

JDI

MASTER TAPE NUMBER: T146545A - ALLEN

TAPE NO.1 - 15.5.97

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an interview room at Lurgan Police Station. I am Detective Constable Paul McCrumlish, Number 12437 attached to the Regional Crime Squad in Armagh and the other police officer present is P5, Number 13911 also attached to the Regional Crime Squad in Armagh. The date is the 15th of May 1997 and the time is 1104.

Can I ask you your full name please.

ALLEN

Andrew George Allen.

And who else is present.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor.

At the end of this interview I will give you a Form 21, that's that Form there, it is just

to tell the excess you have to the tapes. Basically what we want to talk to you about, which is your first name George.

ALLEN

Andrew.

Andrew. The first thing we want to talk to you about is a serious assault cum murder that occurred in Portadown Town Centre on the 27th of the fourth, 1997 and I must caution you in relation to that first of all. You do not have to say anything, but I must caution you that if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court, it may harm your defence. If you do say anything it may be given in evidence. Do you understand that.

ALLEN

Yes I do.

Basically could we ask you first of all to give us an account of your movements for the 27th.

ALLEN

Yes. Just for the night.

Saturday night.

ALLEN

I went to the Coach and got the bus home. I was going up the town, I was going up, there was me and two other boys and we stopped just at the wee bakery at the corner of Thomas street there waiting on the other crowd to catch up.

Who were the two boys with you.

ALLEN

Rory Robinson was there and David Woods. I hear shouting coming down Thomas Street but I just thought it was somebody from the Legion or Jamiesons, then there was a crowd of boys and girls coming down. I thought they were going to walk on past, I paid no attention. One of the boys hit David Woods on the face and then another boy started fighting with Rory Robinson. Another boy came at me and I backed off into the middle of the road. He kept on coming at me trying to, swinging punches trying to hit me. So I turned and ran up Thomas Street and another boy was standing up there, he started swinging punches at me. The next thing there was

three or four other boys from the crowd that was on down the street.

This was the boys that got off the bus.

ALLEN

Yes they were on down the street, they must have seen the fight starting, come running up and hit the boy, knocked him to the ground but the boy got up and ran away and I turned behind me, I could see a big fight in the middle of the road and on the left hand side there was a wee fight and I just walked right through it, passed it and on up the road and that was it.

So the only people you say were there that you know was Rory Robinson and.

ALLEN

At the start of the fight there was only three of us.

Well what other people, who else was there.

ALLEN

Just the ones that I went to the Coach with, who was there, Stacey Bridgett was there, Denis Hayes was there, I am not sure who else

was there. There was a crowd of people there.

Was Hayes involved in the fight.

ALLEN

Denis. I don't think so.

Where is Denis from anyway.

ALLEN

Denis is from Brownstown I think.

Brownstown. Do you know a boy Wright.

ALLEN

Pardon.

A fellow called Wright. Was he there.

ALLEN

Who.

Jonathon Wright.

ALLEN

I know of him but I can't remember seeing him like.

Right in all this then are you saying that these people were, that they were involved in

assaulting you and at no time you retaliated with anybody, you never hit anybody.

ALLEN

Whenever I went up Thomas Street the boy took a swing at me, all I could do was put my hands up. I was falling back that was it. Well he was trying to knock my head off you know and just then three or four boys came running in and knocked him to the ground and that was it and he got up and run away now you know. I didn't want anything to do with it.

What was he wearing.

ALLEN

I haven't a clue, all I know he was like a tall boy, sort of skinny with black hair, that's all I know.

So you got off the bus.

ALLEN

Yes.

And you were with Rory and David.

ALLEN

Well they were on up in front of me.

They were in your company as such, that is who you were with that night.

ALLEN

Yes.

Now just go through it slowly. You got off the bus.

ALLEN

I got off the bus, there was a bit crowd, I don't know they must have went to Boss Hoggs to get something to eat. All I wanted to do was go home and that's the truth and I just walked on up the town.

