.

Detectives say the burglaries stretch back to November of last year. Many were carried out on homes in Homerton, around the Kingsmead Estate, and in the Victoria Park area. But the gang also operated as far afield as Walthamstow, Leyton and even Ilford.

"The gang stripped houses clean, taking clothing, jewellery and video recorders as well as the hi-fi equipment," added Det Con Smales.

"None of the recovered property is identifiable, but if the owners had marked them with special ultra-violet pens they would have stood a better chance of getting them back again."

Anyone who thinks property belonging to them may be among the haul should contact Hackney Crimedesk on 488 7263 to see the property, which will be at City Road police station.



● PC Phillip Mockett in the Aladdin's cave of stolen loot.

MG 16.2.90



## Fly by night

**T**wo black members of the Hackney Community Defence Association have been fined £10 for flyposting. Hackney officers brought the charges after Janet Clarke and Tony Pryce were found sticking up posters advertising January's third annual 'We Remember' procession and rally, in honour of people who have, allegedly, died or been badly injured in the custody of Hackney's police.

Flyposting is not in itself an arrestable offence. However, under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act officers can arrest anyone if they are not satisfied with the address they give. The defendants complained that not only were they arrested, but they were not invited by the police to take the poster down, or consider making amends to the property's owner, as the law specifies. The owner, through an agent, said he wouldn't have prosecuted, accepted the defendants' apology and refused the £10 costs offered in compensation.

The HCDA will not appeal, but says it believes its posters were targeted because of their nature: 'To our knowledge they don't prosecute the mass of commercial, pop posters which are put up around Mare Street; everyone knows there's a flyposting "Mafia". Yet our poster was specifically about deaths in custody.'

CL 22.2.90

## Race fears fail to stop march

A MARCH planned by the family of a stabbed schoolboy will go ahead tomorrow (Saturday) despite demands by councillors and race groups that police should ban it.

Police reinforcements are being drafted in to Bethnal Green to stop violent clashes between racists and counter-demonstrators.

The march has been organised by the family of 17-year-old John Stoner who was knifed in a classroom attack two weeks ago by a group of Asian youths at Morpeth School.

The march from the school to Bethnal Green police station had been intended as a protest about civil liberties and the rise of racial hatred.

But the right wing British National Party has used the march to peddle its race-hate message by delivering leaflets to homes claiming it was the latest in a string of attacks on whites by Asians.

Cllr Steve Charters of the Globe Town Neighbourhood said: "It has become a platform for racist activity and I have called on the police to ban it."

But a spokesperson for Bethnal Green police said they were mindful it was in a racially sensitive area, but the march would go ahead.

## Assault case dropped

A CHARGE of assaulting a police officer, brought against former Chelsea and Reading soccer player Paul Canoville, 27, was discontinued at Highbury Magistrates' Court.

Canoville, of Wrens Park House, Wrens Park Estate, Warwick Grove, Upper Clapton, had been charged with assaulting Pc Alan Kieman at Victorian Grove, Stoke Newington, on May 15.

He is also charged with obstructing the highway on the same occasion and on this charge he was remanded on bail to appear at Wells Street Magistrates' Court on April 12.

H4 23.2.90

## A once in a while to find owners of stolen gear

**WANTED** - people wanted to help police with their inquiries by coming forward to claim their treasured possessions stolen when burglars struck. An Aladdin's cave of jewellery and camera equipment has been set up at City Road police station, recovered from burglars' booty.

"We have got a lot of stuff which we have got over the last six weeks," said Det Sgt Paul Phillips of the crime squad. "Burglars tend to go for jewellery as they know it is difficult to identify. Some of the rings we have got are worth several thousands of pounds."

In one haul he found a Hackney Gazette cutting, dated September 2, 1988, about a raid on Vailens Jewellers and pawnbrokers in Dalston Lane when knife-wielding raiders snatched £120,000 in gold and silver.

"So if anyone had pawned anything there at the time of that robbery, we might have some of their belongings. Some of the more unusual pieces we've got include a ring with the initials BRG on it and a watch with a dollar face," said DS Phillips.

If anyone wants to look at the property at the police station in Shepherdess Walk, Hoxton, they should make an appointment by ringing City Road crimesdesk on 488 5311.

## Drunk 'walked into my path' - police van driver tells inquest

AN elderly man knocked down and killed by a police van answering an emergency call was so drunk he had been refused a drink at a nearby pub shortly before the accident.

Walthamstow Coroner's Court heard that Horace Bugby, a 64-year-old widower, of Cavell Street, Stepney, died of multiple injuries after the horrific accident involving a police Sherpa van on the evening of December 1 at Wood Street, Walthamstow.

Pc Duncan Broadbent, from Walthamstow police station, said in a written statement that Mr Bugby walked straight into his path as he drove past with his blue light flashing. There was no siren fitted to the van.

Pc Broadbent said the van was answering a call for assistance from another officer at a nearby pub.

When he realised Mr Bugby was intending to

walk out into the road, he braked and tried to steer the van to the right to avoid him but "without looking Mr Bugby walked briskly out straight into my path."

Tatool Tatoolian, manager of the White Swan pub in Wood Street, said Mr Bugby came into the pub just before closing time.

His speech was slurred, he could not walk properly and he was refused a drink, said Mr Tatoolian.

Pathologist Dr Peter Vanezis said Mr Bugby sustained severe head injuries.

The pathologist added that the blood alcohol level was "just about the level at which alcohol poisoning can occur."

The jury returned an open verdict by a five to two majority.

No decision about possible criminal proceedings against Pc Broadbent has yet been taken. Ps Keith Plant told the court.

## New crime crackdown nabs burglars

HACKNEY cops were cock-a-hoop this week following the success of a special crime crackdown.

Around 30 plain clothes officers took to the streets for a month in an attempt to round up burglars.

They succeeded in catching and charging 51 burglars - twice as many as they get in a normal month.

And, in addition, they caught another 123 criminals in the act of dealing drugs, robbery and handling stolen goods.

Some of the special squad targeted areas where there had been many burglaries, while others trailed known criminals whom they believed to be intent on crime.

Sgt Trevor Smith, who was among the squad, told the Gazette: "This initiative was an overwhelming success in terms of the number of people arrested for criminal offences."

"It shows our commitment to providing an efficient service to the people of Hackney in preventing and detecting offences against property."

Other crackdowns are planned for later in the year. Hackney police have made reducing burglaries a priority for 1990.

Police telephone switchboards have been jammed with calls from people wanting to know if their stolen property has been found.

Their interest follows a Gazette article two weeks ago on a stolen property display now on show at City Road police station. Viewing, by appointment only, can be done via Hackney Crimesdesk (488 7211).

HC 2-3-90



● The picket outside Bacton Fashions before Monday's incident.

## Police hurt during factory picket

FOUR policemen were injured in a scuffle outside Bacton Fashions clothing factory in Stoke Newington Road at about 7.30 on Monday night.

They were among 20 officers from Bow's Territorial Support Group policing a picket outside the factory where eight workers have been on strike for three weeks over union rights.

The incident left Pc Dave Miles with a gash above his eye and Pc Dean Harris with concussion. Both needed hospital treatment and were on sick leave as the Gazette went to press.

