# **CONVERSATIONS IN BLACK HISTORY**

MAHALIA FRANCE-MIR, SAI MURRAY & MAX FARRAR

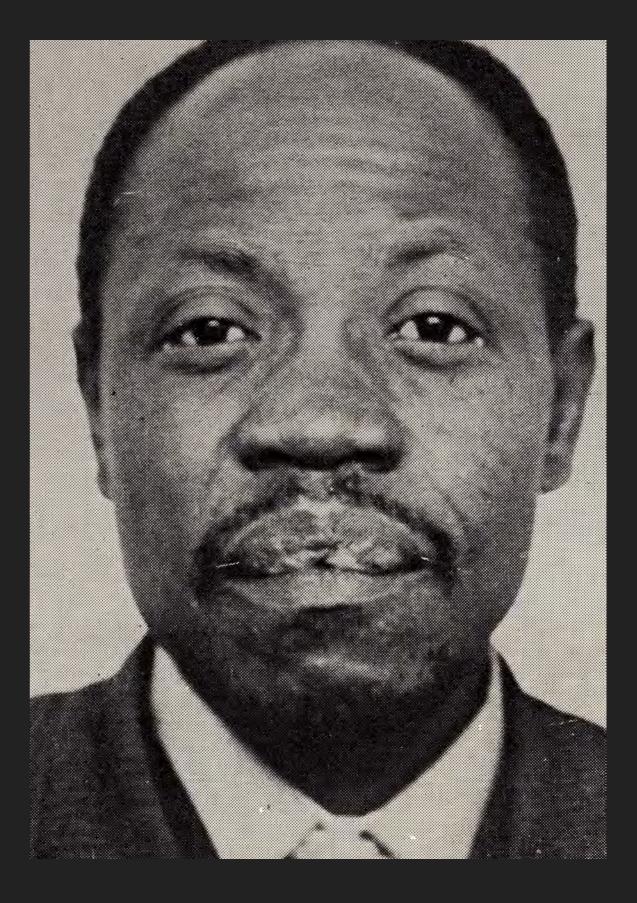
AT THE LEEDS WEST INDIAN CENTRE, 1.2.17



#### **'SUBJECT IS NOT RECORDED IN THIS COUNTRY' (NIGERIAN POLICE, 1970)**

### DAVID IN THE WEST AFRICAN COLONY

- Born 1926,1929,1930 or 1931 in Lagos, Nigeria
- Lived in the Brazilian Quarter
- Father was a fisherman
- Left school at 14
- Apprentice tailor
- Christian
- Stowed away on the Motor Vessel Temple Bar on 16th August 1949



#### DAVID IN YORKSHIRE 1949–1953

### HARD LABOUR AND SOME DANCING

- Arrived in Hull on 3rd Sept 1949
- First incarceration: one month in Armley Jail, Leeds
- Lived with other West Africans in inner north Leeds
- Six months work at Croft Engineering in Bradford
- Worked as a hod carrier, in the abattoir and at the meat market in Leeds
- 1951: Sheffield Gas Company & Leeds abattoir
- Drinking at the King Edward Hotel & dancing at the Mecca Ballroom in Leeds
- Known as 'Yankee' (he loved US popular culture)

### DAVID'S 2nd INCARCERATION: 2 months in HMP Leeds

- 25 April 1953
- Arrested after an altercation at King Edward Hotel over an unpaid bill
- Sentenced to two months in Armley Jail
- Referred to psychiatric hospital in Leeds





#### **INCARCERATION (3):**

#### **Almost 8 years in Mention Asylum**

- Psychiatrist Michael Leahy recorded that David appeared 'apprehensive, noisy and frightened without cause'.
- Five days later described him as loud, excitable and terrified: 'Childish and wept when talking of his fears'
- 'Treatment': Largactyl & Electo Convusive Therapy

