

Epilogue

DSupt Dick Holland was commended for his 'skilful handling' of the Lesley Molseed enquiry, receiving praise from the trial judge, Mr Justice Park, and from his chief constable, Ronald Gregory. Gregory it was who commented on Holland's 'skill and persistence during trying circumstances in the final interrogation' of Kiszko, that is, in obtaining Kiszko's confession.

Dick Holland had joined the police force in 1953, rising rapidly through the ranks in a service lasting twenty-five years. The zenith of his career was the Kiszko investigation, during which he was promoted from inspector to superintendent. The nadir was the investigation of the so-called Yorkshire Ripper, Peter Sutcliffe. Following Sutcliffe's conviction, criticisms were levelled at the West Yorkshire police's handling of the investigation, and Holland found himself demoted to uniformed duties in Sowerby Bridge. He retired from the force in 1988, proud of his role in the conviction of Stefan Kiszko, and also of Judith Ward, the woman found guilty of the M62 coach bombing.

Ever a strong man, Holland took criticism in his stride, recognising that the police would always be the target for disparaging remarks and rarely recipients of praise. On his retirement, Dick Holland spoke fondly of the force and its integrity saying, 'There is no other organisation more accountable [than the police force].'

After retiring from the force, he became a hospital security chief in Huddersfield. Ronald Outteridge, the leading forensic scientist in the Kiszko case, also retired and moved to live in Cambridgeshire. In both cases the peace of retirement was shattered by the re-opening of the Kiszko case in 1991, in which the roles of both men were brought into the spotlight.

Dick Holland, in an interview with the *Manchester Evening News*, said, 'I did an honest and professional job. I didn't stitch up Stefan Kiszko.'

In July 1994 Holland and Outteridge were formally charged with

suppressing evidence in the case against Kiszko, namely the results of scientific tests on semen taken from Lesley's clothing and on the semen samples given by Kiszko. The case against the two men progressed slowly through the magistrates' court at Rochdale, moving inexorably towards a committal and an undoubtedly high-profile trial in the Crown Court. But on May Day 1995 the case was challenged in the magistrates' court, barristers for both defendants arguing before the stipendiary magistrate, Jane Hayward, that the case was an abuse of process. Jane Hayward was a professional magistrate, a lawyer with the knowledge and experience to consider with care the arguments placed before her. The argument was that the case should not be allowed to progress any further, but should be stayed, because the passage of time since the events alleged made a fair trial impossible. The barristers raised the death of Jack Dibb and the loss of vital exhibits and documents as adding to the difficulties of their clients being able to defend the charges.

Jane Hayward listened with care to the arguments on both sides before ruling that proceedings should be stayed against both Holland and Outteridge, on the basis that they could not receive a fair trial. Her judgement stated:

I have no doubt that the absence of Chief Superintendent Dibb is prejudicial to both defendants. There are two possibilities concerning Mr Dibb. One is, he suppressed information from both Mr Outteridge and Mr Holland and they are in the dock for acts or omissions which are in reality those of Mr Dibb. The second possibility is that Dibb, though doing his best in what he said to one or both of these defendants, made statements to them which would excuse liability on their part.

A serious allegation had been raised against two formerly highly respected men. It was an allegation which would not be determined by a jury, for Miss Hayward prevented that course from being taken. Holland and Outteridge were never convicted of suppressing evidence, the law regards them as innocents.

Campbell Malone and his wife Judith were appointed executors and trustees of Charlotte Kiszko's will. As such, the responsibility fell on the Malones to ensure the wishes of Charlotte were fulfilled. They were also faced with the task of clearing the house at Kings Road of all the Kiskos' effects.