

According to Monika, the couple go to the Speakeasy after the jam, for a meal and return to the Samarkand flat in the early morning of 17 September.

Monika Dannemann: "At about 7 a.m. we finally fell asleep."

## 17 SEPTEMBER THURSDAY

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The preliminary court hearing of the Ed Chalpin case against Track Records and Polydor is scheduled for this day. Jimi does not turn up.

**Kirsten Nefer:** "Thursday I get called up from Denmark because of the article in *Se og Hør*. I thought it was even more embarrassing because I hadn't seen Jimi for three days and he had the reputation of being here and there and everywhere. Then Gerry Stickells called me in the morning and asked if I had heard from Jimi in the meantime and I said no. 'I did hear,' Gerry said, 'that Jimi jammed with Eric Burdon last night.' So I thought Jimi must be okay. I relaxed and thought that it would probably sort itself out."

**Note:** Although Nefer's testimony does not say it specifically, it seems that Gerry Stickells did not know where Jimi was at the time, or how to reach him, as opposed to Monika, who said that Jimi had given Monika's phone number to Stickells previously.

**13:00** Jimi and Monika wake up at the Hotel Samarkand.

**Monika Dannemann:** "It was a beautiful sunny and warm day. Jimi put on a purple T-shirt of mine, my belt and my green jade necklace, the one I'd been wearing when we first met. He always liked having on something which belonged to me. He also wore his favourite headband, which he had been wearing over the past few months, this time using it as a scarf. I prepared a little breakfast and, as it was a warm, sunny day, we took it out into the garden. We were both in high spirits, talking and laughing. He was very happy, making plans in regard to us getting married, having children."

**Monika Dannemann:** "He fetched a writing pad and sketched his idea for a painting he wanted me to do for the cover of his next double album,\* which he had wanted to call either Gypsy's Rainbow or Rock Of Ages, but had decided on the latter.

He wanted me to start painting it when he was in New York. His plan was to fly there the following Monday to pick up as many of his tape-recordings of his music as possible, to avoid leaving them in Jeffery's hands."

\* It cannot be determined if Jimi actually assigned Monika as the cover artist for his new album, as we only have her word for it, but it seems unlikely that would happen, as the end decision most of the time lies with the art department and marketing people of the record companies, as Jimi had experienced in the past with Reprise and Track/Polydor.

Monika Dannemann's claim that she was to be Jimi's record cover artist began to live a life of its own. At the inquest on 28 September, when asked by Coroner Gavin Thurston, if Jimi drank anything else besides the white wine, Dannemann answered: "No, he did not drink very much," and added, out of context, "He asked me to be his sole photographer and [album] designer."

A similar thing occurred when Sharon Lawrence talked to Monika the day after Jimi died.

**Sharon Lawrence:** "She threw herself into a speed rap about how she would paint a dozen life-size pictures 'for my Jimi.' 'What did he take?' I asked her. Monika reacted with surprise to my question. Her mind seemed now to be completely focused on herself, on her anticipated career as an artist. She talked on and on about what Jimi had said about her work. 'I will paint everything for him and exhibit my work for him all over the world.' She was becoming excited – as if she were thinking, Bye-bye, Jimi; hello, Monika, the great artiste! She spoke of Jimi as if he weren't a real person."

**Mitch Mitchell:** "Jimi was spending most of those last days with Monika Dannemann, who – no offence to her – was not the great love of Jimi's life. There had only really been two of these, Kathy Etchingham in the early days in England, and Devon Wilson."

**Noel Redding:** "He had lots of

girlfriends, some steadier than others. But this time he was seeing one of his less frequent companions, Monika Dannemann. Why her, I don't know, but Jimi hated to be alone."

**14:00** Jimi and Monika spend time in the private garden at the back of the Samarkand flat. There, Monika takes 26 colour photographs of Jimi, posing with his black Fender Stratocaster, pretending to pick fruit from a nearby bush while carrying a wicker basket, and several shots of Jimi sitting at a garden table, serving tea from a china tea service, with a flower sticking out of the spout of the teapot. Jimi also takes two photographs of Monika.

**Narrator** (*Autopsy: The Last Hours of Jimi Hendrix*): "Although he looks physically strong, Jimi's strained smiles reveal an emotionally troubled man."

**Dr. Linda Papadopoulos** (psychologist): "I think one of the interesting things about these photographs of Jimi, is that while he is smiling, that the upper part of his face, his eyes aren't smiling, basically."

**15:00** Just before closing time, Monika drives Jimi to his bank near Marble Arch where he withdraws some cash. Next, they go shopping at Kensington Market. They buy one bottle of red wine, and one bottle of white wine.

**Monika Dannemann:** "He ordered some specially made shoes with a special design on them. He bought a black leather jacket and later signed an

autograph for a young boy of about 15.”

**Kathy Etchingam:** “I was browsing around the hippy stalls in the dark, aromatic bowels of Kensington Market, when Jimi came up from behind and squeezed me. He looked fine. He said, I’m staying at the Cumberland Hotel. Come over later.’ I went home, but Ray [Mayo, her first husband] was terribly jealous and I couldn’t go.”

**Kathy Etchingam:** “The last time I saw Jimi was the day of the night he died. It was in Kensington Market. He was with that blonde chick, so I didn’t say anything to him. He didn’t even see me. I had planned to see him later that night. Maybe if I had spoken to him and he’d seen me, he wouldn’t now be dead.”

**Monika Dannemann:** “We didn’t see Kathy there at all!”

Next, Jimi and Monika go shopping at the Chelsea Antique Market on King’s Road.

**Monika Dannemann:** “When we reached Kensington Market, Jimi bought some clothes, and then we drove to Chelsea Antiques Market in the King’s Road. There he spotted some trousers and asked me if I liked them. I said he should try them on. When he came out of the cubicle, he looked in the mirror and then came over to me, asking in a whisper whether I thought he could wear them or if they were too tight. I had to hold back my laughter. I wondered what some of the press

would say, hearing such a question from the ‘wild man’ of pop. I told him they looked fine, and he bought them. We were driving further along the King’s Road in search of a parking space in one of the side-streets, when Jimi spotted Devon Wilson, from New York, with Stella Douglas and another girl. I stopped the car and Jimi exchanged a few words with the women. They asked him to go with them, but he refused. Devon told him that they were giving a party that evening and that he should come along. Back in the car, Jimi told me he would have to have a serious talk with Devon to stop her bothering me. She and her friend had already made some nasty remarks to me when Jimi was on tour, and on the previous night at Ronnie Scott’s. He said he would give her an ultimatum either to behave like a friend and accept our relationship, or to stay out of our life. We stopped briefly at the Chelsea Drugstore and bought a writing pad and a newspaper. Then Jimi asked me to drive to the Cumberland Hotel, where he wanted to make two phone calls to America and pick up any messages.”

**16:30** The couple continue their journey to the Cumberland hotel; they meet Phillip Harvey and female companion(s) while waiting in a traffic jam.

Phillip Harvey, an underwriter with Lloyd’s insurance company, was the son of prominent British politician Lord Harvey of Prestbury, a member of Parliament for the Conservative party. Phillip remained silent about

meeting Jimi Hendrix, because of his father's position. To ensure that his testimony was kept for the future, after April 1994 when his father had died, Harvey had sworn an affidavit with his solicitor, with details of the meeting, and the events that followed. Phillip Harvey would eventually, years later, commit suicide. The full affidavit was reprinted in Tony Brown's book, *Jimi Hendrix: The Final Days* (1997).

Testimonies about who was with Phillip Harvey, when he met Jimi and Monika that afternoon, differ. Harvey himself claims in his affidavit that he was accompanied by two girls: Penny Ravenhill, and a redheaded Canadian girl called Anne Day.

However, in March 2019, a filmed interview appeared on *YouTube* with a woman called Beth Bergman Riley, a redheaded American folk singer, who played acoustic guitar. In this interview she told the story of how it was her, and not Anne Day, who met Jimi Hendrix, while waiting for a red light with Harvey.

**Monika Dannemann:** "Just before arriving at the Cumberland we became tied up in a traffic jam at Marble Arch atop Park Lane. While we were waiting for the cars to move, some people in a car one row to our right motioned to us and attempted to speak over the street noises and car bonnets. I had to concentrate on driving, but Jimi yelled something back to them. As the traffic congestion broke, our cars came nearer to each other, and they invited Jimi and me to have a drink with them. Even

though neither Jimi nor I had ever seen them before, we were so happy, and it was such a beautiful day that we accepted. I thought Jimi knew these people and he thought I knew them. We both laughed when we realised they were strangers."

**Phillip Harvey:** "On the afternoon of Thursday September 17, 1970, I went shopping in the Kings Road, Chelsea with two girls. One of the girls was Penny Ravenhill, who at the time was aged 16. The other girl was a redheaded Canadian folk singer aged about 19 called Anne whose nickname was 'Sunshine'. Anne was staying with me in my home at 4 Clarkes Mews. At about 4:30pm on the afternoon of September 17, Penny, Anne, and myself were returning to Clarkes Mews travelling on the northbound carriageway of Park Lane. I was driving my 1968 white fastback Ford Mustang which was a left-hand drive vehicle. It was a sunny afternoon and the windows were wound down. Penny and Anne were sitting together on the large right-hand front passenger seat, with Anne closest to me. Opposite the Grosvenor House Hotel, Penny and Anne suddenly started waving out of the right-hand window and shouting 'Hello! Hi!' Penny cried, 'Look there's Jimi Hendrix,' I said 'Where?' And Penny replied, 'In the car alongside.' We were travelling at perhaps 25 miles per hour. But I glanced quickly over to my right and caught a glimpse of an over made-up lady with dyed blonde hair driving alongside, at a similar speed to myself in a blue left-hand drive saloon

car, with a good-looking black man who had longish curly hair sitting in the front passenger seat on the far side from me. The man was waving back at us and smiling in a most friendly way. I said to Penny, 'Ask them back to Clarkes Mews for tea, tell them we live close by.' Penny being closest to the car travelling alongside repeated my words and, although I could not hear the reply, I gather that the answer was affirmative, but that they would first have to stop at the Cumberland Hotel on Marble Arch where the man was staying."

**Beth Bergman:** "I did not know Jimi Hendrix. I had never met him. I wasn't a huge fan but I loved a few of his songs, like who doesn't love 'All Along The Watchtower.'

I met a man by the name of Phillip Harvey while I was on the way to the Bath Blues Festival [27-29 June 1970] some months earlier, so I ended up staying at his flat in London.

Phillip was the son of a member of the House of Lords, so a lot was expected of him in those days. You could not have scandal. To have scandal would mean you might be disinherited if you were expected to take your place in the House of Lords one day, so Phillip was very guarded about who he led into his life. He had a penchant for interviewing famous people. A lot of famous people got brought home to his house, like Richie Havens, and Jimi Hendrix at one point by me.

On this wonderful September day, I was with Phillip in his Alfa Romeo. In his affidavit, Phillip says he was with

Penny Ravenhill and Anne Day in that car, but that is incorrect. It was just me and him. There was in fact a woman named Anne Day in Phillip's life prior to my meeting him. As I recall he told me she was from Canada, she too was a redhead like me. But she was not in that flat even once in the five months I stayed there.

Because it had American steering, I was sitting on the passenger side of the Alfa Romeo, when we pulled up to a red light on Bayswater Road. It was the day before Hendrix died. It had to be the 16th or maybe the 17th but it was one of those two days because the 17th is my brother's birthday. Because of the position of the cars, the passenger seat which I was in, was facing the passenger seats of the car beside me, so both passengers were side by side. I happened to glance over my shoulder and here's Jimi Hendrix looking at me. He had a big purple pointed hat on with a feather in it [sic], and he looked rather small. I just looked at him, he said 'hi man, how are you doing.' I said 'fine.' I elbowed Phillip, 'look who's there,' so Phillip casts his eyes, sees Jimi Hendrix but he looks around Jimi Hendrix - at the driver who was a girl he apparently knew and they had some chit chat right there, at the red light. Apparently Monika had known Phillip when they were teenagers. That became apparent to me when they were discussing high school years on the continent, and some scandal or other that she had gotten herself into. Apparently they went to school together. I think she was yelling apologies at him for some situation

she had got herself into way back in the school days. And Phillip was saying things to Monika like, 'oh that was a long time ago, Monika, and it was really nothing! Don't worry about it anymore.' It is very well possible that Penny's parents, Monika's parents, and Phillip's parents were in the same upper-crust circles.

We followed them to a hotel off of Bayswater Road near the recording studio that I would later be in, Island Recording Studios, and Phillip made arrangements because I had invited them. They agreed to come to our house later that evening, as they had some business to take care of and some calls to make so we gave them our address and went home."

Jimi and Monika arrive at the Cumberland Hotel.

**Phillip Harvey:** "We passed the Bayswater Road and Edgware Road exits before turning left into Cumberland Place where I stopped behind the other car.

The man and the woman got out of their vehicle and walked back towards my car. I first introduced myself, and then Penny and Anne. Jimi Hendrix needed no introduction but he introduced the lady with him as Monika Dannemann. I repeated a little more formally my invitation for them to visit my house which I explained was only three or four blocks away, Jimi said, 'I'd like to do that but first I must pick up my messages from the hotel and quickly change.' Jimi and Monika then crossed the road and went into the

Hotel saying that they would only be a few minutes."

**Monika Dannemann:** "It was impossible to be heard over the sound of the traffic, so Jimi signalled them to follow us to the Cumberland Hotel. Once there, Jimi explained that he had to make a couple calls and that if they could wait a few minutes, we would follow them to their flat. They agreed and Jimi entered the hotel and went up to his suite of rooms. When I heard Jimi place the calls, I offered to go into the other room but he insisted I stay and listen to everything. Jimi called his lawyer [Henry Steingarten, who was in London]. He told him that he had to get away from Mike Jeffery. Jimi said that it did not matter how he did it or how much it would cost. His lawyer said that he would study the contracts and see if there was a way out. Jimi's second call was to his Electric Lady recording studios to Eddie Kramer to tell him that he would be arriving back in New York the following Monday. He did not speak to Eddie personally but left a message for him with someone at the studio. Jimi's plan was to fly to New York to pick up as many of his tape recordings of his music as possible, to avoid leaving them in Jeffery's hands."

**Chas Chandler:** "He rang me again on the Thursday and we got to discussing the design for a cover. He said he was going to America to pick up some tapes for his next album."

**Chuck Wein:** "I talked to him the last time, the seventeenth. He was talking

about coming back to New York. He didn't really want to do concerts any more."

**Unknown reporter** (*Evening Advertiser*, 18 September 1970): "He [Jimi] was seen in the hotel yesterday, cleaning his shoes."

**17:30** Once Jimi has finished his business at the hotel, the couple drive to Phillip Harvey's house.

**Monika Dannemann:** "A short while later we left the hotel, and as we passed through the lobby, I reminded Jimi to pick up his messages, but he said they could wait another day. The three young people were still waiting outside, and we followed them in the car to their flat and had something to eat and drink with them. We stayed for about an hour."

**Phillip Harvey:** "Somewhat to my surprise, within about ten minutes or so, they came back out together and walked over to the cars. Jimi said, 'Right, I'm ready, we will follow you.' Jimi and Monika got into their car, with Monika driving on the left-hand side. We both started our engines and I set off first with their car following behind me. The two cars pulled up alongside each other with the bonnets of the vehicles facing the wooden fence and Dunstable Mews. We all got out, and I opened the door to my house at 4 Clarkes Mews which is in the middle of the mews.

The five of us went inside. I would estimate that the time was between

5:15pm and 5:30pm.

The five of us entered the reception room and sat down [on the cushions on the floor]. Soon afterwards I put a long-playing record on the turntable and Penny and Anne went out to the kitchen to make the tea for all of us which they quickly brought back into the reception room on a tray.

As I remember it, somebody had some hashish with them, and Penny and Anne soon started rolling joints which Jimi helped smoke with considerable enthusiasm, Monika certainly had a puff each time a joint was passed to her, but clearly she was not as interested in smoking joints as Jimi was. I remained in charge of the music, putting on another record as each one finished and soon everybody in the room loosened up and became very relaxed in the pleasant atmosphere with the notable exception of Monika, who did not appear at ease at all.

Although I left the room several times and did not hear every word spoken, the conversation as a whole was wide-ranging covering many different topics. We explained to each other what we did with our respective lives and our various plans for the future. I remember asking Jimi what he was going to do next, and he said that he was about to go back to New York, but that he would be returning to London very quickly and, when he did, he would be getting his own flat in London. He said he hoped we would visit him in his new flat so that he could repay our hospitality. He seemed very optimistic, speaking with great enthusiasm about all his plans and ideas for the future.

Apart from smoking the joints that Penny and Anne kept on rolling, and drinking the wine I later offered him, Jimi showed no sign of any abnormal drug usage, certainly, he showed no sign whatsoever of taking any hard drugs such as heroin. Each time they rolled a joint, Penny and Anne offered it to Jimi first so that he could have the 'honour' of lighting it up. From my somewhat detached position outside the fireplace alcove, I could see Monika across the marble table getting more and more upset each time this little 'charade' was played out. Monika took little part in the general conversation. I remember trying to draw her into conversation several times, but to little or no avail."

**Penny Ravenhill:** "She seemed rather insignificant at the time. My impression was that Monika was some kind of employee, possibly Jimi's driver. There seemed no hint of a romantic or sexual involvement, and I don't think they related to each other hardly at all while in our company."

**Phillip Harvey:** "At about 7:00pm, Penny and Anne cleared away the tea tray, and I produced a couple of bottles of French red wine and five silver wine goblets. All five of us had several goblets of wine, which Monika was obviously much happier to partake of. At one point, Anne who had her acoustic guitar in the house started playing and singing, at which point I turned the stereo down. I remember Jimi complimented her warmly on her music, which made Monika look

very displeased. I think Jimi may have strummed a few notes on Anne's guitar, possibly trying to get it in better tune for her, but he did not sing a song as such.

Later on, about 8:00pm, Penny and Anne asked Jimi if he would like something to eat. He agreed he was hungry, and the two girls went out to the kitchen and prepared a simple vegetarian meal, which they brought back into the reception room on trays about half an hour later. I remember that the food consisted mainly of rice and a mixed salad because, although I was hungry myself, as a confirmed meat and potato eater I did not particularly like the look of the vegetarian meal and therefore had no more than a taste or two. Jimi sat and ate heartily and, indeed, if I remember rightly had a second helping. I opened a third bottle of wine to go with the food."

**Beth Bergman:** "It was actually a yogurt, nuts, fruit and oats thing. Nobody ate any of it at although it was offered. Hendrix might have taken a bite or two but said he wasn't hungry. But the meal was certainly not rice. Because I am the one who made it."

**Phillip Harvey:** "With the exception of Monika who, as the evening progressed, appeared to me to become more and more upset, we had been having a remarkably pleasant evening, happy and interested in each other's company. Then about 10:00pm at a particular moment when Jimi had gone to the downstairs cloakroom,



Monika quite suddenly, and for no particular apparent reason, got up and stormed down the four steps leading from the reception room, through the double glass doors, past the door to the cloakroom, down the hall and out of the front door into the mews, shouting as she left, 'I'm leaving! I'm leaving now! I've had enough!' Jimi who had obviously heard something quickly came out of the cloakroom and back into the reception room. I explained to him briefly what had happened. He looked at us in a most embarrassed way and raised his eyebrows to the ceiling. He said, 'I'd better go and see what's wrong with her.' He then followed her out into the mews leaving the front door ajar.

