

## THE CROMWELL STREET ENQUIRY

### How The Enquiry Began

In early August 1992 five children of the family of Frederick and Rosemary West were removed from home under Emergency Protection Orders, following child protection concerns. The removal was carried out jointly by police and social services and the children were lodged temporarily at Cowley Manor in Cheltenham (then a County Council conference centre), in order to keep them together.

Following their placement at Cowley Manor the children were interviewed jointly by police and social services staff. The interviews of some of the children took a long time; in one case the interview took approximately one and a half days to complete. During this interview a social worker recalls one child making a brief aside about the family joke of "Heather being under the patio." The police officer present does not, however, recall the comment being made and at a time when the focus of the investigation was on the child protection issues, such a brief and out of context comment was neither recorded or followed up. At the time Heather's whereabouts were also only of interest because she could have provided additional information regarding the child protection investigation.

From this time no further comment was made to either police or social services staff regarding Heather and the patio until the late spring/early summer of 1993. From April/May 1993 the residential social workers caring for the West children started to pick up on brief comments made by the children about the patio being laid at the same time as Heather left home, and also about the family "joke" of Heather being under the patio.

As these comments were being made only very occasionally, to different staff and with little weight by the children, the staff in the home were unsure whether or not to treat them seriously, bearing in mind the mental state of the children.

By July/August 1993, however, with the comments continuing to be made by the children, albeit in the same offhand manner, staff within social services became sufficiently concerned to feel the police should be informed. Telephone calls were, therefore, made by a social worker and a legal executive of the County Council who was involved in the lengthy and ongoing civil proceedings surrounding the case.



Having received the referral, the police began making enquiries to see if they could find Heather. No formal complaint or allegation had been made but extensive enquiries were made with local and national agencies and departments. These supervised enquiries took place, however, within the context of the police officers already having full and active case loads.

Early in 1994, having exhausted all enquiries to trace Heather, it was decided that formal witness statements should be obtained from social workers closely connected with the West children relating to the "family joke." With the evidence contained in those statements, together with the result of other police enquiries, successful application was made to Gloucester Magistrates for a search warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 enabling the police to search 25 Cromwell Street for evidence relating to Heather's whereabouts.

## **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

### **29 September 1941**

Frederick Walter Stephen West born at Bickerton Cottage, Much Marcle, to Daisy Hanna West and Walter Stephen West.

### **14 April 1944**

Catherine Costello born in Coatbridge in Scotland to Edward and Mary Pettigrew Costello.

### **8 April 1949**

Ann McFall born in Glasgow to Thomas McFall and Jane Hunter.

### **29 November 1953**

Rosemary Pauline Letts born in Barnstaple, Devon, to Daisy Gwendoline Letts and William Andrew Letts.

### **28 November 1958**

Fred West had a serious motorcycle accident and was taken to Herefordshire Hospital.

### **17 November 1962**

Fred West and Rena Costello married at Ledbury Register Office.

### **28 November 1962**

Fred and Rena arrived in Scotland moving into rented accommodation in Coatbridge. They later moved to Glasgow. Fred West was employed as a driver with a local ice cream company.

### **22 May 1963**

Charmaine Carol Mary West born in Coatbridge to Rena West. Details of her father were not listed on Charmaine's birth certificate.

### **6 July 1964**

Anne Marie West born to Rena and Frederick West.

### **1964**

The Letts family moved to Bishops Cleeve.

### **11 December 1965**

Fred West left Scotland and returned to Herefordshire with Charmaine and Anne Marie but without Rena who remained in Scotland.

### **23 February 1966**

Fred West collected Rena from Gloucester Railway Station.

### **March 1966**

Fred and Rena moved to The Willows Caravan Site at Sandhurst.

### **1 July 1966**

Rena and Ann McFall caught a train from Gloucester to Manchester. The children were left behind at The Willows and subsequently placed in care.

### **29 July 1966**

Rena West returned to Gloucester - it is believed Ann McFall was with her.

### **1 August 1966**

Children were returned to Fred and Rena West and the family returned to the mobile home at The Willows Caravan Site.

The Wests were visited by a child care officer who was told Ann McFall had returned to Glasgow.

### **23 November 1966**

Fred West moved to Watersmead Caravan Site at Brockworth.

### **September 1967**

Fred and Rena moved to Lakehouse Caravan Site, at Bishops Cleeve, near Cheltenham.

### **20 October 1969**

Rena left Fred and as a result the children were placed in care on 18 November 1969.

### **27 October 1969**

Social Services called at Lakehouse Caravan Site and found a young woman looking after Charmaine and Anne Marie.

### **21 November 1969**

Rena returned to Fred and the children were returned to their parents. Rena left within three days.

### **28 November 1969**

Children returned into care.

### **1969**

Rosemary Letts left home not long after her sixteenth birthday to live with Fred at Lakehouse Caravan Site.

### **July 1970**

Fred, Rose, Anne Marie and Charmaine moved to 25 Midland Road.

### **17 October 1970**

Heather West born in Gloucester to Frederick West and Rosemary Letts.

### **29 January 1972**

Frederick West and Rosemary Letts married at Gloucester Register Office.

### **1972**

The West family moved to 25 Cromwell Street from Midland Road.

### **Wednesday, 23 February 1994**

Police obtained a warrant from Gloucester Magistrates to search the garden of 25 Cromwell Street.

### **Thursday, 24 February 1994**

1325 hours Search warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was executed at 25 Cromwell Street by Detective Chief Inspector Terry Moore, Detective Inspector Tony James and approximately 15 other officers. Mrs Rosemary West was at home at the time. She was told that her rear garden was going to be searched in connection with the disappearance of her daughter, Heather West.

1340 hours Frederick West left his work near Stroud but had not returned to 25 Cromwell Street by 5.30 pm that day when detectives left the house.

1940 hours Frederick West made his own way to Gloucester Police Station and was interviewed on a voluntary basis by Detective Constable Savage regarding the disappearance of Heather. In the interview he asserted that he had seen Heather recently in Birmingham.

1955 hours Rosemary West interviewed at home using portable tape recorder in the lounge on the first floor of 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, by Detective

Sergeant Terry Onions and PC Deborah Willats. This interview concluded at 2041 hours.

2130 hours Frederick West left Gloucester Police Station and returned home. It is believed that he then walked his dogs in Gloucester Park, in company with Rosemary West.

### **Friday, 25 February 1994**

1115 hours Detective Constable Savage and Detective Constable Law visited 25 Cromwell Street and spoke to Frederick West at his front door. They explained they were making enquiries about relatives and were then led into a living room where Rosemary West was watching television. Mrs West was uncooperative when asked for her mother's details. Frederick West then took his wife from the lounge into the hallway and shut the door while the officers remained in the lounge. After a few seconds he returned and said, "can we go to the police station?"

The officers then walked out of the front door with Frederick West and got into a CID car parked outside the house. Frederick West then admitted that Heather was in the garden, but stated that the police were looking in the wrong place.

1120 hours Detective Constable Savage arrested Frederick West for the murder of his daughter. He was then taken to Gloucester Police Station and detained.

1225 hours Rosemary West was arrested at home on suspicion of the murder of Heather West by Detective Sergeant Onions. She was taken to Cheltenham Police Station where she arrived at 1245 hours.

1631 hours Rosemary West was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Onions and Detective Constable Smurthwaite at Cheltenham Police Station. She denied the murder of her daughter, Heather West.

1657 hours Frederick West was interviewed by Detective Constable Savage and Detective Constable Law about the murder of Heather West. He admitted killing his daughter and gave some explanation about the circumstances.

1725 hours Rosemary West was taken to Gloucester Police Station.

1834 hours Detective Constables Law and Savage accompanied Frederick West to the back garden at 25 Cromwell Street. He then roughly indicated the area where he had buried Heather in the back garden.

2027 hours Rosemary West was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Onions and Detective Constable Smurthwaite.

2030 hours Frederick West was interviewed again about the murder of Heather.

### **Saturday, 26 February 1994**

An incident room was set up on the fourth floor of Gloucester Police Station, Bearlands. This was led by Detective Superintendent John Bennett, the Senior Investigating Officer, and Detective Chief Inspector Terry Moore, acting as Deputy Senior Investigating Officer.

- 1119 hours Authority was given by an Acting Superintendent to extend Frederick West's detention in custody over 24 hours until up to a period of 36 hours from his arrest.
- 1134 hours Authority was given by an Acting Superintendent for the detention of Rosemary West to be extended to over 24 hours.
- 1150 hours Rosemary West interviewed by Detective Sergeant Onions and Detective Constable Smurthwaite. This interview concluded at 1230 hours.
- 1332 hours Frederick West was interviewed again and this time retracted the admission regarding the murder of his daughter, Heather. A second interview commenced at 1405 hours. Frederick West continued to retract his admission of killing Heather West.
- 1603 hours A support group officer digging in the rear garden at 25 Cromwell Street found, close to the surface in a location other than that indicated by Frederick West, a human bone. He stopped digging and informed a scenes of crime officer. The bone was taken to Gloucester Police Station where it was examined by the Home Office Pathologist, Professor Bernard Knight. Professor Knight confirmed that the bone was a human femur. He then went to Cromwell Street and excavated the remains which transpired to be that of Heather West. When the remains were excavated both femurs were found to be present. Due to the initial find it became obvious that there might be a second set of remains buried in the garden.
- 1632 hours Frederick West was interviewed at Gloucester Police Station and changed his story, this time admitting the murder of Heather West.
- 1845 hours Rosemary West was further interviewed.
- 1917 hours Frederick West was questioned about the other femur found in the garden and admitted killing and burying a person he called Shirley Robinson.
- 2034 hours Frederick West appeared before Gloucester Magistrates' Court and a warrant of further detention for a period of 36 hours was obtained.
- 2111 hours Frederick West was interviewed and admitted killing and strangling a person whom he described as a friend of Shirley Robinson. This person transpired to be Alison Chambers. [Note the investigation was never able to establish a link between Alison Chambers and Shirley Robinson. In fact Shirley Robinson disappeared in May 1978 and Alison Chambers did not arrive in Gloucester until January 1979].
- 2135 hours Rosemary West was arrested for the murders of Shirley Robinson and an unknown female.
- 2136 hours Rosemary West was taken to Gloucester Magistrates' Court for application for a warrant of further detention.

**Sunday, 27 February 1994**

- 1015 hours Frederick West was taken back to Cromwell Street and indicated where he buried Shirley Robinson and the other as yet unidentifiable female whom he wrongly described as a friend of Shirley Robinson.
- 1145 hours Rosemary West was further interviewed.
- 1202 hours Frederick West again interviewed regarding the murder of Heather West.
- 1412 hours Frederick West interviewed and gave further details regarding the death of Heather West, which he said was without Rosemary West's knowledge.
- 1613 hours Frederick West was charged with the murder of his daughter, Heather West, by Detective Constable Law. He made no reply after charge.
- 1856 hours Rosemary West was further interviewed.
- 2030 hours Rosemary West was bailed from Gloucester Police Station to return at 10.00 am on Monday, 25 April 1994.
- 2122 hours Rosemary West was released from the police station and taken to 25 Cromwell Street to her family.