The demonstrators from the picket later held a vigil outside Dalston police station where four men were being held in connection with the incident.

● Three men and a 16-year-old youth from Hackney appeared before High-bury magistrates on Tuesday. Haydar Guccuk, 26, of Sledon Road, Hackney, Sakar Rizvan, 25, of Wycombe Road, Tottenham, Tekin Kartal, 22, of Woodford, and the youth are charged with violent disorder. Kartal and Guccuk are also charged with assaulting a police officer, occasioning him actual bodily harm, and the youth faces a further charge of malicious wounding. They were granted bail and next appear on Tuesday, March 13.

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● Demonstrators march along Bethnal Green Road. "The good sense of the majority of marchers prevented a small minority from creating a nasty situation," according to Bethnal Green's top cop Chief Superintendent John Grieve.

## Youths charged with murder bid after racism marches

TWO nasty race-hate incidents marred Saturday's largely peaceful and rival marches through the streets of Bethnal Green and Spitalfields.

Three Bangladeshi youths were remanded in custody charged with attempted murder following an attack on Terence Swinney, 35, in Harford Street, Stepney.

Mr Swinney, from Bow, was driving along Harford Street with his wife and two children when the incident happened. He was taken to the London Hospital, Whitechapel, suffering from multiple stab wounds.

On Saturday evening, Ahmed Ali, 28, was pelted with bottles and metal

sticks when his grocer's shop in Redchurch Street, Spitalfields, was attacked by 15 white youths.

He suffered cuts and bruises to the head and was released after treatment at the London Hospital. Police are anxious to track down the gang.

Extra police had been drafted into Bethnal Green as it was feared that members of the British National Party would hijack a demonstration by white residents protesting at the stabbing of 17-year-old Morpeth schoolboy John Stoner by Asian schoolmates.

More than 200 marchers assembled at Morpeth School, Morpeth Street, and walked through the streets of Be-

thnal Green to Bethnal Green police station where a deputation handed in a petition calling for more protection for white youngsters.

Less than a mile away in Brick Lane over 200 Bangladeshis staged a rival demonstration that also passed off peacefully thanks, according to Bethnal Green's top cop, Chief Supt John Grieve, to the "good sense of the people of Brick Lane who policed themselves".

● Parents, teachers, pupils and union leaders have joined together in calling for a "anti-fascist rally" at 2pm on Sunday in Altab Ali Park, Whitechapel High Street.

## 'Sweatshop' protest ends in violence

**T**he heavy hand of the law continues to haunt east London. On Monday last week, fighting broke out between Territorial Support Group officers and demonstrators picketing a Turkish 'sweatshop' factory, Bacton Fashions, in Stoke Newington Road, as officers attempted to escort manager Mustafa Dill, out of the building. Four officers were injured, and four men later appeared in court charged with violent disorder offences, and assault. The demonstration was in support of 20 workers who were allegedly sacked for defending union rights. The sackings follow concerted efforts by the Transport & General Workers Union to recruit workers in east end 'sweatshops' into the union's textiles branch. The demonstrators mounted an all-night picket of Dalston police station, following Monday's incident, and have leafleted other 'sweatshops' in the area. On Tuesday Dill announced he was shutting his fac-

tory.

The police have also been accused of breaking up an ambulance workers benefit gig at the Unity Club, in Dalston, ten days ago. The incident occurred as the headliners, 2 Lost Sons, were half-way through their final encore. The band's manager Mark Williams told CL: 'It was incredible. Someone kicked the door in on the side of the stage, and I went flying. The drummer was pushed off his stool, and they threw his sticks away. They all just piled in.' Williams says the police threatened to confiscate the band's equipment if they didn't stop immediately. But club manager Peter Snell feels the band's complaints are a little overstated. He says the police were 'quite understanding', that they had dealt with a small group of rowdies earlier in the evening, and returned because they were not aware that the event was operating under proper club rules.

QUENTIN McDERMOTT

CL

8.3.90

# Park shut off after policewoman is attacked

POLICE are hunting the vicious attacker who slashed a brave woman cop when she surprised him lurking in bushes in Victoria Park.

WPC Michaela Fellows, 23, chased the attacker through the park in the direction of Approach Road, Bethnal Green, but gave up and radioed for help when she realised her face was streaming with blood from two deep gashes.

Police quickly shut off the park but a search

with dogs and helicopters failed to find any trace of the attacker.

Det Inspector Brian Moore, who is leading the hunt, told the Gazette: "The attack on WPC Fellows was totally unprovoked. We don't know what sort of weapon he used but a search discovered a screwdriver and gloves near the scene."

WPC Fellows was making a routine patrol through the park at 7.40 pm on Monday night

when the incident happened. She challenged him and he lashed out making two three-inch cuts on her face.

The incident lasted a matter of seconds. WPC Fellows says the attacker is of Latin or Asian appearance, aged about 25 and about 6ft tall. He had a large moustache and was wearing a leather or nylon jacket.

Contact Det Insp Moore on 488 5381.

EXTRA police will be drafted into the East End for the second weekend running as a group called the Rights for Whites Campaign march around the streets of Bethnal Green on Sunday.

The group are calling for more police action to "defend the white community" after the stabbing of Morpeth schoolboy John Stoner and Bow man Terry Swinney who were both involved in incidents with Asian youths.

But Bethnal Green and Stepney MP Peter Shore says the march is being used by the ultra-right wing British National Party to promote its chances in May's local government elections.

## Upsetting

He told the Gazette: "'Rights for Whites' is a slogan used by the BNP. I think it would be wrong to ban the march. The police seem to think they can keep it under control, but it is upsetting to see the resurgence of the BNP again."

It is rumoured that BNP candidates will be standing in wards in Bethnal Green and Stepney with high Bangladeshi populations.

A spokesperson for the march organisers confirmed the ultra-right connection.

"It's part BNP and part local people," he said. He would not comment on the route of the march. Police are anxious to keep demonstrators away from the large Bangladeshi populations of Brick Lane and Spitalfields.

## BNP link as police get ready for 'whites march'

Workers Against Racism have taken up the case of the three Bangladeshis charged with the stabbing of Terry Swinney in Ben Jonson Road, Stepney, two weeks ago.

Malik Miah, Abdul Hamid and a juvenile who cannot be named have been charged with the attempted murder of Mr Swinney, 35, but WAR are co-ordinating the Stepney Three Campaign demanding their release.

Yesterday (Thursday), members of the Stepney Three Campaign picketed Thames Magistrates Court in Bow Road where the three teenagers were due to appear facing charges of attempted murder.

HC 9.3.90

# THE UNACCEPTABLE FACE OF PROTEST

Thatcher condemns  
London's worst  
poll tax clashes



Some of the crowd tangle with police

**MRS THATCHER** today condemned the violence at Hackney's anti-poll tax demonstration last night and laid the blame firmly on Left-wing extremists.

The Prime Minister said anything intimidating or violent was "absolutely contradictory to democracy".

Highly-organised Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party agitators turned London's largest poll tax rebellion into an orgy of violence, destruction and looting.

In the worst night of anarchy yet experienced in the bitter campaign, hard-core "flying pickets" from as far afield as Liverpool, Glasgow and Cardiff, some of them masked, left a mile-long trail of broken glass and smashed shop displays through the heart of Hackney.