You walked up the town.

ALLEN

Yes and then I got caught up in the fight.

Now which end of the street did you go up, you get out of the bus at, which side of the carpark.

ALLEN

The left hand side.

You walked up the left hand side.

732

07306

ALLEN

Yes up the left hand side.

Now just go through it as best you can, the exact sequence of events, as far as you can remember them now. Where did you meet Rory and David there. Did you walk up the street on your own.

ALLEN

I walked, I was behind them.

You were behind them.

ALLEN

They had stopped just at the corner of Thomas Street as I have said.

Yes.

ALLEN

And I stopped there with them, waiting on the crowd to catch up, you know behind and then.

Who were you actually waiting on to catch up. Anybody in particular.

ALLEN

No the crowd, just to see if there was anything happening, you know a party of anything.

So you were still at Thomas Street there, the junction of Thomas Street waiting for them.

ALLEN

That's right yes.

Did you see the police landrover.

ALLEN

No.

Across the street at any stage.

ALLEN

No.

Then what happened.

ALLEN

As I said I heard people shouting up Thomas Street and I paid no attention because I just thought it was somebody coming out of Jamiesons or the Legion or something.

Yes.

ALLEN

And as I thought they were walking on past, but then.

734

07308

How many people did you see then whenever you eventually see people walking down Thomas Street, what did you actually see.

ALLEN

I seen a few girls.

How many is a few.

ALLEN

I would say there was three or four and there was three or four fellows too.

Walking down Thomas Street.

ALLEN

Yes.

In a group or split up or what way.

ALLEN

No they were all in a group.

All together.

ALLEN

Yes.

So they came down Thomas Street, past where you were standing.

ALLEN

Yes.

You were standing at the top of Thomas Street.

ALLEN

Yes. The girls were in front now, they walked on past.

They walked on past

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

And where did they walk to.

ALLEN

I don't know I was just standing.

Did they walk down the Main Street.

ALLEN

No they walked past me, they just walked on past.

On to the Main Street.

ALLEN

On to the, yes on to the road, across the street.

Across the street.

736.

07310

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

Where were they heading then, in the direction of Woodhouse Street.

ALLEN

They were heading across that way.

And then what happened then, the boys appeared then what happened.

ALLEN

Well the boys, they just pulled up about level with us. I thought they were walking on past and they turned round and they hit David Woods who was standing just in front of me.

Was there anything said.

ALLEN

No.

And how many people hit David Woods.

ALLEN

It was just the one.

One fellow.

737

07311

ALLEN

Yes.

What did he look like, can you remember.

ALLEN

I can't, I can't honestly that's the truth.

How he was dressed.

ALLEN

I can't honestly.

You don't know him then.

ALLEN

No I have never seen him before.

He punched David Woods, that is what happened.

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

Then what happened.

ALLEN

There was another boy who went across the road and Rory Robinson was just, he was standing just at the edge of Eastwoods there.

The edge of Eastwoods.

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07312

ALLEN

And the two, he started throwing punches at him and then two started fighting and somebody came at me.

I will just stall you there. Where was David Woods whenever he was.

ALLEN

He was just standing at the corner there.

At the corner of Thomas Street and the Main Street.

ALLEN

Yes. Just on the footpath.

On the footpath.

ALLEN

Yes.

And then what happened, the other boy was hit, then what happened.

ALLEN

There was a boy who came at me and I backed off into the middle of the road.

So you have three fellows.

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07313

ALLEN

That's right yes.

Who individually, one hit David Woods, one hit the other fellow and one hit you.

ALLEN

One came at me.

One came at you.

ALLEN

Yes.

What was he like.

ALLEN

He was sort of a big lad, stocky, he had like spikey hair.

Yes.

ALLEN

You know like a flat top. He came throwing punches at me.

Do you remember what he was wearing.

ALLEN

I can't and that's the truth.