In the kitchen and the hall at the front of the house, I could hear Monika out in the mews shouting at Jimi at the top of her voice, even though the individual words themselves were indistinct. There was even some noise in the reception room at the back of the house. At one point, when Monika's screaming reached a particular prolonged high peak, I went to the front door to see what was happening. I was genuinely concerned that blows might be struck, and I was also worried that the loud screaming might provoke a complaint to the police from the management of the King Edward VI hospital on the other side of the mews directly opposite the house.

Jimi was just standing quietly there in the mews while Monika verbally assaulted him in the most offensive possible way. As I approached them, I remember hearing her shout at him,

'You fucking pig!' I interrupted them and suggested that they should come back into the house as I didn't want the police called. Monika simply carried on shouting at Jimi, telling me viciously to mind my own business. She didn't seem to care less that she might be disturbing the neighbourhood or, indeed, making a public spectacle of herself. In fact, Clarkes Mews is very quiet, especially at night, and I saw no sign of anybody else in the vicinity. I went back inside the house, leaving the front door open ajar so that they could come back inside the house if they wanted to.

Monika's haranguing of Jimi continued in my best estimation for about half an hour. I went outside one further time to try and cool things down, and to see if anybody else's attention had been attracted to the scene, but Monika's shouting was at such a pitch that I decided not to interfere again. While I did not personally see any blows struck and Jimi, on the two occasions I went outside, looked remarkably calm given the viciousness of Monika's language, the violence in her voice and posture would suggest to me that she might well have struck him during this extended scene. I was actually quite worried that Monika might resort to serious physical violence, but Jimi appeared to me to be a fit man and I thought that, on balance, he was probably quite capable of looking after himself, and I had only just met them earlier that day and didn't know any details about their relationship."

**Penny Ravenhill:** "Monika turned away rudely and wouldn't answer. Jimi,

who seemed to be desperately trying to deal with an unreasonable situation with this woman, turned, and I saw his expression change to one of agitation. Jimi followed her outside and she was screaming at him in the road for several minutes and he was not answering. Philip asked me to go out and calm things down because he didn't want the neighbours to be upset but she turned on me, so I went back inside."

**Phillip Harvey:** "At about 10:30pm. Jimi came back into the house alone, and walked into the reception room where Penny, Anne, and I were still wondering what was going to happen next. He apologised profusely for Monika's behaviour and said he was very embarrassed. He said he didn't really know what was wrong with her, but she had obviously had too much to drink. He said that Monika refused to come back into the house and that, as he couldn't abandon her, he would have to leave with her. He said that my house was the nicest scene he had found in London and that he would definitely visit us again when he got back from the USA, which he thought would be in a few weeks' time.

I gave Jimi an extra large and very unusual purple change of address card, containing my name, address, and telephone number. He thanked the two girls and myself for our generous hospitality. I saw him out into the mews and he left with Monika driving the car. Monika was still screaming at Jimi as they left and she did not say a word to me. The time was about 10:40pm.

I went out into Marylebone High Street the next day, Friday September 18, 1970, at about 2:00pm and immediately saw news placards prominently announcing the death of Jimi Hendrix. I could not believe my eyes.

In retrospect, I am certain that Monika Dannemann's extraordinarily unpleasant behaviour at the end of their visit was caused by extreme jealousy. Penny and Anne, both beautiful natural young girls (in marked contrast to the relatively aged Monika's overly made up and overdressed appearance) had spotted Jimi in Park Lane in the first place. Clearly, he was attracted to them both and he was very friendly to all three of us, more or less ignoring Monika while he was in the house. Penny and Anne had made him tea, cooked a meal for him, rolled him numerous joints, generally waited on him hand and foot, and Anne even played her music for him. Monika obviously did not like the way Jimi was happily receiving so much attention from the two girls and having drunk too much, her jealousy finally overcame her, and she blew her top and walked out of the house in a furious temper."

**Alan Douglas:** "Jimi was a person who avoided confrontation; he constantly walked away from it. I never heard him in an argument, ever."

**Beth Bergman** (recounting her version of the visit): "We were waiting [at Harvey's house] to see if Jimi and Monika would come. Phillip was a little on edge and he went back

out, and when he came back he was accompanied by a girl I had never met before, a young girl by the name of Penny Ravenhill, who was 16 at the time. She had met Phillip somewhere and he brought her home for this potential meeting. She was a very nice but very quiet young girl. Eventually Jimi Hendrix and Monika Dannemann did show up at Phillip's house. The sun was still up. Phillip broke out a little tablet of hashish and made some vodka and lime and offered it to whoever, and I believe Monika had a glass of wine. Nobody got drunk, nobody got carried away. There was nobody else there except the five of us. There was no furniture in this particular room. The only piece of furniture in that entire room was a stereo and some records. Phillip made Penny and I promise not to tell anybody because of his position in society. I kept that promise for 46 years. It didn't occur to me that nobody knew where Jimi was for those two or three missing hours prior to his death. I was the one carrying on the conversation that night. Jimi Hendrix talked about numerology which I knew nothing of at the ripe old age of 19. Jimi was very soft-spoken, very laid-back, and he did not seem... well his eyes were puffy, his hair was a mess, it was teddy bear brown, it wasn't black. He said to me 'I don't know if you're into my music, I'm into numerology, like that song 'I wrote 'If 6 Was 9.'" He asked everybody's ages, Monika was 29, I believe, Phillip at the time was 27 or 29. He asked my age and I lied. I said I was 18, when in fact I was 19, and Penny was, of course, 16. He did

something with those numbers, and said 'the time is right.' I had no idea what he meant that 'the time was right' but he was talking about his dissatisfaction with the recordings that he had to do and what he was nailed into, that he felt not free to be himself and he was a little bit downcast. Jimi seemed very tired and maybe getting sick-ish. His eyes were a bit puffy and I did notice that though he did not sound sick, he did look very tired indeed. Monika sat behind him with her knees Indian cross style and sometimes drawn up to her chest. She never said a word. He introduced her as his friend, 'this is my friend, Monika.' He said not one word about a love interest. She had on the most terrible makeup, she had on a ton and a half of pancake makeup. I was embarrassed for how much makeup she had on her face, it looked not stylish at all, it looked terrible. It looked like you could peel it off in sheets or scrape it off with your fingers. I think her face was pockmarked and she was attempting to cover that. There was something about the straightness of her hair, but her demeanor seemed very unfriendly, even though she didn't have much to say, but I didn't take note of that and at one point when Jimi was talking about his dissatisfaction with the recording industry and wanting to change the things that he had to do, he made a comment 'Oh I wish I had a guitar.' Phillip didn't play a guitar. Penny didn't play guitar, Monika didn't play a guitar, but I had played since I was eight years old, so Phillip puts me on the spot and he says 'we have a guitar

here.' I'm thinking 'oh gosh,' Phillip says 'why don't you offer him your guitar.' My guitar was a top of the line gut string guitar. Giving a gut string guitar to Jimi Hendrix would be like giving a rowboat to the captain of the Queen Mary. His expertise was upside down left handed on an electric, my playing ability was right handed on a gut string or 12 string acoustic guitar. It's like the difference between a very fancy hoverboard and a Maserati car, they don't operate the same way at all even though you can in theory play the same notes.

So Phillip hands my guitar to Jimi Hendrix who's sitting back on the pillow and he's got my gut string guitar backwards and upside down, and he's plunking at it. To him it's like rubber bands, and he got a half-smile. He says: 'Aw, I can't play this fucking thing,' and he looked at me sheepishly. Phillip put me on the spot, he said 'she plays very well, why don't you play a song.' Oh, I wanted to just crawl under a rug and disappear, you know, a little folk singing American teenager playing a gut string guitar in front of a world famous person like Jimi Hendrix. Well, being on the spot and being my brother's birthday coming up, I decided to take a chance on a poem my brother had written that I was trying to put to music. It was called 'Beautiful Child.' I played two or three songs and Jimi Hendrix said 'that's great man, that's great' and Monika Dannemann commented upon Phillip's request 'yes, she's very good.' I was extremely flattered. Jimi said he would like to come back, but Monika kept urging

him. I guess it might have been 10 o'clock. 'We have to go, we have to go,' she began to kind of bug him and so he agreed. Phillip got up to go to the cloakroom to get his denim jacket, when Jimi and Monika walked down the long hallway. Penny and I intended to follow them and say goodbye outside in the courtyard, but Phillip held us back, like to stay in the room and so we did, so Phillip accompanied them outside and the last I remember of seeing Jimi Hendrix, he was in the doorway with a light right over his head reflecting behind him and he said 'we'll see you soon, we'll be back' and he was directing his conversation at me, more than to Phillip or Penny or Monika. It had nothing to do with a boy-girl thing, it had all to do with music. When Phillip accompanied them outside, Monika began screaming and yelling and there was some sort of altercation which I did not see. Of course I was horrified the next morning when it was all over the news that he had died, when we had seen him, he looked fine, nobody was drunk, nobody was out of control, we didn't even play any records. We had a very quiet chat for about two, two-and-a-half hours, no running around, no partying, just the songs that I played and the discussion about numerology in music. It was very dark as they left. I would say Phillip remained outside back-and-forth from the doorway to the mews three or four times over about 25 minutes. The oddest thing is for me, I did not actually see the fracas outside and barely heard it. But it did go on for about half an hour. Phillip was quite distressed, even

wiping sweat from his forehead though the night had become quite quite chilly in contrast to the perfect day which had passed. As the years passed, I just thought Philip was so nervous because of his place in Society. I know he was absolutely petrified that his dad would find out. In fact, if you look at the photo of the mews, you can see that someone yelling in that small street might trigger neighbors to call the police, and that idea frightened Phillip. Phillip may be right about the lateness of the hour. But I will stand with Phillip on Monika. I first thought she was perhaps some kind of professional, hired to kind of oversee Hendrix? The whole time she was in the house, we were all kind of aware that she didn't want to be there. I also think she was ashamed because she knew Philip had something on her from their teenage years."

**Mitch Mitchell:** "Earlier on in the evening Jimi is supposed to have got stuck in traffic at Marble Arch and talked to people in an adjacent car, who invited him to a party, which he ultimately went to. I find that very odd as well. At some point, later on, he definitely phoned someone – Gerry, I think – in the course of which he said something like, 'I'll never do that again,' but what that referred to I don't know."

**Kathy Etchingham:** "Jimi said just before he died, he spent the evening before he died with a couple of people that he'd had actually met in Park Lane, and he told them that he wanted to move back to England, because every

time he stepped out of his apartment it was like stepping onto a rollercoaster, and that he wanted to get back here to get some peace."

**Gerry Stickells:** "I talked to Jimi on the telephone just the night before he died. He was in a great mood. That's why I was so surprised the next day. He was to sign the contracts for his German tour in October the next day. We were also talking about doing four dates in the States around Thanksgiving. He said, 'Okay, we'll talk more about that tomorrow when you bring the contracts.'"

**Mitch Mitchell:** "I spent the next week taking care of bits and pieces down at my house and giving thought to possible musicians. I guess I was half expecting Jimi to ring and say, 'What about so and so?', but he never did. The following Thursday night, the 17th, I had to drive up to London. About quarter to seven I went to see Gerry Stickells, who said that Hendrix had called about fifteen minutes previously, would I give him a call? I called him up and he asked me what I was doing. I told him I was just off to visit Ginger Baker and then we were going out to Heathrow to meet Sly Stone, who was flying in.\* Jimi was really excited about Sly and said, 'Is there any chance of a play?' So I said, 'Funny you should say that, yeah, the idea is we're all going down to the Speakeasy for a jam.' Jimi was really up for it and agreed to meet us there about midnight. His agreeing was no surprise: anywhere in the world, Jimi was always up for a play; it took

precedence over anything.”

\* Mitch is mistaken here, as Sly was already in London on 16 September to perform at the Lyceum.

**Ginger Baker:** “We were looking for him the night he died. Sly Stewart and the Family Stone were in town that evening, and I’d got a big bottle, a marmalade jar size, full of cocaine hydrochloride, which a guy had nicked from a London hospital. Mitch saw the bottle and I told him there was another one going for 350 quid and Mitch went, ‘Oh man, Jimi will really go for that.’ So we all went to look for him. I was with my wife and Mitch and Sly Stone, and we couldn’t find Jimi anywhere. We went to every possible haunt we could think of. We went to his flat, the Speakeasy, the Revolution, and we just couldn’t find him.”

**Sharon Lawrence:** “Early the next evening, I called him at the Cumberland Hotel. The switchboard operator was a kind woman. ‘I’m concerned about him, too,’ she said. ‘He is such a polite person, and he sounded upset this afternoon. He asked me to place a call to New York but, when it came through, he didn’t answer.’ She sent someone to check on him, but he wasn’t in his suite.”

### **20:30 Jimi and Monika arrive at the Samarkand flat.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “Back in the flat the phone was ringing, but before I could pick it up Jimi told me to say

that he wasn’t in. It was Mitch Mitchell, wanting to talk to Jimi. Just as I was saying he wasn’t there, Jimi started pulling the most hilarious faces, trying to make me laugh. I barely made it through the conversation with Mitch without bursting into laughter. When I’d hung up, I told Jimi that it was unfair to do that when I was making excuses for him, but he just smiled and said he would talk to Mitch a bit later. A few minutes later Chas Chandler called, and again I had to make the same excuse while Jimi pulled all kinds of faces. Afterwards we just couldn’t stop laughing. Jimi said he would speak to Chas later, too. He wanted Mitch and Chas to visit us the next day to discuss choosing a new bass player and other business matters. Jimi then rang my mother again to see how my father was, and she promised to break the news to him in the next day or two.”

### **23:00 Monika prepares a pasta meal at the Samarkand flat.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “I asked Jimi if he wanted something to eat as we only ate lightly earlier. As I prepared Spaghetti, he took a bath and washed his hair. He came dressed all in purple and mauve, with my mauve belt around his waist. I opened a bottle of white wine which we started drinking during the meal, but it lasted through the entire night. He had nothing to drink other than the wine. At this time there was no argument or stress, it was a happy atmosphere. He helped with the washing up and then we sat in the living room. We talked about our

future. He intended we should marry in Germany the following month, October 1970.”

### **23:30 Jimi writes The Story of Life poem.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “Jimi picked up his guitar and started to play while I washed my hair. When I returned, he had stopped and was writing something down. I kept quiet, not wanting to disturb him. I watched him writing – he put it all down at once without hesitation, as if it was flowing out of him. He then stood up and put the writing pad in my hand. Looking into my eyes, and in a very intense voice, he said he wanted me to keep this poem for ever. What he had written down, he said, was the story of him and me, and that I should never give it away.”

**Sharon Lawrence:** “These pages were not song lyrics. There was nothing that Hendrix would have put on a record. They were the words – the musings – of a tired and troubled man.”

## INCONCLUSIVE EVENTS

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**It seems impossible to reconstruct the events of this day (and the next), as reports of those involved contradict each other. Monika Dannemann recounted in detail what happened in her book, and in various interviews, but it does not match in certain parts with other witness reports.**

The following are some of the

conflicting testimonials regarding events that took place on 17 September 1970.

### **Meeting Kathy**

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Kathy Etchingham claims in her book that she met Jimi when she was shopping at Kensington Market between 15:00 and 16:00. Jimi supposedly invited Kathy to come over to the Cumberland Hotel later. In another interview she said that she saw Jimi there, but didn’t talk to him, nor did Jimi see Kathy. Monika on her part denies seeing Kathy that afternoon at all.

### **The Harvey and Bergman testimonies**

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Although the recollections of Phillip Harvey and Beth Bergman are generally similar, they also differ in a few places:

– Harvey mentions he was driving a ‘1968 white, fastback Ford Mustang,’ while Bergman insists it was an Alfa Romeo.

**Beth Bergman:** “He had an Alfa Romeo which he’d bought for a love interest by the name of Jennifer. The car was white, and it had to be driven once in a while, so on this wonderful September day Philip decided he should take it for a drive, and he took me with him.”

– Only Bergman mentions Harvey knew Monika from the past, but it is

possible he left this out of his affidavit in order not to incriminate Monika.

– Harvey states that they waited at the Cumberland Hotel for Jimi and Monika, and that they followed them to Harvey’s place. Bergman on the other hand says that they gave them their address and went home, and that Jimi and Monika followed later.

– Contrary to what Harvey said in his affidavit, and according to Bergman, the girl called Penny arrived later at the Harvey residence, when he went out to pick her up by car.

### **Argument at Harvey’s**

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The testimonies of Harvey and Bergman differ from the sparse accounting of Monika of this visit.

**Monika Dannemann:** “We followed them in the car to their flat and had something to eat and drink with them. After about one hour I became tired and sat back on the sofa listening to Jimi converse with them. We stayed for about an hour. It was around 20.15 in the evening when we arrived home.”

Both Phillip Harvey and Beth Bergman recount Monika’s outburst at the end of the visit in their lengthy testimonies, so it seems there is some truth in that. There is ample validity to their stories, as they lived on different continents, and didn’t have contact with each other after 1970. They, more or less, recount the same events later on, while

Monika leaves it out of her accounts, for obvious reasons. Harvey and Riley had no connection with Jimi prior to their meeting, not personally or professionally, so they did not have motivations to make up a story. Timing in their testimonies might be incorrect, but they both report about the altercation between Monika and Jimi, while Monika leaves this out of her story. A reason for this could have been that she was jealous, or that Monika didn’t want to be known that she knew Harvey from the past.

**Beth Bergman:** “When I met Monika, I was sure she was embarrassed because Philip ‘had something on her’ from their high school days.”

The fact that he took the trouble to deposit a sworn affidavit with his solicitor, presumably troubled that the true story wasn’t being told, is good reason to accept Harvey’s recollections as being accurate (as he remembered them). It would seem strange for someone to go to this much trouble if the information was made up.

**Monika Dannemann:** “All the events which are asserted to have taken place in the [Phillip Harvey] flat are pure fiction.”

It should also be noted that a similar situation occurred later that night at Pete Kameron’s party, when Monika, according to Stella Douglas and Angie Burdon, harassed Jimi when she came to pick him up from the party.



## Leaving the Harvey residence

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Phillip Harvey stated in his affidavit that they all met at his residence between 17:15 and 17:30. Monika: "We stayed for about an hour."

"An hour" would indicate they left at 18:30, whereas she later stated that they arrived back at the Samarkand flat at 20:15, which would mean they had stayed at Harvey's place for up to three hours. This would match with Beth Bergman's testimony: "We had a very quiet chat for about two, two-and-a-half hours."

**Monika Dannemann:** "It was around 20.15 in the evening when we arrived home."

**Phillip Harvey:** "I saw him out into the mews, and he left with Monika driving the car. Monika was still screaming at Jimi as they left, and she did not say a word to me. The time was about 22:40."

Both Harvey and Bergman stated that the visit took around 2½ to 3 hours, while Monika said it only took one hour.

A neighbour of Phillip Harvey, a woman called Eliza, who lived at 5 Clarkes Mews, recalled another incident at the location.

