

From Whappie Kill Phillup

Did Whappie actually kill Phillup? How da something deh really go?

Every good Jamaican has heard, or used the phrase “from Whappie kill Phillup”, usually referring to something which happened “from di devil was a bway”. But was there ever a Whappie or a Phillup, and did Whappie actually kill Phillup? Well there was a 42 year old man named Aston Jolly, whose nickname was ‘Whappie King. On the night of June 11, 1951, Mr. Aston ’Whappie King’ attacked and robbed two persons on the Palisadoes Road. One person was bludgeoned and stabbed to death while the other survived the attack. None of the victims was a ‘Phillip’, so how did we get it that Whappie killed Phillup? One of The Gleaner articles at the time said that the victim died from a ‘Whappie King Fillip’ (a ‘fillip’ being a flick or flip of the finger). Over the years, the permutations took hold and it moved from a Whappie King fillip, to Whappie kill Phillup. Whappie King was convicted on November 12, 1951 and hanged later the same year.