Speaking in Glasgow, Mrs Thatcher said: "I'm afraid it's one of a series (of demonstrations) which we believe to be organised by Militant.

"As you know, it is not the way

by Colin Adamson

to conduct affairs at all. Legislation has been through Parliament and any conduct intimidating or violent is absolutely contradictory to democracy. People can demonstrate if they do so peacefully.

"Of course, they are going for some of the councils which are setting very high community charges.

"Some of them are Labour councils. They have something to grouse about but if they are going to protest they should do so in an orderly way," said the Prime Minister, who was visiting Glasgow's new £100 million St Enoch Centre shopping centre.

Militant Tendency supporters, blamed up to now for much of the violence at poll tax demonstrations, were in evidence early on in Hackney, but faded away when the worst trouble began.

What started as a rumbustious 4000-strong protest outside the town hall quickly degenerated into a full-scale bloody riot last night, with the SWP tacticians orchestrating every move.

By the time Hackney Council

had set a poll tax of £499, all thoughts of democratic political opposition had vanished.

A young policewoman lay semi-conscious on the pavement, her helmet smashed by a brick hurled from an overhead walkway. She was led to an ambulance bleeding heavily from a broken nose.

Twenty-nine of her colleagues, who stood their ground against mass invasion on the town hall steps and battled to clear the charging mob from the streets, were felled by a barrage of rocks, full beer cans, smoke bombs, fireworks, coins, and heavy wooden sticks attached to SWP placards.

Two WP-Cs and two P-Cs were taken to the Homerton Hospital for treatment and later released. Another 30 received treatment from the divisional medical officer for minor cuts and bruises. Scotland Yard said the demonstrators' strength was estimated at about 5000.

Up to 60 shops on Mare Street and Narrow Way had their fronts smashed and dozens were looted.

Fires were started in dustbins, pavements were torn up and the

Continued on Page 2 Col 4



A mask hides the face of one protester

EVENING STANDARD

9.3.90

time for something else today—the big clear-up.

On the morning after Hackney's poll tax-fixing night, devastation replaced the familiar detritus outside the fast food bar.

Instead of burger boxes and milk shake cartons, there was a pile of grey concrete slabs. Close by lay shards of thick blue glass.

The stones had been hurled repeatedly at McDonald's windows, failing to break the specially-toughened glass, but creating a fantastic, frightening spider's web as it shattered.

Inside, at the height of last night's 30-minute looting and wrecking rampage, children, their parents and staff covered behind locked doors.

One customer said: "We just heard thump, thump, thump, and it seemed to go on for ever. Everyone was

very frightened."

McDonald's faces a bill for at least £25,000 for the glass alone; the emotional damage inflicted by the mob may be much worse.

The gang only ceased their attack when the windows failed to break, taking out their frustration indiscriminately along Mare Street's narrow shopping parade.

Few businesses escaped. The 500 or so marauders attacked chain stores, building societies, book shops, electrical shops, a butcher's and a baker's. If there had been a candlestickmaker's, they would have wrecked that too.

Steve Davis, the 32-year-old owner of Hackney Fruit Stores, needed a police escort to reach his shop.

When he arrived, he looked on incredulously as about 40 people hurled

stones, bricks, pieces of wood and anything they could get hold of at anything that seemed to be a target.

They couldn't break through Steve's metal shutters. But what they could do is smash the plate-glass window of a chartered surveyor's next door, which had nothing worth stealing.

Down the street Steve's friend the bookseller had thousands of pounds worth of books chucked from the shelves. In shops like Radio Rentals and DER, hi fi and TVs were just asking to be taken.

# The mile of violence

Continued from Page 1

concrete slabs used as missiles, and a police Metro patrol car was overturned.

Some armed with riot shields staged counter-charges against breakaway groups of up to 200 stone-throwing rioters, almost all in their late teens or early twenties.

Mounted officers were also called into the battle which raged from 8.55pm, when police cleared the square in front of the town hall, until well after 10.30pm.

Senior officers had to use helicopters to direct ambulances to the scene as both police and protesters suffered head injuries from the hail of missiles.

When the worst excesses took place, particularly the looting, the distinctive black and white SWP placards

A 23-year-old East London man was fined £40 with £10 costs today after admitting a charge of disorderly behaviour during last night's violent poll tax demonstration in Hackney.

Brian Elias, of Alnsworth Road, Chingford, swore at police officers and behaved aggressively outside Hackney Town Hall, Old Street magistrates were told.

bearing the message, "Break the Tory Poll Tax. Don't Collect, Don't Pay", could be seen in the crowds.

The damage bill is expected to run into tens of thousands of pounds.

The police chief in charge of operations at Hackney last night today said he was convinced that the riot was engineered by political activists.

"I am absolutely confident of that," said Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill. "There was a significant minority of persons who were agitators and activists who had gone along with no interest whatsoever in Hackney's community charge. Their sole interest was in attacking police lines."

He said that of the rioters arrested last night, over 40 per cent came from outside the borough. "From my own observations and from those of others, it is quite clear that there were people in the crowd hell-bent on creating trouble," he said.

Of the 30 police officers injured last night, all have now been released from hospital, although Chief Supt Mulvihill said that some would be off duty for several days as a result of their injuries.

"There were clearly a number of people who attended a meeting simply to attack the police."

"A lot of local people were there and some of those may have been responsible for the attacks."

"But other local people tried to stop the violence and were stopped from doing so by others in the crowd who were just out to create trouble."

Chief Superintendent Mulvihill denied that police had been too slow to respond to the looting gang which ran amok in a shopping parade.

He said: "People who criticise the response do not have my overview of the situation."

Hackney Council leader John McCafferty said there

## Police ensure Haringey peace

POLICE outnumbered demonstrators today as Haringey Council made a second attempt to fix its poll tax.

Only about 50 protesters were at the Civic Centre Wood Green, as councillors re-convened their meeting.

It was adjourned at 2am on Tuesday after an invasion of the chamber.

The ruling Labour group aimed to introduce a poll tax of £572.89 which was 11p inside the Government's recommendation.

had been a "popular protest" but he did not condone violence.

He added: "I think it is quite clear the protesters were a cross section of the population. Obviously, if there is a situation of disruption there will be people who will join in to add to the disruption."

During campaigning in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election today, both Home Secretary David Waddington and Shadow environment secretary Bryan Gould condemned the violence in Hackney.

Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, today accused Mrs Thatcher of being the "real urban terrorist" behind last night's riots. Ms Abbott put down a House of Commons motion denouncing the Prime Minister for causing the violence outside the Town Hall.



A policewoman hit by a brick in Hackney holds her head as, below, protesters wave extremist banners



EVENING STANDARD

9.3.90





The front line . . . Police hold back anti-poll tax demonstrators last night during violent scenes outside Hackney town hall, east London PHOTOGRAPH: ROBIN MAYES

# PM blames militancy on Labour

Alan Travis  
Political Correspondent

**M**RS Thatcher yesterday tried to link the spectre of "militant violence" surrounding poll tax protests with Labour.

Moving the argument away from the benefits of the community charge, the Prime Minister — orchestrated by her party chairman Kenneth Baker — yesterday tried to link Labour MPs to the town hall demonstrations.

"They are precisely the same kind of violence we have seen before at Grunwick, in the coal strike and at Wapping, and they are a negation of democracy," she told the Commons.

Sensing a chink of light in the poll tax argument, Conservative MPs ignored condemnation of the violent incidents from every section of the Parliamentary Labour Party, ranging from the Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, to MP Dave Nellist, a Militant supporter, who said the All Britain Anti-poll Tax Federation "does not organise, advocate or condone the violence".

Mrs Thatcher seized on the alleged statement by 28 Labour MPs that they would support a campaign of non-payment, and demanded Mr Kinnock disown them. But three say they intend to pay the tax, and nearly half do not support a campaign. One of the 28 — Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield — claimed Britain was "witnessing the first major civil disobedience campaign since the Suffragettes". He urged Labour to defend those who decided not to pay, and pledge itself to an amnesty.

Labour leaders oppose a campaign of mass non-payment, saying it is dangerous to encourage people in financial difficulties to take on a debt which in England and Wales

can lead to prison. However, 10 Plaid Cymru councillors in Neil Kinnock's Islwyn constituency announced they would not pay.

Pressure is still mounting on the Conservative Party. The local government minister, David Hunt, is receiving daily delegations from aggrieved Conservative councillors. The poll tax has split the ruling Conservative group on Torquay council, Devon, with seven voting against a tax of £395. Last night, the Conservative-led Barnet council met in Mrs Thatcher's constituency of Finchley, north London, to set a poll tax rate £60 above the Government's £278 national average target.

Negotiations between the Department of Environment and the local authority associations over the level of next year's Whitehall grants to councils start today. The councils are expected to blame rising poll tax bills on the Government's failure to get its figures right last year, to the tune of £2.4 billion. That is the minimum extra figure Mr Patten needs to win from the Treasury in the coming Cabinet battle over local authority spending to peg average poll tax bills at £380 — £100 above the government estimate.

Mrs Thatcher has promised that the negotiations will consider any fresh evidence about the success or failure of Standard Spending Assessments — the mechanism which has pushed up poll tax bills in the Conservative shires.

Mr Baker produced in a press conference bar charts showing that many more Labour councils were overspending than Conservative councils. Labour's campaigns co-ordinator, Jack Cunningham, proffered a simple explanation — there are many more Labour councils in the country.

Details, page 4; Politics, page 2

## 57 held as London poll tax protest erupts into riot

Stephen Cook, Cella Locks,  
Paul Webster and Paul Myers

**R**IOTERS smashed a half-mile swathe through Hackney, east London, last as police cleared 4,000-5,000 demonstrators from outside the town hall, where a poll tax of £199, one of the highest in the country, was set.

Fifty-seven people were arrested, and police and demonstrators injured by flying bottles and stones. Four police officers were taken to hospital. A police car was overturned, and shops were looted.

There were protests outside other council meetings in London and the south of England.

In Swindon, an effigy of Mrs Thatcher was burned, but there were no other reports of large-scale violence.

Earlier yesterday, Hackney council staff walked out in protest at security measures taken by the Labour council, which called in a private firm to board up windows and some doors in preparation for the meeting.

The police decision to clear the square in front of the town hall came after 90 minutes of increasingly ugly skirmishes between police and some of the crowd who hurled bottles, cans and lumps of wood.

One man had his head gashed by a flying bottle, and a young policewoman was

clutching her eye. Much of the violence directed at the police appeared to come from groups of anarchists, who roamed through the demonstrators enticing them to charge police ranks.

Staves from Militant and Socialist Worker banners were among missiles launched at the police, many of which hit demonstrators behind the police lines.

About 200 youths broke up paving stones and smashed the windows of Woolworth, McDonalds, Marks & Spencer, BHS and the Midland Bank. Shops were looted, and a 300-yard stretch at the top of the main street was left strewn with glass and rubble.

The riot fizzled out near Hackney police station, where a police car was turned over and its windows smashed. Police horses emerged from behind the station to clear the last of the demonstrators.

In the boarded-up town hall, the council set its rate — £202 above the government guideline — amid heckling from the public gallery. A bag of flour burst on the floor of the chamber.

Afterwards, Commander John Purnell, the most senior officer at the scene, said: "We brought in reinforcements and deployed our resources as best we could, but some elements took advantage of the situation to cause the damage. You've just got to look round at the kind of people in this

Police at Swindon called for reinforcements after 30 people, from a crowd of 500, tried to break down the doors of the council offices.

In north London, a man was taken to hospital with a broken arm after a car ploughed through 500 protesters demonstrating outside Camden town hall. The poll tax was set at £571, a £21 reduction on an earlier council estimate.

In west London, more than 1,000 people crowded into Hillingdon Council's civic centre. Some watched proceedings on closed circuit television in committee rooms. Stewards carrying two-way radios monitored the number of people entering the building to prevent a recurrence of the disorder which stopped the council from fixing its charge last week.

In nearby Labour-controlled Ealing council, where the Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, lives, the poll tax was set at £435.

Picketers were almost outnumbered by the police guard at Hendon town hall as the prime minister's local authority, Barnet council, set a poll tax of £338, £15 over its government target.

Two masked men in Gloucestershire held up a pub claiming they needed the money to pay their poll tax. The men threatened the barman with a knife, and apologised, telling him: "We've only done this because we can't afford to pay the poll

GUARDIAN 9.3.90



# MOB RULE



Picture: DYLAN CONNELL

by TONY GALLAGHER

**THIS** is the mindless face of the poll tax savagery that turned London streets into a war zone last night.

A thug wields a torn-up road sign as he leads an attack on heavily outnumbered police.

At least 30 officers were

## 5,000 take to streets in looting orgy

hurt, four seriously, as 5,000 demonstrators ran amok after Hackney council decided its tax rate.

Scores of shops were looted and local people locked themselves inside their homes during the two-hour mob rampage.

Mounted police and officers in full riot gear, including women, baton-charged the crowds and snatch squads tried to grab ringleaders. At least 57 people were arrested.

Many demonstrators were Militant supporters from outside the area.

One police sergeant said: "They

have used the tax as an excuse for an orgy of looting and rioting.

"I have not seen anything like this since the Brixton riots years ago."

SID leader Paddy Ashdown, who was escorted to safety after hundreds of demonstrators broke into a meeting nearby, said: "I have seen scenes

like this in Belfast, and I was as frightened then as now. This type of violence is appalling and does nothing to further the anti poll-tax cause."

Both Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock condemned the rioters.

The violence flared after Hackney  
Turn to Page 2

TODAY 9.3.90

# 5,000 run amok as mob rules

From Page 1

council agreed a £499 community charge. A 100-strong force of police, standing six deep, kept demonstrators away from the Town Hall during the meeting.

In frustration, more than 1,000 staged a sit-down protest. Police dispersed them and formed a new cordon a quarter of a mile away.

Suddenly the fury boiled over. Crowds regrouped in side streets to launch attacks.

More than 200 police reinforcements, including women officers, were rushed in and thrown into the front line under a hail of broken bottles, stones and bricks.

## Precinct

Hordes more protesters swarmed into the Mare Street pedestrian precinct, breaking every window in sight.

TVs and videos worth thousands of pounds were stolen from a looted rental shop.

