

CONSULTATION ON THURSDAY, 30-10-97 AT HIGH COURT

Present: Gordon Kerr, Counsel
Mr McCarrie, DPP
Colin Prunty, witness
Ita Brady from [REDACTED]'s Office

GK: You made a statement on 8-5-97 taken by [REDACTED]. You read over it and checked it.
CP: Yes.
GK: If I advise prosecution is there any difficulty about you giving evidence.
CP: No.
Counsel recollects from statement: You had 5 or 6 pints but say you weren't really drunk. You can remember leaving the hall (St Patrick's).
CP: Yes.
Counsel produces a location map and asks Colin Prunty to retrace his movements.
CP: We were at St Patrick's hall that night. When we left we went up Thomas Street. Robert Hamill was at the front, behind him was F [REDACTED], D [REDACTED], myself and Maureen, my girlfriend.
GK: When you got up to this area you recall seeing a Police Landrover and you say in your statement that there was no crowd around.
CP: The police Landrover was sitting diagonally facing the Halifax. The doors were closed. It was close to the side of the road.
GK: Were you aware of how many police officers were in the Landrover?
CP: I think about 3. We were heading toward Woodhouse Street. Robert was in front. A crowd came from the left hand side.
GK: Had you heard the crowd.
CP: No.
GK: Was [REDACTED] there.
CP: Yes. There was just us in our crowd. Robert was half way across the road. The crowd came running towards him. They shouted "get them, get them". Myself and [REDACTED] D [REDACTED] would have been down there. We seen Robert getting dragged to the ground. There was punching going on. He was doing his best to protect himself. D [REDACTED] went over to help. Robert went to the ground quite quickly.
GK: Did you stay and watch.
CP: I stayed and watched throughout. I was near enough beside the fight. 15 to 20 people round Robert.
GK: Could you see Robert.
CP: Not at first I couldn't see him. Then I could see him on the ground and blood.
GK: Was it a more concentrated group that were kicking.
CP: They were all booting at him.
GK: It appears that these were local people. Did you know any of them.
CP: No.
GK: Did you know them to see.
CP: No. I wouldn't know any of them.
GK: D [REDACTED] was hit by a bottle.
CP: I seen him being hit with a bottle. The bottle was threw at him. D [REDACTED] and Robert were about 6 feet apart. D [REDACTED] went to the ground. They were still hitting Robert. The police came out at this stage.
GK: Once the attack started how long before the police came out.
CP: Once Robert was on the ground.
GK: Did they try to get into the middle to break it up.
CP: Yes.
GK: Did it do any good.
CP: No. Not enough of them.
GK: How long was it before more police arrived.
CP: About 5 or 10 minutes.
GK: Could you see where Robert was being kicked.
CP: He was on the ground.
GK: The impression I get from your statement is that he was unconscious early.
CP: Yes.
GK: Did shouting and yelling continue.