

## Sunday Times 23 May 1971 Hanratty: the contradictions of William Ewer

### Extract 4

What can one deduce from this miasma of inconsistencies? [re inconsistencies by William Ewer-see above extracts 1/2/3]

Mr Ewer is certainly not a fantasist or a madman. Indeed he is a man of high intelligence and natural authority. If he invented this story what reason could he have had for doing so?

As mentioned earlier, according to one of the Alphon confessions the trigger mechanism of the crime was Mr Charles 'Dixie' France. The point of the operation was not to murder but to frighten Michael Gregsten and Miss Storie. We have already acquitted Mr Ewer and indeed any other member of the Gregsten family of being consciously or knowingly involved in the crime.

But if it had become known to Mr Ewer that the action of Dixie France, which had gone horribly wrong, had been taken in the interest of the family then, if it was invented, the invented story makes sense.

By putting on record this tale of the Gregsten family's involvement in the process that led to Hanratty's arrest, he would pre-empt the possibility of any sinister [and unjustified] interpretation being put on such a story if it was purveyed by a third party.

To understand the importance of this one has to imagine the situation at the time. The trial of Hanratty was conducted in a curiously antiseptic atmosphere. No mention of the complications in the Gregsten family ever emerged in evidence.

It was not public knowledge that Miss Storie was Michael Gregsten's lover, nor was it known that the Gregsten marriage had been in jeopardy for some time. The public conclusion from the whole trial was that a 'lone nut'-Hanratty---happened upon victims who were brought together by a platonic enthusiasm for planning car rallies.

An independent revelation after the trial of the torrid situation within the Gregsten family, coupled with the news that a relation of Michael Gregsten led the police to Hanratty would have been journalistic and juridical dynamite.

Ewer's psychic revelation would defuse the situation. By putting the Gregsten family's involvement in an intuitive context, it would be made difficult for anyone else to go touting such an explosive story to the press.

After the 'intuitive' story appeared, any news editor would be likely to assume that other versions---such as those retailed since by Peter Alphon---could be dismissed as far-fetched smears. Thus the embarrassment of public revelation of matrimonial discord would be avoided.