The local McDonalds was "smashed to bits", said police, and 40 other stores attacked.

The owner of a wrecked card shop said: "I can't understand the mentality of people who do this. Who do they end up hurting? What do they gain from it?"

Peter Adams, 46, said: "I saw a woman running off with a wedding dress. An electrical shop was



FLASHPOINT: Police clash with violent protesters surging forward in a pitched battle

cleared out. There was nothing left.

"I saw somebody breaking up paving slabs for others to smash windows."

Lee Brooks, 24, told how he saw the demonstration disintegrate into a bloody orgy of violence and looting.

He said: "A crowd of 200 were running down the High Street smashing windows for absolutely no reason."

"Everyone was screaming and shouting and it was very frightening. The protesters outside the town hall were

all ages, even mothers with children. But the looters were all young."

"At first the police did not even realise what was happening."

"Then finally the back-up teams began to arrive and the mounted police came and the crowds dispersed."

Post Office worker John McCrody, 51, said: "These people are turning it into their own war. They don't come from round here."

"They just turned up to have a go at police."

■ Night the thugs took over: Pages 4 & 5

## Courts ready for 3.5m poll rebels

SPECIAL courts will be set up to cope with an expected 3.5 million poll tax defaulters.

Ministers will shortly give secret instructions on dealing with non-payers.

Many areas have already booked courts to cope with the revolt, set to be the big-

gest challenge to law and order faced by the Government.

Police in some inner-city areas are preparing for riots when people are forced to pay the tax.

Premier Margaret Thatcher compared this week's protests to violence during the miners' strike.

# NIGHT

MILLIONS of TV viewers watched in horror as a police constable was mercilessly battered by hate-filled thugs.

The officer is desperately trying to hold back the baying mob when suddenly he is fighting to protect his life as punches rain down on him.

For one terrifying moment viewers see him pulled forward and clubbed by a crop-haired militant who has obviously arrived armed, then escapes into the crowd.

The officer turns on a

by JIM GALLAGHER and GARY MORGAN

second man who tries to batter him in the face.

Undaunted, the brave constable holds on to the attacker who is screaming with hatred.

But two other friends of the thug join the fray and lash out.

With a wave of strength the officer hauls one of his attackers over the wall and, after kneeling his assailant, brings him under control.



ATTACK: The officer's helmet is knocked from his head during a charge by 20 screaming yobs



PUNCH: The Pc tries to grab one of the yobs when a fist suddenly smashes him in the face



CLUBBED: A man appears from the crowd and batters the officer's head with a wooden cosh



BRAVE: The bruised and bloodied PC hauls one of his vicious attackers over the wall

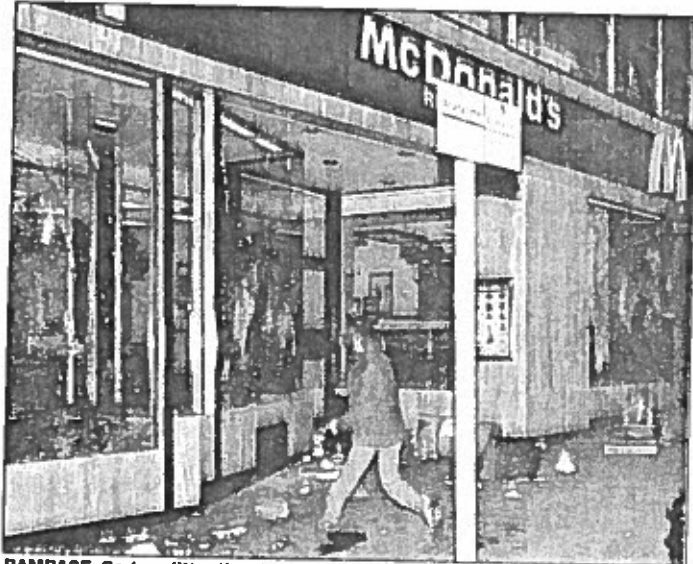
TODAY 9.3.90

# THE THUGS TOOK OVER



**RIOT ZONE:** A squad car lies on its side outside Hackney police station after being tipped over by mobs from a poll tax demo

Pictures: STEVE BURTON and LEE BROOKS



**RAMPAGE:** Cartons litter the street as looters smash their way into a restaurant



**CALL OF THE WILD:** Baying protesters push toward police outside the town hall

TODAY 9.3.90

# Poll tax protest turns to rioting and looting

By Ben Fenton, Philip Sherwell and Martin Newland

**MOUNTED POLICE** broke up a mob that had looted shops and attacked a police station in Hackney, east London, last night after a poll tax protest by up to 5,000 people blew up into a riot, with running battles between officers and demonstrators. Scotland Yard said 57 people were arrested and more than 30 police officers hurt in the worst violence yet seen in the campaign against the community charge. Shops were raided after the windows of virtually every building for 500 yards were kicked in or smashed with dustbins and bricks.

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Senior police officers described the scene as "chaotic", and reinforcements arrived from the Territorial Support Group.

A policeman said protesters standing on a railway bridge straddling Mare Street threw bricks on to officers passing beneath.

Four policemen were treated in hospital, the worst suffering from a broken nose. Four of those arrested were not from the Hackney area.

A sergeant involved in one of the baton charges, said: "If it had been a peaceful protest they could have protested all day long but it is a different story when they are throwing bottles, bricks, placards and sticks."

During the looting later, the youths, many wearing hoods and with scarves across their faces, were thought to be from a different group.

The gang dispersed as mounted police and vans carrying reinforcements arrived. However, groups of youths roamed the area into the early hours as scores of burglar alarms continued to ring.

Three hours after the violence began, police in vans were still patrolling the back streets around the town hall, on occasion arresting people.

Earlier, organisers of the protest said the council had adopted heavy-handed security measures, including guards with dobermann pinschers.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, who had been at Hackney town hall for an earlier meeting, called the protesters a "rabble" and likened the violence to the streets of Northern Ireland.

He said: "I condemn this mindless brutality. I have seen scenes like this in Belfast and was as frightened then as now to be caught in the middle of it all."

There was also serious trouble during the second attempt by Thamesdown council in Swindon, Wiltshire, to levy a poll tax of £336.

At Camden, north London, 400 people chanted outside the town hall but the meeting was delayed as the ruling Labour group met to consider savings to cut the expected charge level of £555.

Almost 500 people laid siege to Hillingdon civic centre, west London, where councillors were also trying for the second time to set a charge.

At Ealing, in west London, councillors were jeered by 400 people and covered in paper as they arrived to set a community charge of £435.

Barnet council, in north London, which covers Mrs Thatcher's Finchley constituency, set a poll tax of £338.

Televisions from an electrical store were looted and broken, a patrol car outside the police station was overturned and rubbish bins were set alight.

Mr Peter Adams, 46, a Hackney resident, said: "I saw a woman running off with a wedding dress. A local electrical shop was cleared out. There was nothing left. People were running off with videos."

"I saw somebody breaking up paving slabs for others to throw to smash windows," he added.

Mr Adil Salahi, a shop owner, said: "We were absolutely terrified. They moved down past the shops throwing dustbins through windows."

Mounted police had to charge a mob of several hundred that gathered outside Hackney police station and threw missiles through windows.

