

Hillsborough

Angry police hit back yesterday (tues) at Liverpool fans who hampered life saving attempts after the Hillsborough horror.

They spoke out for the first time after being stung by savage criticism of their actions and claims that the Merseyside fans were blameless.

The shocked bobbies revealed how they were kicked and punched as they gave victims the kiss of life.

And others were horrified to see Liverpool fans urinating on policemen and victims as they fought to haul them out of the killer crush.

Said one senior officer who was in the battle to save lives: 'We are as sorry and shocked as anyone about these tragic deaths but to paint all the Liverpool fans as lilly whites is wrong.

'As we struggled in appalling conditions to save lives, fans standing further up the terrace were openly urinating on us and the bodies of the dead.

'As policemen on the pitch tried to save lives they were hampered by other Liverpool fans running and kicking and punching them.'

Another officer said: 'One colleague a few yards away gave up trying to revive an injured lad realising he was dead. Immediately he was attacked by his mate who threw punches.

'The officer did not retaliate although he was dazed. He simply went on to help the next victim

more...

'As another young officer gave the kiss of life and heart massage he was abused and then given a savage kick by another lout.'

A third lko officer added: ' Even when it became apparent we were dealing with a tragic situation police were harassed as they tried to get on with the job of saving lives and helping victims.

'We know a lot of questions will be asked about the opening of the gates - a decision taken because it was feared lives were at risk outside the ground.

'The fact remains that had the Liverpool fans then entered the ground in an orderly and civilised manner the crushing which led to the deaths would not have happened.'

And the officer claimed an appeal to delay the kick off to allow fans to enter the ground was turned down.

He said: ' The answer was that the players had already come out so the match had to start on time. A lot of us felt that simply wasn't good enough.

Ends.

*Hillsborough
Whites Sheffield 18/4/89.*

Pocket. 1

A policeman who helped the injured and the dying spoke of Liverpool supporters picking the pockets of victims before they were carried away.

He said: ' There was a lot of pilfering going on while the bid to save lives was taking place.

'Personal possessions were missing as well as cash and other articles.

'People were picking up coins which had fallen from victim's pockets as they lay on the floor. It was a sickening spectacle'

more....

One high ranking officer said: 'Some of them were like animals, they were drunk and violent and their actions were vile'.

Another senior policeman said: 'Nobody dare say anything about the behaviour of some supporters for fear of being accused of being insensitive.

'But the fact is, some of my officers went through a double hell - a disaster and the fury of drunken fans impeding rescue attempts.

And South Yorkshire Chief Ambulance Officer Don Page revealed one ambulanceman needed hospital treatment after being attacked as he treated an injured fan.

Other ambulancemen had to tend to injuries in other parts of the ground - caused by fans fighting.

Residents in Wadsley Lane just yards from the ground told how Liverpool supporters arrived drunk and boisterous carrying beer and lager.

South Yorkshire Police federation secretary, Paul Middup said: 'I am sick of hearing of how good the crowd were. Some arrived tanked up and the situation faced by officers trying to control them was terrifying.

'People were diving under the bellies of the police horses and between their legs and the only people who would do that are either mental or have been drinking heavily.'

He added: 'I heard all those terrible accounts of the behaviour of a number of fans but it must be stressed that it was a small element who behaved so terribly.'

Ends.

Add Hillsborough Disaster

Patnick 1.

Last night, Sheffield Tory MP, Irvine Patnick, backed up police claims that Liverpool fans attacked and urinated on them as they tended the injured and dying.

He said: 'I spoke to many policemen in the makeshift mortuary afterwards. They told me they were hampered, harassed, punched, kicked and urinated on by Liverpool fans.

'I have kept quiet about this because I did not want to inflame a delicate situation. But it is a fact that these are the stories they told me and they had no reason to lie. I saw the bruising on their bodies and the state they were in and there is no doubt in my mind it is true.

'All this happened to them and yet they carried on doing their job trying to save lives and now they are being blamed.

'One important question that must be answered is what part alcohol played in this whole tragic business'.

Ends.