**Bryony Gordon** ([www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk), 26 August 2010): "The mother of an old friend found a huge Cadillac [sic] parked in front of the garage of her mews house. Noticing that her

neighbour was having a party, Eliza knocked on the door and asked if it belonged to any of the guests. It did, and that guest's name was Jimi. 'I wanted to drive to the cinema,' she recalls, 'so I asked if it could be moved. Out came Hendrix with a friend, and off they drove. He died a few hours later. I often think of what might have been, had I not gone to see *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid...*'"

**Note:** If they left at 22:40 as Harvey stated, this will leave the option open that Jimi went straight to Pete Kameron's party later that evening, and not return to the Samarkand flat, as Monika said.

## Where was Jimi?

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Another mystery is Jimi's whereabouts on the evening of 17 September after he left the Harvey residence. All we have is Monika's account for that period. According to Dannemann, the couple returned to the Samarkand flat in the evening, remaining there until Monika drove Jimi to Pete Kameron's flat in Great Cumberland Place around midnight. Although this stands to reason, others have suggested he might have been at the Cumberland Hotel instead, prior to going to Pete Kameron's party. It should be noted that both the Cumberland Hotel and Pete Kameron's flat are located in Great Cumberland Place.

Angie Burdon stated that Jimi arrived at Pete Kameron's party "mid evening,"

so it is possible that Jimi went straight from Phillip Harvey's house to the Kameron residence, possibly stopping at the Cumberland Hotel to pick up messages, and/or talk to Mitch Mitchell and Gerry Stickells on the phone.

Monika claimed that Jimi gave Mitch a call the day before [on 16 September] to give him Monika's telephone number in case something of importance came up. However, Tony Brown states in his book that: "Mitch Mitchell has also claimed that he spoke to Jimi that evening [17 September], not at the Samarkand Hotel as Monika had insisted, but at the Cumberland Hotel. Mitch claims that he never had the telephone number of the Samarkand Hotel; that he had no idea that Monika was in London; or that Jimi was staying with her."

Mitch states that he went to Gerry Stickells home at about 18:45. When he arrived, Stickells told him that he had talked to Jimi over the phone fifteen minutes previously.

So, there are two options for this moment in time:

– Mitch has the time wrong and talked to Jimi (as did Stickells) at around 17:00, when Hendrix was at the Cumberland with Monika.

– Mitch has the time wrong and talked to Jimi (as did Stickells) after Jimi and Monika left the Harvey residence, either at the Cumberland Hotel, or at the Samarkand flat.

According to another persistent rumour, Jimi visited a London nightclub on the night before he died, presumably the Scotch of St. James. At least two eyewitnesses claim to have seen Jimi there. If this is true, it seems strange that Monika did not mention this in her testimonies.

**Liz Thomas** (dailymail.co.uk): "Meic Stevens [singer-songwriter]: 'I was with Jimi Hendrix the night he died. He had been drinking red wine with me – even though he had never drunk red wine in his life before.' The 69-year-old claimed he and Hendrix had been having a night out with Marmalade stars Gary Farr and Jimmy Cregan, as well as Eric Clapton, at the infamous Scotch of St James bar in Mayfair. Mr Stevens claimed Hendrix was intrigued that he was drinking Louis St George Burgundy and wanted to try it. He added: 'Hendrix was drinking lager or some kind of beer and he just poured the wine in to the pint glass. I don't think he had ever drunk red wine before – he didn't know how to drink it. But he seemed okay. He seemed to be alright.'"

**Ian Paice** (drummer): "The night before he died in London, we were both in the same nightclub. We would just happen to go to take a leak at the same time together. It was like, 'Jimi, how are you?' and 'Fine, how are you?' That was it, and he was in really good form. That's all it was. Two rockers that met in the night and then crossed swords."

18 SEPTEMBER FRIDAY

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**An unconfirmed timeline, mostly based on Monika Dannemann's testimonies:**

- 01:45** Monika drives Jimi to Pete Kameron's party.
- 03:00** Monika and Jimi arrive back at the Samarkand flat.
- 06:00** Monika takes one Vesparax sleeping tablet.  
Jimi takes a number of Vesparax sleeping tablets.
- Sometime later, Monika wakes up.  
Monika phones Judy Wong.  
Monika phones Alvenia Bridges; she also talks to Eric Burdon.  
Eric Burdon phones Monika.
- Sometime later, Terry Slater arrives at the Samarkand flat.  
Monika, and Terry Slater bury drugs in an adjacent garden.
- 11:18** Monika dials 999.
- 11:27** An ambulance arrives at the Samarkand flat.
- 11:30** PC Ian Smith and PC Tom Keene arrive at the Samarkand flat.
- 11:35** The ambulance departs from the Samarkand flat.
- 11:45** The ambulance arrives at St. Mary Abbots Hospital, Kensington, London.
- 12:00** Alvenia Bridges arrives at St. Mary Abbots Hospital.
- 12:45** Dr. Martin Seifert officially pronounces James Marshall Hendrix dead.
- 13:00** Eric Barrett, Gerry Stickells, and Terry Slater arrive at St. Mary Abbots Hospital. Gerry Stickells

officially identifies Jimi's body.

- 15:00** PS John Shaw and PC Upton arrive the Chapel of Rest at St. Mary Abbots Hospital.
- 15:00** Eric Barrett, Alvenia Bridges, Gerry Stickells, Terry Slater, and Monika go to the Samarkand basement flat.
- 17:00** Monika moves from Hotel Samarkand to Lincoln House Hotel.

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At some point during the night of 17 to 18 September, Monika drives Jimi over to a party at the flat of Pete Kameron\* in Great Cumberland Place, London.

Also present at this party are Angie Burdon, Stella Douglas, financier Burt Kleiner, David Salmon (Wimpy fast-food chain owner), Devon Wilson, and others.

\* Pete Kameron was a manager and producer whose work extended across the music spectrum, from the Weavers and the Modern Jazz Quartet to the Who. He was one of the behind-the-scenes masterminds behind Track Records, the London-based record label put together by Kit Lambert and Chris Stamp, who managed the Who.

**Monika Dannemann:** "At about 1.45 a.m. Jimi told me that he had put something off all evening which now he felt he must do. He explained that he wanted to go to the party to which Devon had invited him, in order to warn her to leave me alone. Jimi thought that her intention was to cause

a rift between him and me. I drove him to the party, and he asked me to ring him about half an hour later, as he didn't want to stay long. He first asked me to join him, but we both decided it was better if he went alone." (15)

**Angie Burdon:** "Stella got some Chinese food for him. He arrived around mid evening\*, he seemed jumpy. I didn't see any dope there and there wasn't any smack, I know that for sure. Jimi had that chick drop him off. She came back about half an hour later. Jimi got Stella to put her off. She called up on the intercom. She came back again. Jimi put her off this time. By then he seemed quite uptight. I know Jimi and I know what he was feeling. She came back again. He got angry because she wouldn't leave him alone for long enough, she was bugging him, in fact I felt everything was bugging him, period. While all this was going on, other guests at the party were leaning out of the window, shouting down to Monika, 'Fuck off and leave him alone!' He asked Stella again to put her off, Stella was rude to her, and the chick asked to speak to Jimi. When he finally got to the intercom, he mumbled something and then without saying anything, just got into the lift and split. That was around 3:00 in the morning by then." (8)

\* **Monika Dannemann:** "No way true that this was 'mid evening.' Jimi in fact talked with my mother on the phone for a long time [before going to the party]." (18)

**Stella Douglas:** "We just ordered some Thai food. Monika called when we were having dinner, and she called and called. I kept telling her that he was not available, because Jimi really didn't want to see her. I don't know how she figured out the location, but she was downstairs beeping the horn on her little blue sports car. I could see her from the kitchen window. I went and told Jimi that this girl was downstairs. She then buzzed the intercom and asked if she could come up. I said 'no,' but then she wanted to know if he was coming down. She buzzed the intercom so much that he finally came down and left with her." (18)

**David Henderson:** "Stella and Devon knew that Jimi, like them, wanted to get high. Devon came up with two blackbombers. She took one and Jimi took one. Later someone else came up with some pure Owsley powdered sunshine LSD in a small gold box. There was not much but the benefactor warned that it was very powerful. Jimi, Stella, and Devon took some hits of it through the nostrils. It got them all high. Stella stared at the crystals of her necklace for a long time, Devon seemed to almost pass out and Jimi continued to rap. The food came and Stella took charge. She pulled the food out of the bags and containers and served up several bowls, but no one seemed to be interested in food. Stella called Jimi to the phone, she thought it might be Monika calling. After the call, Jimi appeared to be leaving soon. Stella saw him trying to get Devon to come with him, but Devon was dozing off from

the effects of two powerful chemicals. Stella heard a horn honk outside and going to the window she saw long blond hair in a blue car. She went and told Jimi that she thought someone was there to pick him up. Stella tried to let Devon know that Jimi was leaving, and Jimi was telling her to come along with him but Devon did not break out of her lethargy. Jimi went back into the kitchen with Stella and talked and joked with her for a good while. Finally, he walked out the door after sampling from the bowl of food Stella held in her hands.” (9)

**Mitch Mitchell:** “Devon was becoming a bit of a handful by then and Jimi wasn’t overjoyed to discover she was over here [in London] as well.” (14)

**Monika Dannemann:** “I drove home and phoned him as agreed, but he said he hadn’t had a chance to speak to Devon yet, and that I should ring back about ten minutes later. I did so, and he asked me to fetch him at once. When I arrived at the house, Jimi was just coming out. He said it had been hopeless because Devon had been too stoned to speak to seriously. He would have to try again the next day. Mitch wanted to see Jimi, but didn’t. We were supposed to meet him at the Speakeasy, but we didn’t go because Jimi didn’t want to go there.” (15)

**03:00 Monika and Jimi arrive back at the Samarkand flat.**

**From here on, until 11:00, we only have the statements by Monika.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “At about 4 a.m. Jimi wanted to take a couple of sleeping tablets, because although he didn’t feel at all sleepy, he needed to get some rest. We knew that he faced a heavy schedule of meetings from late morning right through the rest of the day. I persuaded him to wait a little longer, hoping he would fall asleep naturally. Jimi said he felt hungry, so I made him a tuna sandwich, but he only had a bite. We carried on discussing life after death. Even though it was now six o’clock in the morning, I was so fascinated by his knowledge that I felt wide awake. I knew I would probably not get to sleep now but, thinking about Jimi’s heavy business meetings in a few hours’ time, I secretly took one sleeping tablet in the hope that I might drop off and Jimi would fall asleep too. I wanted to be able to help and support him as best I could the following day, and it would be difficult if I was too exhausted.

This was not a normal practice for me. Although I did have about forty-five prescribed sleeping tablets, in packets of ten, in a large cupboard opposite the bed, they were left over from two operations I had recently undergone in Germany.” (15)

**06:00 Monika takes one Vesparax sleeping tablet.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “I had seldom seen Jimi take anything to help him sleep and then only if it was really necessary – that is, when he had something important to do the next day and he couldn’t sleep. A few days earlier he had taken one of my tablets,

and it had taken him an hour to fall asleep. Both of us still felt very happy as we talked about our future. Then, to my surprise, Jimi picked up his necklace with the crucifix\* from the table and put it on. I had never seen him go to sleep wearing his crucifix before. I was still wondering why he had done this, when he started to describe various visions he had had, and explained the meaning of some of the symbols which appeared in them. Jimi was still wide awake and talking animatedly, but, fascinated as I was, it was now 7 a.m. and I was beginning to feel sleepy. The last time I looked at the clock it was about 7:10. Soon afterwards I fell asleep in Jimi's arms." (15)

\* This claim by Monika is incorrect, as Jimi had lost this crucifix necklace previously. Instead Jimi put on a silver crown of thorns.

**Monika Dannemann:** "Jimi said before I went to sleep in regard to O.D. [over dose]. He said something in regard to O.D. and in regard to Devon that he believes in regards that she maybe O.D. him. I had taken the sleeping tablet and I was half asleep when he said it to me. I didn't ask him what he meant, and I was just too tired and just let him talk." (13)

**Noel Redding:** "Devon, who later died under mysterious circumstances (falling out of a New York hotel window), was a junkie and may have supplied Jimi with drugs that night. Upon Jimi's return, he and Monika stayed up talking until

the sleeping pills took effect – not surprising given the amount of speed in his system. At about six a.m., she says he complained that there was something wrong and wondered whether someone had slipped him an OD." (1)

**Monika Dannemann:** 'I had about twenty sleeping pills in a bottle that I had gotten through a doctor to help me sleep. They were kept in the bedroom, on my bureau. Jimi was in the bedroom alone, and on a sudden impulse I walked in. As I went in Jimi was pouring a large quantity of the pills into his hand. I grabbed the bottle from his hand, but he told me he was just counting them. I know now that he was just telling me that because he did not want me to know what he was going to do. Anyway, then Jimi had a small glass of wine and told me he was going to sleep. I sat on the edge of the bed and watched him until I thought he was asleep; then I took a sleeping-tablet myself. It was about 7 a.m.'" (7)

#### **After 07:00, Jimi takes a number of Vesparax sleeping tablets.**

**Monika Dannemann** (*Bild*, 24 September 1970): "The network of intrigues by people he worked with had tormented him. He couldn't find any sleep. So, I gave him the tablets."

**Buzzy Linhart** (mbmartisticvisions.blogspot.com): "Devon Wilson told me that Jimi had called her the day or so before and told her that he had been up for days. He had talked to his

doctor in New York City and the doctor said, 'You've got to get some sleep' – the doctor said, 'Do you want me to call in some sleeping pills for you to a doctor I know in London?' Jimi said 'No, that's OK, there's Tuinals\* in the medicine cabinet in the bathroom here.' They agreed that Jimi – having a great tolerance to this type of drug – would need to take 3 capsules."

\* Tuinal was the brand name of a discontinued combination drug composed of two barbiturate salts (secobarbital sodium and amobarbital sodium) in equal proportions. The combination of a short-acting barbiturate, Secobarbital, with an intermediate-acting barbiturate, Amobarbital, aimed to put users to sleep quickly, and to keep them asleep through the night. Tuinal saw widespread abuse as a recreational drug from the 1960s through the 1980s. Like other barbiturate depressants, Tuinal promotes physical and psychological dependency and carries a high risk of overdose.

### **10:20 Monika wakes up.**

**Monika Dannemann:** "Three hours later, at about 10.20, I woke up, feeling exhausted yet at the same time wide awake. I looked at Jimi, who was sleeping normally, his face towards me. I tried to nod off again, realizing how little I had slept, but gave up after about fifteen minutes. I was just too restless, thinking about all the things we, and especially Jimi, had to do that day. I knew that he hadn't had enough

sleep yet to be on good form for a busy schedule. I slipped out of bed very gently so as not to wake him, and cautiously tiptoed into the bathroom, had a wash and put on some make-up. On my way to the kitchen, I again tiptoed through the bedroom, seeing that Jimi was still asleep. I had some breakfast, and then wanted a cigarette, but found that we had run out. I knew Jimi wouldn't like me to go anywhere without telling him, but decided it was more important for him to sleep. I made the decision to pop out and buy some cigarettes. I went back to the bedroom, had a close look, and saw that Jimi was sleeping peacefully." (15)

**Monika Dannemann:** "I woke up again at about 10:20 and I couldn't sleep any more. I wanted some cigarettes, but as Jimi did not like me to go out without telling him, I looked to see if he was awake. He was sleeping normally. Just before I went out, I looked at him again, and there was sick on his nose and mouth. He was breathing and his pulse was beating – I checked it with mine and there was no difference. I put my shoes on quickly, grabbed my coat and ran across the street as quickly as I could. (7)

### **10:45 Monika goes out to buy cigarettes**

**Monika Dannemann:** "Then I quickly left the flat and walked to the shop, which was just a few doors away." (15)

### **11:00 Monika returns to the Samarkand flat.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “I bought a packet of cigarettes and returned to the flat. This took no more than perhaps ten minutes. I unlocked the front door quietly and tiptoed softly into the bedroom. In the meantime, Jimi had turned over, and was now lying with his face to the right, whereas when I went out he was on his left side. I went to the side of the bed and sat down on a chair, looking at Jimi, thinking how much I loved him and how happy I was. I lit a cigarette, and suddenly noticed a tiny trickle coming from Jimi’s mouth. It was after 11 a.m., but I didn’t know exactly what time. It was clear Jimi was being sick. I tried immediately to wake him, shaking him and calling his name, but in vain. He was still breathing. I stepped on something, and looking down saw a sleeping tablet packet on the floor. Picking it up, I saw all ten tablets were missing. (Later, a policeman found one tablet on the floor, slightly concealed by the edge of the bed.) (15)

**Monika Dannemann:** “When I returned, I saw that Jimi was still asleep. Looking closer I saw that he was sick. There was the distinct smell of vomit in the room and he was not moving. I loudly called his name several times while shaking him... yet Jimi wouldn’t wake up. Next, I rushed into the bathroom to get some cold water in a glass and poured it over Jimi’s face, but he didn’t react. He was still breathing as calmly as always, though.” (18)

**Monika Dannemann:** “When I

returned and approached the door of the flat, with my key in my hand, I sensed something was wrong. The door stuck this time, as it sometimes did, and I became very frightened. Finally, I managed to get the door open, and when I rushed into the bedroom, even before I looked at him, I knew something was terribly wrong. There was only one lamp burning in the room, because I had turned the ceiling light off after I thought Jimi had gone to sleep. The lamp cast this eerie glow; there was a hush in the room as though time had stood still. My first impulse was to try to awaken him. I shook him again and again, frantically. I felt his face; it was cold. His lips were slightly parted and they had a purplish tint.” (7)

#### **11:10 Monika phones Judy Wong.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “I knew I had to get help at once and remembered that Jimi’s private doctor was a Dr Robertson. But when I looked in the telephone directory there were several doctors of the same name listed and I couldn’t remember the man’s first name or his address. I then decided to ring an acquaintance of mine, Alvenia Bridges. I knew that Dr Robertson had several musicians as patients (including members of the Beatles), and Alvenia had contacts in the music world. I hoped she would know his number. She wasn’t in, but our friend Judy Wong gave me a number where I could reach her. Alvenia answered the phone, and I told her that Jimi had taken some sleeping tablets and was being sick, and that I couldn’t wake him. She



didn't know the doctor's number, and suggested I call an ambulance, to which I agreed. Eric Burdon, who was with Alvenia, suddenly came on the phone, saying there was no need to worry and that I should wait and see if Jimi woke up on his own. I said I thought I should call an ambulance at once, and Eric replied, "Then call the fucking ambulance." (15)

**Judy Wong:** "Monika was looking for Alvenia. I told her that she had spent the night with Eric Burdon. She wouldn't tell me what was wrong but she did say, 'If I can't reach Alvenia, I'm going to need your help.' When Monika called back sometime later, she and Alvenia were at the hospital crying hysterically." (1)

**Alvenia Bridges:** "The phone rang, and it was Monika, hysterical. She couldn't wake Jimi up. He was throwing up, he was regurgitating in his sleep, and I screamed, instinctively I said, 'turn him over, turn him over.' That's just a gut feeling in my mind, but obviously she was in a panic, and she didn't turn him over." (34)

**Eric Burdon:** "I said he would be okay, but later told her to get an ambulance. I thought he would be all right then. I was thinking, 'why would anybody want to wake Jimi up?' He never woke up before noon. She was frantic, so I told her just to walk him round, coffee, splash some water in his face, you know?" (27)

**Monika Dannemann:** "Alvenia

Bridges who knew people in the music business, I called to see if she knew the doctor's number. She didn't and said that I should call an ambulance. I agreed because there was no other way to get medical attention to Jimi. Then all of a sudden Eric Burdon came on the phone and he said, 'What's going on?' I said that Jimi had taken some sleeping tablets; he is sick, and I can't wake him up and I'm calling the ambulance. Eric said wait and maybe he'll wake up by himself and I replied that I couldn't take the risk and I was calling the ambulance at once. I called the ambulance and told them to hurry up." (20)

**Eric Burdon:** "Then the phone rang. Alvenia answered. 'It's Monika Dannemann. She is with Jimi and he's so stoned he won't wake up.' Half asleep, I suggested she give him hot coffee and slap his face. If she needed any more help to call me back. My girlfriend, Alvenia, told me: 'Monika is a good kid, she'll look after him.' That made me feel better and I slid back under the covers. I don't know how long I dozed, but alarm bells began ringing in my mind. The first light of dawn\* was coming through the window, and it was raining outside. 'Monika's number, Alvenia, give me Monika's number, quickly!' Alvenia found the number in her handbag. 'Monika, it's Eric. Listen, just do what I say and don't ask any questions. Phone an ambulance now, quickly.' She came back at me with, 'I can't have people round here now, there's all kinds of stuff in the house.' 'I don't care, get

the illegal stuff and just throw it down the toilet, do anything you can, but get an ambulance now, we're on our way over.” (6)

\* In an interview in Steve Roby's *Straight Ahead* magazine, Burdon said that it was still dark when Monika phoned. Sunup on 18 September 1970 was at 06:37. In his autobiography, Eric says that the first call came in “at the crack of dawn... the first light of dawn was coming through the window.” He even told Sharon Lawrence that the call came “in the middle of the night.”