Earlier, police guarding Hackney town hall, where councillors were trying to set a poll tax of £499, fought with demonstrators at close quarters and conducted a series of baton charges after they were pelted with stones, bottles and other missiles.

About 2,000 protesters had gathered to oppose the community charge, but it was a hard core of about 200 that began attacks on officers that lasted for more than two hours. Police reinforcements were called from other parts of London when about 1,000 protesters staged a sit-down demonstration.

At 8.30, traffic in Mare Street, Hackney's main thoroughfare, came to a standstill as the demonstration spilled on to the road and 20 policemen came under a hail of missiles as they tried to clear the street.

At this stage, senior police officers decided to remove all the protesters from in front of the town hall. The crowd had swelled from 1,000 at 7pm to 4,000 two hours later.

A line of police moved the crowd both north and south along Mare Street. Scuffles broke out between officers and demonstrators.

Opposite the town hall, the crush became so intense that people had to scramble over a fence to escape. Children brought in the rally by their parents were handed over in safety.

After the crowd had been cleared, the 200-strong hard core began smashing shop and office windows and laid siege to a McDonald's restaurant containing a handful of customers.

The restaurant windows cracked but did not smash. The mob then turned its attention to shops, banks and building societies in the rest of the street. The destruction was over within about five minutes and the only evidence of looting was at the electrical store.

Picture: JOHN COGILL



Demonstrators clashing with police outside Hackney Town Hall where 4,000 people gathered to protest at the community charge

DAILY TELEGRAPH 9.3.90



**BRITAIN AND THE POLL TAX**

MOTHER SHELTERS HER CHILD AS BEER CANS, FLOUR BOMBS, PAINT AND STICKS ARE THROWN IN WORST POLL TAX VIOLENCE

# Police take a beating as mob goes on rampage



**Head-on violence: Police struggle with protesters trying to force their way into Hackney town hall**

## From Page One

Police, who brought in reinforcements from the Territorial Support Group, tried to seal off the area.

A mother sheltered her baby as a hail of bottles rained down on police.

One Militant boasted "we've done a copper" as an officer fell, blood streaming from his face.

Police at the scene said it was the most fierce fighting seen so far over the poll tax on London's streets.

Mass devastation was caused to the main shopping centre as gangs smashed windows and looted shops. One resident reported a woman running off with a wedding dress.

About 300 police, some armed with riot shields, broke up the demonstration but pitched battles continued in side streets.

Police Commander John Purnell

said: "I think my officers acted with a tremendous degree of restraint. We were hit by cans, bottles, bricks and anything else they could lay their hands on. Some of the police officers were brutally kicked and beaten."

Post Office worker John McCrody, 51, who was struck by a bottle, said: "I feel close to tears at the moment. I detest the idea of the poll tax but these people are turning it into their own war."

## Protests

The riot erupted just four hours after Mrs Thatcher condemned the rent-a-mob protests in the Commons. "It is precisely the same kind of violence we have seen before at Grunwick, in the coal strike and at Wapping and it is a negation of democracy," she told MPs.

The Labour leader agreed, but he refused to back calls for an inquiry

into alleged links between Labour and Militant Tendency.

Tory Party chairman Kenneth Baker produced figures that showed Labour's four-year record on the poll tax. It had cost £311 million to collect the tax, while the Government's poll tax recommendations would cost £499 million.

There was further violence in Swindon, Wiltshire, where a 2,000-strong column of protesters tried to batter their way into the town hall where the majority Labour Group was recommending a £499 tax.

A broken arm after a car accelerated through a 200-strong crowd outside Camden town hall in North London where the Left-wing authority set a £334 charge.

At Barnet, the North London borough which includes Mrs Thatcher's Finchley constituency, police outnumbered the 50-strong crowd. The Tory council was expected to set the charge at £158 — £23 above target.

Militant protesters provoked the worst poll tax violence yet as they went on the rampage for the fourth day in succession last night.

The hooliganism, blamed on rent-a-mob thugs, continued despite condemnation earlier in the day from the Prime Minister and Neil Kinnock.

A riot erupted at Hackney Council in East London, where police and demonstrators fought running battles.

Sixty people were arrested, and a number of officers and demonstrators were injured by flying missiles.

Bear cans, flour bombs, paint and

sticks were hurled at police who were trying to control a crowd of 1,500 chanting protesters.

Many, who were carrying Militant and Socialist Worker banners, were dragged off, screaming abuse.

Officers made Wapping-style charges into the crowd in front of the town hall where Labour councillors were preparing to set a charge of £499 — £202 above the Government's estimate.

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown, who witnessed the violence, said: "I have seen scenes like this in Belfast, and I was as frightened then as now." He challenged Labour leader Neil Kinnock to withdraw the Whip from his 28 MPs who are refusing to pay the community charge.

Cars were smashed by the mob as

Page 5 Column 2

By NICHOLAS BUCKLEY, JACK LEE and JOHN TWOMEY

Reporting team: Nicholas Buckley, Jack Lee, John Twomey, Robert Gibson, Charles Lewington • Pictures: Tim Clarke

Before the storm: The crowd gathers

# LOOTERS ON RAMPAGE AFTER POLL TAX DEMO

**LOOTERS went on the rampage last night as police fought running battles with stone-throwing poll tax protesters.**

A mile-long stretch of 50 shops had their windows shattered after officers armed with riot shields charged a 5,000-strong crowd in Hackney, East London.

The sea of broken glass stretched from near Hackney town hall to within yards of the local police station.

Hooligans smashed windows with paving stones and concrete blocks before grabbing TVs, videos and radios.

More than 30 officers were hurt in the riot blamed on "rent-a-mob" gangs.

At least 57 people were arrested. Police Commander John Purnell said his men were

attacked with bottles, sticks and cans in the worst violence so far over the poll tax.

SDP leader Paddy Ashdown was ushered to safety from a nearby meeting as the Labour-controlled council fixed a tax of £499.

In SWINDON, Wilts, smoke-bombs, fireworks and eggs were thrown at police guarding the council chamber.

An effigy of Premier Margaret Thatcher was burned as the council set a tax of £336.

Up to 1,000 protesters

## Riot cops stoned as shops are wrecked

BARNET council set a tax of £338 affecting Mrs Thatcher's Finchley constituency.

Labour-controlled CAMDEN council agreed a figure of £334 amid shouts and screams from the public gallery.

Hundreds of frustrated demonstrators blocked traffic outside the town hall and only 50 were allowed into the public gallery.

ALL TEN Welsh Nationalist councillors in Labour leader Neil Kinnock's constituency at Islwyn, South Wales have vowed they will refuse to pay the tax.



