

# Cover Page

[Redacted]

No. 47  
**HA**

File No.

588

UNRNG

694E

Minute Sheet No.

ONE

1.

Special Branch Memorandum

1

1A

DAC & Sec. per. ✓ [Redacted] 17'

Commander 'Ops'

2

This arrest of an SDS field officer will have done no harm to his standing amongst his 'comrades'.

(a) PA with similar corres. in SDS office.

3

Geoffrey Craft

SB

17.1.84

Chief Superintendent

M.P.

[Redacted]

[P.T.O.]

Special Branch

17th January 1984

MEMORANDUMChief Superintendent 'S' Squad

1. On Friday 13th January, 1984, Detective Constable [4] HN12 a Special Demonstration Squad Officer working under the assumed name of Michael HARTLEY within the Revolutionary Communist Group (RCG), was arrested by police from Highbury Vale Police Station for illegal bill posting.

2. The circumstances were that DC [5] HN12 and [6] Privacy unemployed of [7] Privacy an RCG 'comrade', had been directed by committee members of the RCG 'front' organisation Irish Solidarity Movement, to affix posters on appropriate premises in Holloway Road N19 (a normal activity for a group of this nature) advertising a forthcoming "Week of Action" concerning informers in Ireland. At 8.30 pm that evening PC [8] 5a and PC [9] 5b, on patrol in a marked police vehicle, apprehended both individuals in the act of pasting posters to a hoarding in Holloway Road, N19. DC [10] HN12 and [11] Privacy were [12] arrested, taken to Highbury Vale Police Station and charged with "that you did on Friday 13th January, 1984, affix a posting bill at Holloway Road N19, without the consent of the owner - contrary to Section 54(10) Metropolitan Police Act, 1839."

3. Both were detained in individual cells until bailed at 11.05 pm to appear the following morning at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court.

4. I was in telephone contact with DC [13] HN12 subsequent to his release and gave him advice on how to handle the situation. As no police officer involved [14] 8 knew or was known to DC [15] HN12 nor had enquiry of Special Branch Reserve been made by the arresting officer, I decided to let matters take their normal course and personally monitor the proceedings. Accordingly I was present when DC [16] HN12 and [17] 9 [18] Privacy appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court at 10 am on Saturday 14th January, 1984. Both pleaded 'guilty' and were fined £5 each.

5. In my opinion, it can be concluded that this matter has been resolved satisfactorily without prejudice to Special Demonstration Squad operations in this particular field, which reflects credit upon the officer concerned. Although an unwelcome experience, the episode has done much to reinforce his position within this particular group of committed 'revolutionaries'.

[19] 10  
N.D. Short  
Chief Inspector

1.

SB Memorandum ..... 1A

DAC

1. We have discussed this case.

[11] 2. DC [HN13] was seen on 19.9.77 and his injuries were superficial. An X-Ray examination at Kingston Hospital revealed no permanent damage to his nose. An "injury on duty" report has been submitted.

3. I have discussed with Commander Maybanks of A8 whether the arresting officer should be seen and given enough information to prevent his making some remark to DC [HN13] at Court which might compromise the latter's cover. [12]

4. We came to the conclusion that it would be better if the arresting officer were not told anything because (a) he might still inadvertently let slip some damaging remark either at the Court or afterwards and (b) the arresting officer might feel that there was an implied criticism of his action in making the arrest which given the delicacy of the situation, would be an undesirable feeling to be left in the mind of a uniformed officer dealing with such demonstrations.

5. It has been established that the officer concerned is PC [redacted] who did serve at the same station as DC [HN13] some [14] eight years ago but on a different relief. The two men were on speaking terms but not particularly close friends. It is also the case that PC [redacted] only assisted in the arrest of [HN13] and a [25] "comrade"; two other police officers being the arresting officers.

6. In the circumstances, it may be that PC [redacted] will only [16] see [HN13] in the Courtroom itself and not prior to the hearing, so reducing the chances of any damaging confrontation. [17]

[redacted] [18]  
7. I shall therefore instruct DCI Craft, to attend Court when [19] DC [HN13] appears and make known to the arresting officers his interest in all the defendants as it were a routine case of interest to SB. Thus it will be more likely that if any of the officers have suspicions [20] about DC [HN13] they will express those feelings to DCI Craft and not talk about them openly.

/Contd.....

M.P.



[P.T.O.]

1. (Contd).

8. This is the second occasion that DC **HN13** has been injured **21** on a demonstration, having received a blow on the head during the recent "Lewisham Confrontation". His morale remains high and he is happy to continue his undercover activities within the CPB(M-I) for the time being and his recent arrest and injuries will have added to his credence with that organisation. He will attempt to maintain a lower profile on demonstrations but there remains the possibility of further arrest. This is a risk which must be weighed against the need for information about this violent group.

*Rowatts*  
Commander

S.B.  
21.9.77.

2.

S.B. memorandum \_\_\_\_\_ 2A

DAC. to see with 1A, please.

S.B. 21/9/77

*Rowatts*  
Commander.

3.

Dear Frank you. You are aware of my personal interest in this case. ACC is in the picture as is the Commission.

Keep me informed of developments please.

S.B.  
21.9.77.

**Robert P Bryan** **22**

4.

**23**

*Ch. Inst 'S'*

To see Minute 3 above

S.B. 22/9/77

*Rowatts*