746

07314

SOLICITOR

He was more worried about getting out of the road.

He threw a punch at you.

ALLEN

He threw punches at me.

Without making any comment or anything like that.

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

So these were unprovoked assaults more or less on yourselves, that's what you are saying. These people just punched you for no reason without even uttering a word.

ALLEN

Yes that's right, that's the truth.

So then what happened.

ALLEN

He came at me, he started throwing punches at me, I backed out into the middle of the road.

Yes.

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07315

ALLEN

He was still coming at me, I turned and ran up Thomas Street.

And you were the only three there in that area at that moment.

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

Of the group that got out of the bus.

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

And you have these.

ALLEN

The other group was down the street.

These three guys coming and the ladies, they walk on, so you run up Thomas Street, then what happened.

ALLEN

There was another boy standing there and he starts throwing punches at me.

In Thomas Street.

Yes.

742

07316

ALLEN

Whereabouts in Thomas Street, how far did you run on.

ALLEN

I never got up that far, it must have been, it was just across from the big window in Eastwoods, you know the end of it, you know Eastwoods clothing there.

Yes. So you were still really in the mouth of Thomas Street.

ALLEN

Yes.

So then what.

ALLEN

When he started throwing punches at me, all I could do was put my hands up and swing, the next thing.

You just put your hands up, you didn't strike back at him or anything like that. You just put your hands up to protect yourself.

ALLEN

I was swinging to protect myself yes.

743

07317

Right.

ALLEN

Well you have to protect yourself.

So what happened.

ALLEN

And then I just, three or four boys just came running in and he was knocked to the ground.

Three or four boys of the people that you were with you were talking about.

ALLEN

The big crowd yes.

Can you remember who come running in.

Is that the big crowd that got off the bus with you.

ALLEN

Yes that's right, yes. Mark Hobson was one of them and I don't know the rest. I am not too sure.

So they knocked him to the ground

ALLEN

Yes they knocked him to the ground, this boy

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07318

got up and ran down the street.

Now this happened in Thomas Street initially and then he run, where to.

ALLEN

Down as if, across the road you know the main road.

Yes. Did he get over to the island in the centre or whereabouts.

ALLEN

I don't know because I just looked behind me and I seen there was a big crowd in the street fighting.

At that stage.

ALLEN

That's right yes.

So when you saw him running and there was a crowd there at that stage then.

ALLEN

Yes.

Did Hobson and these boys go after him or what was happening.

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07319

ALLEN

I don't know because I turned round and I seen the crowd.

You saw the crowd okay.

ALLEN

On the left hand side there was like a weeraucous going on to, a fight.

Well this particular guy now that you were involved with.

ALLEN

Yes.

Where did he run to or could you see.

ALLEN

As I said he run down.

He run down but did you see anything happening to him at that stage.

ALLEN

No because I seen the big crowd and I seen fighting, all I wanted to do was just get out of the road.

And did you see anybody at that stage getting assaulted, being assaulted.

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07320

ALLEN No although there was boys being hit now but
I.

Anyone in particular, did you see anybody on
the ground.

ALLEN No I didn't see him.

Being assaulted.

ALLEN On the ground at any time no.

So then.

ALLEN The only boy I seen on the ground was the boy
who was knocked to the ground as I said and
he ran away.

That's the boy initially in Thomas Street
with you.

ALLEN Yes's that right yes.

But he run away into the Main Street.

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

So where did you go then, you are in Thomas Street now and you saw this, so what was your next move.

ALLEN

My next move was I walked down and I walked up the street away from it.

Up the street where, what direction.

ALLEN

Up towards the church.

And who was with you at this stage.

ALLEN

I was by myself.

On your own.

ALLEN

Yes.

Were you there when the police arrived.

ALLEN

Yes I seen the police, they pulled up in a purple Sierra I believe it was.

Where were you at that stage.

ALLEN

I was behind the crowd.

Standing where now.