#### **Monday, 28 February 1994**

- 1000 hours Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court charged with the murder of his daughter, Heather West. He was remanded in police custody for three days.
- 1159 hours Frederick West was interviewed and explained how he killed Shirley Robinson.
- 1540 hours Frederick West was again interviewed and explained how he had killed Shirley Robinson without Rosemary West's knowledge.
- 1720 hours A support group officer digging in the back garden of 25 Cromwell Street found the remains of a person, who was subsequently identified as Alison Chambers, in the rear garden. The Coroner David Gibbons was informed.
- 1742 hours Frederick West was again interviewed and explained how he killed and buried Shirley's friend, later identified as Alison Chambers.
- 2100 hours A support group officer digging in the back garden at 25 Cromwell Street found the remains of a person who was subsequently identified as Shirley Robinson.

#### **Tuesday, 1 March 1994**

- 1130 hours Frederick West was interviewed regarding the murder of the person who transpired to be Alison Chambers.
- 1532 hours Frederick West was again interviewed and gave further details about the remains.

Professor Bernard Knight attended at the house to examine the remains prior to removal for forensic examination.

### **Wednesday, 2 March 1994**

Detectives received information from a member of the public about a missing person called Lynda Gough who had stayed at 25 Cromwell Street. Forensic examination of the two sets of remains found on 28 February revealed them to be those of two women.

- 1150 hours Frederick West was interviewed regarding his background history.
- 1530 hours Frederick West was charged with the murders of Shirley Robinson and an unknown girl, who subsequently transpired to be Alison Chambers.

### **Thursday, 3 March 1994**

Frederick West was interviewed a number of times during the day. He was asked about other residents at 25 Cromwell Street and denied any knowledge of Lynda Gough. Digging at 25 Cromwell Street continued as well as numerous enquiries from the incident room set up at Gloucester Police Station.

### **Friday, 4 March 1994**

Specialist ground scanning equipment, which indicates any disturbance behind solid matter, was used at 25 Cromwell Street.

- 1418 hours Frederick West was interviewed and admitted knowing Lynda Gough but stated that she had moved to Weston-Super-Mare. As the interview drew to a close at 1517 hours, Detective Constable Savage told West that the police intended to search the whole of 25 Cromwell Street including the house.
- 1735 hours A handwritten note was passed to Detective Superintendent Bennett from Frederick West which stated "I, Frederick West, authorise my solicitor, Howard Ogden, to advise Superintendent Bennett that I wish to admit to a further (approx) nine killings expressly Charmaine, Rena, Lynda Gough and others to be identified." Signed: F West.
- 1810 hours Frederick West was interviewed and admitted killing and burying Lynda Gough, Rena and Charmaine. He also gave an explanation about how Lucy Partington was killed.
- 2220 hours Detectives took Frederick West back to 25 Cromwell Street dressed in a similar overall to those worn by the police search team. He indicated areas where bodies were buried and returned to the police station at 2325 hours.

### **Saturday, 5 March 1995**

Frederick West interviewed several times during the day.

- 1147 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Therese Siegenthaler were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

1356 hours Frederick West was taken to a field at Kempley where he pointed out an area in which his first wife Catherine was buried.

1451 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Shirley Hubbard were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

### **Sunday, 6 March 1994**

Frederick West interviewed several times during the day.

0902 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Lucy Partington were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

1150 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Juanita Mott were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

1420 hours Frederick West was taken in a car to the Worcester area where he pointed out where he said he had dropped off hitchhikers.

### **Monday, 7 March 1994**

0926 hours Professor Knight examined and removed the remains later identified as those of Lucy Partington and Shirley Hubbard from excavations in the cellar. He later removed the remains subsequently identified as those of Juanita Mott from under a staircase in the cellar and Therese Siegenthaler from concrete in front of the false fireplace in the left-hand corner of the cellar.

1000 hours Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court and was further remanded in custody to police cells until Friday, 11 March 1994.

1425 hours The remains subsequently identified as Lynda Gough were found inside 25 Cromwell Street and examined by Professor Knight who was still at the scene.

1855 hours Frederick West was taken to Fingerpost Field near Kempley and explained that he knew Ann McFall but did not kill her. He indicated the position where he thought she may be buried but could not explain precisely how he knew this or how she met her death.

### **Tuesday, 8 March 1994**

Frederick West interviewed five times during the day regarding the murders of the various victims.

1910 hours The remains of a person subsequently identified as Carol Ann Cooper were found in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street.

2115 hours Frederick West was taken to 25 Cromwell Street and pointed out where a "Worcester Girl" was buried in the cellar.

### **Wednesday, 9 March 1994**

Ground penetrating radar used on open field site at Kempley. Positive lines of enquiry were being followed up in an attempt to identify the remains. To date there had been no

positive identification. This would take some time and would involve the Home Office Pathologist and other specialists.

Ground scanning equipment was used on the waste ground at the rear of 25 Cromwell Street.

Detective Superintendent Bennett sent a facsimile request to the Home Office for Frederick West to be remanded in police cells for further questioning, instead of being sent to prison under Section 29 of the Criminal Justice Act 1961.

Frederick West was interviewed three times during the day.

#### **Thursday, 10 March 1994**

Detectives began to enquire deeper into the missing person, Alison Chambers, as a possible victim.

0934 hours A warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act was issued by Gloucester Magistrates for a search of a field at Kempley for the remains of Ann McFall. A second warrant was also obtained to search for the remains of Catherine West in another field at Kempley.

Frederick West interviewed regarding his antecedents.

Eight sets of remains had now been moved to The College of Medicine at the University of Cardiff in Wales.

Police had liaised with other forces throughout the country and also contacted Holland, Germany and Switzerland in an effort to identify the victims.

#### **Friday, 11 March 1994**

1000 hours Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court on eight separate charges of murder, he was remanded in custody to Gloucester Prison for 28 days, to reappear at Gloucester Magistrates' Court on Thursday, 7 April 1994.

Frederick West interviewed once during the day.

Home Office Prison Department inspected the cell complex regarding the continued detention of Frederick West.

Frederick West's solicitor, Howard Ogden, gave written approval for Frederick West to be remanded in police cells, rather than taken to prison.

Frederick West was taken to HM Prison, Gloucester to await a Home Office decision regarding where he would be held.

The Home Office gave consent for Frederick West to be held at Gloucester Police Station under Section 29 of the Criminal Justice Act 1961 from Friday, 11 March 1994 until further notice, under normal remand conditions.

The ninth set of remains had now been removed to Cardiff for forensic examination. Excavations at the house continued, concluding at approximately 8 pm.

### **Saturday, 12 March 1994**

No excavations and no work were completed at 25 Cromwell Street for the first time since the enquiry commenced. This allowed the officers involved in the work to take a break.

Other enquiries, however, still continued from the Murder Incident Room.

### **Sunday, 13 March 1994**

Police officers commenced digging at about 9 am in the cellar area of the house. No further developments.

### **Monday, 14 March 1994**

Frederick West interviewed four times during the day.

The search at 25 Cromwell Street continued but again there were no new developments. Six square metres of concrete was delivered to infill the cellar area to ensure the house was structurally safe.

### **Tuesday, 15 March 1994**

Detective Superintendent John Bennett and Detective Chief Inspector Terry Moore visited the house to view the progress.

### **Wednesday, 16 March 1994**

1037 hours Frederick West was interviewed by police artist, Detective Constable Bob Wilcox, to obtain artist's impressions of the victim.

Digging and the search of the house continued and was expected to continue for a few more days, although there were no new developments.

### **Thursday, 17 March 1994**

2033 hours Frederick West was charged with the murder of Carol Ann Cooper.

Digging continued in the cellar of the house.

### **Friday, 18 March 1994**

Rosemary West was moved to new accommodation at Dursley.

Digging continued at the house. A press conference was held at Brunswick Campus, Gloucester, by Detective Superintendent Bennett.

### **Saturday, 19 March 1994**

No work carried out at 25 Cromwell Street for only the second day since the inquiry started.

### **Sunday, 20 March 1994**

Frederick West was interviewed after visit to 25 Midland Road. Denied any involvement in disappearance of Mary Bastolm, although he is taken to Bristol Road in Gloucester.

Searching resumed at the house.

### **Monday, 21 March 1994**

Searching continued at the house. More concrete was delivered to make the house structurally safe - total amount of concrete delivered so far was 17.3 cubic metres.

### **Tuesday, 22 March 1994**

Work continued at the house in the afternoon.

### **Wednesday, 23 March 1994**

Digging work in the kitchen and basement area carried out. Advice taken from civil engineers regarding safety of the house.

### **Thursday, 24 March 1994**

Digging at 25 Cromwell Street continued, more concrete delivered.



### **Friday, 25 March 1994**

Warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act was issued by Gloucester Magistrates for a search at 25 Midland Road in connection with the disappearance of Charmaine West.

No work at 25 Cromwell Street.

**Sunday, 27 March 1994**

No work at 25 Cromwell Street for the third successive day. Enquiries continued within the incident room at Gloucester.

**Monday, 28 March 1994**

Frederick West charged with the amended charges of murders of Alison Chambers, Lucy Partington, Juanita Mott and Linda Gough.

Digging and searching resumed at 25 Cromwell Street. Press conference held at Gloscat, Brunswick Road, by Detective Superintendent Bennett.

**Tuesday, 29 March 1994**

Excavations commenced at Letterbox Field near Kempley.

Work continued at 25 Cromwell Street - still no further developments.

**Wednesday, 30 March 1994**

Work at Cromwell Street continued - two further deliveries of concrete made to infill areas previously excavated.

**Tuesday, 5 April 1994**

Work resumed at 25 Cromwell Street after a short break for Easter.

**Wednesday, 6 April 1994**

Frederick West taken to site at Kempley where he indicated the probable location of his first wife, Catherine West. A further 11 tons of concrete delivered to Cromwell Street.

**Thursday, 7 April 1994**

Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court and remanded in custody until Thursday, 5 May 1994. Searching continued at 25 Cromwell Street.

**Friday, 8 April 1994**

0905 hours Frederick West served with amended charges in respect of the murders of Therese Siegenthaler and Shirley Hubbard.

Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing at Gloscat with an update of the current progress of the enquiry.

**Saturday, 9 April 1994**

No work carried out at Cromwell Street.

### **Sunday, 10 April 1994**

1112 hours Search team officers digging at Kempley found what appeared to be human remains. The search was halted and scenes of crime officers called.

Searching continued at 25 Cromwell Street but was now nearing completion.

### **Monday, 11 April 1994**

1038 hours Professor Bernard Knight removed the remains from Kempley. At the conclusion of his initial examination he was able to confirm that the remains were human and those of a female. These remains were later to be identified as those of Catherine Costello.

Work at Cromwell Street continued.

### **Tuesday, 12 April 1994**

Work still continued at 25 Cromwell Street.

### **Wednesday, 13 April 1994**

0930 hours Media informed that work was now starting on a second field site adjacent to Stonehouse Coppice.

