

= Barry Williams (spree killer) =

Barry Kenneth Williams (1944 ? 24 December 2014) , known since 1994 as Harry Street , was a British spree killer . A foundry worker who lived with his parents , he shot eight people in the English Midlands towns of West Bromwich and Nuneaton in the space of little over an hour on 26 October 1978 , killing five . Following a high @-@ speed car chase , he was arrested and in 1979 was convicted of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility . He was detained in high @-@ security hospitals under mental health legislation .

After being given a conditional release in 1994 , he changed his name , moved to Wales , and married . In 2014 , following allegations of harassment against his neighbours , he was convicted of further firearms offences . He was again ordered to be detained in a secure hospital , with little likelihood of release , and died in December 2014 .

= = Background = =

At the time of his first offence , Williams was an unmarried foundry worker . He lived at 14 Andrew Road on the Bustleholme Mill estate in West Bromwich , West Midlands , England with his elderly parents , Hilda and Horrace , who owned and ran a metal polishing business in Birmingham .

He held a valid firearms certificate , allowing him to possess a single semi @-@ automatic weapon . He used this weapon at approved gun clubs for sports shooting at targets . His erratic behaviour , including shooting at dummies dressed in wigs , and modifying his bullets to make them more powerful , led to him being expelled from one club , in Telford , Shropshire . His nickname there had been " The Cowboy " . Members of another gun club where Williams was a member had expressed concerns that he was stealing bullets .

During the mid 1970s , he had been involved in a number of disputes with his neighbours , the Burkitt family , of 16 Andrew Road , alleging that the noise of their television and record player disturbed him and his parents . This became an obsession , and he suffered the delusion that his neighbours were mocking him . On one occasion , during a row about noise , he told Philip Burkitt " I 'm going to exterminate you " .

= = 1978 incident = =

On the evening of 26 October 1978 , about a week after the extermination threat , George Burkitt and his 20 @-@ year @-@ old son Philip were working on Philip 's Triumph Spitfire car in front of their house . At around 7pm , annoyed by the noise they were making , Williams shot them both with a 9mm , Smith & Wesson automatic pistol . George died where he fell and Philip , wounded , ran into the house . Williams followed him , shooting him again and killing him . He then shot and killed George 's wife , Iris . The Burkitts ' 17 @-@ year @-@ old daughter was hit four times in the back and once in the thigh , but survived . Two other neighbours , a married couple who had witnessed the attack on the Burkitts , also survived being shot . The injured were treated at Birmingham General Hospital .

After discharging a total of 23 rounds , Williams fled the scene by car , firing a further six shots from a second , .22 calibre , pistol as he did so . In Stanhurst Way he shot at two boys , aged 10 and 11 , who were playing football , and at a woman , but missed them all . Passing through Wednesbury , he shot through the windows of a barber 's shop and two houses . In one of these , a nine @-@ year @-@ old girl was hurt by flying glass . He stopped for petrol in Walsall and drove off without paying .

At around 8 : 10pm , Williams shot and killed another married couple , Michel and Lisa Di Maria , after stopping to use the petrol filling station which they ran , Arbury Road Service Station , at Stockingford , near Nuneaton , Warwickshire , some 20 miles (32 km) from his home . Lisa was killed immediately , and Michel died later in hospital .

Williams slept rough in some woodland , and was arrested the next morning , in Spring Gardens , Buxton , after a 30 miles (48 km) car chase at high speed , starting on the Derbyshire moors . After

his car was involved in a collision , he pulled a gun and attempted to hijack one of the police cars which had been following him . He was overpowered without firing his gun by the unarmed officers who had been pursuing him . He later said he had wanted the police to shoot him . Police found 147 9mm and 770 .22 rounds in his car , along with the .22 calibre pistol which had a full magazine , and several home @-@ made bombs .

He was subsequently charged with five counts of murder . Two counts of attempted murder were ordered to lie on file .

In March 1979 at Stafford Crown Court he pleaded not guilty to murder but instead pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility . The plea was accepted by the prosecution , after psychiatrists gave evidence that he had an active paranoid psychosis . His indefinite detention was ordered by the trial judge , Mr Justice Stephen Brown , and he was held in Broadmoor Hospital and at Ashworth Hospital , both high security units .

His parents described him as " a quiet boy " and said they had " no idea " of what he had been preparing to do .

= = Release = =

Williams , who had schizophrenia , was released from hospital in 1994 once doctors and a mental health tribunal decided that he was no longer a risk to the public . This was on condition that he could be detained again if his behaviour warranted it . A Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust spokesman said in 2014 , " Harry Street was released on a conditional discharge , subject to specific conditions , in 1993 [sic] by a Mental Health Tribunal , an independent judicial body , after careful consideration of the medical evidence presented to them . "

On release , he changed his name to Harry Street and initially was allowed to live in a bail hostel around 6 miles (9 @.@ 7 km) from Andrew Road , resulting in complaints from the MP for the latter area , Peter Snape , on behalf of several concerned constituents , to the Home Secretary , Michael Howard . Williams subsequently moved to Wales . He married in 1996 and a child was born later that year . The family moved to Hazelville Road , Hall Green , Birmingham , in 2005 .

= = 2013 incident = =

In October 2013 , allegations arose that he had waged a campaign of harassment against his next @-@ door neighbour . Williams 's home was searched by West Midlands Police as part of their investigation , and he was found to be in possession of an improvised bomb , 50 homemade bullets , a revolver and two pistols . The bomb squad was called in to make the explosive device safe .

At Birmingham Crown Court in October 2014 , he pleaded guilty to three charges of possessing a prohibited firearm , to putting a neighbour in fear of violence , and to making an improvised explosive device . He was again ordered to be detained indefinitely , this time under sections 37 and 41 of the Mental Health Act 1983 , by Mr Justice Blair , who said that " The effect of these orders is that the defendant may never be released " . He also likened Williams 's more recent behaviour to that leading up to the 1978 incident and said that " a similar tragedy had been narrowly averted " . Williams was returned to Ashworth Hospital , where he was already being treated on recall from his previous detention .

West Midlands Police announced after the trial concluded that a Multi @-@ Agency Public Protection Arrangements serious case review would be held . A spokesman for the police said , " There was no trace of Harry Street on any police systems ; but it is thanks to the tenacity of a local police officer who , when the harassment escalated , made extensive checks which led her to Street 's GP and his true identity . "

He died on 24 December 2014 from a suspected heart attack .