

RESTRICTED - INVESTIGATIONS

who started or stopped any investigations prior to 1969, or if ROSS was involved in any way. Therefore, aside from being aware of the allegations and the lack of any recorded investigation, there is no evidence that ROSS made any attempts to 'cover up' SMITH's alleged offences. It should be noted that the circumstances of it being reported to ROSS during 1965 were;

- a) There was no complaint being made.
- b) He was being informed for information only.

4.1.2 Two 'unknown' officers that former Detective Jack TASKER stated arrived in his office and demanded all of the files in relation to Cyril SMITH.

"It looked like a straightforward case but he hadn't reckoned on the network of spies and obstructive forces Cyril had at local and national level to protect him....TASKER explained that on the Monday he got in about 08:30 and two men were waiting in his office. They were Chief Superintendents from the Lancashire Constabulary headquarters in Hutton. The two officers spoke to TASKER and after confirming that he was doing an inquiry in relation to SMITH, TASKER was asked for the statements and asked to open a locked drawer where the statements were stored... "they took everything". TASKER said "they said they were handling the case and as far as I was concerned the inquiry was over" TASKER contacted his boss chief inspector WHEATER and went to see him. He looked deflated. "If it's from the chief constable", he sighed, "then that's the end of it. There's nothing we can do. You'd better accept it." The files, say's TASKER, went to Hutton and were buried."

(Smile for the Camera: The Double Life of Cyril Smith' Pages 217 to 220)

In reconstructing a timeline of the events relating to Lancashire Constabulary's investigation into SMITH it appears that the two officers who 'took everything' in fact appear to have then progressed the investigation to a conclusion by sending the file of evidence to the DPP in 1970. A full timeline is presented as **Appendix C**.

DC'S COURTNEY and TASKER appear to have been handed this investigation in either late 1969 or early 1970. They take 12 witness statements between 19th January 1970 and 18th February 1970 (two lack the names of the interviewing officer but the dates are consistent with it being COURTNEY and TASKER).