**Sharon Lawrence:** “Terrible, he [Eric Burdon] agreed in his Newcastle accent, his ‘r’s rolling with emotion, ‘It didn’t have to be this way. That chick... Monika... rang me in the middle of the night, scared because he didn’t look right. I told her to call the ambulance immediately. But she didn’t do it.’ Eric’s voice continued to tremble. ‘She rang up again later... She still hadn’t done anything for him... She said she’d gone out for a packet of cigarettes. I screamed at her, ‘Call the ambulance now!’” (16)

### **11:18 Monika dials 999.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “I dialled 999 immediately, saying it was an emergency, explaining what had happened and asking them to hurry up. Later on I found the call had been logged at 11.18 a.m. I checked the drawer quickly to make sure Jimi had taken only one packet of tablets, and to my relief saw the three other packets

still there. I was not in too much of a panic, because I knew that Jimi could have only taken the tablets within the last three hours, after I had fallen asleep. I had read an article saying that sleeping tablets normally only take their full effect after seven hours. And anyway, I was sure that the number he had taken was not a fatal dose. Alvenia rang back and asked me which hospital Jimi would be taken to. I said I didn’t know yet as the ambulance hadn’t come but promised to call her from the hospital on our arrival. While waiting for the ambulance, I again tried to wake Jimi, but without success. His head was still lying on one side. I checked his pulse, which I had learned to do after my father’s heart attack, and found it was normal compared with mine, as was his breathing. I held his hand, sitting by his side, and watching him. Countless thoughts had floated through my mind while I had been waiting, time seeming to drag by unbearably slowly, although the ambulance took only nine minutes to come, arriving at 11.27.” (15)

### **Alvenia Bridges rushes over to Monika’s hotel.**

**Alvenia Bridges:** “While Monika was waiting for the ambulance to arrive, she had hidden his guitar. I think he had a little bit of cannabis. In those days that was serious business. Anything that would lead them to believe there was more than just a black man there. She didn’t want the ambulance attendants to know who he was. I arrived just as the ambulance pulled up.” (18)

**Alvenia Bridges:** “I jumped in a cab and went to Monika’s place. The door was open, and I ran through, but there was no one in there.” (34)

**Harry Shapiro:** “The problem was made worse for Monika over the years because she told everybody about not calling the ambulance immediately. So it became the wisdom among fans and other musicians that Jimi died because she delayed.” (19)

**11:27 An ambulance with driver Reginald Jones and attendant John Suau arrives at the Samarkand flat.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “I explained the situation to the crew. They seemed to feel no need to hurry, behaving quite calmly. While I told one of them what had happened, the other looked into Jimi’s eyes and checked his heart and pulse. Having done so, he diagnosed that Jimi was only in a deep sleep because of the sleeping tablets. He said I shouldn’t worry at all: Jimi would wake up as soon as the effect of the tablets wore off, but they would take him to hospital anyway, just to be on the safe side.

While one man went out to fetch an ambulance chair, the other told me that they saw plenty of cases like this. He said we would probably be leaving the hospital together that afternoon, laughing about the whole affair. Still worried, I nevertheless felt some relief on hearing this. I believed that Britain’s ambulance staff were extensively trained, and I had full trust in what these men were doing. They lifted Jimi

and sat him upright in the ambulance chair, then carried him up the cast-iron spiral staircase to the street. Meanwhile, I quickly collected the packet and prescription for the sleeping tablets in order to show the doctor at the hospital what Jimi had taken. They were a German brand called Vesparax.” (15)

**11:30 PC Ian Smith and PC Tom Keene arrive at the Samarkand flat by car.**

**Ian Smith** (*Bucks Advertiser*, 1990): “Hendrix was on the floor, lumped out. The ambulance people were already there, and as far as they were concerned, he was dead.”

**Ian Smith:** “I’ve had a few people coming to interview me. Basically, all I can tell them is that I was around at the time. I didn’t see him [in the basement flat]; I was there as they were carrying him out. I didn’t know who he was ’til later.” (18)

**Eric Burdon:** “The door was open when I got there. Monika was there when I arrived and so was Alvenia. I got delayed somehow going there. Jimi was there and I didn’t want to, you know, look at it, I didn’t want to look at the mess. We had to be there before. We got the guitars out, and I definitely at one point left the girl, I left Alvenia to take care of the distraught girl and we found the suicide note, we found the note by the bed, which I took to be a suicide note.” (13)

**Kathy Etchingam:** “I think I saw Jimi on the bed,’ Eric admitted, ‘but I couldn’t look because of the mess.’ He told me that he and Terry the Pill, his road manager, tried to clean the flat up so that when the ambulance arrived, they wouldn’t find any incriminating evidence. Although Eric and Alvenia wouldn’t speak to the police and Gerry Stickells refused to add anything to his previous statements, Terry the Pill gave a statement confirming that he had gone down to the flat and hidden drugs in the garden. He told the investigators that he arrived just as the ambulance was leaving, although he told me before the investigation that when he got there Jimi was lying on the bed, ‘knackered.’ He also told the police that after the ambulance left Monika was still there with him, which completely contradicted her story that she was in the ambulance witnessing Jimi being mishandled by the ambulance men.” (17)

**11:35 The ambulance driven by Reginald Jones, with John Suau, and possibly Monika Dannemann, departs from the Samarkand flat.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “After the men had lifted Jimi in the chair into the ambulance, I climbed in next to him and the driver set off, with the other man sitting in the back watching Jimi. The driver used the siren only once, when we encountered heavy traffic. Throughout the journey the man in the back made sure that Jimi’s head stayed in a slightly backward-titled position. Several times Jimi’s head

dropped forward on to his chest, but on each occasion the man pushed it back. Months later I was told that the best position would have been to have Jimi lying flat with his head turned to the side. Again, the ambulance man told me not to worry, that everything was going to be all right and that Jimi was only in a deep sleep. The drive seemed to take ages, and I became concerned. Later I found out that the nearest hospital, the one for our district, was quite close to our flat. However, the driver had been radioed that it was completely full and told to go to another hospital which, unfortunately, was much farther away. Just as we passed inside the gates of St Mary Abbots Hospital, off Kensington High Street, I saw the ambulance man getting nervous and putting an oxygen mask over Jimi’s face. From then on, everything happened very quickly. The driver stopped in front of the hospital entrance and a doctor and a nurse rushed Jimi inside.” (15)

**Eric Burdon:** “She didn’t leave in the ambulance; she was with me and Alvenia.” (13)

**Eric Burdon:** “I arrived in a mini-cab at a basement apartment in Bayswater. As my car pulled into the street, I saw the flashing blue lights of the ambulance turning the corner. My legs and stomach went weak. I paid off the taxi. I looked down the staircase of the basement apartment, hesitated for a few moments. Straining my ears, I could hear the crying from within. Two women holding each other. The small blonde distraught, eyes red, tears

streaming down her cheeks towards the floor. The tall black woman trying to comfort her. I stepped through the kitchen into the main living room, a small gas fire was burning, a white [sic] Fender guitar on top of its case lying on a table in the corner. The bedclothes were thrown back. On the bed I could see the impression of where the body had lain. Jimi was gone. I wanted to stop and cry too, but I knew there was no time, the police would be here soon and so would the vultures of the press. There were things we must do. Keeping the girls busy was all I could do to save them from going to pieces. 'Monika, passport, where's his passport, Monika? The police are gonna want it.' She found it in one of the drawers beside the bed. On top of the drawers, next to the bed, a note in his handwriting. The writing was scrawny, scrawly, but nevertheless legible. 'The story of Jesus is so easy to explain, after they crucified him a woman she claimed his name. The story of Jesus the whole Bible knows, he went all the way across the desert and in the middle he found a rose.' Now a mixture of pain, sorrow and anger welled within me. 'Oh Jimi, Jimi, Jimi,' I thought, 'you've gone too far this time, you took it to the max.' Monika and Alvenia read the poem together." (6)

**Eric Burdon:** "The story of life is quicker than the wink of an eye. The story of love is hello and goodbye. Until we meet again.' This is the final stanza of the note I discovered on the dirty shag carpet after they'd taken Jimi Hendrix's body away. The bed in

which he'd overdosed still held a deep indentation, the shape of a human who had lain there for hours without moving. Two women were crying uncontrollably: Alvenia Bridges, the black beauty and Monika Dannemann, the blonde German, whom I'd met for the first time earlier that week. [...] After reading the note, I folded it and put it in my pocket. Some time later I gave it to Monika, believing that she was the rightful owner." (2)

In the 80's, Kathy invited Monika to come to her house in Ealing, for a meeting with Noel and Mitch, to talk about what David Henderson had written about them in his book *'Scuse Me While I Kiss the Sky*. During the meeting, Monika gave an account of what had happened on the day Jimi died.

**Kathy Etchingham:** "Noel, Mitch, and I sat open-mouthed as she spoke, in her ponderous German accent, about the neglectful ambulance men and racist doctors who had, between them, killed Jimi. She told us how Jimi had been having trouble sleeping in her basement room at the private Samarkand Hotel in Notting Hill Gate and how she gave him some of her German sleeping pills. When they didn't work, she gave him some more because 'they were very weak.' She said she thought he had taken about nine of the tablets in all. She claimed that she called an ambulance when she couldn't wake him in the morning. When she was in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, she had seen the paramedic

sitting Jimi upright, letting his head loll forward, when he should have lain him down. When they reached the hospital, she said, the doctors ignored Jimi because he was black, and he died sitting in a sort of dentist's chair. The doctor who was in charge of the case, she announced, was incompetent and racist." (17)

**11:45 The ambulance arrives at St. Mary Abbots Hospital, Kensington, London.**

**Alvenia Bridges:** "Monika had Jimi's passport and other identification [...], she checked him in, using a false name [sic]. She was afraid he would get mad at her." (5)

**Walter Price:** "The ambulance turned into the hospital, the two ambulancemen jumped out and rushed into Casualty. Two doctors went out there, tried to revive him but couldn't. I heard them say later that he had died in the ambulance. They took him straight down to the mortuary. He never left the ambulance. That's definite." (3)

**John Suau:** "As the ambulance pulled into the hospital, the patient sighed and stopped breathing. At this stage the ambulance had pulled into the accident bay. The ambulance was met by a nurse or doctor to whom I said, 'he's gone.'" (18)

**Reginald Jones:** "At the hospital, the staff took over. If the woman didn't come with us in the ambulance, then I don't know how she would have known

where we went." (18)

**11:45 - 12:45 Jimi is taken into the Casualty Department**

He is first seen by Dr. John Herbert Bannister (Surgical Registrar), and later by Dr. Martin Howard Seifert (Medical Registrar).

**Monika Dannemann:** "I tried to follow Jimi, but was stopped by a nurse, who instructed me to sit in the waiting room. I was too restless to sit still and felt that Jimi was behind one of the doors leading into other rooms. I was just about to enter one of them, when a young\* doctor came out. I begged him to tell me that Jimi was all right. He asked me to explain what had happened. I gave him the tablet packet and prescription and told him what I knew. I felt a certain attitude coming from him, and at that point I became very nervous, wondering if Jimi was really being taken care of in the best possible way. I phoned Alvenia and asked her to tell Gerry Stickells to come to the hospital immediately. As I couldn't bear it any longer, I opened the door to the room where I thought Jimi was being treated. Inside I was stopped by a nurse who pushed me back into the waiting room again. But for a few seconds I saw Jimi lying there, being worked on by a doctor and a nurse. Another nurse ordered me to sit down and keep quiet. A nurse came over, saying I shouldn't cry because Jimi was all right again. She explained that his heart had stopped, but that they had managed to get it going again, and Jimi

was all right now.” (15)

**Monika Dannemann:** “I talked to the doctor; I had taken the Vesparax packet with me. He was not very concerned; he was more concerned seeing me and Jimi – black and white – he didn’t like it. ‘We are getting married if you want to know,’ I said, ‘but that is not what it’s all about’ and he kept on asking me questions privately. I said: ‘From now on I want it private.’ He said, ‘All right, don’t worry, we’ll do it private.’ But I found out later, this hospital didn’t treat anybody private; he was just telling me this. I had the feeling, because I was a female, that they didn’t take me seriously. I had the feeling with the doctor, because he was more interested, not in Jimi as a patient, he was interested in Jimi and my relationship and I had the feeling that there was some racial feeling. He was not young\*; he was, I think 40, 45 – around that.” (18)

\* Monika can’t decide about the age of the doctor who treated Jimi, it seems. In her book she says the doctor was young, but in *Until We Meet Again* she is quoted as saying he was around 40 to 45.

**Monika Dannemann:** “A little later another nurse came up to me, and said, ‘I’m sorry, but he passed away.’ I pleaded with the nurse to let me see Jimi one last time. She said she would try to get permission for me and left. On the hospital’s death certificate, it was later stated that Jimi died at 12.45 p.m.” (15)

**Monika Dannemann:** “This doctor had not done what I was told later any doctor would normally do when a patient like this comes into the hospital, to do a tracheostomy. The coroner said that Jimi was still alive in the hospital, that the nine tablets he took was not a fatal dose, that he should have not died.” (29)

**John Bannister:** “He did not have an obstruction of the airways, what he had was drowning of the airways, his lungs were completely overcome by fluid. One does a tracheostomy to get better access to the trachea and to the airways, but his problems were below that.” (29)

### **12:00 Alvenia Bridges arrives at St. Mary Abbots Hospital.**

**Monika Dannemann:** “About twenty minutes later a nurse allowed me to go and see him. I was still weeping, but the moment I entered the room and saw Jimi lying on some kind of stretcher I couldn’t cry any more. The same thing happened to Alvenia, who had followed me in. Jimi looked like he was just sleeping, with a faint smile on his face, as if he was having a beautiful dream. For a long time, I just looked at him, caressing his face. I felt he was happy. Then I kissed Jimi goodbye.” (15)

**Alvenia Bridges:** “We didn’t believe it. We didn’t want to. I said I wanted to see him and finally they agreed to let us go in. We asked for his possessions, and they gave us what he had in his pockets. Then Monika became hysterical. She

curled up on the floor and began crying. I ran to a phone and called Eric and he sent someone to take us back to his hotel.” (5)

**12:45 Dr. Martin Seifert officially pronounces James Marshall Hendrix dead.**

**Walter Pryce:** “Part of my duty was to deal with all deceased persons, booking them into the mortuary, safeguarding their possessions. He had a silver crown of thorns around his neck on a silver chain. It was prickly and you could see the little marks where it had been around his neck. There was a young girl there who wanted that but, of course, she couldn’t have it. All possessions have to go to the Coroner and then they go to relatives. In this case the belongings eventually went to his father I believe. There was no sign of agony on his face which you sometimes see; he was just peaceful. He looked as if he was asleep. His head was bandaged so that his mouth didn’t fall open – that is the usual procedure.” (18)

**Gerry Stickells:** “Somebody [Terry Slater] called me and said, ‘there’s a bit of a problem.’ So I went over to Jimi’s hotel, ’cause he was staying at the Cumberland, and he wasn’t there – bed hadn’t been slept in. So, I called somebody else and was told what was going on. So I rushed straight over to the hospital. They didn’t say he was dead, so I rushed to the hospital. That’s where I found out.” (18)

**13:00 Eric Barrett, Gerry Stickells,**

**and Terry Slater arrive at St. Mary Abbots Hospital. Gerry Stickells officially identifies Jimi’s body.**

**Gerry Stickells:** “You had to go downstairs and identify the body and come up and swear it was his body. And knowing that over the years how Jimi would disappear with different women and different things and situations for a day or two. I’m walking down the steps and I think, all this carrying on, what about if I get down there and it’s not him, you know. Because it was, but I mean it was like, it was just black humour, I guess. He was kind of, not smiling, but had that kind of look that he had of, you know, it’s okay.” (13)

**15:00 PS John Shaw and PC Upton go to the Chapel of Rest at St. Mary Abbots Hospital.**

**PS John Shaw:** “Where I saw a lifeless body of James Marshall Hendrix.” (18)

**15:00-16:00 Eric Barrett, Alvenia Bridges, Gerry Stickells, and Terry Slater and Monika go to the Samarkand basement flat.**

They try to clean up the place. A block of hash is thrown out into the garden of the flat, as well as slightly soiled pillowcases.

**Monika Dannemann:** “Gerry Stickells and Eric Barrett were only interested in all the messages Jimi had received. Clotheswise, they didn’t bother at all. And the guitar, that was one of the things they wanted to take. And it was



Eric Barrett who sort of said to Gerry Stickells, 'let her have it.'" (13)

A few minutes later, PS Shaw, PC Upton, and PC Weyell (of the Coroner's office) arrive at the flat and start their investigation and interview Monika.

**Monika Dannemann:** "The police arrived, and in tears I tried to tell them what I knew. They looked around the flat and found the one sleeping tablet under the bed. They didn't ask for any of Jimi's writings, but they looked through some papers. They didn't take anything away with them." (18)

**PC Ian Smith:** "We went back later. She (Monika) said they had an argument and he'd stormed off to cool down. When he came back, he took some sleeping tablets and went to bed. Then she went out, and when she came back, he'd been sick and (she) couldn't wake him. We really answered a lot of calls like that in those days. It really was just another call; I didn't even know he was Jimi Hendrix." (8)

**Sharon Lawrence:** "The venerable St. Mary Abbott's Hospital, a sturdy nineteenth-century building in the Paddington area of London, was busy with births, surgeries, and deaths this afternoon, according to the nurse whose words I overheard as I walked quickly to the desk in the entry hall. 'I'm a friend of Jimi Hendrix. I wanted to ask—'  
I heard a woman speak to me, comprehending only some of her words, especially the part where she

said, 'He was dead when he arrived.'" (16)

**17:00 Monika moves from Hotel Samarkand to Lincoln House Hotel, where she spends the night.**

**Jim Marron:** "I was in Spain with Jeffery, and we were supposed to have dinner that night in Majorca. He called me from his club in Palma saying that he would have to cancel. I said, 'Mike, we've already made reservations.' He said, 'Well... there is good reason. I've just got word from London. Jimi's dead.' I said, 'What?'

