

= Mal Evans =

Malcolm Frederick " Mal " Evans (27 May 1935 ? 5 January 1976) was the road manager , assistant , and a friend of the Beatles .

In the early 1960s , Evans was employed as a telephone engineer , and also worked part @-@ time as a bouncer at the Cavern Club . The Beatles ' manager , Brian Epstein , later hired Evans as the group 's assistant road manager , in tandem with Neil Aspinall . Peter Brown (one of Epstein 's staff) later wrote that Evans was " a kindly , but menacing @-@ looking young man " . Evans contributed to recordings , and appeared in some of the films the group made . After The Beatles stopped touring in 1966 , Evans carried on assisting them until their break @-@ up in 1970 . From 1969 , Evans also found work as a record producer (most notably with Badfinger 's top 10 hit " No Matter What ") .

Evans was killed by police on 5 January 1976 , at his home in Los Angeles . Officers were called when his girlfriend phoned the police and told them that Evans was confused and had a gun . The police mistook the air rifle Evans was holding for a rifle and shot him dead .

= = Early life = =

Details of Evans ' early life are unknown , apart from his birth date . No book has been written about him , although he wrote his memoirs , *Living The Beatles ' Legend* , from which extracts were released on 20 March 2005 . Anything known about him starts in 1961 , when Evans married a Liverpool girl , Lily , after meeting her at a funfair in New Brighton opposite Liverpool on the Wirral . Their first child , Gary , was born in the same year . The Beatles were the resident group at Liverpool 's Cavern Club , when Evans first heard them perform during his lunch break . He was then living in Hillside Road , Mossley Hill and working as a telephone engineer for the Post Office . He became a committed fan , even though his musical hero at the time was Elvis Presley .

He first befriended George Harrison , who put forward Evans ' name to the Cavern Club 's manager , Ray McFall , when he needed a doorman . The 27 @-@ year @-@ old Evans was accepted , even though he wore thick @-@ framed glasses , but mainly because of his burly 6 ft 6in frame (1 @.@ 97 m) , which was an asset when holding back unruly fans at the Cavern 's door . He was later nicknamed the " Gentle Giant " and " Big Mal " . In 1962 , Evans wrote that it was " a wonderful year " , as he had Lily (his wife) , his son Gary , a house , a car , and he was working at the Cavern club , which he wrote into a 1963 Post Office Engineering Union diary , which also had information concerning Ohm 's law and Post Office pay rates .

= = The Beatles = =

Three months after starting at the Cavern Club , Evans was hired by Brian Epstein as a road manager , on 11 August 1962 . Evans and Aspinall 's duties were to drive the van while on tour , and to set up and test the equipment . Mal 's telephone engineering experience was valuable in setting up and maintaining the electrical equipment . The Beatles were being driven back to Liverpool from London by Evans through heavy fog on 21 January 1963 , when the windscreen was hit by a pebble and crazed over , so Evans had to break a large hole in it to see the road ahead . This was in winter , so the group had to lie one on top of the other in the back with a bottle of whisky and try to stay warm in the freezing temperatures ; something McCartney later referred to as a " Beatle sandwich " .

Evans had many other duties : as well as acting as a bodyguard , he was sent to buy anything they needed , such as suits , boots , meals , or drinks . If Lennon said " Socks , Mal " , Evans would have to rush to a local store and buy pairs of cotton socks for him . In 1967 , Evans wrote in his diaries that he " bought Ringo [Starr] some undies for his visit to the doctor " . Although Beatles ' memorabilia is in continuous demand , a full set of autographs by all four could be forgeries : Evans and Aspinall used to sign many of them when Lennon , McCartney , Harrison and Starr were too busy .

The Beatles started their first European tour in January 1964 , and Evans was allowed to take his wife and son with him , but was involved in a " big punch @-@ up " with photographers in Paris while protecting them . Epstein ? s associate , Alistair Taylor , once asked him why he was driving an Austin Princess limousine , rather than a Daimler , a Bentley , or a Rolls @-@ Royce . Evans explained that The Beatles were forced to choose an Austin , because they had tested every car to see how wide the doors would open as they (literally) had to " dive into the car " to escape their fans .