ALLEN

I would say I was on the edge of the footpath, I must have been two shops maybe up from the crowd.

In the direction of the church.

ALLEN

Yes.

On the left hand side of the street as you are heading towards the church or the right hand side of the street.

ALLEN

Left hand side, that's where I first went.

Just past the junction of Thomas Street more or less.

ALLEN

Yes.

Right okay, so then what happened.

ALLEN

The police, well the police arrived in a purple Sierra as I said and I walked on across the road, do you know where the isle is in the middle of the street and either the police got out of the car there or they drove the car around and got out there and then I stopped there and I seen the police out and I seen one of the policemen down on his knees and there was just a crowd standing. It was just usual, they were all shouting and all and a couple of minutes later the ambulance appeared and I, that was it I walked on.

Do you see when you at the corner of Thomas Street just before this fight occurred, can you tell us was there a comment made, calling somebody a fenian bastard.

ALLEN

No not that I heard of.

If I told you that through the enquiry that has come out that someone made a comment 'fenian bastards'.

ALLEN

Well I never heard anybody saying that now.

It would look like because of this comment that that is why the fight started.

And you were the only three about there at that stage.

ALLEN

We were at the start as I said.

Was that the reason, were you more or less the first out of the bus or what reason were you up the street first.

ALLEN

Well I was just going on home, all I wanted was to go to my bed.

What were you actually wearing that night.

ALLEN

I was wearing a dark pair of jeans.

Yes.

ALLEN

A blue jumper and I believe I was wearing these trainers.

A blue jumper.

751

07325

ALLEN

Yes.

What type of jumper.

ALLEN

It is just a.

A round neck thing that you have on you now.

ALLEN

Yes something similar.

Do you have a nickname.

ALLEN

Yes.

What is it.

ALLEN

Fonz.

Fonz.

ALLEN

Yes.

That would be common enough knowledge,
everybody knows your, or do the call you Fonz
or do they call you.

ALLEN

Well just the boys I went to school with.

You have had that for a few years then.

ALLEN

Yes it is just really a school name.

What are those trainers you have on you anyway.

ALLEN

Adidas.

Adidas. They are what.

ALLEN

Blue and white.

I think we might have to take those trainers off you, but we will do that after the interview.

ALLEN

Right.

So you are telling us there was no mention of somebody being called a fenian bastard.

ALLEN

Not that I heard and that's the truth.

But if it had have been said, would you say

you would have heard it, there at the mouth.

ALLEN

Yes.

Was there any comments passed.

ALLEN

No as I say all I could hear was people coming down the street shouting and I just really couldn't care who it was you know.

Do you see when the fight was ongoing.

ALLEN

Yes.

Did you hear anyone shouting 'die you fenian bastards'.

ALLEN

No.

Are you sure about that.

ALLEN

Yes.

Because you would have been close enough to this whole thing going on.

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07328

ALLEN

I never heard anybody shouting anything.

But if I told you that through the enquiry, we believe that someone shouted that on maybe more than one occasion.

ALLEN

Yes.

Would you find that hard to believe.

ALLEN

It depends who it was you know.

So you are saying to me.

ALLEN

There is some rough characters about the town and that's, you probably know that yourself, but there is probably, probably is characters about the town that would maybe say something like that.

Well we are asking you did you hear anybody shouting that or did you shout that.

ALLEN

No.

No. You see through the enquiry we have been

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07329

talking to quite a number of people.

ALLEN

Yes.

And we have put out different appeals.

ALLEN

Yes.

Did you hear them appeals.

ALLEN

No, no I haven't heard them no.

You never heard any of them appeals.

ALLEN

No.

But you heard there has been a lot of press coverage about this because of the murder.

ALLEN

Yes, yes I have.

And did you not feel it appropriate that you should have come in and talked to the police.

ALLEN

Yes, it's like this, I came in, I talked to you, if somebody finds out I am going to end

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07330

up in a lot of trouble from paramilitaries and things like that you know.

