

FAMILY'S ANGER AFTER BLOOD TRANSFUSION GOES WRONG

WHY DID MY DAD DIE?

Nov. 97

BILL MURPHY died a slow and painful death—after being given a blood transfusion that was supposed to save his life.

His family says the British Government is to blame. Now they want justice, not sympathy.

Bill, 59, was one of 12 men—all haemophiliacs—who have died

Report by **Paul Burnell**

this year of hepatitis C after being given infected blood transfusions.

Haemophilia is a hereditary disease in which the blood fails to clot properly.

Bill's son, Greg, believes his father contracted the fatal hepatitis C from contaminated blood in the early 1980s. But the disease was only diagnosed in 1992, even though it had weakened his liver progressively and his health had been failing.

Greg and his family—from Liverpool—are angry at the Government's

■ Continued — Page 5

Why did dad die?

■ From Page 1

refusal to compensate the transfusion victims.

"My mother, sister and myself are furious and not simply because we've lost Dad," said Greg, 27.

The Department of Health has said that it administered the blood unwittingly and operated

within the constraints of medical knowledge.

Greg, a journalist, said: "We don't accept that on two counts: Firstly most of the blood came from the USA and many of the donors were homeless alcoholics, junkies and other desperate people who found an easy way to supplement their addictions.

"Secondly, the Government has already set the precedent for settling the cases of haemophiliacs who acquired HIV."

A Department of Health spokesman said: "We do not accept liability as haemophiliacs were given the best available treatment during the 1980s."



Victim - Bill Murphy

Nov 194