= = = America and the Philippines = = =

The Beatles were introduced to cannabis by Bob Dylan in New York in 1964 . McCartney remembered asking Evans " again and again " to write down McCartney 's newly found cannabis @-@ influenced thoughts about life by repeating " Get [write] it down , Mal , get it down ! " Evans was as affected by the drug as everybody else , so took a very long time to find a pencil and a piece of paper . The next morning Evans gave the sheet of paper to McCartney , which read that McCartney had dictated : " There are seven levels ! " (of life , as he later explained) . The Beatles attended " The Night of 100 Stars " at the London Palladium on 23 July 1964 , and during the show Evans constantly supplied them with whisky and Coca @-@ Cola , which he delivered to them balanced on a wooden oar he had found backstage .

The Beatles were always assisted by Evans on their American tours , and when they played two shows at the Hollywood Bowl in the summer of 1965 Epstein arranged for them all to have a four @-@ day rest in a luxurious horseshoe @-@ shaped house on stilts in Benedict Canyon off Mulholland Drive in Los Angeles . They spent their time there smoking cannabis joints . Evans and Lennon swam in the large outdoor swimming pool with cigarettes in their mouths , to see who could keep them alight the longest . After recording sessions in London , Lennon , Harrison , and Starr would be chauffeured back to their houses in the " stockbroker belt " of southern England , but Evans , Aspinall , and McCartney would drive to a late @-@ night club to eat steak , chips , and mushy peas . The Bag O 'Nails nightclub was one of their favourites , at 8 Kingly Street in Soho , London , as it also presented live music . In his memoirs Evans wrote : 19 January and 20 : " Ended up smashed in Bag O 'Nails with Paul [McCartney] and Neil [Aspinall] . Quite a number of people attached themselves , oh that it would happen to me ... freak out time baby for Mal . "

In July 1966 , The Beatles toured the Philippines , and unintentionally snubbed the nation 's first lady , Imelda Marcos . After the supposed snub was broadcast on Philippine television and radio , all of The Beatles ' police protection disappeared . The group and their entourage had to make their way to Manila airport on their own . At the airport , road manager Evans was beaten and kicked , and the group members were pushed and jostled about by a hostile crowd . Once the group boarded the plane , Tony Barrow and Evans were ordered off , and Evans said , " Tell Lil I love her , " thinking he was about to be jailed or killed . Epstein was forced to give back all the money that the group had earned while they were there before being allowed on the plane .

= = = Kenya and Sgt. Pepper = = =

The Beatles ' last concert was at Candlestick Park , San Francisco , on 29 August 1966 , but Evans continued to work for them in the studio , and to run errands . After recording Revolver in 1966 , McCartney went by himself on holiday to France , but asked to meet Evans in Bordeaux , at the Grosse Horloge church (on the corner of cours Victor Hugo and rue St. James) . At exactly the pre @-@ arranged time of one o 'clock , Evans was standing under the church clock when McCartney arrived . They then drove to Madrid together , but after feeling bored , McCartney phoned Epstein 's office in London and asked to be booked on a safari holiday in Kenya . When they arrived they visited the Amboseli Reserve at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro , and also stayed at the exclusive Treetops Hotel , where the rooms are built on the branches of trees .

They spent their final night in Nairobi at a YMCA , before they returned to London . The Beatles ? according to McCartney ? needed a new name , so on the flight back to England , Evans and

McCartney played with words to see if they could come up with something new . Evans innocently asked McCartney what the letters " S " and " P " stood for on the pots on their meal trays , and McCartney explained that it was for salt and pepper , which led to the Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band name . They arrived back in London on 19 November 1966 . Before the cover of Sgt. Pepper could be completed by Peter Blake , Evans and Aspinall were sent out to find photographs of all of the people that were to be shown on the front cover .

In the spring of 1967 ? after the album was completed ? Evans flew with McCartney to Los Angeles to see McCartney 's then @-@ fiancée , Jane Asher , who was acting there with the Old Vic theatre company . The three of them went on a trip to the Rockies , returning to LA in Frank Sinatra 's jet . Evans : " We left Denver in Frank Sinatra 's Lear Jet , which he very kindly loaned us . A beautiful job with dark black leather upholstery and , to our delight , a well @-@ stocked bar . " When they were back in LA , they were invited to visit the house of Michelle and John Phillips , from the Mamas & the Papas . Brian Wilson was also there , as he was working on the Beach Boys Smile album . Evans wrote about singing " On Top of Old Smokey " with McCartney and Wilson , but was not impressed by Wilson 's avant @-@ garde attitude to music : " Brian [Wilson] then put a damper on the spontaneity of the whole affair by walking in with a tray of water @-@ filled glasses , trying to arrange it into some sort of session . "

= = = Greece and the Magical Mystery Tour = = =

The Beatles and Evans flew to Greece in late 1967 , with encouragement from Greek @-@ born " Magic Alex " , the director of Apple Electronics , to buy an island or a group of islands . The general idea was that The Beatles would live on the islands in their own separate homes , but would be connected to each other by tunnels leading to a central dome . Evans and his family were included in the plan , but it was abandoned as being unworkable after McCartney refused to participate . As McCartney had no housekeeper in 1967 , Evans moved in with him at 7 Cavendish Avenue , St John 's Wood , which is near Abbey Road Studios . It was at Cavendish Avenue that McCartney bought his first Old English Sheepdog , Martha , although Evans often complained about the dog fouling the beds . Evans later bought a house in Sunbury @-@ on @-@ Thames , which was situated between McCartney 's , Lennon 's , Harrison 's and Starr 's houses .

While working on the Magical Mystery Tour film , Evans wrote about his work duties : " I would get requests from the four of them to do six different things at one time , and it was always a case of relying on instinct and experience in awarding priorities . They used to be right sods for the first few days , until they realised that everything was going to go smoothly and they could get into the routine of recording Then I would find time between numerous cups of tea and salad sandwiches and baked beans on toast to listen to the recording in the control room . "

After the Magical Mystery Tour recordings , Evans flew to Nice with McCartney to shoot " The Fool on the Hill " promotional film , although McCartney set off without luggage or a passport . McCartney got past customs by saying " You know who I am " , but he and Evans were not allowed into a hotel restaurant in Nice because they " didn 't look the part " , and had to eat dinner in Evans ' room . Because the money they had with them had been spent on clothes (NEMS was supposed to send them more) , they arranged for credit over two nights in a nightclub . Evans : " We took advantage of our credit standing , as money had still not arrived from England . News about Paul 's [McCartney] visit to the club the previous night had spread , and the place was jammed . Now Paul , being a generous sort of person , had built up quite a bar bill , when the manager of the club arrived demanding that we pay immediately . On explaining who Paul was and what had happened , he answered , ' You either pay the bill , or I call the police . ' It certainly looked like we were going to get thrown in jail . It was ironical , sitting in a club with a millionaire , unable to pay the bill . "

= = = India and Apple = = =

The Beatles flew to India in February 1968 , to visit the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi 's ashram (after first meeting him on 24 August 1967 , at the London Hilton hotel) . Evans arrived in India a few days