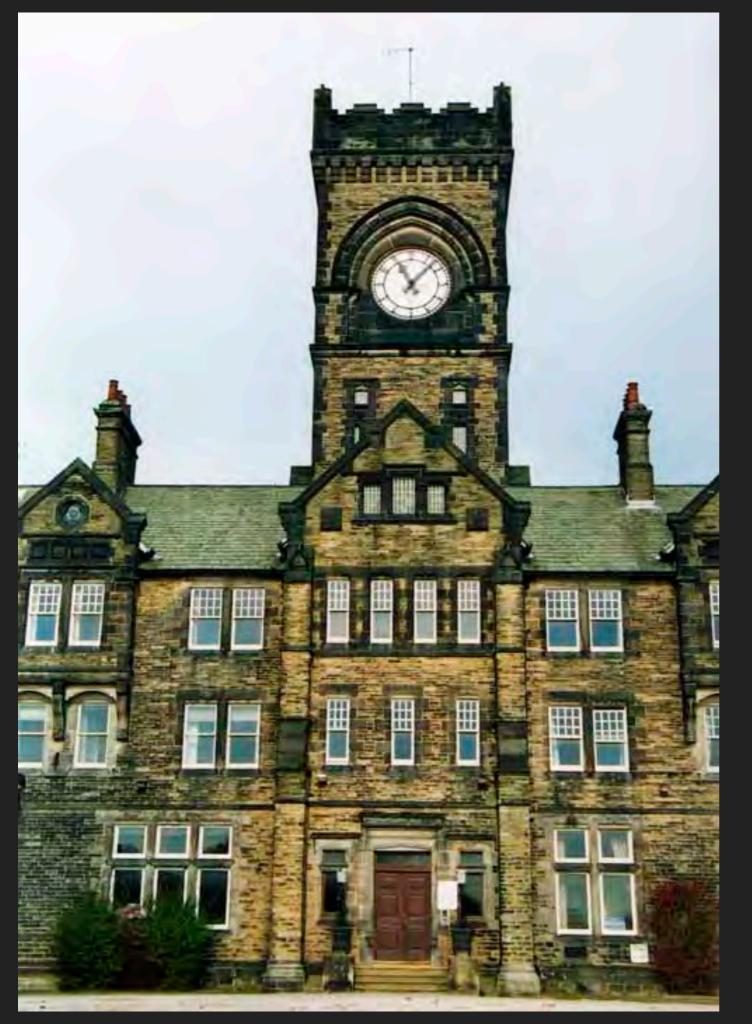
But was he ill or was he a victim of ethnocentric diagnosis?

### 6 JUNE 1953 – 19 APRIL 1961

MENSTON ASYLUM.

# **INCARCERATION & DESTITUTION**

- Lived at 209 Belle Vue Rd and works at Storey Evans & Co, printer supplier
- Sacked from West Yorkshire Foundry in Leeds for fighting with a Jamaican worker
- 1962 signed on in London & Sheffield
- September: 6 months in Hull prison for malicious wounding (4th incarceration)
- 1963 lived in Chapeltown, Leeds
- October 1964 taken into Faith Lodge in Leeds (alcoholic homeless facility)
- November '65 squatted at 12 St Alban's Place, Leeds
- Arrested for wounding two policemen



# **11th November 1965** DAVID'S 5th INCARCERATION

#### Sectioned under the 1959 Mental Health Act

- Psychiatrist Dr Carty said he was overactive, garrulous, aggressive, 'very paranoid about the police' & was hearing threatening voices, sometimes in Yoruba, sometimes in English
- Carty concluded he was a 'dullard'
- Reported that David said he was a heavy drinker of sherry and rum
- Discharged 27 April 1967. Described as 'quiet and co-operative'

