

PC hid his cosh 'in panic' before search

PC RAYMOND WHITE, the Special Patrol Group officer who was found to have seven "unauthorised weapons" in his locker, yesterday told the inquest on the death of Blair Peach that he had tried to conceal one of them, a metal cosh, when he realised that his locker was about to be searched.

Another officer, PC Greville Bint, had told the coroner earlier about his collection of Nazi regalia. They had been found at his home as well as British regimental badges and bayonets and a leather-covered, lead-weighted piece of wood.

PC White, who was suspended after the search, said he had been changing by his locker when he heard that officers from the complaints investigation bureau were on the way. "I think in a moment of panic, or what-

ever happens in those split seconds, I suddenly, sillily, put the cosh in my anorak pocket. There was no point, because the anorak was there for them to see anyway," he said.

He had been keeping a crowbar and a jemmy in his locker to help with executing search warrants. The metal cosh and a long whip were souvenirs of a trip to America. He had found a whip handle on the floor of one of the SPG vans.

PC White rejected a suggestion from Mr Stephen Sedley, for the Peach family, that he was the SPG unit's "armourer."

PC George Woodcock said that the large American truncheon which had been found in his locker had been given to him by a policeman with whom he had stayed in the United States in 1966.

PC Bint said that he collected Nazi regalia and other military objects as a hobby.