earlier to inspect the ashram , but as soon as Starr got off the plane , he demanded that Evans find a doctor , as his inoculation shots were causing him pain . Evans : ? When we arrived at the local hospital , I tried to get immediate treatment for him [Starr] , to be told curtly by the Indian doctor , ' He is not a special case and will have to wait his turn . ' So off we go to pay a private doctor ten rupees for the privilege of hearing him say ' It will be all right ' . " Evans wrote in his diary on 17 February 1968 : " The press really tried kicking down the gates into the Ashram , the Indian people on the Ashram called me half way through , but as soon as an Indian reporter told me " No bloody foreigner is going to stop me in my own country " , I cooled it . " Evans ' diary says that he enjoyed his time in India : " It 's hard to believe that a week has already passed . I suppose the peace of mind and the serenity one achieves through meditation makes the time fly , " and that he also enjoyed the food , unlike Starr , who had brought a suitcase full of baked beans with him . After leaving India , Harrison and Evans flew to New York , visiting Bob Dylan and The Band , who were rehearsing at their Big Pink house / studio , in Woodstock .

When Apple was formed in 1968 , Evans was promoted from road manager to personal assistant , although his weekly £ 38 salary remained the same . Evans : " January 13 , 1969 : Paul [McCartney] is really cutting down on the Apple staff members . I was elevated to office boy [Evans was made MD of Apple , but very briefly] and I feel very hurt and sad inside ? only big boys don 't cry . Why I should feel hurt and reason for writing this is ego I thought I was different from other people in my relationship with The Beatles and being loved by them and treated so nice , I felt like one of the family . Seems I fetch and carry . I find it difficult to live on the £ 38 I take home each week and would love to be like their other friends who buy fantastic homes and have all the alterations done by them , and are still going to ask for a rise . I always tell myself ? look , everybody wants to take from , be satisfied , try to give and you will receive . After all this time I have about £ 70 to my name , but was content and happy . Loving them as I do , nothing is too much trouble , because I want to serve them . Feel a bit better now ? EGO ? " Evans ' financial problems started to become such a problem that he had to ask Harrison for money : " April 24 : " Had to tell George [Harrison] ? ' I 'm broke ' . Really miserable and down because I 'm in the red , and the bills are coming in , poor old Lil [his wife] suffers as I don 't want to get a rise . Not really true don 't want to ask for a rise , fellows are having a pretty tough time as it is . "

Evans was the only member of the Apple entourage to be invited to attend (and be a witness) when McCartney and Linda Eastman were married at Marylebone Registry Office on 12 March 1969 . Evans wrote in his diary that he was due to be there at 9 @. @ 45 am , but McCartney 's brother , Michael 's train from Birmingham was late . Peter Brown and Evans passed the register office at 9 @. @ 15 , and saw that there were only a few photographers and ardent fans standing in the rain , but when they left , after the wedding at 11 @. @ 30 am , they were mobbed by a crowd of about 1 @, @ 000 people . When the Beatles played on the roof of Apple 's offices in Savile Row , Evans was told to delay the policemen (who had arrived to stop the concert) , as long as was possible . Evans was responsible for the signing of Badfinger (Iveys) to the Apple label in 1968 . They were the first rock @-@ band to be assigned to the label . Badfinger 's portrait by photographer Les Smithers has now been acquired by the National Portrait Gallery .

= = = Allen Klein = = =

Evans enjoyed an executive position at Apple until 1969 , when Allen Klein was hired as a manager to reorganise the whole company . Evans was fired by Klein the next year , because Klein complained to Lennon that Aspinall and Evans were " living like kings ; like fucking emperors " . Evans was later reinstated after McCartney , Harrison and Starr complained . On 13 September 1969 , Evans accompanied Lennon , Yoko Ono , Klaus Voorman , Alan White and Eric Clapton to Toronto , Canada , for the Toronto Rock and Roll Revival concert . He later wrote : " I was really enjoying myself . It was the first show I had roadied for three years and I was really loving every minute of plugging the amps in and setting them up on stage , making sure that everything was right . Everyone wanted the show to go particularly well because Allen Klein , who had flown over , had organised for the whole of John 's performance to be filmed . This was on top of it being video @-@

taped by Dan Richter . "

= = = Musical contributions = = =

Evans contributed to many recordings , including singing in the chorus of " Yellow Submarine " . He played single organ notes on " You Won 't See Me " , and harmonica on " Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite ! " . McCartney explained that he showed Evans where the notes were on the organ , and then nodded his head when he wanted Evans to play , and shook it when he wanted him to stop .

