

And, as we told you, the London concert was well organised. But, and this is an important BUT, there were just a few major differences that made things worse.

First of all, the promoter of the concerts, Mel Bush, had planned to have two giant television screens on either side of the stage.

Many people have said that perhaps the crush at the front would have been less if people could have seen David's face on these screens.

The reason that the screens weren't erected was a very practical one. The concert had to finish by a certain time. That time was 10.30pm.

And at any time much before that, it would have been impossible to see anything at all on one of the screens; the picture must be televised in complete darkness if it is to be seen.

So it would have been impossible for those present to see David, even if the screens had been there.

Another difference between White City and either of the other concerts was the weather. Unlike the cool, comfortable temperatures in Glasgow and Manchester, the temperature in White City had been as high as 80 degrees in the sun.

Members of the audience who had arrived at 9.00pm the night before the concert, and who had queued all night and then sat all day on one of the warmest days of the year were in a bad condition.

Of course, very few of the newspapers reported that St. John's Ambulance Corps had begun to carry people to the treatment area as early as 4.30 pm!!

But it was true, and throughout the night, many more were removed, as much from exhaustion and too much sun as from hysteria or ex-

citement.

Again, one thing more that marked the White City concert as different was the number of people; more than twice as many fans turned out to see David in London than the number at Glasgow and Manchester combined.

This meant that the security services would have had to face their toughest test. Certainly they were prepared for that. But they weren't prepared for the hot weather, and I believe the facilities would have been more than enough if the crowds could have seen David on the screens.

Certainly, as so many fans have pointed out in letters and telegrams, David was fantastic. But the tragedy that struck so sadly the night of May 28th has left a scar that will never heal.

Everyone on stage witnessed the sadness with reactions of horror and disbelief. Gloria Galone, one of David's back up vocalists, told me that "Sometimes Trish and I were very near to completely breaking just. It was so terrible, just... unbelievable."

POWERFUL

And the short, powerful under-statement from the drummer in David's band "None of us liked seeing people being hurt and carried out."

And no one wanted that less than David. From the time he learned of the seriousness of Bernadette Whelan's injuries, he slept restlessly, and always awoke tired and unrefreshed.

The night of the tragedy, he was up until 4.00am, waiting to see that everyone who had been admitted to the hospital was receiving the best treatment. And when he finally slept that morning, he believed that Bernadette would recover.

But it was not to be. And so, with a brave girl barely hanging on, David had,

once more, to face the press.

At Manchester, on the afternoon of what was to be one of his finest concerts ever, David met the press.

He had to answer the unpleasant questions, to tell reporters that they would never know how much he regretted it, that he was sorry.

People present remarked that he looked tired.

Indeed, as our photographer told me, he only smiled twice in forty minutes. And yet there are still people who blame David, who believe that, far from being sickened by it, that he actually encouraged the hysteria and pushing that terrible evening.

REMEMBER

Even though they saw him on stage, begging people to move back, urging and gesturing to them, announcing that he would "Rock and roll all night long" if everyone would move back and sit down.

So David has left, with a scar that will never heal.

Fortunately, I was able to give him a sample of the post that came flooding in to our office.

So many people sent letters and telegrams, thanking David and telling him not to worry, that it wasn't his fault, that I know he felt better.

I was able to get some of them to him before he left, and I'll see that he receives whatever you send.

But please, remember when you send letters to David that the slightest unpleasant word or accusation will weigh more heavily on him than you can possibly imagine.

So please, let's do our best to make David know that we don't hold him responsible for the sad turn of events at the London concert.

LET'S MAKE HIM KNOW WE CARE!



Even David reflects the strain of his last tour in these photographs. Having your picture taken 500 times a day can be a bit tiring.

