

July 6 1981

Doctor guilty of £158,000 conspiracy to steal hospital blood for plasma

Mr Mark Patterson, aged 50, former consultant haematologist at the National Heart Hospital, was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of a £158,000 conspiracy to steal hospital blood for illicit plasma sale in Denmark.

He was convicted with two other men, Colin Campbell, aged 57, a former director of the British subsidiary of the Danish company concerned, and John Harris, aged 44, former chief medical scientific officer at the National Blood Transfusion Service.

The three were remanded in custody to be sentenced today with Dr Patterson's assistant, Leslie Dobson, aged 50, who earlier pleaded guilty to his part in the scheme.

Two Army doctors, Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest Parry, aged 51, Commanding Officer of the Army Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot, and Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Thomas, aged 46, his second in command and former chairman of the British Medical Association's ethical committee, were both acquitted of conspiring with Dr Patterson and others and of accepting £18,500 in bribes from him to provide military blood supplies. They were awarded costs.

Campbell was yesterday undergoing tests at St Bartholomew's Hospital after collapsing and striking his head as he left the court for the luncheon adjournment on Wednesday.

The three convicted men and the two army officers had all pleaded not guilty to conspiring to steal blood belonging to the National Heart Hospital between October, 1977, and October, 1981.

Dr Patterson, Campbell and Harris were acquitted of manufacturing the plasma without a licence.

The scheme, masterminded by Dr Patterson, of Cochrane Street, St Johns Wood, north-west London, concerned the sale of plasma from "time-expired" blood supplied by public and military donors.

He was assisted by Dobson and the plasma was extracted in a hospital wash room, a laboratory and in Dr Patterson's garage.

The conspiracy was uncovered after plasma sold to the Danish drugs company,



Dr Patterson: Sold plasma to Danish firm

Nordisk Insulin Laboratorium, in Copenhagen, was found to be contaminated.

Campbell, of Hazeldown House, Scarlett's Lane, Kiln Green, Reading, Berkshire and Harris, of Sterling Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex, were convicted of being involved in the sale and provision of the blood.

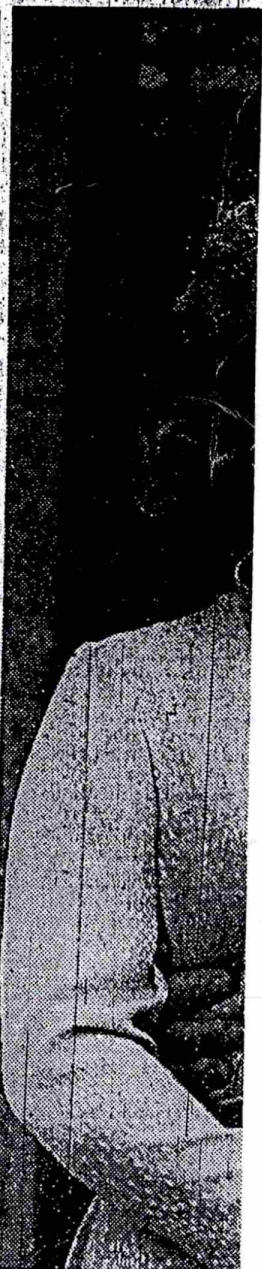
Dobson, of Sullivan Court, Peterborough Road, Fulham, south-west London, was previously remanded in custody to await sentence at the end of the two-month trial.

Dr Patterson had political aspirations and became a Conservative member for Chipping Barnet on the Greater London Council, which gave him an opportunity to exercise his flair for building projects.

He was chairman of the planning committee and largely responsible for the redevelopment of Covent Garden into a leading tourist attraction.

The Department of Health and Social Security has told National Health Service officials that they must be able to trace every pint of blood donated. It urged them to improve record-keeping and stock control of blood and blood products.

The instructions were given in a circular which admitted that there were "possible inadequacies in records kept to control the movement of blood from collection to transfusion or disposal".



Mrs Sally Oppenheim former Minister for Sumner Affairs with M Barnes at West register office where they were married yesterday. Mrs Oppenheim, Conservative MP for Gloucestershire since 1970 met Mr Barnes when she opened his

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By David Cross

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