

I find that this interest has helped me enormously and perhaps it has helped me to some extent take my mind off loosing my brother Michael in the Birmingham Pub bombings in 1974. (000074).

Michael was 30 years of age when he was killed his birthday being the 20th May 1944. (20051944).

At the time of his death he'd been living with me at my old address of

**Reason 2**.

He was my only brother, we didn't have any sisters and we were close.

My father was called William Kemble BEASLEY but he died **Reason 2**

**Reason 2** my mother is still alive Thora Irene BEASLEY she's **Reason 2**

**Reason 2** she lives in **Reason 2** in **Reason 2** At the time

of Michael's death my mother had been living in **Reason 2** just outside

**Reason 2** After Michael died she moved back here to **Reason 2**.

My brother Michael received a secondary education in Birmingham up until the age of 15 years.

And from there he went to work for a firm called Patrick Motors which was situated in Dawlish Road, Selly Oak. He worked there in the capacity of a Stock Controller until he died and I know that he was well liked by the other workers and employees and he was very well thought of. Michael was a single man and he did have a girlfriend

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called Nora she lived in **Reason 2** at that time she was living there with her parents. I met her on a few occasions, once at a local pub in **Reason 2** and I believe her parents still use the pub. I think she's still local to the area and would be in her forties now.

They'd been going out for about six months before Michael died and I believe they were intending to get engaged.

Michael used to be a regular at the Mulberry Bush pub in Birmingham city centre.

Infact I would say he would be in there most nights.

As a routine he would finish work in Selly Oak of an evening and catch the bus straight from work to the Mulberry Bush. I don't know what bus he would catch to get there but I think it would be a direct run along the Bristol Road. He would arrive at the pub I would say at about 6.30pm (1830) and he would normally be alone. As far as I am aware Michael didn't go to that pub with anyone from work or his girlfriend Nora.

Because of Michael's work, he used to wear a white sort of overall coat, but he'd obviously change that before leaving work of an evening, and he would just wear his own clothes and he would dress casually.

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Michael would go to the Mulberry straight from work Monday to Friday and then of a weekend Saturday Sunday he would have his dinner at our house and go to the pub from there.

Michael was extremely interested in the film world, he loved everything about films and had a great interest. So much so that he became friends with the staff that ran the Odeon cinema in town next to the Mulberry Bush and he would normally stand in a certain spot in the Mulberry by the door nearest the cinema and after he'd finished his drinks he would go next door straight into the cinema up the fire exit and straight into the projector room of the cinema itself. Because his love of films was so great the staff at the picture house used to let him go into the projector room, where the actual setting up of the film procedure and equipment was.

I know that Michael knew the manager of the cinema at that time but I can't remember his name but he did have a drink with Michael in the Mulberry Bush on occasions.

Michael would normally stop in the pub until about 9.30pm (2130) from there he would sometimes pop next door to the cinema to the projector room to see his friends, he knew all the staff from there Michael would come home again on his own and by bus.

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I knew he used to pop into the cinema a couple of times a week because he'd come home with loads of brochures or posters that they gave him of any forthcoming attractions.

Although Michael went to the pub seven days a week, he wasn't someone that you could say was out with the boys sort of thing, he lead a quiet life really, his hobbies as I've mentioned were the cinema and also of coin collecting as well. Of a weekend Michael would normally have his dinner at about 2pm (1400) and then go off to see a film somewhere not necessary the Odeon in town and after the pictures he would then go to Mulberry Bush.

As I've mentioned Michael would always stand in the same place in the pub, if ever I wanted to find Michael, I'd go straight to that one spot and if he wasn't there I'd know he wasn't anywhere else in the pub.

Michael at these times would normally be in the company of a friend of his called Stan. I can't recall his surname at present but he was with Michael the night of the bombings and he also died. He lived round the corner from where I am now somewhere in **Reason 2**

Michael only knew Stan from the Mulberry. It's only afterwards through meeting other people after the incident that I found out he had lived in the **Reason 2** area.

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Stan was older than Michael I would say he was mid 40's may be more.

Stan was a white man, well built heavy build about 5 feet 9, 5 feet 10 and casually dressed.

Michael was also in appearance white and fair haired, he had one those moustaches that droop down either side of the mouth that was the fashion them days and he wore glasses. Although he dressed casual, he would take care in the clothes he wore, he was particular about his appearance, build wise he was slim and about 5 feet 10 in height.

