

journeys. He was sure that the conversation could not have taken place on a day he made a long-distance journey because he would have got to the shop later in the day. When I showed him the copies of his log book, however, he agreed that they showed that on that particular Tuesday – August 22nd – when he had made a long-distance journey, he had arrived back at his place of work *earlier* than on the Monday, when he had made 'local calls'.

There was, in short, a similarity between the way in which Mrs Dinwoodie and Mr Harding fixed the Monday as the day on which the event had taken place. Neither could remember off-hand. Both remembered by reference to external evidence. Mrs Dinwoodie remembered because of the information about a child in the shop; Mr Harding remembered because of his routine on long- and short-distance journeys.

Yet both sets of external evidence, tested by the facts, could have proved equally that the events took place on the Tuesday. Barbara Ford *was* in the shop, helping with the serving, at the crucial time on the Tuesday; and Mr Harding's log books showed that it was, if anything, more likely that he had got to the shop in time for the conversation with Mrs Dinwoodie on the Tuesday.

Two days later, Mrs Dinwoodie gave her evidence. She said that Hanratty had come into the sweet shop on the Monday. The prosecution was impaled on the horns of the same dilemma. Their witnesses had made it plain that Hanratty was in London on the Monday. Here was Mrs Dinwoodie saying Hanratty was in the Liverpool sweet shop on the Monday. How, conceivably, could they explain this contradiction to the jury without conceding what was obvious: that Hanratty had gone into the sweet shop on the Tuesday?

The question was dealt with to the best of the prosecution's ability by two answers, contradicting one another, the choice between which was left to the jury. The relevant section of Mr Swanwick's summing up speech to the jury is an excellent example of how a skilful advocate can make a plausible case out of implausible material:

So that those two conversations, one between Mrs Dinwoodie and the person who came into the shop, and the second