1740 hours Frederick West charged with the murder of Catherine Bernadette West between 1 January 1969 and 27 February 1994.

Bricklaying took place at 25 Cromwell Street in preparation for removing extension. More concrete was delivered.

### **Thursday, 14 April 1994**

1100 hours HM Coroner for Gloucester, David Gibbons, opened separate inquests into the deaths of the nine remains from Cromwell Street. Having been satisfied that all nine were properly identified he adjourned each inquest sine die.

### **Friday, 15 April 1994**

The rear extension at 25 Cromwell Street was demolished by workers from Gloucester City Council.

### **Saturday, 16 April 1994**

No work carried out at 25 Cromwell Street.

### **Sunday, 17 April 1994**

Work continued at 25 Cromwell Street, the area on which the extension stood is searched.

### **Tuesday, 19 April 1994**

Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing to update the press on developments so far.

### **Wednesday, 20 April 1994**

0925 hours Rosemary West arrested at Cheltenham by Detective Constables Harris and Harrison in connection with unrelated matters.

Portable building was erected at 25 Midland Road.

Preparations made for the search of 25 Midland Road. Search continued at 25 Cromwell Street. Rosemary Pauline West again arrested.

### **Thursday, 21 April 1994**

Rosemary West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court charged with an unrelated matter. Proceedings in respect of this were later discontinued by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Rosemary Pauline West appeared before Gloucester Magistrates. Mrs West was remanded in custody for three days until Monday, 25 April 1994.

### **Friday, 22 April 1994**

The well found at 25 Cromwell Street was searched but nothing found.

### **Saturday, 23 April 1994**

1540 hours Rosemary West arrested for the murder of Lynda Gough.

### **Sunday, 24 April 1994**

1815 hours Rosemary West was charged with the murder of Lynda Gough and replied, "I'm innocent."

Work continued at 25 Cromwell Street but no further developments.

### **Monday, 25 April 1994**

Mrs West was charged with the murder of Lynda Gough between 1 April 1973 and 27 February 1994. Rosemary West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court where she faced the one charge of murder and was remanded in custody until April 29. At Cromwell Street final stages of search were taking place prior to the building being handed over to the solicitors representing Mrs West.

At 9am Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing outside 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, where the details of the search that was to take place there were outlined.

### **Tuesday, 26 April 1994**

1947 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Carol Ann Cooper and replied, "I'm innocent."

At 11 am the search commenced at 25 Midland Road.

**Wednesday, 27 April 1994**

At 25 Midland Road the search commenced on the rear garden and the adjoining rear garden of number 26.

**Thursday, 28 April 1994**

1522 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Lucy Katherine Partington and replied, "I'm innocent."

The search continued at 25 Midland Road. Rosemary West was further charged with the murders of Carole Ann Cooper between 9 November 1983 and 27 February 1994 and Lucy Partington between 26 December 1973 and 27 February 1994.

At Cromwell Street the work was concluded and the building handed over to the solicitors.

**Friday, 29 April 1994**

Rosemary West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court and was again remanded in custody to police cells for three days.

Frederick West handed a note to the interview teams stating "I have not and still cannot tell you the whole truth ... from the very first day of this enquiry my main concern has been to protect another person or persons."

Searching continued in the garden area of 25 Midland Road but nothing significant found.

**Saturday, 30 April 1994**

1351 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Therese Siegenthaler and replied, "I'm innocent."

No work carried out at 25 Midland Road.

**Tuesday, 3 May 1994**

Rosemary West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court and was further remanded in police custody until Friday, 6 May 1994.

Searching resumed at 25 Midland Road following the Bank Holiday break. Council engineers prepared an area to search in the kitchen of 25 Midland Road and the concrete floor was removed. Nothing of evidential value found so far.

**Wednesday, 4 May 1994**

1555 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Shirley Hubbard. She made no reply.

1910 hours An officer excavating below the kitchen area at 25 Midland Road found human remains which later transpired to be those of Charmaine West.

#### **Thursday, 5 May 1994**

Professor Bernard Knight attended at 25 Midland Road and excavated the human remains later identified as those of Charmaine West which had been found the previous evening. The remains were subsequently removed to The College of Medicine at the University of Wales, Cardiff, for further forensic examination.

#### **Friday, 6 May 1994**

At 9 am Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing outside 25 Midland Road where the press were updated. It was also announced that Rosemary West had been charged with the murder of Shirley Louise Hubbard between 14 November 1974 and 27 February 1994.

Rosemary West appeared in Gloucester Magistrates' Court charged with five murders. She was remanded until 3 June 1994.

1634 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Juanita Mott, replied "I'm innocent by the way."

#### **Saturday, 7 May 1994**

The search continued at 25 Midland Road.

#### **Sunday, 8 May 1994**

No work carried out at 25 Midland Road.

#### **Monday, 9 May 1994**

At 11.30 am Detective Superintendent Bennett held a media briefing to update the press on progress at 25 Midland Road.

#### **Tuesday, 10 May 1994**

Work continued at 25 Midland Road but there were no further developments.

#### **Wednesday, 11 May 1994**

1435 hours Frederick West charged with the murder of Charmaine West.

More concrete delivered to 25 Midland Road.

#### **Thursday, 12 May 1994**

Searching continued at 25 Midland Road.

#### **Friday, 13 May 1994**

1156 hours Frederick West's last interview while in custody at Gloucester Police Station.

**Monday, 16 May 1994**

Rosemary West charged with the murder of Juanita Mott between 1 April 1975 and 27 February 1994. Cellar at 25 Midland Road continued to be searched.

**Wednesday, 18 May 1994**

1610 hours Rose West charged with murder of Shirley Ann Robinson, replied "I'm innocent."

**Monday, 23 May 1994**

1708 hours Rose West charged with the murder of Alison Jane Chambers.

**Thursday, 26 May 1994**

1725 hours Rosemary West further charged with the murder of her daughter Heather Ann West between 28 May 1987 and 27 February 1994. She replied, "I'm innocent".

**Friday, 27 May 1994**

The search team completed their work at 25 Midland Road.

**Thursday, 2 June 1994**

Frederick West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court, where nine murder charges had now been amended to joint charges with Rosemary West. He was remanded in custody to reappear on Thursday, 30 June 1994. The reinstatement at 25 Midland Road was complete and the property returned to the possession of the owner.

**Friday, 3 June 1994**

Rosemary Pauline West appeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court where she was remanded in custody to reappear on Thursday, 30 June 1994. The excavation continued at Kempsey which was now the only site being worked by the police.

### **Tuesday, 7 June 1994**

1822 hours Officers digging in Fingerpost Field found remains later identified as Ann McFall.

2000 hours Professor Knight commenced the removal of the remains of Ann McFall but could not finish the task because darkness fell.



### **Thursday, 9 June 1994**

0945 hours Professor Knight completed the removal of the remains of Ann McFall.



### **Thursday, 30 June 1994**

DC Barnes arrested Frederick West for the murder of Ann McFall.

Both Frederick West and Rosemary West appeared together at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. Frederick West, charged with eleven counts of murder, was remanded in custody to police cells for three days until Monday, 4 July 1994. Rosemary West, charged with nine counts of murder and other sexual offences, was remanded in custody until Thursday, 28 July 1994.



### **Sunday, 3 July 1994**

Frederick West was charged with the murder of Ann McFall.



### **Wednesday, 27 July 1994**

The inquests were opened at 11.00 am at Dursley Magistrates' Court, by HM Coroner Mr David Gibbons, in relation to the last three sets of remains to be found. One set of remains was discovered at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester (Charmaine) and the other two in fields at Kempsey, near Much Marcle (Ann McFall and Catherine Costello) at locations known as Letterbox Field and Fingerpost Field. The inquests were for identification purposes only and evidence was given by Detective Superintendent John Bennett, Professor Bernard Knight and Doctor David Whittaker.



**Thursday, 28 July 1994**

Frederick and Rosemary West appeared together at Gloucester Magistrates' Court on remand. They were both remanded in custody for a further 28 days until Thursday, 25 August 1994.

**Wednesday, 3 August 1994**

Frederick West dispensed with the services of Howard Ogden as his solicitor. Bobbets and Mackan took over representation.

**Thursday, 25 August 1994**

Rosemary West again appeared in court.

**Thursday, 8 September 1994**

Gloucestershire Police applied to the Home Office for financial assistance (£651,000) in relation to Cromwell Street enquiry.

**Thursday, 22 September 1994**

Frederick and Rosemary West reappeared in court. Both remanded in custody until 20 October 1994.

**Tuesday, 8 October 1994**

Surveyors from Gloucester City Council listed 25 Cromwell Street as dangerous.

**Thursday, 20 October 1994**

Frederick and Rosemary West reappeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. Both remanded in custody until 15 November 1994.

**Tuesday, 15 November 1994**

Frederick and Rosemary West reappeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. Both remanded in custody until 13 December 1994.

**Tuesday, 6 December 1994**

Chief Constable Tony Butler informed that Home Office would not provide any financial help for the Gloucestershire Constabulary in respect of the Cromwell Street investigation.

**Tuesday, 13 December 1994**

Frederick and Rosemary West reappeared at Gloucester Magistrates' Court. Both remanded in custody. Committal hearing date fixed for 6 February 1995 at Dursley Magistrates' Court.

**Sunday, 1 January 1995**

Frederick West found dead in his cell at HMP Winson Green, Birmingham.

**Friday, 13 January 1995**

1000 hours Rosemary West charged with the murder of Charmaine West, replied, "I'm innocent."

**Monday, 6 February 1995**

Committal hearings commenced at Dursley Magistrates' Court. They were presided over by Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate Peter Badge.

**Wednesday, 8 February 1995**

Eggs were thrown at the van taking Rosemary West from the committal proceedings.

**Tuesday, 14 February 1995**

Mr Peter Badge, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, committed Rosemary West for trial on ten charges of murder and other charges which she had not previously faced.

**Tuesday, 14 February 1995**

Rosemary West committed for trial on ten counts of murder.

**Thursday, 23 February 1995**

Rosemary West to stand trial at Winchester Crown Court in October.

**Wednesday, 1 March 1995**

Neil Butterfield, QC, appointed a High Court Judge, therefore no longer able to act as leading counsel for the prosecution case of Rosemary West.

**Wednesday, 15 March 1995**

Confirmed that Brian Leveson, QC, had been selected to be the new leading counsel for the prosecution and accepted this position. Mr Leveson had been a QC since 1986 and a recorder since 1988, born 22 June 1949.

**Wednesday, 10 May 1995**

With the authority of the Official Solicitor and Leo Goatley, both counsels for the defence and prosecution visited and viewed 25 Cromwell Street. The house was sealed up after the visit.

**Friday, 12 May 1995**

Rosemary West attended a Pre-Trial Review at Winchester Crown Court and formally pleaded not guilty.