On " A Day in the Life " , Evans controlled an alarm clock ; counting the measures in the original 24 @-@ bar pause , and was one of the five piano players simultaneously hitting the last chord of the song . He played tambourine on " Dear Prudence " , and trumpet on " Helter Skelter " , where he played a double solo with Lennon , even though neither was proficient on the instrument . Evans contributed background vocals , and stirred a bucket of gravel (as part of the rhythm) , on " You Know My Name (Look Up The Number) " . He also contributed to the White Album out @-@ take , " What 's the New Mary Jane " , and hit an anvil on " Maxwell 's Silver Hammer " , because Starr could not lift the hammer high enough to get the right sound and keep in time with the song .

According to Evans ' diaries , he helped to compose songs for the Sgt. Pepper album . He wrote , on 27 January 1967 : " Sgt Pepper . Started writing song with Paul [McCartney] upstairs in his room , he on piano " and " Did a lot more of " where the rain comes in " [a lyric from " Fixing a Hole "] . Hope people like it . Started Sergeant Pepper " . On 1 February : " Sergeant Pepper sounds good . Paul tells me that I will get royalties on the song ? great news , now perhaps a new home . " On 2 February : " Recording voices on Captain [sic] Pepper . All six of us doing the chorus in the middle , worked until about midnight . "

Keith Badman ? author of The Beatles off the Record ? referred to a tape recording of Evans speaking shortly before his death , on which Evans reiterated some of the statements made in the diary . According to Badman , Evans was asked at the time if it would be a problem that he was not credited as a writer , because the Lennon ? McCartney writing name was " a really hot item " . For reasons unclear , Evans did not receive any royalties and stayed at his £ 38 @-@ a @-@ week pay (£ 622 in modern currency) .

= = = On film = = =

Evans appeared in four (out of five) Beatles ' films . During the filming of the Beatles ' first feature film , A Hard Day 's Night , Evans appeared in a cameo role , carrying an upright bass in between John Lennon and Millie in the backstage scene in which Millie mistakes Lennon for someone else . In Help ! , Evans played a confused channel swimmer who pops up through an ice @-@ hole in Austria , and on a beach in the Bahamas . Evans and Aspinall were asked to find and hire the actors that were needed to perform in the Magical Mystery Tour film , and to hire an old 60 @-@ seater coach , on which they were told to paint the Magical Mystery Tour logo , which McCartney had designed . Evans later appeared in the film as one of the magicians , who cast mysterious spells on the passengers of the bus .

In the Let It Be film , Evans can be seen playing the anvil during early versions of " Maxwell 's Silver Hammer " , and can be seen talking to police officers on the Savile Row rooftop when they came to stop the performance . Before the concert , Evans placed a camera and a microphone in a corner of Apple 's reception area , so that when the police came in to complain about the noise ? which was expected ? they could be filmed and recorded . The Beatles were often filmed by Evans during his time with them (without sound) , and a collection of his own film recordings was later released on DVD .

= = After The Beatles = =

In 1968 , Evans had seen the group Badfinger (then known as The Iveys) play live , and suggested that they be signed to Apple . Evans then produced several of their songs in 1969 and

1970 , the most notable of which was " No Matter What " , which charted on Billboard 's Top 10 in December 1970 . Evans also discovered the group Splinter and brought them to the Apple label , although they would subsequently move to George Harrison 's Dark Horse Records . Evans ' other production credits include Jackie Lomax ' 1969 single " New Day " (on Apple) and some of the tracks on Keith Moon 's only solo album Two Sides of the Moon (1975) .