He said, 'I always knew that son of a bitch would pull a quickie.' I was stunned. 'A quickie?' 'Yeah, look at that! He's up and done it!' Basically, he had lost a major property. You had the feeling that he had just lost a couple of million dollars – and was the first to realize it. My first reaction was, 'Oh my God, my friend is dead.'" (11)

**Jerry Morrison:** "We [Jerry Morrison, Bob Levine, and Kathy Eberth] ran to get a locksmith friend to unlock Jimi's apartment in the Village [in New York City] to rescue the guitars and tapes, because we knew the leeches had keys; we knew they'd clean the place out. We got there first and took the guitars and everything of value back to the office." (5)

**Sharon Lawrence:** "Phil the Doorman in New York did little bits for Jimi from time to time. He loved Jimi, and he saw all the strange people coming and going at Jimi's apartment. Last time I saw

him, he told me that the minute they had heard Jimi had died, people from Jeffery's office rushed over and cleaned out the apartment before the lawyers could get there first." (18)

**Chas Chandler:** "I got on the train to Newcastle on the Friday morning. When I arrived me father was waiting for me, which he never usually did. 'I came to get you away from all the reporters.' 'Reporters?' 'Don't you know?' 'Know what?' 'Jimi's dead.' Lotta, my first wife, turned around, she says: 'Mike Jeffery.'" (3)

**Al Hendrix:** "Henry Steingarten, Jimi's lawyer, called to tell me Jimi was dead. It was in the morning, and I was still in bed. Oh, it hurt – it's still hard for me to talk about it. At the time, Steingarten didn't say how Jimi died, just that he had died in London. I can't remember if he told me any of the circumstances, because I was in shock over losing Jimi. Steingarten told me to come to New York as soon as possible and to bring an attorney. I know Jimi's death was accidental. Some people said he committed suicide – that's bull! And it wasn't an overdose of drugs." (10)

**Ginger Baker:** "I realised that I'd \*\*\*\*ed up and OD'd on coke. I rushed out of the bathroom and yelled at Liz to get me down to Harley Street and into Doc Robertson's double quick. [...] I rushed into the consulting room and told John Robertson that the best cure was a large shot of morphine. It worked immediately and I was back to normal. Then he dropped the bombshell that

Jimi was dead. He explained that Jimi had been having a few drinks and some downers with a Swedish chick in a hotel. He'd been sick in the bed and she'd left to sleep in the other room, leaving him lying with his head in his own vomit, totally crashed out on the downers. In the morning, she had found Jimi (already long dead), panicked and phoned his manager."

## 19 SEPTEMBER SATURDAY

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In the morning, Monika returns to the Samarkand flat by taxi, to pick up the *The Story of Life* poem and Jimi's black Fender Stratocaster, fearing they might get stolen.

Sharon Lawrence visits Monika at Eric Burdon's hotel, to question her about the circumstances in Jimi's last hours.

**Sharon Lawrence:** "What kind of wine did you serve Jimi?" Monika hesitated, and her eyes changed. 'I don't remember,' she said. 'Exactly where did he die?' I asked. 'In my basement flat.'"

**Monika Dannemann:** "Eric Burdon and Alvenia told me that Eric's band had a concert in Newcastle and that it would be better for me to come along. I agreed, as I felt too vulnerable to stay on my own."

Monika, Alvenia Bridges, and Eric Burdon take a train from London to Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

**Eric Burdon:** "The next thing I remember was standing on the station at King's Cross, waiting for a train, to try and get Monika out of the glare of the harsh lights of publicity, up to the sanctuary of my mother's. Standing there on the station at King's Cross, Jimi's Fender guitar in one hand and his woman in the other."

### Also on this day:

Unknown reporter (*Sunday Telegraph*,

20 September 1970): "While detectives were investigating the death of pop star guitarist Jimi Hendrix from a drugs overdose, American record producer Mr. Ed Chalpin talked last night of a legal argument in England about royalties on Hendrix records. Mr. Chalpin claimed he discovered Hendrix in America. He flew to London on Tuesday to meet lawyers representing the pop star and lawyers for a record company. Hendrix did not turn up at the meeting.

He said: 'We discussed royalties and the future of Jimi Hendrix. I produced early records of Jimi in America and showed proof that I signed him in 1965. He came back and recorded for me in 1967.' He added: 'The issue about royalties will now be settled in an English court. I tried for three days to get to Jimi, but I was blocked and then I was shattered to hear of his death.' The inquest on the guitarist will be held next week."

## 20 SEPTEMBER SUNDAY

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**Robert Hart** (*The Sun*, 21 September): "An American record producer [Ed Chalpin] who claims to have 'discovered' Hendrix in 1965, has flown to London to negotiate with the musician's business managers. He said yesterday: 'I found him when he was a nobody. My lawyer and I have had a meeting with Jimi's lawyer and his manager. I have a number of long-playing and single discs which Jimi cut in 1967 and have never been released. Jimi's representatives here have made

me an offer, but it is too small and I have turned it down.”

**Also on this day:**

British tabloid *The People* publishes part one of an interview with Kathy Etchingham, written by Peter Oakes, headlined ‘Jimi Hendrix: The truth’ – ‘He was hooked on heroin and his hair was turning grey.’ Kathy would face a lot of criticism for this controversial article. According to one source who contacted Oakes in 2021, Kathy had approved the publication of the article:

“Mr Oakes and I have exchanged initial letters. He stated, without promoting from me, that Ms E. had ‘signed it off,’ that is, approved it before publication.”

**Kathy Etchingham:** “An old journalist friend of Ray’s rang up and suggested I write a story of my life with Jimi and sell it to a Sunday tabloid. In my innocence and confusion, I allowed the two of them to talk me into it. Why not? It would be a tribute to him, telling people the truth behind the image. I agreed and talked to the journalist at length. He seemed to understand what I was saying. He sounded sympathetic to the story I wanted to tell. By the time it came out the article read like a nightmare, bearing no resemblance to anything I had actually said. The headlines screamed about drug orgies and sex sessions; it took the wild-man image and blew it up into a monster, a demon rock star as only the tabloid media can create. I came across as stupid, hysterical, oversexed, and drug-soaked, just another groupie cashing in

on my contacts.”

**Chas Chandler:** “Those stories purporting to tell the truth about Jimi just make me sick... One story last Sunday by a girlfriend – well, it really made me upset. It just made me sick...”

**Alan Douglas:** “On September 20, Jeffery phoned me and requested that I come to his hotel. When I arrived, he was bent over, in misery from a recent back injury. We started talking and he let it all out. It was like a confession. The one thing he said that I’ll never forget was, ‘Every time I had a woman I cared for, at some point I would realize that she was with me only to get to him.’ In my opinion, Jeffery hated Hendrix because Jimi had slept with [Jeffery’s girlfriend] Lynn Bailey. Being so open, Hendrix couldn’t have understood why Jeffery might be upset.”

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## 21 SEPTEMBER MONDAY

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Professor Robert Donald Teare, pathologist at the Department of Forensic Medicine at St George’s Hospital in London, carries out a post-mortem examination on the body of Jimi Hendrix.

On BBC1 TV show, *24 Hours*, Eric Burdon suggests in an interview that Jimi committed suicide. “Jimi phased out his final exit.”

**Eric Burdon:** “The representative from the BBC told me I shouldn’t be afraid,

I could trust the BBC, and Kenneth Allsop was gonna do the interview. Surely, he would give me an honest hearing? I agreed to talk. Stupid of me. In defiance of everybody and everything and all that Jimi stood for, I got stoned before the interview. Allsop took me apart, fried me. I can't recall what I said, nor do I care; I only care that my ego was stupid enough to allow me to speak publicly about the death of a friend, for my feelings I couldn't put into words, they were scrambled, disconnected, senseless, not words, just feelings pouring out. Allsop had a field day. Three cheers for the media. Another nail in the coffin of the dream. As I left the TV studio, I recognized an executive from Polydor Records standing near the glass doors of the entranceway. He grabbed me by the arm and looked into my stoned eyes. 'For that, for what you've just said, you'll never ever work again in England, son.'"

**Joe Smith** (vice president, Reprise): "We had a big insurance policy on Hendrix that covered the money we lent him for the Electric Lady studio. We were preparing to approach Lloyds of London when Eric Burdon went on television saying that Hendrix killed himself. I remember calling him and saying, 'You fucker, don't open your mouth again! That's our insurance policy!'"

**Bob Dawbarn** (*Melody Maker*): "In all the obituaries, I just don't recognise the Hendrix I met. Granted, each man can be all things to all people, but I

didn't find Jimi in the burblings of the gutter Sundays nor in that incredibly embarrassing, so-called tribute by Eric Burdon on television."

**John Morthland** (*Rolling Stone*, 29 October 1970): "Burdon was something else. He had gone on BBC television shortly after Jimi's death and made some statements that appalled Jeffery and most everyone else. He claimed that Jimi 'made his exit when he wanted to'; that he 'used a drug to phase himself out of this life and go someplace else.' He also said that he had a poem which Jimi had written just before he died – it was not presented at the inquest, and he could be prosecuted for withholding evidence – and added that Jimi was '... handing me a legacy to continue the work of bringing the audio-visual medium together.' [...] He also says now that if he ever described the poem as a 'suicide note' – which he did – he meant it figuratively."

#### **Also on this day:**

Al Hendrix, Jimi's father, flies from Seattle to New York to meet with Michael Jeffery to discuss funeral arrangements.

**Al Hendrix:** "When Steingarten called, he told me to come to New York as soon as possible and to bring an attorney. I didn't know any at that time, so I called a friend, and she told me about Charles Pasco, who'd done some small things for her. I said, 'Well, some kind of attorney is better than none at all.' Pasco went along with me to New York. When we got to New York, Alan

Douglas and his wife or girlfriend were there to meet our plane. That's the first time I met him, and I didn't know anything about him. He told me that he and Jimi were so buddy-buddy, but Jimi had never mentioned anything to me about him. He said that before Jimi got his own studio, Jimi would go to Douglas' studio to do a lot of practicing. I don't even know if Douglas had a studio, but I remembered that Jimi had told me, 'Yeah, I'll be glad when I get my own studio,' and that when he did, he was so happy about it. From there on, Douglas got his bid in to control Jimi's music. Pasco and him did a lot of talking. I was busy looking out of the hotel window most of the time they were talking. I was still in shock over my son dying. That's what makes me so mad. I was so trusting with all these people, and yet at the same time I knew there was a bunch of vultures out there. Douglas was probably thinking, 'This is a good time - I'm going to put my foot in the door right now and get on Hendrix's side.' I went over to Jimi's place. It was hard being there and knowing that that's where he lived. Jimi's apartment was okay, but it was messy. It looked like he'd just left to go down the street to the store. He had a bunch of gold records on the wall, a reel-to-reel tape recorder, and boxes with a lot of LPs in them. There were clothes hanging up in the closet and some white buckskin boots. I picked up a letter from my niece Gracie that was on the mantelpiece and put that in my pocket. I looked through a photo album, and that's where I got the pictures of Jimi and

some of the guys taken in a nightclub in Nashville. I asked Pasco to put them in his briefcase. There was also a brick there with the Apollo logo on it, and I remembered Jimi telling me that he had played at the Apollo and won a contest. He said that was something. He felt real good over that because it was the Apollo Theater in New York - if you weren't any good, they'd throw food at you! But later on, when I got Jimi's things back, the brick wasn't there. That was the only time I ever went to his apartment."

**Jim Marron:** "Jimi's dad was a proud, gentle man. Jeffery and Stickells were being as polite as they could, a 'Yes, Mr. Hendrix, no, Mr. Hendrix' type of thing. They took him to Jimi's apartment and Al Hendrix was horrified. He said, 'Where is everything?' Instead of this monumental Hollywood or Las Vegas style of wealth he had envisaged, all he found were tapestries on the wall and Indian pillows on the floor. Inside the vault at Electric Lady, where we had stored Jimi's guitars and tapes, Al saw them and asked if he could take them back to Seattle. Jeffery offered to package them up and ship them to him."

When the cases arrived in Seattle many were empty - the guitars had vanished and were never found.

**Sharon Lawrence:** "In October, I took a taxi to the tree-lined historic street in Greenwich Village where Jimi had lived on and off for the last year of his life. Tears gleamed in the eyes of Phil,

the deferential, middle-aged doorman, when he saw me. I'd met him just once before, but he remembered. 'Mr. Hendrix was always so happy when you sent him those packages of records,' he said. The tears now rolled down his face, but he was not embarrassed. 'He was so good, and so many bad people came here,' Phil declared. 'As soon as those people from the office heard about his death, they came and took almost everything. You know, that office...' He was referring to members of Jeffery's staff. 'Rummaging through his things. Terrible how people can be.'"

## 23 SEPTEMBER WEDNESDAY

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Inquest into the death of Jimi Hendrix opens, but is immediately adjourned to the 28th, pending results of forensic tests.

## 25 SEPTEMBER FRIDAY

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**Unknown reporter** (unknown UK newspaper, 26 September 1970): "Jimi Hendrix, the American pop star who died in London on Sept. 18 of an apparent overdose of narcotics, left an estate valued at £208,000. This was disclosed yesterday in a Manhattan court when Judge S. Samuel granted an application appointing Mr Henry W. Steingarten, a New York lawyer, as administrator of the estate. Mr Hendrix, who was 27, did not leave a will and, under New York State law, the entire estate will go to his father, Mr James Andrew Hendrix, a widower, of

Seattle. Jimi Hendrix never married."

## 27 SEPTEMBER SUNDAY

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Part two of the interview with Kathy Etchingham in *The People*, headlined "Mad with rage, he tried to kill his guitar."

## 28 SEPTEMBER MONDAY

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An inquest is held before H.M. Coroner Gavin Leonard Bourdes Thurston, at Westminster Coroner's Court, London.

### **First to take the stand is Gerry Stickells.**

"I have identified the deceased. I have been his English tour manager and general manager for the past two years. I had known him since 1966. For the last two and a half years he had been in America. He had been in this country and Sweden for three weeks. He had had no major medical attention in the last two years. He seemed quite healthy to me. I have never known him to have a vomiting attack. He sometimes took sleeping pills. To my knowledge he did not take hard drugs; he never spoke about hard drugs. He took amphetamine but not regularly. I have not seen him smoke cannabis. He was perfectly well able to work when he should have done during the past three weeks, except for one day when he was tired and had a cold. Basically, he was even-tempered. I have never heard him say he wished he were dead or anything

like it.”

Question: How long had he been over here?

Answer: Two or three weeks, I think.

Q: Had he any medical attention in the last two years?

A: Only for coughs and colds.

Q: Was he a normally healthy person?

A: Yes.

Q: Was he subject to vomiting attacks?

A: No.

Q: What were his habits as to drugs?

A: Hard to say. He did have sleeping pills [Mandrax] but so far as I know he had not used hard drugs ever.

Q: Did he discuss hard drugs with you?

A: No, only business.

Q: Did he ever take Amphetamines?

A: I think he did sometimes but not regularly.

Q: Cannabis?

A: Do not know.

Q: Health during the last three weeks?

A: He was fit and ready for work except on one occasion in Denmark when he had been too tired.

Q: What sort of mental state was he in?

A: He was fairly even tempered and only got down if he felt he had put on a bad performance.

Q: Did he ever say words to the effect that he wishes he were dead?

A: No.

**Second witness to take the stand:  
Monika (Charlotte) Dannemann.**

“I have known Jimi Hendrix for about two years, we met in Germany. I had been in touch with him by telephone and letters while he was in the States. I

met him when he came to this country in August. I have not known him to consult a doctor while in this country. I would say that all the time I knew him he was exhausted. As far as I know he always fulfilled his engagements. He took sleeping tablets from his doctor because he was nervous, but they weren't strong. I have not known him to take hard drugs; he tried them once, just for experience. I don't know whether he took amphetamine. I have not known him to have a vomiting attack. He had been staying with me since Tuesday, 15 September. Nobody else was staying at the flat. He slept well on the Tuesday and Wednesday night. I don't know about Thursday night. We did not spend a tiring day on Thursday. We arrived home about 8.30 p.m. I cooked a meal and had a bottle of white wine about 11 p.m. He drank more of the bottle than I did. He had nothing to drink other than the wine. He had a bath and washed his hair and then we talked. This time there was no argument or stress, it was a happy atmosphere. When we came back, we were talking. I took a sleeping tablet at about 7 a.m. I made him two fish sandwiches. We were in bed talking. I woke about 10.20 a.m. He was sleeping normally. I went round the corner to get cigarettes. When I came back, he had been sick; he was breathing, and his pulse was normal, but I couldn't wake him. I saw that he had taken sleeping tablets; there were nine of mine missing. I phoned for an ambulance, and he was taken to hospital where he lived for a short time. I would take one or two Vesparax.



There were nine missing. I think he knew exactly what he could take in the way of sleeping tablets. When I last saw him before he went to sleep, he was very happy. The tablets were in a cupboard. He would have to get out of bed to get the tablets. As far as I know he had not taken pep pills. He said he had had cannabis at the flat. There was no question of exhaustion on this particular evening. He was not a man to have moods. He was not tensed up or agitated. I have never heard him say he wished he were dead or that life was not worth living. He had business stresses, but this did not worry him."

Question: How long did you know him?

Answer: I met him in January 1969. I saw him from time to time in London and we kept in touch whilst he was in the United States, by letter and telephone. I met him again in this country in August.

Q: Whilst you knew him, did he need medical attention?

A: No.

Q: Did he ever appear to be exhausted?

A: Never once in all the times I met him.

Q: Was he ever unable to appear to give his performance?

A: He always appeared.

Q: Did he take drugs?

A: Yes, sleeping tablets which were not strong. They were less strong than mine.

Q: Did he take hard drugs?

A: No.

Q: Did he ever discuss them with you?

A: Yes, he had tried them out as an experiment but had never taken them

regularly.

Q: Did he take Amphetamines?

A: I do not know.

Q: Did he take pep pills?

A: No.

Q: Was he subject to vomiting attacks?

A: No.

Q: He died on Thursday [sic] 18th September. Can you tell us the events leading up to that date?

A: He had been staying with me since Tuesday.

Q: Was there anybody else?

A: Nobody stayed, just visitors.

Q: Did he take sleeping tablets on Tuesday and Wednesday night?

A: No.

Q: What about Thursday?

A: I do not know. I slept before him and took one of my tablets.

Q: What did he do on Thursday?

A: We got up and had something to eat; then I took some photos of him for my work.

We met some people at his hotel where he telephoned New York. He went to the flat of a person we had met and stayed for about one hour. We arrived home about 8:30 in the evening.

Q: Would you not say it was a tiring day for him?

A: No.

Q: What happened when you got home about 8:30 pm?

A: I cooked a meal, we drank a bottle of white wine, I washed my hair and we listened to music.

Q: About what time was it when you drank the wine?

A: About 11:00 pm.

Q: Did he drink more than you?

A: Yes.