## VICTIMS

### Heather Ann West

Born: 17 October 1970

Heather was born in Gloucester, the first child of Rosemary Pauline West. She lived at 25 Midland Road until 1972 when the family moved to 25 Cromwell Street. She attended St Paul's Primary School and latterly Hucclecote School. Heather was last seen on 19 June 1987 but never reported missing to the police. Her remains were found at 1415 hours on Saturday, 26 February 1994 under the patio in the rear garden of 25 Cromwell Street.

### Alison Jane Chambers

Born: 8 September 1962

Alison was born in Hanover, West Germany, and she later settled in Swansea. At the age of 16 Alison moved to Jordansbrook House, Gloucester, and worked for a firm of solicitors under a Youth Training Scheme. Alison's disappearance was reported to the Missing Persons Bureau and initially to the police as an absconder from care.

Her remains were found at 1720 hours on Monday, 28 February 1994, the second set of remains to be found.

### Shirley Ann Robinson

Born: 8 October 1959

Shirley was born in Leicestershire and later lived in both Germany and the West Midlands. She was last seen in about April 1978 when she was heavily pregnant. Shirley was not reported to the police as a missing person. Her remains were found at 2100 hours on Monday, 28 February 1994 in the rear garden of 25 Cromwell Street under the patio.

### Therese Siegenthaler

Born: 27 November 1952

Therese Siegenthaler was born at Trub in Switzerland but lived in the Berne area. At the age of 16 she left school but continued her education studying for a diploma in secretarial studies. Therese came to England in late 1972/early 1973 to continue her studies, becoming a sociology student at Woolwich College of Further Education in London and finding accommodation in Lewisham. At the weekend she worked in a shop in the Swiss Centre, Leicester Square.

On 15 April 1974 Therese left her accommodation the week before Easter intending to travel to Eire via Holyhead.

Therese never reached her destination. She was due back in England the week after the Easter break and when she failed to return, her disappearance was reported to Lee Road Police Station on 26 April 1974. An investigation was carried out by the Metropolitan Police covering a number of years but with no success.

The remains of Therese Siegenthaler were found at 1147 hours on Saturday, 5 March 1994 in the basement of 25 Cromwell Street. Her remains were the fourth set to be found at 25 Cromwell Street.

### **Shirley Hubbard**

Born: 26 June 1959

Shirley Hubbard was born under the name of Shirley Lloyd, she was also known as Shirley Owen. In 1972 Shirley decided she wanted to be called Shirley Hubbard although her name was never officially changed. Shirley attended Droitwich High School and at the time of her disappearance was on work experience at Debenhams in Worcester.

On Friday, 14 November 1974 Shirley left work at Debenhams and was believed to be travelling home. She has not been seen since. Shirley's disappearance was reported to Droitwich Police who carried out extensive enquiries in an attempt to trace her but were unsuccessful. Shirley's remains were found at 1451 hours on Saturday, 5 March 1994 in the basement of 25 Cromwell Street. This was the fifth set of remains recovered from the house and garden.

### **Lucy Katherine Partington**

Born: 4 March 1952

Lucy was born in St Albans, her family were living in the area at that time. In 1953 the family moved to Bishop's Cleeve. Lucy attended Gretton Infant School and later went on to Pates Junior and Grammar Schools. At the age of 19 she went to Exeter University. On 20 December 1973 Lucy returned home for Christmas.

On Thursday, 27 December 1973 at approximately 10.10 pm Lucy left a friend's house in Pittville to walk the short distance to the bus stop intending to catch a bus to the family home. She was last seen in Evesham Road, Cheltenham. The following day, Lucy was reported missing to the police. A major investigation was launched but Lucy was never traced. Lucy's remains were found in the basement of 25 Cromwell Street at 0902 hours on Sunday, 6 March 1994. Her remains were the sixth set to be found.

### **Juanita Mott**

Born: 1 March 1957

Juanita Mott attended Winifred Cullis Girls' School at Coney Hill in Gloucester leaving in July 1972. She then had a number of short term employments, which included Birds Eye Walls and Cantrell & Cochrane at Eastern Avenue in Gloucester.

On Friday, 11 April 1975 Juanita left an address in Newent, where she was then living, believed to be travelling to Gloucester. Juanita had made arrangements to return to the address the following day but failed to do this. Juanita's disappearance was not reported to the police, however her family did contact the Missing Persons Bureau and the media. Juanita's details were included in missing persons articles, magazines and newspapers. Juanita's remains were found at 1115 hours on Sunday, 6 March 1994 in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street, the seventh set of remains to be recovered.

### **Lynda Carole Gough**

Born: 1 May 1953

Lynda Gough lived in Gloucester with her family. She attended Calton Primary School and Longford School. She later went to a private girls school in Midland Road, Gloucester. In 1969 she commenced work at the Co-op in Brunswick Road, Gloucester, as a seamstress.

On 19 April 1973, Lynda left the family home leaving a note saying she had gone to a flat. Her parents told a friend, a local police officer, and Lynda's disappearance was reported to him, although it was appreciated by the family that she was not considered vulnerable. Lynda's remains were found at 1425 hours on Monday, 7 March 1994 in the ground floor bathroom area of 25 Cromwell Street. Her remains were the eighth set to be found at the address.

### **Carole Ann Cooper**

Born: 10 April 1958

Carole was born in Luton, Bedfordshire, but later lived in Worcester. At the time of her disappearance Carole was residing at The Pine Children's Home in Worcester. She had been given permission to spend the weekend with her grandmother in Warndon, Worcester.

During the afternoon of 10 November 1973, Carole visited the cinema in Worcester with friends. She was last seen at about 9.10 pm getting onto a bus in Warndon. She was reported missing the same day by her grandmother. Extensive police enquiries were carried out by West Mercia officers but she was never traced. Carole's remains were recovered in the cellar area of 25 Cromwell Street at 1910 hours on Tuesday, 8 March 1994, the ninth set of remains to be found.

### **Charmaine West**

Born: 22 March 1963

Charmaine West was the daughter of Catherine West, the first wife of Frederick West. She was born in Coatbridge in Scotland and later came to England.

Charmaine disappeared in 1971, the family home at that time being 25 Midland Road, Gloucester.

She was never reported missing to the police. Her remains were found under the kitchen floor of 25 Midland Road at 1910 hours on 4 May 1994 by a team of police officers. Her remains were the tenth set to be found during the enquiry.

### **Catherine Bernadette West (née Costello)**

Catherine Bernadette Costello was born on 14 April 1944 in Coatbridge, Scotland.

She is described as being of medium build, 5'6" tall with naturally dark hair which was often dyed blonde.

Catherine married Frederick West at Ledbury Registry Office on 17 November 1962 and gave birth to a daughter, Charmaine, on 22 March 1963 and a further daughter, Anne Marie, on 6 July 1964. The marriage subsequently effectively terminated although it is known that she and Frederick West made contact and Catherine was last heard of in about 1971.

Her disappearance was never reported to the police.

### **Ann McFall**

Ann McFall was born on 8 April 1949 in Glasgow.

After leaving school she worked in a knitwear factory in Glasgow and in 1966 moved with friends to the Gloucester area where she lived on caravan sites at Brockworth and

Sandhurst. She was last seen in the summer of 1967 when she was thought to be six months pregnant.

Her disappearance was not reported to the police.

## SEARCHES

### 25 Cromwell Street



At 1.25 pm on Thursday, 24 February 1994, Detective Chief Inspector Terry Moore, Detective Inspector Tony James and officers drawn from the Gloucester Division Support Group and Operation Gemini team executed a search warrant obtained under Section 8 of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester.

Under the supervision of Police Sergeant Tony Jay, the officers went to the rear of the house and made preparations to excavate the garden. They found that the majority of the rear garden was covered with a patio and before any digging could start a number of paving slabs needed to be lifted and moved.

Photographs and a video recording were made of the rear garden before digging commenced. The weather conditions were heavy rain and with the onset of darkness the search was adjourned for the night with police officers left guarding the site.

The following day the same search team returned to 25 Cromwell Street to continue with the task. Later that day Sergeant Peter Maunder, a Police Search Advisor, was directed to take charge of this operation.

25 Cromwell Street was a semi-detached three-storey house which adjoined a void property, number 23 Cromwell Street. On the northern side of the property was a Seventh Day Adventist Church.

At this stage the search parameters were strictly confined to the rear garden but as the search progressed these were extended to include the entire house, including the front garden. The task required further search trained officers and the Cheltenham Division Support Group was called in and given responsibility for the inside of the house.

The entire ground floor of 25 Cromwell Street and the garden were excavated to the depth of the hard Severn clay, often 6-8 feet from ground level. During the course of excavations a well was discovered which was searched by a member of the Force's Underwater Search Team after preliminary investigation with an underwater television camera. Eventually, the ground floor extension at the rear and side of the house were demolished by City Council engineers, under the supervision of the police search team.

### **25 Midland Road**



On 4 March 1994 a search warrant was obtained under the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to search 25 Midland Road, Gloucester.

On 6 March 1994 a police presence was posted to 25 Midland Road to protect the house from media intrusion before the search commenced. This presence was maintained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until 25 April 1994, when a full guard was posted to protect equipment which had been delivered to the site.

The Police Search Advisor for 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, was Sergeant David Cooper from Cirencester Police Station. He was in charge of a team of five officers, drawn from the Cotswold and Stroud Division. They were trained in search techniques and had not previously been involved in the operation.

On Tuesday, 26 April 1994 the search commenced at 25 Midland Road.

Excavation of the kitchen area required a concrete floor to be removed and metal sheet reinforcing cut through, then impacted rubble to a depth of about 5 feet removed before the previous coal cellar area could be searched.

On Thursday, 2 June 1994, 25 Midland Road was returned to its owner.

## **Kempley searches**

Finger Post Field and Letter Box Field are located in the Parish of Kempley, 15 miles west of Gloucester.

Because of media interest in the site, on 5 March 1994 police officers were posted to the field to maintain security. The police guards were largely drawn from the Forest of Dean Division.

On 10 March 1994 Gloucester Magistrates issued a search warrant under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to search Letter Box Field.

On 29 March 1994 excavations commenced at the Letter Box Field site under the direction of Police Search Advisor (POLSA) Sergeant John Pickersgill. The team of officers involved were members of the force underwater search team which was subsequently disbanded for financial reasons.

Equipment, including a portable building, trackway and pedestrian walkway, were delivered to the site. An incident support unit, supplied by the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, was also set up at the site to provide the search officers with hot meals.

The digging, which was suspended over the Easter weekend, resumed again on Tuesday, 5 April 1994. A portable tent was erected over the area being excavated and moved when necessary to provide privacy from the media who had gathered in a field opposite.

On 10 April 1994 the search team found what appeared to be human remains in Letter Box Field.

On 11 April 1994 Professor Bernard Knight, a Home Office Pathologist, attended and excavated the remains which transpired to be those of Catherine 'Rena' West, née Costello. They were subsequently taken to the University of Wales College of Medicine, where they were examined by Professor Knight and Doctor David Whittaker, a Forensic Odontologist.

Two days later the search team moved to the adjacent field known as Fingerpost Field and started to excavate a site by Stonehouse Coppice. This proved to be a difficult area to search as the farmer had recently amalgamated two fields into one and levelled the land, thereby transforming its appearance.

