

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF GLEN STEWART

DATED THIS DAY OF 2008

I, GLEN STEWART, declare that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence at the Robert Hamill Inquiry I will 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.

1. I made a statement to the police dated 8 May 1997 which is now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **9188 to 9189**. That statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. I was an ambulance paramedic for the 999 service on duty on the night of 26/27th April 1997. I was part of the 2 man ambulance crew that attended the incident involving Robert Hamill with my colleague David Morrow. On that occasion David Morrow drove the ambulance and I was the attendant. Generally, David Morrow would drive the ambulance back on the inward journey whilst I took care of the patient.
3. The details of this call out are recorded by Ambulance Control on Form AS1 which is now produced and shown to me containing page numbers **08153 to 08514**. I confirm that my initials, 'GS' appear on the emergency call receipt and that shows me that I received the call from Ruth Leonard at Ambulance Control just before 01.52 hours when we responded.
4. A log book was kept in the ambulance and a record was made manually of the time that the ambulance went mobile on all journeys. The log book would have been completed by the person who took the emergency call.

5. I am not sure whether patient report forms were available in the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service at that time but they were not compulsory as they are now. If such forms were in use they would only have been filled in if there was time, and that would depend on how much care the casualty needs in the ambulance.
6. We approached the scene in Portadown town centre via Edward Street and drove down Market Street. To my recollection we stopped the ambulance for our own safety because there was a hostile crowd. We could see up to St Mark's Church from the ambulance and there were casualties ahead. The people in the crowd were shouting, fighting amongst themselves and banging the side of the ambulance. I cannot recall clearly where we stopped the ambulance but I think it may have been before the junction with Thomas Street.
7. When we arrived at the scene we requested a back up ambulance but we were told over the radio that none was available.
8. I left the ambulance first and went to the casualties. The first casualty that I saw was by the mouth of Thomas Street on Market Street near the pavement. I now know him to be D and he was fully conscious and speaking when I assessed his condition. There was some blood on his face and he had what we class as minor injuries. He was alone and I told him to wait there whilst I assessed the other casualty. There was about 20-30 feet between the casualties.
9. The second casualty who I now know to have been Robert Hamill was further up Market Street away from the mouth of Thomas Street, closer to the central reservation. Mr Hamill was lying on his back and he was unconscious. There were markings on the front left hand side of his face. The markings were haematomas with swelling. There were no open wounds and I did not see any bleeding on his face or body. I am not 100% sure whether there was blood on the back of his head.

His teeth were clenched and as a paramedic I knew that he had a serious head injury.

10. Whilst it is difficult to remember now the exact treatment I gave, I recall that the priority was to maintain his airway and make sure that oxygen got into his body. As his jaw was clenched I tried to open his airway, whilst keeping his neck straight because he had a head injury. His was breathing on his own but I would say that it was laboured. I did not put him in the recovery position since he may have had a spinal injury as well as a head injury. I am not sure whether Mr Hamill had been given first aid before I arrived but it seems unlikely as people were hostile to the policeman called Dean who was trying to assist him. In particular, there were two girls with Mr Hamill who were shouting at everyone including the policeman and they would not let him near enough to provide first aid to Mr Hamill.
11. I did not speak to anyone at the scene other than the girls to ask what had happened. The girls said that Mr Hamill had been kicked. There was a bottle on the pavement but no one mentioned him being hit with a bottle. When I got to the ambulance I was told by one of the girls that the name of the casualty was Robert Hamill.
12. I stayed with Mr Hamill while David Morrow collected a stretcher from the ambulance so that we could move him away from the hostile crowd as quickly as possible. The crowd were about 20 to 30 feet away at this stage and the police had their batons drawn trying to keep the crowd back and separate the factions.
13. Mr Hamill was stretchered into the ambulance however, D was able to walk into the ambulance. Then a third casualty appeared at the back of the ambulance with a girl. He had a bloody nose and I permitted him to travel in the ambulance. In total there were 3 casualties in the ambulance including Mr Hamill and at least one girl travelled with him. It may be that 3 walking wounded were recorded on the emergency call receipt as David Morrow looked back into the ambulance and thought that one of the girls was injured. Also, the call for back up may be recorded

on the receipt as being at 02.02 hours if David was asked whether a second ambulance was still needed when he called in at that time to say that we were leaving the scene. David Morrow was responsible for radioing information to Ambulance Control and punching in the codes to record the times of arrival and so on.

14. I tried to insert a plastic airway into Robert Hamill's throat to assist his breathing but his teeth were clenched. Mr Hamill's breathing was still laboured in the ambulance and I asked the girls how much he had drunk. One of the girls said that he had taken a 'brave amount' of alcohol. I gave him oxygen therapy with an oxygen mask and bag. He did not regain consciousness at any point in the ambulance. The others in the ambulance were well behaved and I didn't take in any of their conversation as I was focused on treating Mr Hamill. On arrival Mr Hamill was taken straight into the resuscitation unit in Craigavon Area Hospital. I gave a report to the doctors about his condition.

15. Later that morning at 5.30 am I assisted in the transfer of Mr Hamill to the Royal Victoria Hospital and by that stage he had been intubated but remained unconscious.

SIGNED:

GLEN STEWART

DATED: