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**POST**  
**4/9/80 PPT**

# 'Exorcist' sobs as he tells of Devil

Preacher John Sherwood (31) broke down today as he told an Old Bailey jury of the shock he had when he found the young woman he was trying to rid of the Devil had died.

He is alleged to have punched, kicked and stamped on civil servant Beatrix Rutherford (31) in March during an "exorcism" in her home at Edmonton, North London.

Sobbing and in a trembling voice, Sherwood clutched a Bible as he told how she had died after he tried to wrestle the Devil from her body.

Sherwood, an itinerant preacher and former actor of no fixed home, and Anthony Strover (25), unemployed, of Wood Lane, Shepherds Bush, West London, deny manslaughter.

## MEETING

On the day of her death all three went to a religious meeting in the Methodist Hall at Edmonton.

They returned to her flat and as he was "calling out to Satan and for the name of the Devil I saw another body over Beatrix's body which I had not previously seen," he told the jury.

He could only think he completely lost control, although he could not remember hitting or jumping on her.

He remembered the Devil in her "telling me his name was Jack the Ripper."

(Proceeding)