Because the search team were excavating to a depth of six feet at times, the sides of the workings had to be shored up using sheeting and hydraulic supports to prevent their collapse. The excavations were based on an engineering plan drawn up with the advice of the Forest of Dean District Council.

Top soil was removed by machine and the search teams then took over excavating the various search areas by hand. Often the search was hampered by rain, which flooded the workings and had to be pumped out before digging could start again.

On 18 May 1994 Inspector Ted Kania took over as the Police Search Advisor at Kempley.

At 6.22 pm on 7 June 1994 two members of the search team found what appeared to be human remains. Professor Knight was called to the site arriving at about 8.00 pm. He began to remove the remains but had to stop because of poor light.

At 9.45 am on 9 June 1994 Professor Knight returned to the field and completed the removal of the remains which transpired to be those of Ann McFall. The remains were taken to the University of Wales College of Medicine at Cardiff for examination.

Two further sites, which had been pointed out by local people, were excavated but nothing more was found. On 17 June 1994 the search at Kempley finished and the equipment taken away.

### **SCENES OF CRIME**

The scenes of crime team was informed as soon as a member of a search team found an item which they considered could be relevant to the investigation. It was the responsibility of the Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCO) to preserve the evidence found and present the exhibits in the correct manner for examination. An initial cursory examination was conducted by a SOCO, the search halted and a Home Office Pathologist, Professor Bernard Knight, informed.

The relevant items were then excavated by hand by Professor Knight who passed them to a SOCO for labelling as exhibits. After Professor Knight completed his work at the scene the immediate area was enlarged and the spoil washed and sieved to ensure that nothing was missed.

The remains were initially taken to Gloucester Police Station and then taken to the University of Wales College of Medicine at Cardiff where they were handed to Professor Knight. After his examination they were then passed to Doctor David Whittaker for the purpose of establishing the person's identity.

### **INTERVIEWS**

Different interview teams were set up to interview Frederick West and Rosemary West.

Lines of questioning were determined by the Senior Investigating Officer, Detective Superintendent Bennett. After each interview, the relevant team was debriefed initially by the office manager, Detective Inspector Mike Wilson. Significant events were then immediately brought to the attention of the Senior Investigating Officer.

The tape recording of the interview was first entered into a paper system in the MIR and recorded as an exhibit and then transcribed at either Gloucester, Cheltenham or Tewkesbury Police Stations directly onto the HOLMES computer via a computer network.

The transcriptions were reviewed by the Senior Investigating Officers and if necessary the interview strategy was changed or actions raised for detectives to explore and validate what was being said in the interview.

Despite the volume of tapes, the transcribers were rarely more than 2 x 45 minute interviews behind.

All interviews with Frederick West and Rosemary West were tape recorded in purpose built interview rooms at either Gloucester or Cheltenham Police Stations. They were conducted in the presence of a solicitor or other legal representative and appropriate adults.

Appropriate adults, under the Codes of Practice of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, are people who are not police officers or solicitors who have responsibility to safeguard the rights and welfare of suspects held at police stations.

### **Résumé - Interviews of Frederick West**

Frederick West was initially interviewed on a voluntary basis about the disappearance of his daughter, Heather West. He told his interviewers that as far as he was concerned she was still alive and that he had seen her recently in Birmingham.

After his arrest, he first admitted killing Heather but the following day retracted what he had said until her remains were found at 25 Cromwell Street.

Frederick West then admitted the murder of a person who he called Shirley Robinson and a girl who he described as "Shirley's friend." At this stage Shirley Robinson was not known to the investigation and the other person could not be identified by detectives. Eventually the other person was identified as Alison Chambers who detectives established could not have known Shirley Robinson.

On 2 March 1994 detectives became aware of a girl called Lynda Gough having possibly stayed at 25 Cromwell Street. At first West denied knowing her but two days later he told the interviewers that Lynda Gough had gone to Weston-Super-Mare.

At 1735 hours on Friday, 4 March 1994 he passed a note via his solicitor to Detective Superintendent Bennett admitting approximately nine killings including Lynda Gough, Lucy Partington, his first wife Catherine and her daughter, Charmaine.

In a lengthy series of interviews which followed, West then admitted the murders of the people found at 25 Cromwell Street. However, in most cases West did not know who they were or called them by a nickname.

For example, West referred to Therese Siegenthaler as "The Dutch girl." This led detectives to check the records of Dutch missing people. Eventually, by analysis and evaluation of various information including the records of foreign nationals reported missing in the UK, the name Therese Siegenthaler emerged.

During the interviews West gave various far-fetched, inconsistent and rambling accounts. He denied killing Ann McFall although he said that he felt her remains were buried at Kempley.

West was questioned about the disappearance of Mary Bastholm but he denied any involvement. He said that Heather was his last victim and that he had committed no other murders.

During his last interview at Gloucester Police Station on 13 May 1994, Frederick West denied he had anything to do with the murder and said that he had lied throughout.

Frederick West was interviewed on a total of 151 occasions. The total length of these interviews was approximately 110 hours.

### **Résumé - Interviews of Rosemary West**

Following her initial arrest on 24 February 1994, Rosemary West was the subject of seven interviews totalling some 4½ hours. She stated that she had not seen or heard from Heather West since she had left. She did not respond to questions regarding offences in 1972 involving Caroline Owens. Questioned regarding Shirley Robinson she stated that she did not know her.

She denied having any knowledge of what her husband had said he had done.

Having been further arrested on 20 April 1994 she was interviewed on 59 further occasions until 2 June 1994. These interviews totalled almost 50 hours. Questioned extensively regarding all victims, her previous lifestyle etc, she maintained a 'no comment' stance.

### **COMMAND LEVELS, LOGISTICS AND RESOURCES**

On Saturday, 5 March 1994, at the request of Detective Superintendent John Bennett through Detective Chief Superintendent Ken Daun, the Chief Constable, Dr Tony Butler, declared the Cromwell Street investigation a major incident. This effectively meant that responsibility for resources shifted from the Gloucester Division to the Constabulary as a whole.

The Chief Constable maintained an overview of strategy and determined that the management of the inquiry should be based on a police major incident handling system known as Bronze, Silver and Gold. This system allocated responsibilities to the appropriate level of command.

#### **Gold**

The Gold Commander had a wide overview of policy. Logistics and other functions in support of Silver are a function of this level of command.

Detective Chief Superintendent Ken Daun, functional head of the Crime Management Department at Headquarters, performed the role of Gold Commander during the Cromwell Street inquiry.

#### **Silver**

Silver is the tactical level of command. The Silver Commander is the officer responsible for the operational management, policy and direction of an incident.

The Senior Investigating Officer, Detective Superintendent John Bennett, was the Silver Commander with Detective Chief Inspector Terry Moore acting as his Deputy.

#### **Bronze**

Bronze is the operational level of command appointed by and responsible to Silver to undertake the control of a particular aspect of an incident or inquiry. The following Bronze Commanders were used:-

Inspector Richard Bradley was the Bronze Commander acting as Search Co-ordinator.

Miss Hilary Allison was the Bronze Commander in charge of Media Relations with responsibility subsequently transferring to Inspector David Morgan on her return to Headquarters.

Inspector Wayne Freeth-Selway was the Bronze Commander responsible for providing logistical support, including equipment and staff, for the enquiry.

Detective Inspector Mike Wilson was the Bronze Commander responsible for the management of the Major Incident Room.

### **Logistics**

Inspector Wayne Freeth-Selway was appointed as Logistics Officer for the investigation. Working to the Gold Commander, Detective Chief Superintendent Ken Daun, his role was to provide staff communications and the equipment necessary to mount the searches at 25 Cromwell Street and 25 Midland Road, Gloucester.

The logistics role was required 140 days from 5 March 1994 until 2 June 1994 in respect of Cromwell Street and Midland Road and 22 July 1994 for Kempley to ensure that the right staff and the right equipment were in the right place at the right time. Over 150 requests for equipment and staff were dealt with by Inspector Freeth-Selway, then of the Force Secretariat, during the enquiry.

Every Division of the force provided both regular and Special Constabulary staff to mount guard at the search venues. In addition, civilian typists were used to input statements into the HOLMES computer. They worked at the Incident Room in Gloucester, Force Headquarters in Cheltenham and for a time at Tewkesbury Police Station. Hundreds of telephone calls were also answered by civilian telephonists based in the Incident Room, some from people worried about missing relatives.

A large number of interviews resulted in high volumes of statements and tape recordings which were needed to be transcribed. This was done at Cheltenham, Gloucester, Headquarters and Tewkesbury by using a computer network with the tapes conveyed by police motorcyclists.

Feeding staff by itself was an enormous task. While the Incident Room staff and search teams were fed at Gloucester Police Station's canteen, the officers on guard duty could not leave their posts and took their meals in portable buildings brought to the sites. Microwave ovens were purchased and through an arrangement with Asda supermarket, Gloucester, everyone was able to have two hot meals during their 12 hour plus tour of duty.

Costs were carefully managed throughout the inquiry. The staffing arrangements alone used in relation to the guards were reckoned to have saved the Constabulary two and three-quarter times the amount it would have cost had staff on rest days been used. Many companies generously agreed to provide equipment or services at reduced costs or waived their charges altogether.

The Finance Officer at Gloucester Police Station, Mr Mike Cresswell, provided administrative support, processing hundreds of claims and orders during the investigation and developed a computerised system which provided managers with details about how much the investigation had cost at the push of a button. This role continued through the committal proceedings and beyond.

### **THE MAJOR INCIDENT ROOM**

At the beginning of the inquiry only officers from the Gloucester Division were involved.

On 26 February 1994 an Incident Room was set up at Gloucester Police Station utilising the HOLMES computer.

On Saturday, 6 March 1994 the investigation was declared a major incident and additional staff drawn in from around the Constabulary.

At this stage they comprised: 2 Detective Inspectors, 2 Police Sergeants, 3 Detective Sergeants, 12 Police Constables, 23 Detective Constables and 5 civilians. These figures relate to the Incident Room and do not include officers involved in searches and guard duties at the various sites.

The staffing levels were regularly reviewed by Detective Superintendent John Bennett, the Senior Investigating Officer, and adjusted according to the demands of the enquiry.

By the week commencing 4 July 1994 the staffing had reduced to: 1 Detective Inspector, 3 Detective Sergeants, 1 Police Sergeant, 11 Detective Constables, 7 Police Constables and 1 civilian.

Similarly the hours worked also reduced. Initially a typical officer's day commenced at 0800 hours with a daily briefing and concluded at 2230 hours although on occasions it was necessary to exceed these hours. At the beginning no rest days were taken, gradually one rest day per week was taken and eventually two rest days per week were allowed.

The likely stress on police involved was recognised and a number of short presentations were given to the investigating team by counsellors contracted to provide a confidential service to Constabulary staff.

