

News item of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 1988 referring to a Derek Whitelock of Woolwich, London. *from the Sun Daily*

N 994

# COP IN WAGES AMBUSH SHOT DEAD 2 RAIDERS

## 'His life in peril'

By JAMES LEWTHWAITE

**POLICE** marksman Anthony Long shot dead two armed raiders before they shot him, the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

PC Long, 31, was with a police ambush team lying in wait for a gang who pounced on a wages van outside a London abattoir.

The team watched through spy-holes in a rented van as three of the gang—Nicholas Payne, 29, Michael Flynn, 24, and Derek Whitelock—moved in on a Securicor truck carrying £120,000.

The raiders wore balaclavas and had two shotguns and a revolver between them, said prosecutor Graham Boal.

### Shotgun

They surrounded the Securicor driver and shouted: "Unload the van or we'll blow your f\*\*\*\*\* legs away."

It was then that the police burst from their hiding place near the Plumstead abattoir.

Mr Boal said PC Long saw Flynn pointing a gun at the guard. And Whitelock, who had a sawn-off shotgun, began turning towards him.

The prosecutor added: "At that moment, the officer thought he and the guard were in great peril. And he fired."

Flynn and Payne were killed before PC Long wounded Whitelock with another two shots.

Whitelock, of Woolwich, admitted attempted robbery and gun charges.

But another defendant, David Bowditch, 22, of Welling, Kent, denied plotting a robbery.

Whitelock will be sentenced later. Bowditch's trial continues.



Bowditch . . . he denies robbery plot

newspaper clipping from the Sun National Newspaper, dated Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 1988

NP95

# RAIDER SHOT BY PC IS JAILED 15 YEARS



Whitelock . . . pay snatch

By JAMES LEWTHWAITE  
**A RUTHLESS armed robber with a police marksman's bullet lodged near his spine was jailed for 15 years yesterday.**

Derek Whitelock, 25, was shot by PC Anthony Long during a wages snatch at a slaughterhouse.

The hawk-eyed policeman killed two of Whitelock's gang, Nicholas Payne, 29, and Michael Flynn, 24. A fourth villain, get-

## Bullet still lodged in his spine

away driver Richard Parfett, 25, was jailed for ten years at the Old Bailey.

### Driver

Surgeons dare not operate on Whitelock to remove the police bullet for fear for paralyzing him, the court heard.

He and Parfett still have nightmares about the foiled £120,000

raid in Plumstead, South London, last July.

Acting on a tip-off, police had lain in wait for the gang in a rented van for 48 hours.

When three of the robbers threatened a security guard with two sawn-off shotguns and a Magnum revolver, PC Long, 30, opened fire.

He was convinced the guard was in "mortal danger," the court heard.

Whitelock, of Woolwich, and Parfett, of Beckenham, admitted attempted robbery. But Whitelock, who was shot in the side, claimed he never intended to fire his gun.

### Target

Judge Michael Argyle told the two men: "This was at the very top of the league of armed robberies."

Only 16 months earlier PC Long—a member of the crack police firearms unit PT17—was praised for wounding a killer holding a child hostage in a West London siege.

He became an underworld target after foiling the wages snatch and had security equipment fitted to his home.

## Ambush Pc 'feared gangland reprisals'

By John Weeks

TWO SURVIVING members of a gang of armed robbers, whose two accomplices were shot dead by a police marksman during an ambush outside a slaughterhouse in Plumstead, South London, were jailed for 15 and 10 years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Pc Anthony Long, who shot the two gangsters trying to grab £120,000 from a security van, had been praised 16 months earlier for his shooting.

At that time the judge, Mr Justice Alliot, praised Pc Long for his coolness and courage after wounding a killer holding a child hostage in a west London siege.

But after Pc Long shot down the two "ruthless and desperate" armed raiders at the abattoir—Nicholas Payne, 29, from Bexleyheath, and Michael Flynn, 24, of Catford—he became a possible target for underworld reprisals.

A member of the tactical firearms unit PT17, Pc Long had to have sophisticated security equipment fitted to his home. He was also given £2,500 from a Scotland Yard welfare fund to take his wife and family on holiday to America.

Judge Michael Argyle, who commended the police at the Old Bailey, was told Pc Long had fired only when he believed that the guard was in "mortal danger" of losing his life. Pc Long also shot and wounded Derek Whitelock in the side during the ambush while the raider was carrying a sawn-off shotgun.

Yesterday, Whitelock, unemployed, of Samuel Street, Woolwich, who still has the police bullet lodged close to his spine, was jailed for 15 years.

The gang's getaway driver, Richard Parfett, 25, unemployed, of Kent House Lane, Beckenham, was jailed for 10 years. Whitelock pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possessing a firearm with intent, and Parfett admitted attempted armed robbery.

Mr Graham Boal, prosecuting, said both the dead men had long criminal records and Payne was carrying a Franchi Spas, a deadly pump-action shotgun.