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28 MAY 2008

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

**WILLIAM HENRY WILFRED BURROWS**

DATED THIS

27<sup>th</sup>

DAY OF

May

2008

I, WILLIAM HENRY WILFRED BURROWS, 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 which 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 a part-time Reserve Constable attached to Portadown Police Station. I had served with the RUC since 1971. I was not trained in and did not have experience of public order duty. As a part-time Reserve Constable my role was as part of a team providing security for police stations and sometimes driving vehicles. On the night of 26 April 1997 I was detailed security duty at Portadown Police Station. That involved manning the sangars at the entrance and exit to the station and stopping and checking vehicles entering and exiting.
3. There were two other officers detailed to security with me that night; Reserve Constable Smith and Reserve Constable [REDACTED]. I do not have my notebook entry for that night but it would have told me precisely who I was with, when I started duty and for how long I remained on duty. I believe my notebook entry would have been kept at the police station. At some point I think my notebook was photocopied, but I don't remember when that was done.

4. On 28 May 1997, I was asked by Detective Sergeant Bradley to make a statement about what I did on the night of the incident. That statement contains page numbers **721 to 723**. I would not have relied upon my notebook to make that statement as it contained nothing more than the date, time of duty and who I was detailed with. I have very little recollection now of the night in question and must rely entirely on my statement.
5. In my statement I refer to two police vehicles approaching the security barrier at the police station at speed with their sirens sounding. That was at about 1.45am. I allowed both vehicles into the town centre without stopping them. I did not know where they were going to. At that stage I did not hear any noise coming from the town centre. I have marked on a map of the town centre with 'X' the position of the two security sangars. That map is attached to this statement containing page number **72837**. The distance between the sangars and the junction of Thomas Street and Market Street is about 120 yards.
6. Some time later, an ambulance approached the barrier with its siren sounding. I allowed the ambulance to proceed into the town centre without being checked. I cannot recall the time of the ambulance's arrival but it was some time after the police vehicles but before 02.00.
7. At about 02.00, I was walking from the security sangar at the barrier, towards the security hut at the corner of the station, when I met Sergeant **P89** and Inspector McCrum. Sergeant **P89** asked me to accompany them into the town centre. I do not recall them telling me anything about what was happening in the town centre but I did not feel alarmed. The three of us reached the town hall and a police car came up the street towards us at a fast speed. It stopped and Sergeant **P89** spoke to Reserve Constable Warnock. I did not hear what was said and did not speak to the officer myself. Sergeant **P89** then returned to the police station with Reserve Constable Warnock and Constable Adams. I walked back towards the sangar and I again met Sergeant **P89** as he came out of the station.

He was accompanied by Reserve Constable Warnock. Constable Adams then told me to get into the car, along with Reserve Constable Warnock. Sergeant P89 and Inspector McCrum walked into the town centre. Constable Adams drove into High Street and parked the car in the middle of the road, somewhere in the vicinity of the TV rental shop.

8. I have marked on the map with an arrow the route we took into the town centre. That map is attached to this statement. We went straight down Edward Street, reached High Street and turned left. We stopped relatively close to the junction of Edward Street and High Street. I have marked on the map with a square the area where the car parked.
9. I got out of the car and took possession of the Heckler & Koch sub-machine gun (the MP5 gun). I took up a cover position in the vicinity of Ronnie's pub in High Street. As I arrived, the ambulance left. I did not see anyone in or at the Thomas Street junction. The police seemed to have got the people up the street towards the big church. I did not get involved in getting the people up the street. I stayed in the vicinity of the police vehicles and looked after them. My responsibility was to protect the police vehicle and the gun. A gun cannot be left alone in a police car in case somebody got hold of it. I took the gun out of the car to ensure I had control of it, not with any intention to use it.
10. During the time that I performed this duty, a couple passed me and asked if it was safe to go up Thomas Street. I stayed in that general area until approximately 3 am. Before I left, other police arrived and assisted further up the street. During the time that I was in High Street, I heard people shouting from the vicinity of the church and the crowd eventually disappeared up West Street. I did not hear anything specific being shouted and I did not recognise anyone in the crowd. I did not see any fighting but I was positioned in such a way that I was looking away from the scene towards the other end of town. I did not pay much attention to what was going on behind me.

11. I later returned to the station and continued with my security duty. I signed the MP5 into the armoury and stayed on duty at the police station until 08:00. The senior officer on duty that night was Inspector McCrum. I do not remember seeing him at the scene but I knew he was on duty.
  
12. I have been asked whether I knew then or now any of the suspects or witnesses on the murder investigation but I did not and have not come across them since. I knew Reserve Constable Atkinson on a nodding basis from work but I was not friendly with him. I did not notice anything of significance on the night and included in my statement all that I knew of the incident in question. That statement was true at the time of making it but because of the passage of time I have forgotten all the detail and cannot add anything further.
  
13. I was not involved in the murder investigation or the misconduct investigations.

SIGNED: W. H. W. Burrows  
WILLIAM HENRY WILFRED BURROWS

DATED: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008