At the start of the inquiry considerable effort was expended in identifying the human remains found. This entailed liaison with other police forces and the co-ordination of other agencies, including the National Missing Persons Helpline. Detectives traced many missing people and, with the Helpline, found over 100 people and put the minds of their worried relatives at rest.

Enquiries also involved liaison with Interpol and overseas forces. The identification of Therese Siegenthaler began with over 130 possibles and was narrowed down gradually.

Arrangements for contact and care of alleged victims' families and witnesses were put into place once they were traced to the satisfaction of the investigation. HM Coroner for Gloucester, Mr David Gibbons, was continually consulted and advised of the finds at the different search sites and the progress of the enquiries regarding identification.

Co-ordination of a number of agencies was necessary as was the need to obtain the advice and assistance of the Forensic Science Service, Home Office Pathologist, Odontologist, Crown Prosecution Service, County Social Services Department, Education and medical authorities. Gloucester Victim Support was requested to assist and readily agreed, resulting in them playing a crucial role in the care of various people throughout the United Kingdom.

As at 20 September 1995 (573 days into the investigation) the following were recorded on the HOLMES computer:

1230 - Statements  
5343 - Enquiries completed

- 2108 - Reports
- 2159 - Items of property
- 4690 - Named persons
- 3059 - Other documents

Additional computer equipment was obtained to produce the file of evidence for the Crown Prosecution Service. These papers comprised 31 lever arch files. Six copies of the file were prepared, totalling 186 lever arch files.

The file was submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service in June 1994 two weeks before the recommended date for its submission in accordance with guidelines introduced in respect of the Manual of Guidance concerning committal files.

An operation was subsequently mounted at the Committal Hearing in respect of Mrs Rosemary West which commenced at Dursley Magistrates' Court on Monday, 6 February 1995. Arrangements included the security of the building and ensured that the proceedings presided over by the Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr Peter Badge, were unhindered.

The proceedings concluded on 14 February 1995 when Mrs Rosemary West was committed to Crown Court for trial on ten murder charges and other matters. The cost of the police operation at the Committal was £24,794.45.

During the course of the investigation, 383 letters of appreciation were received from members of the public in Britain and as far afield as Australia and the United States. Detective Superintendent Bennett personally replied to each of the letters within two days of their receipt. Occasionally, together with letters of appreciation were donations of money, which were placed in the Police Benevolent Fund.

### **Major Incident Room**

A Major Incident Room is set up on the directions of a Senior Investigating Officer and staffed according to the perceived needs of the enquiry. As the investigation progresses it is often restructured by virtue of the demand. Thus it can be either enlarged or reduced in size when the various functions can be combined. These functions are described below.

### **HOLMES (Home Office Large Major Enquiry System)**

HOLMES is a computer system which enables easy storage and retrieval of information received into any major incident room. The Gloucestershire Constabulary had operated this system since 1989 and it was utilised for major crime investigations, including armed robbery, rape and murder and large-scale child abuse enquiries.

At the time of the Cromwell St inquiry Gloucestershire Constabulary used the McDonnell Douglas Information System version of HOLMES which has a free text searching capability.

### **HOLMES Manager**

A Detective Sergeant was responsible for the management of HOLMES in the Gloucestershire Constabulary. This role incorporated training of all ranks in the use of HOLMES, installation of equipment at designated rooms around the County, the staffing of incidents and ensuring that information received was recorded in a nationally agreed

format that ensures compatibility with other police forces should the need to exchange information arise. He was assisted in the role by a Detective Constable.

### **The Receiver**

Information was received into the incident room and firstly went to the officer nominated as the Receiver. The information was read, evaluated and urgent enquiries or actions raised.

### **The Indexer**

The information was then passed to the Indexer who registered and cross-referenced all documentation onto the HOLMES computer thereby giving it a unique reference number. At the start of the enquiry several indexers may have worked within the room at any one time depending on the volume of information. Once the information was registered and cross-referenced, it was then passed to a typist to input the information onto the HOLMES computer.

### **The Statement Reader**

The typed information was then passed to the statement reader in a hard copy form. It was then read thoroughly and any further actions raised. This was then returned to the Indexer who carried out any instructions given by the Statement Reader.

### **Criminal Intelligence Analyst**

Working to the SIO, the analyst reviewed and analysed data from the HOLMES computer. The Analyst utilised many software applications, mainly the analysts Notebooks by I2 Ltd and WATSON by Harlequin Ltd. The analyst received information both electronically from HOLMES and textually from researchers and then compiled analysis in text or graphical chart form. Also diagrams and plans as directed by the SIO.

### **Action Allocator**

The action allocator was responsible for allocating actions to enquiry teams. Each team usually comprised two Detective Constables. An Action was a written or typed instruction given to an officer to complete a specific task or enquiry, e.g. tracing people, taking witness statements, etc. In particular the role was to ensure that everything identified to be done had in fact been completed satisfactorily.

### **Enquiry Team Officers**

In the Cromwell Street enquiry, the enquiry team comprised eight officers. Many worked singly or in pairs and were given actions to complete by the action allocator. These were normally detectives or officers with crime investigating backgrounds.

### **Disclosure Officer**

The disclosure officer was responsible for making sure all documentation obtained during the enquiry was disclosed to the Crown Prosecution Service. This role had developed since changes in the law requiring the prosecution to disclose material to the defence.

### **Exhibits Officer**

The exhibits officer was responsible for the receiving, recording and safe keeping of all property seized during the course of the enquiry which may be required in future court proceedings. This property was logged and recorded on computer.

### **Administration Officer**

The administration officer worked with the office manager and the divisional commander to ensure that the necessary accommodation was available to the enquiry and to relieve investigators from the mundane but important administrative tasks.

### **Office Manager**

The office manager had the overall responsibility for the efficient running of an incident room, ensuring that all relevant information was made available to the Senior Investigating Officer to assist him in directing the enquiry.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Gold Commander** - Detective Chief Superintendent Kenneth Daun

**Senior Investigating Officer** - Detective Superintendent John Bennett

**Deputy Senior Investigating Officer** - Detective Chief Inspector Terence Moore

**Police Search Co-ordinator** - Inspector Richard Bradley

**Police Search Advisors (POLSA) – Kempley** – Police Sergeant John Pickersgill and Inspector Ted Kania

**POLSA - 25 Cromwell Street** - Sergeant Peter Maunder

**Search Team Leader - 25 Cromwell Street** - Sergeant Anthony Richard Jay

**POLSA - 25 Midland Road** - Sergeant David Cooper

**Plan Preparation** - Police Constable Andrew Ewens

**Search Team Supervisor** - 25 Cromwell Street - Sergeant James McCarthy

**Logistics Officer** - Inspector Wayne Freeth-Selway

**Finance Officer** – Mike Cresswell

**Office Manager** - Detective Inspector Michael Wilson

**Allocation Allocator - Latterly Office Manager** - Detective Inspector Anthony James

**HOLMES Manager** - Detective Inspector Roger Scrivin

**Scene Manager and Scenes of Crime Officer** - Detective Constable Robert Beetham

**Scenes of crime officers** – Detective Constables John Rouse at 25 Cromwell Street and Detective Constable Tony Fuller at 25 Midland Road

**Home Office Pathologist** - Professor Bernard Knight, CBE

**Home Office Odontologist** - Doctor David Whittaker

**Home Office Forensic Scientist** - Doctor Wilf Basley

**Enquiry Team Supervisor and Interviewing Officer** - Detective Sergeant Terence Onions

**Statement Reader** - Detective Sergeant Howard Barrett

**Receiver** - Detective Sergeant Neil Gavin

**Receiver/Statement Reader** - Detective Sergeant David Griffiths

**Enquiry Team Supervisor - Latterly Disclosure Officer** - Detective Sergeant Roger Kelland

**Enquiry and interviewing officers** - Detective Constable Clive Stephens, Detective Constable Stephen McCormick, Police Constable David Stephens, Detective Constable David Fryatt, Detective Constable Russell Williams, Detective Constable Jeffrey Morgan, Detective Constable Nicholas Barnes, Detective Constable Darren Law, Detective Constable Neville Smurthwaite, Detective Sergeant Barbara Harrison, Detective Constable Stephen Harris, Detective Constable Hazel Savage

**HOLMES Indexer and Interviewing Officer** - Police Constable Deborah Lorraine Willats

**HOLMES Indexer - Latterly Researcher and Filing Officer** - Police Constable Christine Mannion

**Researchers** - Detective Constable Nicholas Churchill and Detective Constable Christine West

**Intelligence Analyst** - Police Constable Mark Grimshaw

**Exhibits Officer** - Detective Constable Paul Kerrod

**Assistant HOLMES Manager** - Detective Constable Jill Field

**Press Officer** - Miss Hilary Allison

**Assistant Press Officer** - Chief Inspector Colin Handy

**Press Officer** - Chief Inspector David Morgan

### **Psychological Advice**

On 1 March 1994 the Senior Investigating Officer sought advice from Paul Britton, a Consultant Clinical Psychologist with the Trent Regional Psychology Unit at Leicester.

On 17 March 1994 at Gloucester Police Station, again by request, Paul Britton gave further advice to the Senior Investigating Officer and the interview teams who were speaking to Frederick West.

### **Police Artist**

In March 1994 a police artist, Detective Constable Bob Wilcox of the Warwickshire Constabulary, was called in to help detectives identify the victims. In a complete reversal to his normal work, Detective Constable Wilcox spoke to Frederick West on 16-18 March 1994 and produced sketches of the alleged victims. The sketches were made under normal interview conditions, i.e. tape recordings were made and legal representatives were present.

### **Plan Drawing**

On 25 February 1994 PC Andrew Ewens, a trained Accident Investigation Officer, was called to Cromwell Street to prepare plans of the garden. He went on to prepare plans of the search of the house which were used in conjunction with original plans to construct a scale model. His involvement continued for about 120 days at Midland Road and Kempley.

The Gloucestershire Constabulary operated the Police Accident Survey System (PASS) as part of their resources for investigating traffic accidents. Although specifically designed to produce plans and other information relating to accident sites, it had been found to be increasingly useful at scenes of crimes and for forward planning of major events.

PASS consisted of electronic distance measuring and recording equipment which fed data gathered at an accident site into a computer running Land Survey System software. This software processed the data to form a three-dimensional model of the site which it then used to produce views from any point (e.g. a driver's eye view), measurements, plans and sections. The system replaced the traditional method of using a tape and sketch book which was far more labour intensive and less accurate.

The work at Cromwell Street was outside the normal experience of the Accident Investigation Officer and McCarthy Taylor Systems Ltd acted as a back-up providing theoretical and practical advice whenever problems arose.

### **Local Authority Involvement**

On Saturday, 25 February 1994, Gloucester City Council was asked to provide expert advice regarding building safety and also the health and safety requirements for those officers working in what were becoming increasingly wet and unstable soil conditions.

A surveyor attended the site on a regular basis until the search operation finished and then gave advice at 25 Midland Road.

The City Council seconded a supervisor to the search operation to carry out specialist work as required by the police and in accordance with current building regulations. When the Cromwell Street search finished, he moved on to 25 Midland Road to provide assistance.