Well if I was to say to you that we have certain information that your involvement was a bit more involved than what you have told us.

ALLEN

It wasn't.

What I would say to you is, when I read out the caution to you at the start.

ALLEN

Yes.

It is very important that you understand that right.

ALLEN

Yes.

It says here, you do not have to say anything, but I must caution you that if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court, it may harm your defence. If you do say anything it may be given in evidence. I want to remind you

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07331

about that.

ALLEN

That's alright then.

Is there anything else that you want to add to then, to your story so far.

ALLEN

No.

If I was to say to you that we have a witness who will say that they watched you actually kick one of these people when they were on the ground, what would you say to that.

ALLEN

I never done it.

If I said to you that this witness would say you actually kicked this person about the head on more than one occasion. You are shaking your head, and saying no.

ALLEN

No I didn't.

Well that's what the position is. We have a witness that is saying that you actually in fact took a greater part in this assault and

that when one person was on the ground, you actually went over and kicked him on more than one occasion about the head and face.

ALLEN

I didn't do it.

You didn't do it.

ALLEN

No.

Had you much to drink that night.

ALLEN

I supposed I had about four or five pints all night.

And here you are walking up Portadown as you say minding your own business.

ALLEN

Yes.

And you are more or less attacked and assaulted.

ALLEN

That's right, that's what happened yes.

What have you as a young fellow there with a

few drinks, what did you think about that like when somebody done that.

ALLEN

Myself. I didn't want to have anything to do with it.

You didn't want anything to do with it.

ALLEN

No.

You didn't feel like you know these boys started this here, a bit of an old scrap.

ALLEN

No.

And got stuck into them.

ALLEN

No.

What.

ALLEN

No.

When in actual fact that is what did happen.

You know it is just a bit of an old scrap

that went really wrong, it ended up a fellow died as a result of it, that's it you know.

ALLEN

Yes I know but I am not a fighting sort of person you know, I don't like fighting.

Well it appears that that is what happens. This has come about in a matter of seconds. This thing developed from a group of people with no intention maybe in their head into a full scale fight which resulted in Mr Hamill actually dying. You don't remember not saying one minute that you are a fighting man.

ALLEN

Yes.

But this happened and we have a witness that is saying that you took an active part in kicking him, in kicking a person on the ground and as you would probably agree, over this last lot of weeks we have been talking to quite a lot of people.

ALLEN

Yes.

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07335

And we are sort of getting close to the story what did happen that night and we have different individuals telling us different stories.

ALLEN

Yes.

So we have a fair idea of what did go on that night.

ALLEN

Yes.

And at a later stage all them bits of evidence may well be put before a court.

ALLEN

Yes.

And what we are saying to you is that we have at least one witness to date.

ALLEN

Yes.

That knows you and identifies you as having kicking one of these individuals while they were on the ground.

ALLEN

Yes.

And that person will be giving evidence to that effect.

ALLEN

Yes.

They are prepared to go to Court you know.

ALLEN

Yes.

As I say, now is your chance to give your version of the story. We are not wanting you to tell us something that didn't happen, all we want you to tell us is the truth. We weren't there, we have our job to do, we are investigating the incident.

ALLEN

I understand yes.

You understand that. We didn't bring you in here, we didn't pick you name out of a lucky bag this morning and bring you in, we had grounds to arrest you and bring you in for this.

ALLEN

Yes.

You are getting your opportunity now, as this man has said when he pointed out the caution and all to you, now is the time to tell us the truth.

ALLEN

Yes.

And I am sure your Solicitor will agree, will advise you the same.

ALLEN

Yes I understand that.

And tell us the truth in relation to what did happen.

ALLEN

Indeed yes.

It is not as if you are in here on your own and left to carry the can or whatever.

ALLEN

No I know that.

This was a big sort of free-for-all, a fight.

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07338

ALLEN

I understand yes.

