

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF ROBERT ATKINSON

AGE OF WITNESS [If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 5 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 27 day of April 1997

DERECK BRADLEY
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

ROBERT ATKINSON
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am a Full-time Reserve Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary engaged on uniform duties and presently station at Portadown RUC Station. In the early hours of the morning of 27 April 1997 I was detailed public order duties at Portadown town centre. I was crew in a landrover patrol with Constable Neill, driver, R/Constable Cornett, observer and P40 crew. At approx 0130 hours we were parked in the small lay-by in front of the Alliance and Leicester Building Society at Market St/Woodhouse Street junction. There was a fair crowd of people making their way up the town from the direction of Bridge Street. These persons were in groups of 2, 3 and 4 and consisted of young men and several girls. They were either patrons from Portadown Rugby Club or the Coach Inn, Banbridge. At this stage all was good humoured and relatively quiet. At approx 0140 hours, Constable Neill moved off from the kerb and as he did so a male dressed in a greenish/blue shirt aged about 30/35 years, with dark trousers and short brown hair passed in front of the landrover and mouthed something towards the vehicle. I formed the opinion that he was continuing on into Woodhouse St and that he was heading home from St Patrick's Hall, Thomas Street. As he did so 2 youths approached him from the Halifax