

RECEIVED

16 MAY 2008

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF IAIN CARVILLE

DATED THIS DAY

OF

2008

I, IAIN SAMUEL CARVILLE, 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 Inquiry I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

1. The Inquiry has disclosed a number of documents to me. Where I make specific reference to a document in my statement I have given the number of the relevant page.
2. In April 1997 I was nineteen years old and I was still at school.
3. I gave a statement to the police investigating the murder of Robert Hamill which is dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 1997. A copy of the statement is contained at pages **09184** to **09185**. I also completed a questionnaire, a copy of which is contained at pages **70949** to **70952**. The police came to my house to take the statement but I do not know how the police obtained my name. I do not think I had any further contact with the police in relation to the Robert Hamill investigation after making the statement.
4. On the night of Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 1997 I went to the Coach Inn in Banbridge. The Coach was a disco and lots of people went to it because it was the closest and most popular place.
5. I would have taken the bus to the Coach from Portadown and arrived there at between approximately 9:45pm and 10:00pm. From what I can remember, it is

more than likely that I travelled on the bus with Stephen Bloomer. He was one of a crowd of people that took the bus to the Coach most weekends. Stephen Bloomer was also 19 years old. He was in a different school to me but I knew him because we lived close to each other.

6. The other people in the crowd that went to the Coach most weekends were Christopher Henderson, Kyle Magee, Conor Black, Dean Forbes, Stacey Bridgett and Ian Mahood. These were all people I knew from school but I was closest friends with Christopher Henderson and Stephen Bloomer.
7. I knew Allister Hanvey at that time. He did not go to the Coach every week but he could have been there on that night. I also knew Marc Hobson but I do not think he went to the Coach very often. I recognise the names Rory Robinson and Andrew Allen but I did not really hang round with them. I also know Davy Woods and Tracey Clarke. I did not know Wayne Lunt or Reserve Constable Robert Atkinson.
8. I probably drank a bottle of Buckfast wine before leaving home that evening and then continued drinking beers when I arrived at the Coach. I do not recall how much I drank on that particular night but there would usually be quite heavy drinking.
9. I do not remember the exact time I left the Coach but it would have been around 1:00am. The disco itself would have finished at 1:00am or 1:30am. I took a taxi from the Coach as I had missed the first bus. I cannot now remember with whom I got the taxi but I have refreshed my memory from my police statement which says I got the taxi with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
10. The taxi dropped me off at the VG stores in Killicomaine, which is about 1 ½ miles from Portadown. I was dropped off in Killicomaine rather than Portadown because [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had originally booked their taxi to go there. I simply got a lift in the taxi with them. I do not know where [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went after the taxi

dropped us off but I walked off in the direction of the town centre. I made my way to the town centre because I did not want to go home.

11. I walked via Killicomaine road towards Edenderry. Having refreshed my memory from my police statement, I recall that when I was near Edenderry Methodist Church, Christopher Henderson and a couple of girls passed by in a car and they gave me a lift into Portadown town centre. I see from my statement that the car was an Escort and was driven by Christine Biggs.
12. My statement says, "*Christine dropped Chris and I off at Herrons at the bottom of the town. This must have been around 2am.*" Herrons is a chip shop that is at the bottom of High Street. I am sure there would have been other people standing outside Herrons because a lot of people would meet there and go for something to eat. I cannot now remember whether there was a group of people outside, however. I also cannot remember whether I went into Herrons to get anything to eat. Whilst I was outside Herrons I did not hear any shouting or see anyone running and I was not aware of any trouble.
13. I see from my statement that the second bus came into Portadown, dropped people off and left again whilst I was outside Herrons. My statement then says, "*It must have then been well after half two. We started walking up the town and saw an ambulance pulling away from the end of Thomas Street*". Walking "up the town" meant we walked straight up High Street towards Market Street. I do not recall whether the barrier at the bottom of High Street was closed that night but it would have been possible to walk around the barrier even if it was closed. I cannot remember if there were a lot of people on the street at that time. I vaguely remember seeing the ambulance as I describe in my statement.
14. I also say in my statement, "*I recall seeing a few police landrovers in the town and a crowd heading out of the town toward Brownstown.*" I think I only saw one Land Rover, but it was possibly two I saw. There was a Land Rover on the left-hand side

across Woodhouse Street. I cannot remember if I saw anybody inside the Land Rover or whether I saw any police officers on the street. I also cannot remember seeing any officers arriving at the scene as back-up.