During the operation, Gloucester City Council supplied a number of specialists to help, including carpenters, plumbers, electricians, bricklayers, general labourers, blacksmiths and environmental health officers.

### **Ground Penetrating Radar**

Radar equipment from two different companies was used to determine any indication of soil disturbance below the surface of the ground at both Cromwell Street and Midland Road.

On 4 March 1994, ERA Technology Ltd of Leatherhead, Surrey, carried out a search of 25 Cromwell Street. Their surface penetrating radar was developed originally for the detection of buried plastic mines.

Contact Address:

At 25 Midland Road and at Kempley, EMRAD Ltd used their 'Pipe Hawk' radar system to check for soil disturbances. The 'Pipe Hawk' was developed to detect pipes down to 18 mm in diameter at depths ranging from 5 cms to 3 metres.

### **Ready Mix Concrete**

To avoid any possibility of a structural collapse while areas were excavated within the basements and ground floors of both 25 Cromwell Street and 25 Midland Road, on

advice from Gloucester City Council only a small area of ground was excavated at any particular time, which was then filled with quick drying concrete before another area was dug. Once the concrete had set, usually after 18 to 24 hours and support was being provided by its presence to both the house footings and also any adjoining areas of earth, work could then begin on another area. Using this method, it was possible to thoroughly and safely excavate the earth areas within both buildings.

At both Cromwell Street and Midland Road, concrete was delivered to the house and channelled into each basement via a chute which had been specially constructed to receive the material. Inside the basement officers then rapidly distributed the concrete by wheelbarrow to its respective excavated hole.

The choice of which type of concrete to use was made following discussion with the City Council's Principal Building Surveyor and the Technical Manger of Ready Mix Concrete at Gloucester, Mr Ian Forder.

The decision to accept Ready Mix road fill was taken, given the fact that it was a highly fluid material which combined the benefits of high flowability with a controlled low strength. Other factors considered allowed first time reinstatement, it could be easily broken out again for any post-search process and that because it was in effect self-compacting, there was a considerable reduction in labour required to complete the work.

Once excavations had been made at the different locations within the building, concrete was ordered by the Police Search Advisor and it was then delivered by Ready Mix Concrete. The company generously agreed to waive their normal waiting time charge, given the possibility of unforeseen problems delivering their product into such confined areas.

From the outset it was recognised that each delivery, especially to the basement areas, would require careful control on the part of the delivery driver to prevent unnecessary damage to the building, clogging of the chute or injury to the officers ferrying the concrete to the excavations. Each delivery, especially the initial ones, was made under intense media interest and on each occasion the Branch Manager of Ready Mix Concrete at Gloucester, Mr John Sellars, personally supervised the deliveries. Thanks to everybody understanding the requirements of each other, no problems were experienced.

At 25 Cromwell Street there were a total of 14 deliveries to the property which represented a total of 72.2 cubic metres.

### **Midlands Electricity Plc**

The MEB Gloucester office provided assistance to the searches of both 25 Cromwell Street and 25 Midland Road. On Sunday, 27 February 1994, the MEB set up a mains electricity supply to the police mobile control caravan which had been delivered to St Michael's Square, Gloucester.

They also checked the power supply into 25 Cromwell Street to enable the police search to be safely completed.

The MEB generously waived all charges in respect of connection and supply of electricity to 25 Cromwell Street during the period of the police search.

## **Seventh Day Adventist Church**

The Seventh Day Adventist Church was located next to 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. From the earliest days until the completion of the operation, Sergeant Peter Maunder, the Police Search Advisor, liaised regularly with the then Pastor of the church, Pastor Ian Lorek, to reassure the congregation and reduce to a minimum the disruption to the church caused by the search. Pastor Lorek and members of the church visited residents of the surrounding streets and also held special prayer services which were open to all denominations.

In recognition of this church's main day of worship being a Saturday, no police excavations took place on Saturday except for in exceptional circumstances.

Pastor Lorek and the church elders readily gave their permission for the police to demolish a low brick-built wall located at the front of the church and adjoining the entrance to number 25 when difficulties were experienced in a delivery of concrete into the basement. The brick wall was later reinstated to the satisfaction of the church before the police search operation concluded. Pastor Lorek moved to a new parish in the South East of England.

## **Victim Support**

From early 1994 Gloucester Victim Support assisted with the Cromwell Street enquiry offering help and advice to many people, including the families of the alleged victims and others affected by events.

The Incident Room at Gloucester had been in close liaison with and received a great deal of help from the two Co-ordinators - Philip Lowry and Hazel Beckett. In addition, Gloucester Victim Support established a special Cromwell Street telephone Help Line Service.

## **CUSTODY**

With effect from 11 March 1994 Frederick West was accommodated at Gloucester Central Police Station as a remand prisoner with his and his legal advisor's agreement.

Authority was sought from the Home Office Prison Department, under Section 29 of the Criminal Justice Act 1961, for him to remain at the police station to enable police officers to continue to conduct interviews at convenient times. The authority was obtained after officials from the Home Office Prison Department inspected and approved the cell accommodation at Gloucester Police Station.

The wing in which Mr West was detained became in effect an extension to HM Prison, Gloucester. The Gloucester Police Divisional Commander was given the responsibility for immediate care and custody of Mr West during his detention at the police station, although the Prison Governor at HMP Gloucester retained overall responsibility and was advised when problems arose.

The arrangements required the accommodation and facilities available to Mr West to mirror those of a normal remand prisoner held in a prison by the Prison Service. His detention was, therefore, subject to the Home Office Prison Rules and he was granted the same rights and privileges as any other remand prisoner.

Following the remand of Mrs Rosemary West and the agreement of her instructing solicitors, a similar application was made to the Home Office Prison Department and, after approval, she was detained in the same way at Cheltenham Police Station. Her detention was then the responsibility of the Cheltenham Police Divisional Commander.

Both Mr West and Mrs West were given dedicated wings at Gloucester and Cheltenham Police Station cell blocks respectively to comply with Home Office Prison Rules.

### **Mrs West's Accommodation on Bail**

On 27 February 1994 Mrs Rosemary West was released from police custody under Section 47(3) (b) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, to return to Gloucester Police Station on Monday, 25 April 1994.

Because it was determined that 25 Cromwell Street would be thoroughly searched, there was a need to provide Mrs West and her family with temporary accommodation.

Initially she was housed in police accommodation at Gloucester and then, because her location was compromised by the media, she was moved to other accommodation at Dursley.

On 25 March 1994 Mrs West was living at Dursley when she was photographed by the media. It was then necessary at very short notice to remove her to other police accommodation at Cheltenham, where she remained until 25 April 1994 when she was arrested.

The removals were carried out by members of the Force's Operations Department, using some furniture and effects from 25 Cromwell Street and other items supplied by Gloucestershire County Council's Social Services Department. Very short notice of the requirement was given and immense discretion required to protect Mrs West's whereabouts from the media.

### **Household Effects From 25 Cromwell Street**

All the effects from 25 Cromwell Street which were taken into police possession during the search were recorded systematically onto an exhibits computer package. This resulted in the recording of over 1300 items, which included every type of household effect that would normally be found in any family home.

Every item was examined by Incident Room researchers and, where appropriate, items and documentation were brought to the attention of the Senior Investigating Officer for consideration. Following agreement with their solicitors, when Rosemary West and Frederick West were ultimately remanded in custody, some items were returned to members of the family whilst a large volume of household effects were destroyed by mutual agreement in controlled conditions, thus preventing souvenir hunters from acquiring any items then or in the future.

## **THE TRIAL**

### **Arrangements**

Liaison with the Lord Chancellor's Department and Hampshire Constabulary began as soon as the venue of the trial was announced. This necessitated a number of visits to

Winchester Crown Court to meet the Chief Clerk, Alan Davison, and other members of his staff and plan the necessary arrangements.

One room on the second floor of the court complex was allocated to the enquiry as an office and another on the first floor was used as an exhibits store. Telephone lines and fax were installed including a modem link to the HOLMES computer system at the Gloucestershire Constabulary Headquarters in Cheltenham. An additional computer was set up to analyse data for prosecuting counsel and the Crown Prosecution Service. The computer was also used to review press reports on the Internet.

### **Witnesses**

Prosecution witnesses and the relatives of victims who indicated they did not wish to be photographed by the media met at a rendezvous point and were then brought under police escort to Winchester Crown Court by car or minibus with darkened windows. The witnesses were accompanied by a relevant Police Liaison Officer and an independent member of the Victim Support Service or the Witness Support Service from the Crown Court. On arrival at court the witness was cared for by the Witness Support Service until they gave evidence and then taken back to the rendezvous in the obverse to the above.

### **Police**

The Hampshire Constabulary appointed Inspector Paul Stallard, assisted by Police Sergeant Alan Jackson, to act as Liaison Officer and take charge of the Police arrangements at Winchester Crown Court and the external policing of the court area outside the court complex.

Hampshire Police took responsibility for escorting Mrs West to and from HMP Winchester. They also escorted relatives and witnesses to and from Winchester Crown Court and assisted the investigating team continually throughout the trial.

### **The View**

On Thursday, 19 October 1995 the jury visited 25 Cromwell Street.

Prior to the view, however, certain preparatory work had to be carried out to the interior of the house and the rear gardens by Gloucester City Services working in conjunction with Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Police preparations recommenced on 12 October and concluded the day after the view. To enable the jury visit to take place unimpeded and out of public view, a large marquee was erected covering the entire garden areas of 25 Cromwell Street and the access lane from St Michael's Square. The jury's coach entered and departed via the tented rear lane.

### **Model of 25 Cromwell Street**

The model of 25 Cromwell Street was constructed over a six month period by PC Eric Williams within the scope of his normal duties as Force Exhibitions Officer.

It was made from 1.5 mm plywood with 3.00 mm balsa wood internal struts at a Scale 20:1 from dimensions provided by PC Andrew Ewens and various self generated dimensions, photos and video tapes of the scene.

It was constructed so as to enable it to be disassembled to allow viewing of all aspects and show various stages of extension work carried out at 25 Cromwell Street. The stages are coloured differently to represent various time-scales.

## **HANDLING THE MEDIA**

In February 1994 the Gloucestershire Constabulary Press Office was based at Police Headquarters in Cheltenham and staffed by Miss Hilary Allison and Inspector David Morgan.

Due to the volume of enquiries and the absence on leave of Inspector Morgan, Chief Inspector Colin Handy from Gloucester Police Station was seconded to the press office. Chief Inspector Colin Handy was a former Force Press Officer.

After the declaration of the Cromwell Street enquiry as a Major Incident, a dedicated press office was set up on the first floor of Gloucester Central Police Station with Miss Allison in charge and Chief Inspector Colin Handy as her deputy. They were assisted by an Office Manager, PC David Avery, and two regular or special constables who dealt with telephone enquiries. Inspector Morgan remained at Police Headquarters dealing with routine press enquiries.

The dedicated press office dealt with thousands of enquiries from the local, regional, national and international media and issued a statement daily for the first three months of the enquiry to keep reporters abreast of developments.