Evans separated from his wife in 1973 and moved to Los Angeles where Lennon had moved to live with May Pang after his own separation from Yoko Ono . Evans is credited on Harrison 's All Things Must Pass and the John Lennon / Plastic Ono Band album as providing " tea and sympathy " . Evans cowrote " You and Me (Babe) " with Harrison . The track appeared on Starr 's 1973 solo album Ringo . He also cowrote the Splinter song " Lonely Man " , the musical centrepiece of Little Malcolm , an Apple feature film produced by Harrison .

Evans was asked to produce the group Natural Gas , and was working on a book of memoirs called Living The Beatles ' Legend which he was due to deliver to his publishers , Grosset & Dunlap , on 12 January 1976 . Evans was depressed about the separation from his wife (who had asked for a divorce before Christmas) even though he was then living with his new girlfriend , Fran Hughes , in a rented motel apartment at 8122 West 4th Street in Los Angeles .

= = Death = =

On 5 January 1976 , Evans was so despondent that Hughes phoned Evans ' cowriter for his biography , John Hoernie , and asked him to visit them . Hoernie saw Evans " really doped @-@ up and groggy " but Evans told Hoernie to make sure he finished Living The Beatles ' Legend . Hoernie helped Evans up to an upstairs bedroom , but during an incoherent conversation , Evans picked up an air rifle . Hoernie struggled with Evans , but Evans , being much stronger , held onto the weapon .

Hughes then phoned the police and told them that Evans was confused , had a rifle , and was on valium . Four policemen arrived and three of them , David D. Krempa , Robert E. Brannon and Lieutenant Higbie , went up to the bedroom . They later reported that as soon as Evans saw the three policemen he pointed a rifle at them . The officers repeatedly told Evans to put down the rifle (which they did not know at the time was an air rifle) but Evans constantly refused . The police fired six shots , four hitting Evans , killing him instantly . Evans had previously been awarded the badge of " Honorary Sheriff of Los Angeles County " , but in the Los Angeles Times , he was referred to as a ? jobless former road manager for the Beatles ? .

Evans was cremated on 7 January 1976 , in Los Angeles . None of the former Beatles attended his funeral , but Harry Nilsson and other friends did . Harrison arranged for Evans ' family to receive £ 5 @, @ 000 , as Evans had not maintained his life insurance premiums , and was not entitled to a pension .

= = Aftermath = =

In 1986 , a trunk containing Evans ' diaries and other effects was found in the basement of a New York publisher , and then sent to his family in London . In 1992 , Lennon 's original pages of lyrics to " A Day in the Life " were sold by the Evans estate for £ 56 @, @ 600 at Sotheby 's in London . In 2010 , a double @-@ sided sheet of paper containing the hand @-@ written lyrics and notes to " A Day in the Life " were sold at auction at Sotheby 's in New York to an anonymous American buyer for \$ 1.2m (£ 810 @, @ 000) . Other lyrics collected by Evans have been subject to legal action over the years : In 1996 , McCartney went to the High Court in England and prevented the sale of the original lyrics to " With a Little Help from My Friends " that Evans ' ex @-@ wife had tried to sell , by claiming that the lyrics were collected by Evans as a part of his duties , and therefore belonged to The Beatles , collectively . A 2004 report of the discovery of a further collection of Evans 's Beatles ' memorabilia proved to be false .

A notebook in which McCartney wrote the lyrics for " Hey Jude " was sold in 1998 , for £ 111 @, @ 500 . The notebook also contains lyrics for " Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band " and " All You

Need Is Love " . It also contained lyrics , notes , drawings and poems by Lennon , McCartney , Harrison and Starr , as well as by Evans .

A new one @-@ man play about Mal Evans called Beatle Mal 's Legendary Band was presented at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe between 5 and 27 August 2012 . It had previously previewed at the Cavern Club in Liverpool on Wednesday 25 July , with members of Mal 's family in the audience . Featuring actor Nik Wood @-@ Jones in the role of Mal , the play took the form of Mal looking back at his time with the Beatles and was presented as an entertainment with original music .