High Royd's Hospital

Formerly Menston Asylum

Originally (1888) West Yorkshire Pauper Lunatic Asylum

#### 1967- 69: DAVID WAS SLEEPING ROUGH IN THE CENTRE OF LEEDS

### ELLERKER & KITCHING: HOUNDING DAVID OLUWALE

- 4 May 1969 David's body found at Knostrop Weir
- Police Cadet Gary Galvin said he suspected Inspector Ellerker & Sgt Kitching
- Chief Supt Perkins (London) conducted a two year investigation
- Humanity is indebted to Gary Galvin & the other police officers who broke ranks, obeyed their conscience & gave evidence
- From 1967, Insp Ellerker & Sgt Kitching demanded that they were called each time 'Uggy' was seen sleeping in doorways in the city centre
- They drove David to Bramhope & Middleton woods, dumped him & told him to stay in the jungle'
- Put him in a dustbin & rolled it down an arcade

### THE HOUNDING CONTINUED

- Ellerker & Kitching urinated on David
- Set fire to his newspaper bedding
- Banged his head repeatedly on the floor of the police van
- In December '69 David was arrested & sentenced to three months in Preston Prison for indecent exposure (6th incarceration)
- In January '69 E&K arrested David; kicked him so hard in the groin that he was lifted off the ground
- David was charged and sentenced to 14 days in prison (7th incarceration)
- Early morning of 16 April 1969: two police officers seen pursuing a man in The Calls, close River Aire (near Leeds Bridge)

#### **THE TRIAL OF ELLERKER & KITCHING**

#### 8th – 23rd NOVEMBER 1971

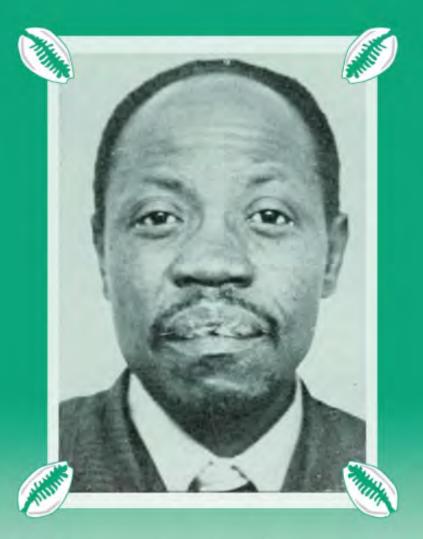
- Ellerker & Kitching accused of actual & grievous bodily harm & manslaughter of David Oluwale
- At the trial, David was described as a 'lithesome, miniature Mr Universe' with big, dirty teeth who attacked and bit the psychiatric nurses
- David Odamo, a Nigerian nurse at the time, wrote that David was not a violent person. His evidence was not called.
- Several police testified to Ellerker's & Kitching's assaults on David





#### THE TRIAL CONTINUED (NOVEMBER 1971)

- Kitching admitted he 'tickled' David 'with my boot', saying David was 'a wild animal, not a human being'
- Ellerker denied all evidence against him. Said that David 'came at him like a hurricane . . . screaming like a lunatic'
- Bus conductor David Condon said he saw on 16th April 1969 two men in police uniform pursuing a scruffy man down The Calls, near the River Aire. Unable to identify Ellerker or Kitching
- Mr Justice Hinchcliffe ruled this evidence inadmissible & directed acquittal of manslaughter
- Remember Oluwale believes, along with Chief Supt Perkins, that E&K killed David
- Jury found them guilty of ABH; acquitted them of GBH
- Ellerker: 3 years in jail
- Kitching: 2 years & three months



# REMEMBER JAVALE WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, **DIVERSITY, EQUALITY & INCLUSION**

rememberoluwale.org

DOMA (David Oluwale Memorial Association) is a registered charity that is: \* Educating & campaigning, with partners, on the intersecting issues that David endured: incarceration, mental ill-health, racism, destitution, homelessness, police violence \* Building a memorial garden in David's name for peaceful dialogue and artistic performance \* Embracing art of every type as a major means of changing attitudes, policy & practice Main texts: Caryl Phillips 'Northern Lights' in Foreigners (2007) Kester Aspden The Hounding of David Oluwale (2008)