The policy was to provide the media with as much information as possible to enable them to plan their coverage. For example, the media were informed when people of note would visit Cromwell Street and when concrete was to be delivered. Moreover they were told when the search teams would not be working in order that they could take much needed days off.

Because of investigative demands in the early stages, it was determined that radio and television interviews would be given by the two press officers and not the Senior Investigating Officer. His appearance was reserved for important press conferences where for examples the names of alleged victims were announced.

It quickly became clear that Gloucester Police Station could not host the number of reporters and camera crews wishing to attend press conferences and alternative facilities were obtained at the Brunswick Annex of the Gloucestershire College of Art and Technology (GlosCAT). The Annex, which was located midway between the police station and Cromwell Street, proved to be an excellent venue and thanks to the good offices of college staff was made available at short notice.

Media courses were staged by the GlosCAT and on one occasion their students were allowed into a press conference and given an opportunity to interview Detective Superintendent Bennett on a one-to-one basis about the enquiry as part of one of their course projects.

A large number of live and recorded radio and television interviews were given by the press officers for broadcasters from as far afield as Canada, South Africa and the United States of America, often at unsociable hours to satisfy the demands of different time zones. Despite the extremely long hours worked by press officers, every effort was made to accommodate requests for interviews.

After the first four weeks Chief Inspector Handy returned to his normal duties and Inspector David Morgan took over his role in relation to the Cromwell Street enquiry. The two force press officers were then dealing with the media in relation to both routine incidents and also the enquiry itself.

As the enquiry progressed, the number of hours worked and the staff involved in the press office were able to reduce to the point where it became possible for first Miss Allison and then Inspector Morgan to return to Police Headquarters. Although the dedicated press office closed on 27 May 2004, the media interest continued and the press officers continued to deal with two or three related enquiries every working day and often at weekends as well throughout the remainder of 1994 and during 1995.

Overall, the enquiry attracted enormous media interest despite the fact that at no stage had the police appealed for information. Unfortunately this interest created additional work for the investigators and, more importantly, caused great intrusion and distress to the families of the alleged victims.

Among the more bizarre media enquiries included, "Can you confirm a report that you have just started to dig at a house south of Calais?"

The methodology used to handle the media during the enquiry attracted significant interest from other police forces. Advice and help was freely given by the Gloucestershire Constabulary to a large number of police press officers.

### **ANSWERS TO JOURNALISTS' AND MEDIA QUESTIONS**

**Q. What is the total number of people that Frederick West is suspected of having killed?**

A. The police do not know. At one stage he admitted responsibility for the victims at Cromwell St, Charmaine at Midland Rd and his first wife Catherine found at Kempley. We know that he told people other than police officers that he killed more people but none of these claims can be authenticated. Neither can any of the locations that he mentioned in vague terms.

**Q. To what did he confess in his statements to the police?**

A. Frederick West made no written statements. He did, however, write a note to Supt Bennett and verbally admitted 11 murders. The exception out of the 12 victims found was Ann McFall; Frederick West never admitted involvement in the murder of Ann McFall although he did show us where he thought she was buried. During his interviews he frequently changed his story and ultimately denied being involved in any of the murders.

**Q. Was Rosemary West believed to have been involved in the murder of Ann McFall and Rena West?**

A. Rosemary West could not have been involved in the murder of Ann McFall because at the time she had not met Frederick West and she was only 13 years of age. There

is no evidence available to connect Rosemary West with Catherine West's murder although it is thought that Catherine probably was killed after her daughter Charmaine.

**Q. How many missing persons were traced/reunited as a result of the investigation?**

A. 110 missing people were found to be safe and well as a result of the enquiry. The Missing Persons Helpline gave enormous help to detectives during the investigation.

**Q. What is believed to have happened to the missing kneecaps and fingers?**

A. We do not know but we are sure that we found everything there was to find at the various scenes. Advice from Paul Britton suggested that it was possible that they could have been retained and taken elsewhere.

**Q. Is there any record of Lynda Gough's disappearance being reported to the police by her mother and, if so, was there any mention that the woman in the house was wearing Lynda Gough's slippers?**

A. We were unable to find any record of Lynda Gough having been reported missing although considerable effort was put to this end. We found out that her parents told an officer, who has since retired, about Lynda's disappearance and he states that he reported Lynda Gough as a missing person. He says he did not know that Mrs Gough had been to Cromwell St.

**Q. Was the Wests' house known to the police for any other reason than the cannabis raids on lodgers?**

A. The investigation established that, for a variety of reasons, over the years a number of officers visited 25 Cromwell St. These visits were not only in connection with Frederick and Rosemary West and members of their family but also lodgers and people visiting their home. They included arresting Frederick West for theft type offences, a lodger for burglary and looking for girls who were absent from care.

**Q. Was Mrs West a known prostitute?**

A. Mrs West was not known to the police as a prostitute.

**Q. At what stage did Frederick West first confess?**

A. When detectives visited 25 Cromwell St to enquire about Rosemary West's mother, Frederick West asked to go to the police station with them. He got into a police car and then said that he had killed Heather.

**Q. How many police officers in total worked on the investigation?**

A. The number of police officers involved in the enquiry varied considerably from month to month but at its peak in March 1994 there were 84 police officers involved with the Cromwell Street enquiry. They were supported by other regular and civilian staff, also the Special Constabulary. In one way or another the entire force was involved.

**Q. What is the estimate of the cost?**

A. As at 16 October 1995 total cost to Force over budget £772,604.

**Q. Are officers who worked on the case receiving counselling?**

A. At an early stage all officers involved in the enquiry were told how they could obtain counselling. The Senior Investigating Officer directed that a stress counsellor should speak to officers and tell them of the facilities which were available.

**Q. When did Fred West and Rose Letts meet?**

A. Rose Letts left school at 15 and went to work in a bakery. It is thought she met Fred West around this time.

**Q. What had Frederick West previously been imprisoned for?**

A. He served a three day sentence in 1969 for non-payment of fines. He was imprisoned for nine months in 1970/71 for motoring offences and theft from his employer. A suspended sentence was brought into force after he had breached it by stealing fence panels from his employer.

**Q. What information is available about the 1973 case involving Caroline Owens?**

A. Frederick and Rosemary West were convicted on 12 January 1973 on charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and indecent assault and fined £25 for each offence. The case was prosecuted by the police as the Crown Prosecution Service did not exist in 1973. The police prosecution file, including statements etc, was destroyed in accordance with the then Force policy and only the record of conviction now exists. Accordingly there is nothing to indicate why the particular charge was preferred. As the Wests pleaded guilty, the victim of their assault would not have been required to give evidence.

There is no record of any police report to Social Services, probably because the offences did not involve children. Certainly at that time there was no requirement on the police to report such matters to Social Services. During the 1970's there was little or no communication between the police and social workers. Now it is certain that there would be a referral to Social Services as there has been a great improvement in communication but the action taken would depend on how much the children involved in the family were perceived to be at risk. It is not possible to make a categorical statement about what would happen as every case is different.

It is possible the children would be put on the 'At Risk Register'. This would mean that any enquiries concerning them or the family would be registered and show up each time anyone checked the register.

**Q. Why weren't the Wests, who had been convicted of a sex attack on a young woman, questioned during the investigations into the disappearance of young women in the Gloucester area?**

- A. Only six of the 12 victims were reported to the police as missing. There was nothing to link any of them to 25 Cromwell Street, except for Lynda Gough. The Wests provided a plausible response when a member of the Gough family visited 25 Cromwell Street. The sexual offence for which the Wests were convicted - indecent assault - was not considered a serious sexual offence and it is unlikely that any check relating to previous convictions made during the Lucy Partington enquiry would have thrown up the name of Frederick West. In the absence of the technology available today, the ability to search records at Criminal Records Office was strictly limited.

**Q. What was the police connection with Jordan's Brook House?**

- A. The staff at Jordan's Brook House (JBH) would report a girl missing if she did not return within 30 minutes of her permitted time. The police response would depend on the type of order under which the girl had been placed in the establishment. With some, the police were empowered to arrest the girl if they went missing.

In the early 1970's the regularity with which the girls absented themselves from schools like JBH meant that only rarely was there any press coverage given. Police recorded details locally and circulated them throughout the Force area, to the South West Regional Criminal Record Office at Bristol and New Scotland Yard. The Police Force covering the home address of the girl was informed and, after a period of time, the missing girl would feature in the Police Gazette which was circulated nation-wide. Only very occasionally, if the girl was considered particularly vulnerable, would there be media publicity.

Whenever girls went missing from establishments like JBH they would be questioned by police on their return - usually by a police woman - in an effort to ascertain their movements and also to be satisfied that they have not been involved in criminal activity. The girls tended to be extremely reluctant to disclose any information to the police, no matter how closely they were questioned.

Girls who absconded from establishments like JBH were frequently found to be living in flats throughout the city. Nothing emerged which connected them to Cromwell Street and they were most unlikely to volunteer information or confide in police officers.

**Q. Is it true that Alison Chambers was not reported missing the last time she disappeared?**

- A. We accept that, in line with normal practice, Alison Chambers was reported missing from Jordan's Brook House. However, within two months of her being reported missing, a letter was written by Alison to her mother indicating she was safe and well. This was forwarded on to West Glamorgan Health Authority who responded by

indicating she would be discharged from care. Following such action the police would not consider her to be a vulnerable missing person.

**Q. Can you confirm that the Drug Squad raided 25 Cromwell Street?**

A. Although no records exist now except for one retired officer's pocket book, it is known that in 1972/73 two drugs search warrants were executed in respect of flats within 25 Cromwell Street but which were not being occupied by the Wests. Such police activity was not unusual then (or now) in houses sublet to tenants.

**Q. Did the Cromwell Street investigation establish any links with the disappearance of Mary Bastholm?**

A. During the course of the investigation into Mary's disappearance over 250 different lines of enquiry were pursued. Following a complete review of the missing person file, which had been retained, over 100 people who had either initially been seen by the original investigation team, or people found by the current enquiry were interviewed. Some people in the original enquiry, who may have been of assistance, were found to have died. Despite these enquiries no evidence was found to support arresting Frederick West for any offence whatsoever in connection with Mary Bastholm, although he was questioned but denied any involvement.

The file in relation to her disappearance will be retained and kept open.

**FINANCE**

Costings of the Enquiry as at 16 October 1995 include:

Police Overtime	£471,427.43
Civilian Overtime	£14,134.14
Vehicle Costs	£39,286.00
Building Costs	£30,672.00
Purchase & Hire	£122,185.00
Telephones	£7,213.00
Subsistence & meals expenses	£40,829.00
<b>TOTAL COST TO FORCE OVER BUDGET</b>	<b>£772,604.00</b>
+ Cost of Officers' Salaries	£939,894.00
+ Cost of Civilians' Salaries	£14,425.00

**TOTAL COST TO FORCE OF ENQUIRY**

**£1,726,922.00**

Gloucestershire Constabulary Budget	93 / 94	£52.013M
	94 / 95	£54.035M
	95 / 96	£56.347M