Michael did have a car, infact we used to share it between us it was a Morris Minor black in colour I think the registration number was something like **Reason 2**.

The only time Michael used a car for work was when we'd bought the previous car to the Morris Minor that was a Corsair but after we sold that and got the Morris Minor Michael used to catch the bus. Infact Patrick Motors sprayed the Morris Minor for us, it was quite distinctive black with a red stripe round the side.

I know that Michael because he was regular knew all the members of staff in the pub by name as well as the licensee.

I myself would meet Michael as part of a routine every Thursday evening in the Mulberry.

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I was at the time involved in running a football team in **Reason 2**, and I would always call in and see Michael in the pub and have a quick drink with him before I left to go to the training session.

This is something that we always did and the night of the bombings was no exception.

I'd travelled into the city in the Morris Minor and I arrived outside the pub at about 6.30pm (1830) (21.11.74)(211174) I parked my car in the small alley way that used to run between the Mulberry Bush and the side of the Odeon. I think its changed now but there used to be a facility at that time to park your car and when I arrived there was about room for six other cars to park. I can't recall if there were any other cars there at this time.

I entered the pub via the entrance nearest the alley way. There are two entrances into and out of the pub, the first is the one I've mentioned and the other one leads out onto the main road St Martins Circus.

The Mulberry Bush inside was all one level apart from a couple of steps situated by the juke box. The door or entrance that I used was the one nearest New Street station as you walked into the pub from this side the bar which would sweep round in a circle to the left would be to

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your left.

Michael and Stan would always stand at the corner of the bar just as you came in that's where they would always be and that's where I would stand when I met Michael, we'd never go and sit down in the pub in the seating area provided we'd always stand by the bar.

As you walked inside the entrance door there was a seating area with chairs and tables, these were on the right hand side opposite the beginning of the bar.

About half way down the pub again on the right hand side was the juke box and the stairs I've mentioned, these stairs I think infact lead to an upper floor which gave you access to the male and female toilets, nothing else.

On the other side of the juke box again on the right were a few more tables and chairs and these continued along the other side of the room where the bar counter finished. Apart from meeting Michael, I didn't use the Mulberry as a regular pub, so I am unable to name any of the staff, as far as running the pub I know it was a husband and wife but I don't know which one of them was the licensee.

I'm unable to give any further information regarding the staff or licensee, I don't even know if any of them were injured in the

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incident.

Going back to that night like I've said I went straight in the pub and straight up to the spot where I knew he would be and he was.

He was there with Stan as usual they were standing by the bar I joined them and we had a quick drink together. Like usual Michael had gone straight to the pub from work, I don't know how long Michael and Stan had been there themselves but I presume Michael had arrived at his usual time. I can't recall what Michael was wearing on that particular night but he usually wore a sports jacket or blazer of some sort, he wouldn't be in a suit as far as I recall.

He didn't have any luggage with him such as a holdall or anything like that with him.

Thinking back, I can't recall if Stan was there when I first came or if he joined us while I was there what I can say is he was there with Michael when I left.

While we were there together I had obviously a chat with them but I can't recall the conversation we had.

I didn't see anyone else that I recognised or knew by name there would have been about 17 people approximately in the pub the short time I was there, which I would say would be about normal for that time.

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I didn't see anyone or any incident that I can recall struck me as odd or suspicious at the time in the pub.

I don't recall seeing any items of luggage any bags or brief cases anything like that around the area where I was standing. But it would be fair to say that it wouldn't be unusual for someone to come into the pub with perhaps a shopping bag whilst shopping or even some one from work with a case so if I had seen someone with one of these I wouldn't have recalled such an item to mind. I was only in my brothers company for about 20 minutes and then I left the pub via the same door I came in. Up until leaving I'd remained in my brothers company and I'd had no reason to walk down the other end of the pub itself. I would say the part we stood in would have been about the quietest part of the pub for that time of the evening.

I left alone and drove over to Hadley Stadium in Smethwick for the training session. I would have left the pub around 7pm (1900) and arrived over at Smethwick about 15 minutes later.

It was while I was there that I was informed that a bomb had gone off in the Mulberry Bush. My wife had seen the newsflash on the telly and phoned one of the footballers who contacted me and I then contacted my friend Douglas HILL, who now lives in **Reason 2**, he was at

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