Q: Did he drink anything else?  
A: No, he did not drink very much. He asked me to be his sole photographer and designer.  
Q: What was the atmosphere between you?  
A: Very happy.  
Q: Was there stress?  
A: No.  
Q: What happened then?  
A: He told me at about 1:45 in the morning that he had to go see someone at their flat; they were people he did not like. I dropped him off in my car and picked him up an hour later. During the time we were apart, we spoke three times on the telephone.  
Q: Where did you go after you picked him up?  
A: We went back to my flat, it would be just after 3:00 am. We talked and I took a tablet at about 7:00 am and I made him two fish sandwiches.  
Q: Did you then go to bed?  
A: No, we were already in bed for some time.  
Q: What time did you get to sleep?  
A: Why I suppose just after 7:00.  
Q: What happened next?  
A: I woke up at 10:20 am and could not sleep anymore. He was sleeping normally so I went to get some cigarettes. I came back and looked to see if he was awake and I saw that he was sick.  
Q: How do you mean sick?  
A: He had it around his mouth and nose.  
Q: What did you do next?  
A: I listened to his breathing and took his pulse. It was no different than mine. I tried to awaken him, but he would not

and then I saw that he had taken some of my sleeping tablets. I thought he had taken ten but later I found one on the floor.  
Q: When did he take them?  
A: I do not know, probably just after I started to sleep.  
Q: What did you do?  
A: I telephoned a friend and she advised me to send for an ambulance. I suppose this came about 20 minutes later.  
Q: How was he then?  
A: He was still breathing, and his heart was still beating.  
Q: What were your sleeping tablets?  
A: They were in packets of ten. I had then forty and I knew that ten were missing.  
Q: What are they called?  
A: Vesparax.  
Q: What dose?  
A: One or two.  
Q: And you know now that there were nine pills missing; was he careless about taking pills?  
A: No, he knew what he could take.  
Q: And he was quite normal and happy when you went to sleep?  
A: Yes.  
Q: Where were the pills kept?  
A: In my cupboard.  
Q: Could he reach them from the bed?  
A: No, he would have to get out of bed to get them out of the cupboard.  
Q: Had he had any other pills that evening?  
A: I do not know, not so far as I know.  
Q: Did he say anything about pot?  
A: Yes, I think he took some at the flat.  
Q: So, he had a quiet day and no signs of exhaustion, and he was not depressed. Did you see him moody?

A: No, not when we were alone together.

Q: Was he ever tensed up?

A: No.

Q: Did he say anything to the effect that he wished to be dead?

A: No.

Q: Did he have worries, for example, with his business?

A: I think there was some strain sometimes.

Q: Did he have personal worries?

A: No, he was not worried nor about his business because he knew what he wanted to do.

**Third witness to take the stand:  
Police Sergeant John Shaw.**

**Typed statement #1:**

"I am a Station Police Sergeant 5 'B' attached to Notting Dale Police Station. On Friday, 18th September at 3 p.m. I went to the Chapel of Rest, St. Mary Abbots Hospital, W.8., where I saw a lifeless body of James Marshall Hendrix, aged 27 years, who had been conveyed from 22 Lansdowne Crescent, W.11., at about 11.45 a.m. that day apparently suffering from a drug overdose. The body had been found by Miss Dannemann, lying in bed in a pool of vomit, at about 11 a.m. An ambulance was called at 11.18 a.m., arriving at 11.27 a.m. I went to 22 Lansdowne Crescent and saw a double bed without bed clothing. From a bedside cabinet, I took possession of a single white tablet in a package marked 'Vesparax.'"

Question: Did you notice anything

unusual?

Answer: No, everywhere was smart and clean.

Q: Was there any note to be found?

A: No, nothing.

**Typed statement #2:**

"I found the body at the Chapel of Rest. I went to see Miss Dannemann and she told me how she went to sleep about 7 a.m. and in the morning at about quarter to 11 she found he had been sick in his sleep, and she reported that ten pills were missing. I took the packet of pills from the cupboard plus the single one which was found and handed them in as an exhibit. The ambulance was called at 11.18 and arrived at 11.27."

**Fourth witness to take the stand:  
Professor Robert Donald Teare.**

Question: Did you carry out the post-mortem?

Answer: Yes. My findings were that he was a well-nourished young man. There were no stigmata of drug addiction. Once these marks are there they never go. In this case there were no marks at all. There was no disease and he had vomit in his air passages.

I carried out chemical tests and found Seconal 1.3 mil.% in the blood and 3.9 mil.% in the liver. There was also Barbiturate.

Q: We have heard he took Vesparax.

A: Yes, this would account for the Barbiturate.

Q: What would be a normal dose?

A: Half a tablet. I found 46 mil.% Amphetamine in urine and 100 mil.%

alcohol in urine, but none in his blood. I found no Cannabis on his fingers.

Q: What was the cause of death?

A: Inhalation of vomit due to Barbiturates and intoxication. The dose was too low to be fatal although the liver showed nearly sufficient to be a fatal dose in one go.

Q: What is the effect of so much Barbiturate?

A: It minimises all reflex reactions including the closing of the air passages to exclude fluid passing down to or up from the stomach. Because the air passages were slow to close he would inhale some of the vomit and this would prevent him breathing.

#### **The coroner's summary.**

Gavin L.B. Thurston: "The law is for a verdict of suicide there must be definite evidence of intention to end life. Speculation is not sufficient. Evidence here supports such intention that he took a large dose of pills but not large enough to have been fatal and he would have normally been expected to recover. Apart from occasions of exhaustion there is no evidence to show his health was [in an] abnormal state nor does it appear that he was addicted to drugs but only used them experimentally on occasions.

He was not a person of moods and indeed there is strong evidence that the evening in question was a happy tranquil one. The medical established that he had taken Amphetamines but there is no evidence to explain when this happened. Miss Dannemann went to sleep. She woke, went out for cigarettes, and has described the

condition in which she found him on her return. She described that he had taken some of her pills. The cause of death was clearly inhalation of vomit due to Barbiturate intoxication but there is no evidence as to intention to commit suicide. He had no worries outside the usual stress of business, and I do not feel it would be safe to regard this as sufficient motive. If the question of intention cannot be answered then it is proper to find the cause of death and leave it an open verdict."

#### **The final verdict of H.M. Coroner Gavin L.B. Thurston.**

Gavin L.B. Thurston: "James Marshall Hendrix, otherwise known as Jimi Hendrix, aged 27 years, a Musician of Suites 507/508, Cumberland Hotel, Great Cumberland Place, St Marylebone, London W.I., died at St Mary Abbots Hospital, Kensington, on the 18th September 1970, as a result of inhalation of vomit due to barbiturate intoxication in the form of Quinalbarbitone, there being insufficient evidence of the circumstances this is an Open verdict."

**Harry Shapiro** (*Classic Rock*, 2020): "Incredibly, neither the ambulance drivers, nor the police who attended the 999 call nor the doctors who did actually went through the motions of trying to revive Jimi in the hospital, were ever called to give evidence. For reasons best known to himself, the Coroner, Gavin Thurston, just wanted this done and dusted as quickly as possible."

**Sharon Lawrence:** “Jack Meehan [UPI reporter] spoke with Dr. Thurston the next day for close to an hour, after going to great lengths to quiz other professionals about the credentials of the coroner. He told me that the coroner was ‘straightforward and well respected.’ Meehan said, ‘Dr. Thurston went into detail about the condition of Jimi’s body and the contents of his stomach. He did not find needle marks or indications of long-term use of hard drugs. He told me a fair amount of red wine had been ‘imbibed.’ I found that strange, since I remembered from our time in Los Angeles Jimi mentioning that he didn’t care much for wine anymore. Especially red wine.”

## THE FINAL VERDICT

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Dr. Michael Hunter (forensic pathologist), reviewed the original autopsy report for the Reelz TV programme *Autopsy: The Last Hours of Jimi Hendrix*, which aired in 2016. His conclusion of reading the report is that Jimi did not die from inhalation of vomit, but of a polydrug toxicity.

**Dr. Michael Hunter:** “This is Jimi Hendrix’s autopsy report, and one thing that this report concluded, is that Jimi Hendrix died aspirating on vomitus material. What you need to know about this autopsy report, is that it is very short, it’s barely more than a page in length. The amount of information in here is very sparse, and I think it can also be misleading. The autopsy report mentions the

presence of Durophet, and in the 60’s Durophet was sold on the street as ‘Black Bomber.’ Jimi mixed both alcohol and amphetamines, which can lead to drug induced haze, severely impairing his judgment.

Closely examining this autopsy report, there’s nothing to justify the conclusion that Jimi at this point was either intoxicated or had actually asphyxiated on his own vomit. But I’ve been looking at the statement made by the emergency room physician who took care of Jimi in the hospital, and he does mention there’s a considerable amount of alcohol in his pharynx and his larynx, meaning there is a considerable amount of alcohol in his throat.

To understand what happened here, I think you have to follow the medical consequences of taking this extreme amount of Vesparax. As Jimi sleeps, the barbiturate in Vesparax is absorbed into Jimi’s blood and his breathing slows down. The toxicology report shows he has a considerable amount of Quinalbarbitone in his system. He has 0.7 milligrams % in his blood, and he’s got 3.9 milligrams % in his liver. That is a very high level and is potentially lethal. As Jimi’s breathing slows down even further, his heart beats faster, to pump more oxygen carrying blood around his body. As oxygen levels in his lungs drop, fluid builds up causing pulmonary edema. He’s currently in a downward spiral, and his oxygen levels are dropping. That’s gonna worsen his respiratory failure over time. As a result, the pulmonary edema builds up, and Jimi’s brain and heart are starved of oxygen. Soon after, he lapses

29 SEPTEMBER TUESDAY

Gerry Stickells flies with Jimi's body from London to Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

**Al Hendrix:** "My neighbor, Bernard Freeley, took care of Jimi's body. He went out to the airport and got it, and he had it on display at his funeral home in Columbia City. It was an open casket."

petition filed by the elder Hendrix in Surrogates Court in New York Friday. The court approved a request that the 27-year-old singer's attorney, Henry W. Steingarten, be named administrator of the estate. The elder Hendrix said in a weekend interview that no drugs were involved in his son's death and described it as 'just an accident.' A coroner's inquest record is scheduled to be released Wednesday in London. Sitting in the dining room of his Seattle home surrounded by the albums that rocketed his son to international fame, the father recalled that Jimi once told him that he 'would take care of the family.' Hendrix said his son used to send gifts of money to the family while the singer was on the road. Hendrix and his second wife, Ayako, have lived in a modest three-bedroom home for the past three years. They have been married more than 20 years. Hendrix said the family will continue living in the house. Jimi's mother, divorced by Hendrix in 1942, died in 1958. For 12 years the elder Hendrix has cultivated the gardens of many of the city's estates. A pickup truck which the singer bought him two years ago has carried the lawnmowers, rakes, and shears that he uses. He said benefits obtained from a memorial service to be held in Sick's Stadium here for his son will be donated to charities. Hendrix said many known rock singers and groups have inquired about appearing at the memorial service. Hendrix said arrangements are still being made for the memorial services and private funeral rites to be held about the middle of this week."

into a coma, and dies. I have no doubt that Vesparax is what killed Jimi. His aspiration on his vomit is not the reason why he died. Jimi did aspirate some vomit but only when his brain was already irreparably and fatally damaged. Jimi Hendrix died, not as a result of him choking on vomit, but of polydrug toxicity."

**Sharon Lawrence** (telephone conversation with Monika in 1996): "When he was choking, gasping for breath, did you pour red wine down his throat? There was a long pause. I took a stab at something I'd discussed with Jack Meehan after his conversation with the coroner and had subsequently puzzled over for years. 'I know you did,' I said. 'It was all untidy. He was messy. I thought it would help,' Monika haltingly explained. I could just imagine her running off to wash her hands because the dying man was 'untidy.'"

**Also on this day:**

Unknown reporter (*The Evening Times*, 28 September 1970): "Hendrix Estate Goes To Father – Jim Hendrix, who works as landscape gardener at some of this city's plush residences, says he won't change his occupation despite an estate estimated at \$500,000 left by the death of his son, internationally known rock singer Jimi Hendrix.

'I have no kinds of plans of any sort, to change work,' said Hendrix, 54. The singer, who died suddenly in London Sept. 18, left no will. Under law, his father is the sole beneficiary of the estate. The size of the estate was estimated at \$500,000 in a

# OCTOBER

# 1970

## 1 OCTOBER THURSDAY

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A funeral service for Jimi Hendrix is held at the Dunlap Baptist Church in Renton, Seattle. Conductor of the service: Reverend Harold Blackburn.

Pallbearers are Dave Anderson, James Thomas, Steve Phillips, Eddy Rye, Donny Howell, and Herbert Price Jr.

The following attend the ceremony:

Albert Allen, Arthur Allen, Al Aronowitz, Tom Bariet, Jackie Battle, Eric Barrett, Miles Davis, Alan Douglas, Barry Fay, James Finney, Freddie Mae Gautier, Michael Goldstein, Deedee Hall, Dolores Hall, Eddie Hall, John Hammond Jr., Alice Harding, Dorothy Harding, Ayako June Hendrix, James Allen Hendrix, Janie Hendrix, Leon Hendrix, Nora Hendrix, Thomas E.

Hulett, Abe Jacobs, Michael Jeffery, Eddie Kramer, Bob Levine, Patrick MacDonald, Jim Marshall, Melinda Merryweather, Buddy Miles, Buddy Miles Express members, Mitch Mitchell, Steve Paul, Noel Redding, Peter Riches, Gerry Stickells, Wesley C. Uhlman (mayor of Seattle), Chuck Wein, Arthur Wheeler, Urville Wheeler, Devon Wilson, Johnny Winter, Patrinell Wright, and others.

Freddie Mae Gautier delivers the eulogy and reads the lyrics of 'Angel,' the liner notes Jimi wrote for the Buddy Miles Express LP *Expressway To Your Skull*, as well as a poem written by Leon Hendrix, titled 'Star Child of the Universe.'

Patrinell Wright sings three spirituals, 'Just A Closer Walk With Thee', 'His Eye Is On The Sparrow' and 'The Angels

Keep Watch Over Me.'

Jimi's body is laid to rest at Greenwood Memorial Park, Renton, Washington.

**Walter A. Evans** (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 2 October 1970): "Jimi Hendrix' song ended yesterday. The young man whose life started in Seattle's Central Area and ended in London Sept. 18 at the peak of a brilliant musical career, found peace in the pastoral setting of the lush Green River Valley. The setting was far removed from the scene in which Hendrix will be remembered: spotlighted on a darkened stage, the electric excitement of his music charging the atmosphere with visceral emotion. Yesterday in the sunshine of a quiet Thursday, his family and old friends said goodbye in simple services at the Dunlap Baptist Church on Rainier Avenue S. and at Greenwood Memorial Park in Renton. Some of the greats and near-greats of the music world were there: Noel Redding and Mitch Mitchell, the two men who formed the Experience with Jimi and rode the comet to the top; Buddy Miles, blues singer Johnny Winter and jazz great Miles Davis. The 200 invited guests at the church heard Hendrix's aunt, Mrs. Freddie Mae Gautier, say of him: 'His true personality, which was known only to his close friends and loved ones, was that of a shy, humble man with unique ability to comprehend all that went on around him.' And she read a poem, 'Angels,' [sic] he wrote two months ago, which said, in part: 'The angel came down from heaven

yesterday and stayed with me long enough to rescue me...'

The Rev. Harold Blackburn conducted the simple, dignified service at the church. Soloist Patrinell Wright sang three songs: 'Just a Closer Walk With Thee,' 'His Eye Is On the Sparrow,' and 'The Angels Keep Watch Over Me.' The long procession then wound its way through city streets to the cemetery. There the pallbearers laid the silver and grey metal casket at the open grave. The pall bearers, all childhood friends of Jimi, were Dave Anderson, James Thomas, Steve Phillips, Herbert Price Jr., Eddy Howard, and Donny Howell. The family: Mr. and Mrs. James Hendrix, the singer's father and stepmother; his brother Leon and his stepsister Janie, his grandmother and grandfather, heard the Rev. Mr. Blackburn say: 'He was a great artist, a great musician, a friend... He lives on and his music lives on.' The people sang - almost spontaneously - a chorus of 'When the Saints Go Marching In.' But a poem written by Leon Hendrix provided the most fitting epitaph for the 27-year-old musician: 'He knew peace and love he'd find somewhere, so he made the music to guide us there.'"

**Mitch Mitchell:** "The worst thing was the funeral; it was like a circus. I flew out to Seattle with Noel, who I'd seen a few times in the past months. He hadn't seen much of Jimi, but he had been to the opening of the Electric Lady studio and there was still a lot of affection between all of us. In Seattle most of us were staying in the same hotel and in all honesty, it felt like a



gig. There was a knock at the door in the morning and Gerry Stickells stood there and said, 'It's time to go now,' and I'm sure I said, 'What time's the gig?' I know it sounds sick, but maybe that was the only way I could deal with it. It was OK until we got to the church, and you realized what kind of event the powers that be had made this. I think it started to hit me during the service, especially when we had to walk up the aisle and file past the open coffin. Neither Noel nor I had been through anything like that before. God, it was the most awful thing, Noel and I held hands – that was when it really hit home. They'd booked the Seattle Coliseum or somewhere, for the wake, a place we'd played, certainly. It was really gauche, but probably not a bad idea in retrospect. People got up and played, Noel and I did play later in the day, but I kept a pretty low profile and got an early flight home. It was one of the worst days of my life. Even after I got home it was hard to accept that he was dead; it still felt as though he was right there."

**Noel Redding:** "The funeral was a complete nightmare for me. The coffin was open. I think it's a ghastly custom. Everyone was expected to parade by and look, but I just couldn't. Mitch and I cried and held hands for strength. Jimi always said he wanted a party when he died. We rented a hall, gathered up a few instruments and gave him a good sendoff: Buddy Miles, Johnny Winter, Mitch, and myself were the nucleus of a jam session that lasted hours. Jimi would have

enjoyed it. Photographs have recently surfaced, but I don't think I want to see them. Al Hendrix, Jimi's father, travelled to New York to collect what was left of Jimi's effects. Most items of value had already been taken from his apartment by various scavengers. Only a very few of Jimi's possessions – the least valuable and least important – ever reached Jimi's family, and stolen items (film, tapes, clothing, guitars) continue to show up on sale. The rest of the Experience's gear did a quick disappearing act, too. There had been about thirty guitars and a number of small amps at the studio – all gone. The tons of gear from the European tour were taken to Mitch's house and there I saw a huge room full of speaker cabs, amps, three drum kits, an Altech PA complete with monitors, etc. A Sussex dealer told me that Mitch slowly sold off the gear. At least he had some right to do so."

**Bob Levine:** "The reverend didn't know anything about Jimi. When he started with, 'We have to remember the great guitar player in the sky...' we all broke up laughing. It helped ease the tension. Michael Jeffery never approached Jimi's casket; he chose to remain in his limousine instead. As Jimi was laid to rest, Devon Wilson tried to throw herself into the open grave, in a fit of hysteria."

**Leon Hendrix:** "Dad and I walked down the aisle together and took our seats in the first row with June, Janie, Grandma, and Grandpa. None of us could stop crying. The whole church

was in tears. Noel Redding and Mitch Mitchell were there, as well as Buddy Miles, Johnny Winter, and Miles Davis. Even the mayor of Seattle, Wes Uhlman, made an appearance. When I pivoted and glanced a few rows back, about fifty young women dressed in black were mourning Jimi's death. You would think they were all ex-wives or girlfriends, which, knowing my brother, they could certainly have been. But I recognized only a couple of them. The ceremony was led by the Reverend Harold Blackburn, who was accompanied by a soloist who sang a few traditional hymns. Off to the right side of the pulpit stood a gorgeous six-foot guitar made out of white and purple blossoms. One of Mama's best friends, Mrs. Freddie Mae Gautier, got up and addressed the two hundred or so people in the room. After saying a few kind words, she read from a poem Jimi wrote just a few months before his death, called 'Angels,' [sic] and then recited my poem, 'Star Child of the Universe.' As soon as she finished, people erupted with amens and hallelujahs.