**RUNNING RIOT: Thug attacks a shop in Hackney**



# SUMMARY

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Three RUC officers involved in the incident which sparked the still unresolved "shoot to kill" controversy cannot be compelled to give evidence at the inquests, the House of Lords ruled. Page 3

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**Wallace ruling**  
The Press Council has upheld a complaint against *The Independent* by Colin Wallace, a former Army information officer in Northern Ireland. Page 2

**Waste rumus**  
Britain was involved in a row for refusing to sign a European deal banning nuclear waste burial under the North Sea. Further report, page 4

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The top 10 "listed" sports events will not be guaranteed a BBC or ITV showing. Page 4

**Airport plan**  
Plans for a privately funded airport on a Thames estuary man-made island will be put to the Government. Page 8

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**Tagging 'flasco'**  
An electronic tagging project ended amid "flasco" allegations. Page 8

**Exam results**  
Children from Indian families do best in examinations, an analysis says. Page 8

**SA troops ready**  
South Africa's army was on stand-by for intervention in Bophuthatswana. Page 10

**Secession move**  
The nationalist majority in Lithuania's newly elected parliament voted to declare the

Looting and smoke bombs in fourth night of trouble as 800 demonstrate in east London

## Police baton-charge poll tax protesters



The early stages of the violence in Hackney last night. Demonstrators attack police lines at the bottom of the town hall steps Photograph: Andrew Chapman

By Ian MacKinnon  
Nicholas Timmins  
and Nick Cohen

**SMOKE BOMBS** were thrown and police baton-charged protesters last night on the fourth successive night of demonstrations against the poll tax.

Waves of police from operational support groups ran into a crowd of about 800 demonstrators outside the poll tax fixing meeting in Hackney, east London.

Protesters had blocked roads outside the town hall and overturned a police car. As officers attempted to clear the streets, they were pushed back by the jeering crowd and faced a hail of beer cans, bottles and bricks.

At least 38 people were arrested and one demonstrator's leg was broken when a car ran into him. A policeman was injured when hit by a missile thrown at officers protecting the Labour-controlled council. The conflict degenerated into running street fights, shop windows were broken and there was looting.

Earlier yesterday, Margaret Thatcher described the angry reaction to the poll tax as a negation of democracy. However, later even Barnett in the Prime Minister's north London constituency failed to support the government line. The Conservative-controlled authority set a poll tax of £138 — £23 an adult higher than the Department of the Environment's recommended figure.

Elsewhere demonstrations were more robust than violent and there were few serious incidents.

Mrs Thatcher and ministers had earlier continued to attack the demonstrations to combat criticism of the charges, which must be paid by every adult in Britain from 1 April. At Prime Minister's question time she said those Labour MPs who refuse as a matter of conscience to pay the tax were "quite wrong".

Later in a Glasgow speech, the Prime Minister accused Labour of wanting to "tax tax and tax again". Its alternative to the poll tax was a nightmare, she said.

Neil Kinnock fully voiced her condemnation of violence and said he agreed with every-

thing she had just said "as I have long made clear".

But Labour's leadership was embarrassed by Tony Benn, who said the Labour movement should defend all those including Labour MPs who are refusing to pay "and pledge itself to an amnesty to lift all the penalties which may be imposed on them".

While those who defied the law must expect punishment, he said, "there is no moral obligation to obey an unjust law".

The country, he said, was "witnessing the first major civil disobedience campaign since the

suffragettes" and over the same issue of democratic rights. "If enough stand firm against the poll tax we can compel the Government to withdraw it."

A charge of £109 will be levied on adults in Hackney, one of Britain's poorer districts. The trouble began after the tax was fixed in a barricaded council chamber.

Only 40 people were allowed into the public gallery and the debate took place with only a few minor interruptions, including the throwing of a flower bomb at the Labour leader, John McCaffery.

Camden Council, in north London, set a poll tax of £134 — one of the highest. Despite having to cope with the worst homelessness problems in the country, the Government has decided every resident must contribute £75 towards the "safety net" which goes to authorities in other areas.

The Labour-controlled council in Ealing, west London, where Mr Kinnock lives, set its poll tax at £135. About 250 protested outside but there was no violence.

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## Jitters over Thatcher reach Cabinet level

By Anthony Bevir  
Political Editor

One source said last night "Ken has much to lose and little to gain. Michael has nothing to lose and all to gain."

Other potential contenders, such as John Major, Chancellor

**CONSERVATIVE** Party jitters about the poll tax and Margaret Thatcher's position as leader have reached Cabinet colleagues. It was reported at Westminster last night.

Well-placed sources told *The Independent* that a small group of Cabinet ministers have discussed options including the suggestion that Mrs Thatcher might be asked to stand down in favour of



# Thatcher 'breaking poll tax pledge to the poor'

MARGARET THATCHER was yesterday accused of breaking an election pledge that hundreds of thousands of the poorest people living on income support would receive compensation for their share of the average poll tax bill.

The charge came as the Department of Social Security said that no help beyond that already announced was to be given to the 4,200,000 people on income support to help them meet poll tax bills that are one third higher than the Government anticipated.

Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman, said: "That is a clear breach of the election pledge. She said the com-

pensation would be for the average bill and it is clearly not going to cover the average bill for income support claimants."

The Child Poverty Action Group said that even taking the likely average bill in England of £363, that would leave single people under 25 about 20p a week worse off than if they received compensation for the average bill, and couples 37p a week poorer.

From 1 April, even those who live on the "safety net" benefit will have to pay 20 per cent of the

community charge. To help them do that, £1.30 for adults over 25, £2.30 for couples, and £1.15 for single people under 25 was built in to benefit rates from last April.

Announcing the figures, John Moore, then Secretary of State for Social Security, said it was a "once-and-for-all adjustment".

The cash followed Mrs Thatcher's pledge at the last election that claimants would be given sums equivalent to 20 per cent of the average community charge in England and Wales to help them pay their bills.

Depending on the level at which councils set the poll tax, that would mean some would get

more compensation than the 20 per cent they actually paid and some less. "But it will be an average amount," she said.

But the Department of Social Security said this week that although the average bill is set to be a third higher than the Government anticipated, the compensation announced "remains a once-and-for-all adjustment".

"There is no intention to increase these sums," the department said, beyond the 5.2 per cent increase in April in line with the general rise in benefits.

Mr Meacher said that when the compensation was set, it was pitched higher than needed to

cover the Government's then estimate of the average poll tax after Mr Moore told the Treasury that income support recipients "tend to be in poorer authorities with higher spending levels per capita". The Prime Minister's pledge, he had told the Treasury, "was to protect the average liability of those on income support".

The CPAG said: "The bills are likely to be significantly higher, as Mr Moore pointed out, in the poorer areas where most claimants live. In Haringey, for example, where the poll tax is likely to be £572, those under 25 will be paying £1 a week more than the compensation they are getting."

Even in Mrs Thatcher's Barnet where the poll tax will be £338, many claimants would still be a few pence a week worse off than if compensation was pitched at the level of the average bill, CPAG said. In Conservative-controlled Windsor and Maidenhead, with a £461 charge, claimants faced bills between 40p and £1.12 a week more than their compensation.

Social security ministers are aware that the compensation will not meet the average liability for income support claimants. The issue has been raised with the Treasury, but there is no indication it will be increased.