And we are not suggesting.

Which at the end of the day unfortunately a fellow died as a result of it.

And we are not suggesting for one minute that you were the only person that took an active part in this and I would go so far as to say you weren't the only one taking part in this, but we believe that you actually kicked one of these men when they were on the ground.

ALLEN

No.

SOLICITOR

Do we know which man, are we talking about the deceased.

Yes we are talking about the deceased yes, from the description it was the deceased who was actually kicked by yourself.

SOLICITOR

So the police are saying it was one of these two men he kicked.

Well there was two men who were injured that night.

SOLICITOR

I appreciate that.

When I say injured, two men who needed hospital treatment.

I know but to clarify it,

To clarify it.

SOLICITOR

We are talking about the deceased.

We are talking about the deceased yes.

That you did kick him when he was on the ground.

ALLEN

On my life, be it, I did not kick him and that is the truth.

Well why would this witness tell us this story.

ALLEN

I don't know.

Because it is true.

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07340

ALLEN It is not true.

Well he has no reason to make it up really,
to put you into the frame.

ALLEN I did not kick anybody.

Do you know a boy called Allister Hanvey.

ALLEN Allister yes.

Where was he that night in relation to
yourself.

ALLEN What do you mean, was he at the Coach.

No, no in relation to this particular
incident, when all this was happening.

ALLEN I am not sure.

Did you see him at any stage.

ALLEN I seen him whenever I was going up home later
on that night.

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07341

Well this witness would say that he was also involved in this assault, kicking the same fellow and that you were beside Allister.

ALLEN

That is a lie, I promise you that. I don't know why he has got me mixed up with somebody else, but that is a lie.

Do you know anybody called 'Gonsey' at all, a nickname called 'Gonsey'.

ALLEN

No.

To be fair you know, the evidence that we have from this one particular witness, he calls the person 'Gonsey' but in our enquiry and from the other people that we have spoke to here it is 'Fonsey' and it is probably, it is a mistake by the person in the name but we would be satisfied from the description and what he is saying that it was yourself as this man has already said to you, that it is yourself that he is referring to.

ALLEN

Yes.

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07342

And from your own story that you were actually at the scene.

ALLEN

I admit I was at the scene but I did not kick anybody.

As I say we have interviewed a lot of people and there is a lot of people still to be interviewed.

ALLEN

Yes.

And we would have to urge you to be truthful.

ALLEN

I am being truthful.

We have no reason to disbelieve what the witness is saying.

ALLEN

Right yes.

And to that end that is why we are saying to you we believe that you did take an active part in this. You see what is happening here is, you have a lot of boys who are all saying that nobody took part.

This thing happened but nobody done anything.

ALLEN

Yes.

Do you understand.

ALLEN

I understand yes.

So what happened is, Mr Hamill had just fallen and nobody had anything to do with it, but that is not the case. Witnesses are telling us what certain people in the crowd done that night.

ALLEN

Yes yes.

And the witness is saying that you took part and that you involved yourself in actually kicking Mr Hamill while he was on the ground.

ALLEN

Definitely not.

And the witness goes as far as to say that you kicked him about the face on two or three occasions.

ALLEN

Definitely not.

Well that is the position you find yourself in and that witness will go to court and give evidence to that effect.

ALLEN

That is alright but he has got it wrong. He definitely has got it wrong.

You know you are saying you were nowhere near that fight which took place obviously in the centre of the street. At all times, apart from what happened in Thomas Street, that you stood at a distance.

ALLEN

That's right.

And watched. That is what you are telling us, that is what happened.

ALLEN

That's right.

And you stood there on your own and watched. You were the only one standing there.

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07345

ALLEN

Well there was people up on the street.

You know where I am talking about, in the immediate area where you were.

ALLEN

That's right yes.

You stood as an observer and watch it take place.

ALLEN

Yes.