15. The crowd was probably walking up Market Street towards West Street. I did not see any police officers trying to push the crowd back. I cannot remember if I recognised anybody in the crowd but I can recall that there were young people in the crowd. I did not see any fighting.
16. The intersection of Market Street, Thomas Street and Woodhouse Street was a known flashpoint area for violence. This was due to religious tensions. Catholics would make their way home from St Patrick's and other bars in Thomas Street and go down Woodhouse Street towards the Catholic area. Protestants would make their way home along Market Street to Brownstown, which was a Protestant area. There would often be a police Land Rover positioned on the junction of Thomas Street and Market Street as it was a known trouble spot.
17. I do not think I saw Allister Hanvey, Dean Forbes, Marc Hobson, Rory Robinson, Andrew Allen, Davy Woods or Tracey Clarke in the town centre when I walked past the junction of Market Street and Thomas Street on that particular night, but I honestly cannot now remember.
18. My statement continues, "*Chris and I walked on up to the Cam Hing Chinese in West Street and met a few more friends. We walked over the footbridge into Edgarstown and Stephen Bloomer, Marc Hobson and I think Alister Hanvey went to Tracy McAlpine's house. I don't know where Chris went. I eventually walked down to Brownstown to Tracy's house and joined the others there. This must have been after 3am*". The "few friends" must refer to Stephen Bloomer, Marc Hobson and Allister Hanvey. I must have first met up with them at the top of the town and they must have been all going to Tracey's party. Tracey had people around to her

house every week because she did not live with her parents. It was her house, or possibly her sister's. People would go there to crash out and continue drinking.

19. I do not recall if Stephen, Marc or Allister had any injuries. I cannot remember if Allister was wearing a grey/silver jacket with orange markings on the sleeves. I have never seen him wearing a jacket like this and from the description I am sure I would remember it.
20. My statement suggests that I separated from the others and arrived at Tracey's house later. I cannot remember if I met up with someone else in the meantime. If I started to walk up the town at about 2:30am, as my statement says, and arrived at Tracey McAlpine's after 3:00am, the walk must have taken approximately 30 minutes. It would probably have taken half an hour to get to Tracey's from Herrons on a Saturday night.
21. I remember there were roughly nine or ten people at Tracey's when I arrived and people were probably drinking. I say in my statement that, "*I recall seeing Pauline, Tracey's sister, Shelley Liggett, Kelly Lavery, Allister Hanvey, Dean Forbes, Jason Woods, Marc Hobson, Stephen Bloomer, P46 Chris Henderson and Andrew Allen*". I cannot remember seeing Stacey Bridgett at the party, and my statement does not say I saw him. As I say in my statement, I did not hear any talk about anything going on in the town centre that night. There are fights all the time and I suppose people do not make big deals of them, although from what I heard about what happened to Robert Hamill, this fight was worse than others.
22. My statement says that I left the party at between 5.30am and 5.45 am. I cannot remember if we were all kicked out or not. My statement then says, "*Stephen Bloomer and I got a taxi home from Call-a-Cab and we walked to the office. We walked to the taxi office from Tracey's.*" That is the taxi office we were on our way to, not my place of work. I think that my statement fully covers what happened, as far as I can remember.

23. I do not know who assaulted Robert Hamill as I did not see the fight. I remember being shocked when I heard about who had been arrested and were on remand. From what I knew of Allister Hanvey, Marc Hobson and Dean Forbes, the allegations seemed out of character. I did not think that what they were accused of was typical of them. I did not visit any of the people remanded in custody while they were in prison. Before being informed before my Inquiry interview, I was not aware of the allegation that Allister Hanvey was advised to destroy his clothing after the incident.

**SIGNED:** .....*I. Carville*.....  
**IAIN SAMUEL CARVILLE**

**DATED:** .....*15/5/08*.....