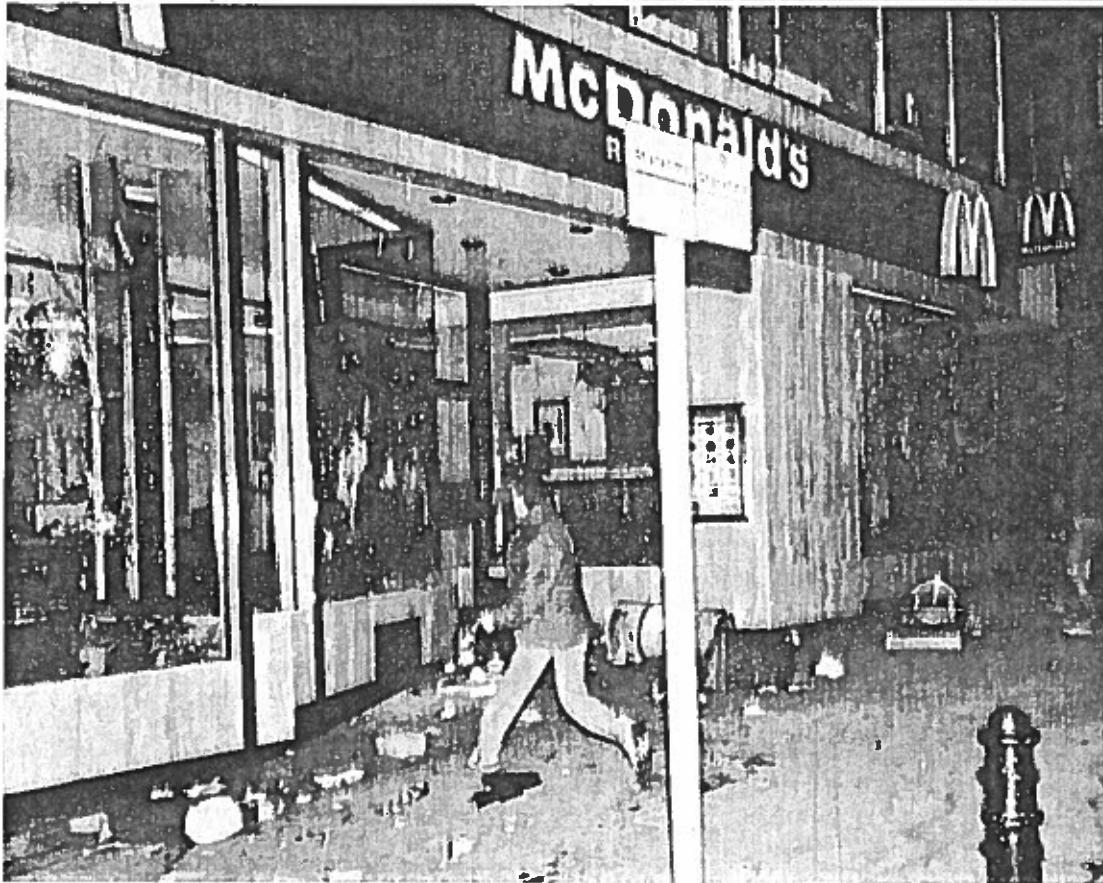
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Police confront part of the 800-strong crowd outside Hackney Town Hall in east London last night, where councillors were meeting to fix the poll tax (Photograph: Andrew Chapman) Right: Police with riot shields outside McDonald's in Mare Street, which was badly damaged by protesters during the disturbances in which 38 people were arrested (Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid)



# POLL TAX MOB LOOT SHOPS!



Shattered . . . a rioter hurls a brick through the window of McDonald's after looters went on the rampage

## ● 57 held in Hackney riot ● WPC's car is overturned

By MIKE BULLIVAN

**MOBS looted shops and battered police when an anti-poll tax rally turned into a bloody riot last night.**

One terrified WPC who fled from a barrage of rocks had her panda car **OVERTURNED**. Fifty-seven people were arrested.

Rampaging youths grabbed videos, TVs and other valuable goods as at least **SIXTY** shops were looted during the riot in Hackney, East London.

TV rental shop DER was stripped. Gangs of yobs smashed windows in virtually every shop in the main shopping area, including Woolworth, Marks & Spencer and McDonalds.

### **GRABBING**

Passers-by joined in, grabbing armfuls of clothes, books and jewellery.

One woman was spotted running away with a wedding dress.

The riot began after 5,000 protesters were locked out of the town hall as councillors met to fix Hackney's poll tax.

At least 30 police and 12 demonstrators were hurt.

Twenty of those arrested live outside Hackney.

Resident Stephen Miles, 20, said: "It wasn't the poll tax protesters who started the trouble. It was Militants who weren't from round here."

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# 'KILL THE PIGS'

## Chant of hatred as the poll tax rioters attack police lines

By MIKE SULLIVAN, GEORGE PASCOE-WATSON and MARY COMERFORD

**RAZED** mobs screaming "Kill the pigs" went on a rampage of violence and looting during an anti-poll tax rally last night.

Rioters pelted police with bricks, bottles and smoke bombs. A terrified woman officer had her ar overturned and another was nashed on the head with a brick thrown from a bridge. More than SIXTY stores were damaged as crooks used a poll tax protest as a cover for their crime spree.



Illared... a black copper drags a protester away by the neck picture by GAVIN RODGERS

London, to go on a crime spree. They smashed the windows with paving slabs and ran off with televisions, videos, jewellery, books and clothes.

Passers by, including women and girls, joined in - and one was seen making off with a wedding dress.

Hundreds of police reinforcements were sent in by the vanload. Fifty-seven people were arrested. At least 30 police and a dozen demonstrators were injured.

Local resident Peter Adams, 48, said: "This was a shameful night for Hackney. It had nothing to do with the poll tax."

The trouble started as a frenzied mob of thousands were locked out of the town hall by a police cordon as the Labour-controlled council met and set one of London's highest poll tax rates - £480.

Protesters ripped up a traffic sign and used it as a battering ram to get into the building.

### Banners

Missiles were hurled and police with batons charged the mob. The two sides battled for the next half an hour.

Policemen had their helmets knocked off and were showered with bricks, bottles and beer cans.

Protesters waving Militant banners blamed the violence on police. But local demonstrators said Militant supporters, who came from outside Hackney, stirred up the riot.

The two WPCs attacked went to hospital for treatment for cuts and bruises.

Youths dressed in punk and hippie gear also tried to overturn a police van after a protester was arrested.

A brick was thrown through the front windscreen as it drove off.

A police motorcyclist was knocked from his bike. He was rushed by ambulance to hospital.

### Buses

Youths held up buses, forcing passengers to get off.

Crowds yelled "scum" at Labour leader Neil Kinnock's wife Glenys as she arrived at a concert at the nearby Hackney Empire.

As police were pinned down at the town hall, gangs of youths stormed



**YOU'RE NICKED** A punk protester yells her defiance as she is marched away by police. In all, 57 people were arrested in the bloody riot

through the surrounding streets, breaking into shops and stealing goods.

The TV rental store DER was stripped, with youths running out carrying armfuls of videos and televisions.

The black and white gangs smashed virtually every window in the main shopping area, including Woolworths, Marks and Spencer, McDonalds and a Jewellers.

A McDonalds worker said: "It was terrifying. The cost will run into thousands."

It was 20 minutes before police arrived.

One officer, PC Gerard Jordan, was beaten up as he wrestled a looter to the ground.

A dozen mounted police rode in to break up the looting.

As shocked staff stood outside the wrecked McDonalds store, a passing youth laughed and shouted at them: "This is justice."



Overturned by the mob... the WPC driver was bruised



Victim... injured PC Gerard Jordan

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