My legs were like rubber as I walked up to Jimi's gray and silver-metal-trimmed casket to say my final good-bye. They'd dressed him in green brocaded silk, and he looked calm and peaceful, almost as if he were sleeping or maybe just closing his eyes thinking about his next musical project. I liked to believe he was, anyway. After saying a quick prayer, I folded the paper with my poem on it and placed it next to him in the casket. After the ceremony, Dad and I rode together in silence from

the church to the Renton cemetery, which wasn't too far away. News of Jimi's funeral was all over the radio, and people stood waving at us from the front lawns of their homes as we passed by in our limousine. A few of Jimi's childhood buddies – Eddy Rye, Donnie Howell, and Billy Burns – served as pallbearers, along with James Thomas, the leader of my brother's earlier band, and Herb Price, his valet. Together, they carefully rested the casket next to the grave that had been dug. As they then lowered it into the ground, some people tossed guitar picks and folded letters down onto it, while others threw joints. All of my family surrounded my dad and me, and we tightly hung on to each other. I never wanted to let any of them go.”

# THE FINAL HOURS

## A CLOSER LOOK

### INCONCLUSIVE EVENTS

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It is impossible to accurately reconstruct the events of 18 September, 1970, as reports from those involved contradict each other. The following are some of the conflicting testimonials for this day.

#### **The Kameron party**

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Times when Jimi was driven to the Kameron party differ. According to Angie Burdon, who was at the party, Jimi arrived “mid evening” of 17 September, while Monika states she drove Jimi to the Kameron flat at around 01:45 past midnight. Tony Brown made the sensible note in his book that “if Angie’s statement that Stella acquired some Chinese [or Thai]

food for Jimi is correct, this would suggest that Jimi arrived much earlier than the time stated by Monika, as it would have been impossible to order the delivery of a Chinese take-away at 1:45am in 1970.”

**CONCLUSION:** Since testimonies differ too much, it cannot be determined when Jimi went to Kameron’s party. At least all agreed on the time when he left the party: at 03:00.

#### **Monika wakes up**

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In her book *The Inner World of Jimi Hendrix*, Monika gives the time of her waking up at 10:20, but on other occasions, interviewed by reporters and police officials, she offered other timings.

**09:00:** The time Monika said she woke up, in an interview with the editor of *Univibes* fanzine in 1975.

**10:00:** The time she remembered waking up in her unpublished manuscript. "Jimi was still sleeping soundly. I got out of bed, put on some clothes, and ran across the street to fetch some cigarettes."

**10:20:** The time according to her deposition in 1991: "...woke up. He was sleeping normally. I went 'round the corner to get cigarettes."

**11:00:** The time Dannemann provided to the police on the day Hendrix died. "I woke up and saw that Jimi's face was covered in vomit. I tried to wake him but could not." In her October 1994 deposition in Seattle, she retracted this testimony.

This waking up time of 11:00 is also on the *Coroner's Officer's Report Concerning Death of 18 September*, registered by the Registrar E. Fisher at 01:00: "Marijuana at 2.30am. 9 Vesparax at 7am. Girlfriend woke at 11am, saw that he had vomited and was in coma. To hospital. Unable to resuscitate and death 12.45."

Monika's providing of inaccurate timings fuelled the hypothesis that she was covering up for something condemnable. Why would anyone change the story so often, and so diversely, with timings so far apart? She made the 999 call at 11:18; if she testified that she woke up as late at

11:00, she would only have to account for 18 minutes of waiting. However, if she indeed woke up much earlier, much more time had to be accounted for. Again, this suggests there was more to tell about what happened after she woke up, than what she told the police on that day. Furthermore, if, indeed, she woke up at 11:00, what happened to the cigarette shopping story?

**CONCLUSION:** Since Monika gave different times, it cannot be safely determined when she actually woke up that morning.

**Note:** It seems remarkable that Monika woke up that morning, "feeling exhausted yet at the same time wide awake," considering she took one sleeping pill at 06:00, on top of some wine, having spent 18 hours of meeting people, running around London since noon the previous day, having heated arguments with Jimi, and only having had four hours of sleep.

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### **Monika goes out to buy cigarettes**

Monika offered various accounts of what happened after she woke up.

**Monika Dannemann:** "I went back to the bedroom, had a close look, and saw that Jimi was sleeping peacefully. Then I quickly left the flat and walked to the shop, which was just a few doors away."  
(1)

**Monika Dannemann** (*Daily Mirror*, 29 September 1970): "I woke up again at

about 10:20 a.m. and I could not sleep any more. I wanted some cigarettes but as Jimi did not like me going out without me telling him, I looked to see if he was awake. He was sleeping normally. Just before I was about to go out, I looked at him again and realised he was ill. I tried to wake him up but couldn't. I then saw that he had taken some of my sleeping tablets."

**Harry Shapiro:** "In 1982, Monika had a meeting with Noel Redding, Mitch Mitchell, Kathy Etchingham, and her husband which took place at Kathy's house. During the course of that meeting, Kathy says that Monika told them all that she had to drive her car down to Queensway to buy cigarettes because she couldn't find any local shops open." (3)

**CONCLUSION:** In her book, as well as on various other occasions, Monika stated that she went out to buy cigarettes after checking on Jimi. To *Daily Mirror* reporter Kenelm Jenour she said that she saw that Jimi was ill before she wanted to buy cigarettes and couldn't wake him up; that suggests she didn't go out at all. More disturbingly, she told PC Ian Smith (according to Tony Brown) on the afternoon of Jimi's death when questioned, that "they had an argument and Jimi stormed off to cool down. When he came back, he took some sleeping tablets and went to bed. Then I went out, and when I came back, he'd been sick, and I couldn't wake him." Did Monika go out to buy cigarettes? Given the different statements, she could have, but we cannot rule out the

likelihood that she didn't go out at all.

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### **Monika dials 999 at 11:18**

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The time when Monika woke up, and the time when she noticed Jimi had been sick, are crucial, because it tells us how long she waited before calling 999. She stated that she returned to the flat just 18 minutes before she called 999, if, indeed, she went out. However, it cannot be ruled out that Monika noticed Jimi had been sick much earlier, and that she spent a lot of time in panic not knowing what to do, trying to revive Jimi. She changed her account of events between waking up and noticing that Jimi had been sick a number of times. After waking up, she made breakfast, had a wash, put on make-up, went out to buy cigarettes, didn't go out because Jimi had been sick, smoked a cigarette at Jimi's bedside while he was asleep, and poured water (wine?) over his face.

**CONCLUSION:** The time when Monika called 999 has been logged at 11:18, which is the only confirmed fact.

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### **The situation at the flat**

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Confusing descriptions of how the ambulance men and the police found Jimi vary to such an extent that, again, it is impossible to know what the situation actually was at the flat. The ambulance, with driver Reginald Jones (41) and attendant John Suau (24), arrived at 11:27 at the Samarkand flat.

In July and August of 1991, Jones and Suau were interviewed by Kathy Etchingham and Dee Mitchell (Mitch's second wife) in an attempt to unravel the events of Jimi's last day. Parts of their statements were subsequently used in the books *The Final Days* (1997) by Tony Brown, and *Through Gypsy Eyes* (1998) by Kathy Etchingham and Andrew Crofts.

**Reginald Jones:** "It was horrific, we arrived at the flat, the door was flung wide open, nobody about, just the body on the bed. We called out for someone, loads of times, so we walked in. We went into the bedroom, it was very dark because the curtains were still pulled, I mean the gas fire was on, but you couldn't see anything, your eyes had to adjust. He was covered in vomit, there was tons of it all over the pillow, black and brown it was. His airway was completely blocked all the way down, his tongue had fallen back, he was flat on his back. Well, we had to get the police, we only had him and an empty flat, so John ran up and radioed. I knew he was dead as soon as I walked in the room." (13)

**John Suau:** "Well, I remember we had a hell of a time trying to suck him out. I mean the vomit was dry, and there was a hell of a lot of it. I mean we knew it was hopeless, nothing would have worked. To tell you the truth, I thought it was an overdose. It wasn't really my business to diagnose, I just had to keep working. There were no bed clothes on top of him. There was no pulse, no respiration. We got down to the flat,

and there was nobody but the body on the bed. So, we had to radio for the police from the ambulance. As I say, we knew he was gone, he was on top of the bed dressed. So as soon as the police arrived, we were off." (13)

**Reginald Jones:** "When we got to the flat the door was wide open. The body was on the bed, covered in vomit of all colours, black, brown; all over him, all over the pillow. There wasn't another soul in sight. I went back to the ambulance for an aspirator. We tried to revive him, but we couldn't. The vomit was all dried, like he'd been lying there a long time. There was no heartbeat. He was blue, not breathing and not responding to light or pain. We called the police from the radio in the ambulance, thinking he was dead and that the circumstances were strange. A couple of young policemen turned up and they told us to take him to the hospital. Strictly speaking they shouldn't have done that, but they didn't want to have to spend the whole afternoon filling in forms. We helped them out by taking the deceased to the casualty department." (17)

**John Suau:** "I went in first, followed very quickly by Reg. To the best of my recollection the door was open when I arrived. But someone must have met me at or near the door. The patient was a coloured man, he was wearing I believe only a pair of trousers or pyjama bottoms. He was on the bed, lying on his back; there was vomit around his mouth, on his chest and some on the pillowcases – not masses of it but more

than enough to see what had happened. This patient was still alive, just, but he was pretty far gone. The bladder and bowels had not voided then and neither did they in the ambulance on the journey to the hospital. There was no mess in the ambulance caused by our patient. I also remember, vaguely, a woman at the Admission Desk of St. Mary Abbots; she could only have known where we were taking the patient if she'd come with us or followed the ambulance." (17)

However, in the *Until We Meet Again* booklet, published in 2011, Jones offers a different recollection of the scene at the flat.

**Reginald Jones:** "I don't really remember the Hendrix case that well. Lying on a bed was a coloured chap. I think he was completely undressed. I carried out the usual thorough check. If there had been no pulse, then I would immediately have attempted resuscitation. I didn't on this patient so there was obviously no need to do so. There was nothing suspicious either." (18)

**PC Ian Smith:** "We went to a basement flat at Lansdowne Crescent. The ambulance men were there, but Jimi was dead. It wasn't very pleasant, they had to take some of the bedding from around him. He was dressed but there was a lot of mess, so they just wrapped it around his body and took him off. There was really nothing they could do for him." (13)

In 1993, John Suau and Ian Smith disowned the statements they made to Kathy and Dee, when they were shown to them by Dennis Care, a Hendrix fan and former superintendent with the Sussex police, who spent two years investigating the circumstances of Jimi's death. John Suau: "The vast majority of this statement is untrue and does not reflect what I said at that telephone interview."

**CONCLUSION:** As the statements by the ambulance men vary in their description of the situation at the flat, it cannot reliably be determined what they actually found when they arrived. What should be noted is that they both mention that the door was open, and that Jimi was covered in vomit.

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### **Where were the Vesparax pills?**

**Monika Dannemann:** "I did have about forty-five prescribed sleeping tablets, in packets of ten, in a large cupboard opposite the bed." (15)

**Monika Dannemann:** "I had hidden them in a cupboard, but Jimi had already taken one a few days earlier when he couldn't sleep so he knew the sleeping tablets' effect." (20)

**Monika Dannemann:** "There were some more sleeping tablets in the cupboard, and I looked and they were all there." (3)

**Monika Dannemann:** "I checked the drawer quickly to make sure Jimi had

taken only one packet of tablets, and to my relief saw the three other packets still there.” (15)

**Monika Dannemann:** ‘I had about twenty sleeping pills in a bottle that I had gotten through a doctor to help me sleep. They were kept in the bedroom, on my bureau.’ (7)

**Sharon Lawrence:** “Did you give them to Jimi? Discuss them with him?”  
“No. He must have found them in the bathroom cupboard.” (16)

**Buzzy Linhart:** “Jimi said ‘No, that’s OK, there’s Tuinals [sleeping pills] in the medicine cabinet in the bathroom here.’”

**CONCLUSION:** It cannot be determined where the Vesparax sleeping pills were kept: in a large cupboard, in a drawer, in the bedroom on a bureau, or in the bathroom cupboard.

### **Was Jimi naked, or was he fully clothed?**

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**John Suau:** “There were no bed clothes on top of him. We knew he was gone; he was on top of the bed dressed.” (13)

**John Suau:** “The patient was a coloured man; he was wearing, I believe, only a pair of trousers or pyjama bottoms.” (17)

**Reginald Jones:** “I don’t really remember the Hendrix case that well. Lying on a bed was a coloured chap. I

think he was completely undressed.” (18)

**PC Ian Smith:** “It wasn’t very pleasant, they had to take some of the bedding from around him. He was dressed but there was a lot of mess, so they just wrapped it around his body and took him off.” (13)

**Dr. Martin Seifert:** “I do recall that Jimi was fully dressed when I saw him. I do not recall any blanket being wrapped around him.” (18)

**Harry Shapiro:** “As deep as Kathy and Dee were able to dig, there are still two significant and unexplained aspects to Jimi’s death. The first is that he was found fully clothed on top of the bed. Every version of Monika’s story has them going to bed together which by any normal interpretation means getting undressed and pulling back the covers.” (19)

**CONCLUSION:** Conflicting testimonies do not make it clear if Jimi was naked, partially, or fully dressed.

### **Was Monika at the flat?**

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Who was at the flat, besides Jimi, when the ambulance men arrived, is another mystery. Conflicting statements do not confirm whether Monika, or anybody else, was present at the scene.

**Reginald Jones:** “The door was flung wide open, nobody about, just the body on the bed. We called out for someone,



loads of times, so we walked in. We didn't speak to anyone at the flat, just the police and hospital staff." (13)

**John Suau:** "We got down to the flat, and there was nobody but the body on the bed." (13)

**John Suau:** "To the best of my recollection the door was open when I arrived. But someone must have met me at or near the door." (17)

**Kathy Etchingham:** "Dee rang him [John Suau], with me listening in on the extension, and asked him all the same questions we had asked Reg. His answers were exactly the same. He corroborated his partner's story completely. At the end of the conversation Dee said, 'Don't you remember the blonde girl who was there? She had long, silver-blond hair, and a German accent.' There was an extended silence and then he said, 'Doesn't ring any bells. I don't remember there being anyone there.'" (17)

**Dee Mitchell** (in an undated letter to Monika Dannemann): "I spoke to ambulanceman John Suau three times. He said different things all three times. The very first time I spoke to him, he said no one else was in the flat but the 'little girl.'" (18)

Terry Slater's testimony could explain why the door was open when the ambulance men arrived at the flat, and why there was nobody about.

**Harry Shapiro:** "When Eric Burdon asked Monika why she hadn't called an ambulance, she said that she was scared because there were drugs in the room. So first on the scene was Eric's roadie, Terry Slater, who told Kathy that he and Monika cleared out the flat, going across the road to some adjacent gardens where they buried the drugs. Meanwhile, the ambulance drivers arrived to find Jimi dead and alone in the room. Following procedure, they tried to resuscitate him in the ambulance, but he was clearly gone, and this would explain why they were so relaxed and didn't rush through the streets. Terry said that he and Monica viewed all this from across the street." (19)

**PC Ian Smith:** "We followed them up the stairs. I watched them put him in the ambulance and take off. There was nobody else. I remember quite clearly the doors shutting on the crew and Jimi. We just closed up the flat as there was no one about. If she'd been in the flat, they would never have called us to come, because they just could've taken him as normal. But because no one was there, he was dead and circumstances were a little odd, suspicious, they radioed their control to get us in. I was around at the time, I didn't see him, I was there as they were carrying him out. I didn't know who he was till later." (13)

**Note:** In 1993, Ian Smith disowned the above statement when it was shown to him by Dennis Care.

**Eric Burdon:** “The door was open when I got there. Monika was there when I arrived and so was Alvenia.” (13)

In January 1992, the London Ambulance Service issued an official statement regarding the events of the morning of 18 September.

**David Smith** (Press and Public Affairs Manager, London Ambulance Service): “In the light of our extensive enquiries it is apparent that the ambulancemen acted in a proper and professional manner. There was no one else, except the deceased, at the flat (22 Lansdowne Crescent, London W11) when they arrived; nor did anyone else accompany them in the ambulance to St. Mary Abbotts Hospital.”

**CONCLUSION:** Almost all the statements above mention that there was nobody at the flat, besides Jimi. The statement by Terry Slater would account for the absence of Monika when the ambulance men arrived.

### **Was Jimi still alive at the flat?**

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**Monika Dannemann:** “I explained the situation to the crew. They seemed to feel no need to hurry, behaving quite calmly. While I told one of them what had happened, the other looked into Jimi’s eyes and checked his heart and pulse. Having done so, he diagnosed that Jimi was only in a deep sleep because of the sleeping tablets.” (15)

**Reginald Jones:** “We felt his pulse

between his shoulders, pinched his earlobe and nose, showed a light in his eyes, but there was no response at all. I knew he was dead as soon as I walked in the room.” (13)

**Reginald Jones:** “I carried out the usual thorough check. If there had been no pulse then I would immediately have attempted resuscitation. I didn’t on this patient so there was obviously no need to do so.” (18)

**Reginald Jones:** “There was no heartbeat. He was blue, not breathing and not responding to light or pain. A couple of young policemen turned up and they told us to take him to the hospital. We helped them out by taking the deceased to the casualty department.” (17)

**John Suau:** “There was no pulse, no respiration. As I say, we knew he was gone, he was on top of the bed dressed.” (13)

**John Suau:** “This patient was still alive, just, but he was pretty far gone.” (17)

**Ian Smith** (*Bucks Advertiser*, 1990): “Hendrix was on the floor, lumped out. The ambulance people were already there, and as far as they were concerned, he was dead.”

**Ian Smith:** “The ambulance men were there but Jimi was dead. There was really nothing they could do for him.” (13)

**Note:** In 1993, Ian Smith disowned the

above statement when it was shown to him by Dennis Care.

**CONCLUSION:** The above statements range from deceased to just alive, which makes it impossible to determine what Jimi's condition was when the ambulance men arrived.

### **Did Monika accompany Jimi in the ambulance to the hospital?**

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**Monika Dannemann:** "After the men had lifted Jimi in the chair into the ambulance, I climbed in next to him and the driver set off, with the other man sitting in the back watching Jimi." (15)

**Reginald Jones:** "Nobody accompanied us, Mr Suau was with Jimi, I didn't know he was Jimi Hendrix – a bit out of my age group." (13)

**Reginald Jones:** "At the hospital the staff took over. If the woman didn't come with us in the ambulance then I don't know how she would have known where we went." (18)

**John Suau:** "I remember vaguely a woman at the Admission Desk of St. Mary Abbots; she could only have known where we were taking the patient if she'd come with us or followed the ambulance." (18)

**Dee Mitchell** (in a letter to Monika Dannemann): "I spoke to ambulanceman John Suau three times. When I asked 'who, if anyone, had come in the ambulance with Jimi,' he said 'I

think the little girl did, the little blond girl.' 'Yes,' he remembered, 'she rode in the back of the ambulance.'" (18)

**Eric Burdon:** "She didn't leave in the ambulance; she was with me and Alvenia." (13)

**Alvenia Bridges:** "Monika had Jimi's passport and other identification and when we got to the hospital she checked him in, using a false name. She was afraid he would get mad at her." (5)

**Dr. Bob Brown:** "I was just outside the emergency department or casualty section at St. Mary Abbot's Hospital, and he was brought up from an ambulance on a trolley. And his lady friend was coming along behind it." (31)

**CONCLUSION:** Although it seems logical Monika accompanied Jimi in the ambulance, conflicting testimonies cannot confirm this without doubt. As an alternative, it is possible Monika went to St. Mary Abbots Hospital by car or taxi some time later, accompanied by Alvenia Bridges ("when we got to the hospital, she checked him in").

### **Was Jimi transported to the hospital in a correct way?**

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**Monika Dannemann:** "After the men had lifted Jimi in the chair into the ambulance, I climbed in next to him and the driver set off, with the other man sitting in the back watching Jimi. Throughout the journey the man in the back made sure that Jimi's head

stayed in a slightly backward-titled position. Several times Jimi's head dropped forward on to his chest, but on each occasion the man pushed it back. Months later I was told that the best position would have been to have Jimi lying flat with his head turned to the side. Just as we passed inside the gates of St Mary Abbots Hospital, off Kensington High Street, I saw the ambulance man getting nervous and putting an oxygen mask over Jimi's face." (15)

**Kathy Etchingham:** "The SO1\* men suggested that Monika had got the idea of Jimi's being made to sit up after watching him from outside the hotel being carried up the steps from the basement in a special chair because the climb was too steep for a stretcher, but once he was inside the ambulance he would have been laid out flat. The ambulance men, however, had no memory of her being there at all." (17)

\* Scotland Yard's Special Operations 1.

**David Waspe:** "My father was working at St. Mary Abbots Hospital when Jimi died. According to dad the rumour going about the hospital at the time was that the ambulancemen sat him up instead of putting him in the 'recovery position' and he choked on his own vomit, which he wouldn't have done otherwise." (18)

**Keith Bailey:** "My drummer, a black guy called Winston 'Foxy' Wedderburn, works three days a week as a London ambulance driver. One night I got a

mobile phone call while he was at work on his ambulance and he was talking to me, with his female driving partner talking along in the background. She had worked with the exact same drivers that had taken Jimi to the hospital. Wedderburn reported to me what she relayed to him: that to the two white drivers Jimi was 'just another black drunk' who they left on his back in the back of the ambulance." (18)

**Charles Todd:** "I worked in Fulham as an ambulanceman and often paired up with an 'old timer,' who had transported Jimi to hospital. He was conveyed, unconscious, in a chair, with his head unsupported, and apparently died from asphyxiation consequent upon vomiting." (12)

**John Suau** (interviewed in 1995): "There's a standard procedure especially for someone who's unconscious. They travel on their side. All the equipment is there at his head if you need to do resuscitation, anything like that, it's all there ready for use. There was just me and the casualty and Reg the driver. Nobody else." (29)

**David Smith** (Press and Public Affairs Manager, London Ambulance Service): "In the light of our extensive enquiries it is apparent that the ambulancemen acted in a proper and professional manner."

**Was Jimi still alive when he arrived at the hospital?**

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**John Suau:** “As the ambulance pulled into the hospital the patient sighed and stopped breathing. The ambulance was met by a nurse or doctor to whom I said, ‘he’s gone.’” (18)

**Walter Price:** “Two doctors went out there, tried to revive him but couldn’t. I heard them say later that he had died in the ambulance.” (3)

**Harry Shapiro:** “As the admissions officer, Mr Price would have made out a patient’s admissions card if Jimi had been brought into the hospital. No such card was made out because officially Jimi was never admitted to the hospital. In his jargon he was DOA – Dead On Arrival.” (3)

Dr. Bob Brown was the first doctor to attend to Jimi Hendrix at St Mary Abbot’s Hospital.

**Dr. Bob Brown** (interview conducted by Aidan Prewett): “I was just outside the emergency department or casualty section at St Mary Abbot’s Hospital, and he was brought up from an ambulance on a trolley – a bier. And his lady friend was coming along behind it. But he was dead and had been for some time. All that was apparent was that he was dead and beyond recovery. I saw him, checked him – there was nothing to be done. But they kept going; they were moving. I just came along with the trolley, walked with it for a few steps and on it went. They were going the right way to the emergency department but there was nothing to be done there either. It wasn’t I, but another

Australian doctor who certified that he was dead. There were a lot of people weeping and much commotion. Poor Jimi.”

Jimi is taken into the Casualty Department, where he is first seen by Dr. John Herbert Bannister.

**Dr. John Bannister:** “He was taken out of the ambulance and wheeled into casualty. On his admission, he was obviously dead. He had no pulse, no heartbeat and the attempt to resuscitate him was merely a formality, an attempt we would perform on any patient in such condition.” (13)

**Dr. John Bannister:** “May I assure you that, although it was obvious that Hendrix had been dead for some time, full attempts at cardiac resuscitation were performed. He was lifeless completely and although it is impossible to say how long before he had died, it is my belief that it was not on the way to the hospital. In my opinion he did not die in the hospital and was long dead before he came out of the ambulance.” (18)

**Dr. John Bannister:** “Jimi Hendrix had been dead for some time, without a doubt, hours rather than minutes. He didn’t have any pulse. The inside of his mouth and mucous membranes were black because he had been dead for some time. He was completely cold. I personally think he probably died a long time before. He was cold and he was blue. He had all the parameters of somebody who had been dead for some

time. We worked on him for about half an hour without any response at all.” (23)

**Dr. John Bannister:** “The body was cold, there was no signs of circulation, and my overall impression was that he had been dead for some hours before.” (29)

**Garry Maddox/Tom Compagnoni** (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 September 2020): “We worked on him for about half an hour,’ Bannister says ruefully. ‘But there was not a breath. His oesophagus was full of wine. There was wine everywhere. He’d obviously been dead for at least half an hour,’ Bannister, now 78 and living in Sydney, says. He remembers a slim woman, likely to be Hendrix’s last girlfriend Monika Dannemann, watching from the other side of a door. ‘She was very upset,’ he says. ‘It was a very sad situation.’”

Dr. Martin Seifert is next to see Jimi Hendrix.

**Dr. Martin Seifert:** “I did not have any idea who he was when he was first brought in and, initially, I am certain that none of the attendant medical officers or nurses knew who he was. I did not personally see the ambulance when Jimi arrived. It is difficult to know exactly how soon after Jimi arrived that I attended the Casualty Department, as Dr. Bannister and myself were called to the Department as soon as he arrived. I do recall that Jimi was fully dressed

when I saw him. I do not recall any blanket being wrapped around him. When I reached Jimi, he was lying on an examination coach; I vividly remember seeing him lying flat on his back at that stage.” (18)

**Dr. Martin Seifert:** “Jimi was rushed in the resuss (resuscitation) room. He was put on a monitor, but it was flat. I pounded his heart a couple of times but there was no point, he was dead. No point in doing anything else. No nurse went out to say we revived him because we didn’t. That just never happened. We didn’t work on him anything like an hour, just a few minutes. He was dead. I vaguely remember his clothes being flamboyant but not too well because that isn’t what you concentrate on. I never spoke to or saw anyone about Jimi, there was no woman in admissions. After we worked on Jimi, I vaguely remember hearing a lot of drama going on in admissions, but it could have been anything. I would have done anything I could to save him. It was too late, he was dead.” (13)

**Dr. Martin Seifert:** “We must have thought that at the time, there was a possibility that we could try and resuscitate him. Unfortunately, because the monitor remained so inactive, it was obvious that we weren’t able to resuscitate him, and I have always assumed that Jimi Hendrix was brought in dead.” (29)

**Dr. Martin Seifert:** “To say that he was dead when they got to the hospital is probably incorrect. When they

brought Jimi into the hospital there was still some life left in him – which is why we worked so hard on him. We wouldn't have worked so hard trying to resuscitate him if he was already dead. There was some breathing going on – whether you call that life or not is another story. I worked on him for about ten minutes, and when I couldn't get him to breathe, I then decided to shut down the oxygen and declare that he was dead. I personally couldn't find any sign of alcohol or anything like that on him when I examined him.” (32)

**Dr. Martin Seifert:** “I would stick with this [previous] version, the monitor was very inactive but obviously we needed to try to resuscitate him if possible and that is what we did.” (30)

**Dr. Martin Seifert** (Harry Shapiro interview): “I do recall that Jimi was fully dressed when I saw him. I do not recall any blanket being wrapped around him. When I reached Jimi, he was lying on an examination coach; I vividly remember seeing him lying flat on his back at that stage. My duty as a Medical Registrar was to try to resuscitate any patients coming in who were unconscious. We would have been giving him cardiac massage. I have no idea what Dr. Bannister did at Casualty at that stage. We worked on Jimi for a very short time, probably between five to ten minutes. I do not consider that he had much chance at survival. I never discussed the details concerning 18 September 1970 with Dr. Bannister.”

**Monika Dannemann:** “A nurse came

over, saying I shouldn't cry because Jimi was all right again. She explained that his heart had stopped, but that they had managed to get it going again, and Jimi was all right now. Alvenia was with me at that point, and she told me recently that she remembers well how the nurse came up to us and said he was alive and not to worry. A little later another nurse came up to me, and said, ‘I'm sorry, but he passed away.’” (15)

**Dr. Rufus Crompton:** “He would have died from the amount of sleeping pills he had taken anyway. The fact that he vomited and inhaled the vomit just hastened it. The reading in his liver was so high he couldn't have survived it. He couldn't have been breathing by the time he reached the hospital because his lungs were full of fluid, half a pint in one of them.” (17)

**Robert L. Doerschuk:** “Then there's the question of the coroner's report. Dannemann quotes the coroner as stating, ‘clearly at the inquest that [Hendrix] died at the hospital.’ But the official report of the Kensington coroner lists 12:45 p.m. on September 18 as the time when ‘the deceased died or was found dying or dead.’ This was recorded only after efforts to revive the patient were stopped and [Gerry] Stickells had identified the body to officials as Jimi Hendrix.” (21)

The Coroner's Office Report stated that Dr. Seifert saw Jimi “before and after death,” meaning before and after the pronouncement of death by Dr. Seifert. That report makes no mention of a Dr.

Bannister, who later stated that he had worked on Jimi to bring him back to life.

**CONCLUSION:** It seems by most accounts that Jimi's heart stopped beating on or around the time the ambulance arrived at the Hospital. The testimony by Dr. Bannister that Jimi had been "dead for some hours" seems to be inconsistent with the accounts by the other medical personnel, and the state of Jimi's body. It is even unclear how much time he spent treating Jimi.

**Note:** As it later turned out, Dr. John Bannister had a bad reputation as a doctor, and his testimony should be regarded as such. In 1972, he returned to Australia, where he was struck off the Medical Register two decades later, when he was found guilty on three charges brought against him after complaints from two of his patients for "professional misconduct and inappropriate and unethical conduct." According to the Tribunal, Bannister "had demonstrated a lack of adequate knowledge, experience, skill, judgment and/or care in the practice of medicine." He was also found guilty on several fraud charges. The Tribunal stated: "The persistence of such deceitful conduct over a continuous period of five years from 1986 to 1990 comfortably satisfies this Tribunal on the balance of probabilities that his conduct indicates within his character a marked degree of moral turpitude and, to use the words of the Medical Practitioners Act, 'it indicates that he is not of good character.'"

## **Did Monika see Jimi after he died?**

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**Monika Dannemann:** "A little later another nurse came up to me, and said, 'I'm sorry, but he passed away.' I pleaded with the nurse to let me see Jimi one last time. She said she would try to get permission for me and left. About twenty minutes later a nurse allowed me to go and see him. I was still weeping, but the moment I entered the room and saw Jimi lying on some kind of stretcher I couldn't cry any more. The same thing happened to Alvenia, who had followed me in. Jimi looked like he was just sleeping, with a faint smile on his face, as if he was having a beautiful dream. For a long time I just looked at him, caressing his face. I felt he was happy. Then I kissed Jimi goodbye." (15)

**Alvenia Bridges:** "A nurse came out and said that they thought they had saved him. Then they came back, and they said he was gone... and I didn't believe them because they'd just said a few minutes ago that they thought they had him. So, I insisted to see him. I saw his hand and that beautiful turquoise ring that I gave him, there... and I said to the nurse, OK, he's gone." (27)

**Dr. Martin Seifert:** "No one would have been allowed to look at him or stand over him. That would never have been done." (13)

**Dr. Martin Seifert:** "No nurse went out to say we'd revived him, because we didn't – that just never happened." (22)



**Monika Dannemann:** “Dr. Martin Seifert is right to say that it was against the rules for me to see Jimi in the hospital after his death. What he does not know is that the nurse, realising how serious and determined I was, eventually gave in and let me see him, breaking the rules.” (18)

In another interview Monika said, “As far as I know, Gerry Stickells identified the body, because I didn’t want to see him, they asked me, but I just couldn’t.” (13)

**CONCLUSION:** It is strange that Monika gives two different versions of this moment. Either she did see Jimi after the doctors declared Jimi deceased, or she didn’t. Although hospital regulations didn’t allow for family or friends to see the deceased, the statement by Alvenia seems to support the claim that she and Monika indeed saw Jimi after he was declared dead.

### **The red wine mystery**

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Frustrating the investigation on Jimi’s death for decades, Dr. Bannister claimed that Jimi drowned in a pool of red wine.

**Dr. John Bannister:** “His mucous membranes in the larynx and pharynx were completely cyanosed and prior to suction there was red wine and gastric contents exuding from his mouth. The very striking memory of this event in my mind was the considerable amount

of alcohol in his pharynx and larynx, despite suction, and it was obvious that he had drowned in his own gastric contents. I recall vividly the very large amounts of red wine that oozed from his stomach and his lungs, and in my opinion, there was no question that Jimi Hendrix had drowned, if not at home, then certainly on the way to the hospital. At the time I felt he had either been on sedative tablets, to sleep or otherwise, and that he had imbibed copious amounts of red wine prior to going to sleep. I would suspect that he regurgitated the red wine and drowned. The scene remains extremely vivid in my memory, and I can quite clearly recall the large amounts of red wine causing his hair and clothes to be matted.” (13)

Because Dr. Bannister proved to be an unreliable witness, in retrospect not much value has been assigned to his claim. However, it cannot be ruled out that some wine was found on Jimi’s body.

**Sharon Lawrence:** “Jack Meehan [UPI reporter] spoke with Dr. Thurston the next day [after the inquest on 28 September 1970] for close to an hour, after going to great lengths to quiz other professionals about the credentials of the coroner. [...] He told me a fair amount of red wine had been ‘imbibed.’ I found that strange, since I remembered from our time in Los Angeles Jimi mentioning that he didn’t care much for wine anymore. Especially red wine.” (16)

**Dr. Michael Hunter** (in 2016): “I’ve been looking at the statement made by the emergency room physician who took care of Jimi in the hospital, and he does mention there’s a considerable amount of alcohol in his pharynx and his larynx, meaning there is a considerable amount of alcohol in his throat.” (24)

Dr. Martin Seifert first claimed, “I personally couldn’t find any sign of alcohol or anything like that on him when I examined him,” but in an unreleased interview with an American film maker, Seifert says he does remember there being some wine on Jimi.

**Sharon Lawrence** (telephone conversation with Monika in 1996): “When he was choking, gasping for breath, did you pour red wine down his throat?” There was a long pause. I took a stab at something I’d discussed with Jack Meehan after his conversation with the coroner and had subsequently puzzled over for years. ‘I know you did,’ I said. ‘It was all untidy. He was messy. I thought it would help,’ Monika haltingly explained. I could just imagine her running off to wash her hands because the dying man was ‘untidy.’” (16)

**CONCLUSION:** Jimi did not drown in masses of red wine, but with all the conflicting testimonies, some wine could have been present on or around his body. This could be due to Monika, using it for some unexplained reason on Jimi. One reason could be that she panicked and used it to make it

appear as if he died from the wine, as opposed to dying from an overdose of her sleeping tablets. At any rate, the presence of red wine remains open to speculation.

### **The Vesparax sleeping pills**

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**Monika Dannemann:** “When we came back, we were talking. I took a sleeping tablet about 7:00am. I made him two fish sandwiches. We were in bed talking.” (33)

**Monika Dannemann:** “Around 4:00am he was wide awake, and he was then saying he needed to have a sleep, so he was thinking of taking sleeping tablets. And I said to him, ‘Well I’ll wait with you, let’s wait for a while before you do take any sleeping tablets,’ because I was not very much for sleeping tablets. I think it was six o’clock or a bit later before I took mine.” (13)

**Monika Dannemann:** “That morning I secretly took a sleeping pill, which is something I would never normally do. I’d had two operations and these tablets were given to me to help me sleep but I didn’t like to take them. I had hidden them in a cupboard, but Jimi had already taken one a few days earlier when he couldn’t sleep so he knew the sleeping tablets’ effect. (20)

**Monika Dannemann:** “In the meantime, I tried to wake him and didn’t succeed. I stumbled across, at the side of the bed, a packet of sleeping tablets. And out of this packet were

ten, or rather nine. I found one under the bed. Nine were missing. There were some more sleeping tablets in the cupboard, and I looked and they were all there. So, he definitely didn't try to commit suicide because there were much more tablets there. And these tablets were not very strong. He had tried them out before, and he couldn't sleep with them." (3)

**Monika Dannemann:** "I was trying to work out why Jimi had swallowed so many sleeping tablets. The only answer I could find was that after I had fallen asleep, he had taken the two tablets he had planned to take earlier. Then, as these wouldn't have worked as fast as Jimi expected, he had taken some more." (18)

**Harry Shapiro:** "When she fell asleep around 7 a.m., Jimi was still awake. Monika says that she took a sleeping pill, but never saw Jimi take any himself." (3)

**Kathy Etchingham** (Medium.com, 17 September 2014): "Then, when another pathologist looked into this in 1994, his conclusion was that there was no evidence that he had taken 9 tablets, because the toxicology levels could have been as few as five, to have had those levels. The only person that said he took 9 was the girl herself, Monika Dannemann. There was no evidence that he'd taken 9, he could have taken 5. It would have had the same devastating effect."

**Sharon Lawrence:** "What did he take?"

I asked again. 'My prescription pills were in the flat.' 'What kind of pills?' 'They are called Vesparax.' 'Did you give them to Jimi? Discuss them with him?' 'No. He must have found them in the bathroom cupboard.'" (16)

**Kathy Etchingham:** "Monika told us how Jimi had been having trouble sleeping in her basement room at the private Samarkand Hotel in Notting Hill Gate and how she gave him some of her German sleeping pills. When they didn't work, she gave him some more because 'they were very weak.' She said she thought he had taken about nine of the tablets in all." (17)

**CONCLUSION:** It cannot be accurately determined how many sleeping tablets Jimi took on the morning of 18 September. Numbers could range from 5 to 9 tablets. It appears that Jimi looked and found the tablets himself, without Monika's knowing as she had fallen asleep by then. However, it can also not be ruled out that she was awake when Jimi took the tablets, or was instrumental in supplying them to Jimi.