Fair enough because when you are talking about watching the police car and all coming down I can accept that because at that stage the harm was done because they came in as you say and they went to the assistance of this person.

ALLEN

Yes.

Right we will go back to the landrover, did you see the landrover at any stage I referred to.

ALLEN

No.

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07346

At any time.

ALLEN

I didn't see the landrover.

Parked near Woodhouse Street or anything like that.

ALLEN

No.

No, initially.

ALLEN

No.

Do you know a fellow P46

ALLEN

P46

From

ALLEN

Yes.

Do you know a boy called Groggs from

ALLEN

Groggs.

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07347

Yes.

ALLEN

I sort of know him. I see him from time to time in the Coach and that there.

Tracey Clarke.

ALLEN

I see her from time to time in the Coach to.

Where they there that night.

Tracey Newell.

ALLEN

Tracey Newell.

Yes. She is known as, what is her other name, pass me that.

Tracey Hampton is it.

No it is not that.

ALLEN

The wee girl with black hair is it.

I can't think.

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07348

Kelly Lavery from [REDACTED], do you know her.

ALLEN

Yes. I do indeed yes.

Pauline Newell.

ALLEN

Yes.

Andrew Osbourne.

ALLEN

Yes.

Where they there.

And Dean Forbes.

ALLEN

Yes.

Were you in any of their company that night.

ALLEN

In the Coach.

In the Coach.

ALLEN

Yes.

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07349

What about during this or when you got off the bus.

ALLEN

When I got off the bus, no.

Stacey Bridgett.

ALLEN

No. As I say the only two people that I was with was David Woods and Rory Robinson whenever it started.

And what about Paul, Mark Hobson.

ALLEN

Mark Hobson.

Yes.

ALLEN

He wasn't at the Coach that night.

Well did you see him up the street then.

ALLEN

I seen, I am not sure whether I seen him or not now. Later on yes I did.

What about Wayne Lunt.

776.

ALLEN

No.

And Rory Robinson.

ALLEN

Rory yes, as I said yes.

You saw him.

ALLEN

Yes.

Aaron Rainey.

ALLEN

No.

Do you know him.

ALLEN

A youngest lad, is he.

Yes.

ALLEN

I do know him yes.

Well then you say there, what happened then,
where did you go after all this.

ALLEN

I just went up the town.

777

Yes but where did you go to up the town, who did you meet, you know you are standing on your own, we got to that point.

ALLEN

I walked up to the church.

You walked up to the church.

ALLEN

I walked up past the church.

Who did you meet up there.

ALLEN

I was at the other side of the church before I met anybody.

Who did you meet at the other side of the church.

ALLEN

P46 .

P46 .

ALLEN

Yes and we went to Tracey, I don't know her other name.

In where, where was that now.

ALLEN

In Brownstown.

Brownstown.

ALLEN

I was there for about twenty minutes, half an hour.

Was there a party there, was there.

ALLEN

Yes.

Who all was there.

ALLEN

There was myself there obviously, the girl that owned the house, I believe P46 was there. Tracey Clarke was there.

Hanvey.

ALLEN

Allister Hanvey yes.

Dean Forbes.

ALLEN

Yes.

779

07353

Was this fight discussed in the house.

ALLEN

I heard, yes.

What did you hear.

ALLEN

I heard that somebody hit somebody with a bottle.

Who was saying this now.

ALLEN

I just, I didn't want anything to do with it.

I appreciate that you know, you heard something okay and just by your answering there, you are trying to hedge now keeping names out of it. It is up to yourself if you want to do that.

ALLEN

Yes.

We want to see how truthful you are and we are asking you what you did hear and at the end of the day you know we can't sort of lose sight of what we are investigating here, we are investigating a murder.

780.

07354

ALLEN

Yes I know, I understand that it is a serious thing.

There is a fellow dead.

ALLEN

I know.

And we want to get to the truth and I would appreciate it if you would be truthful with us.

ALLEN

I am being truthful with you.

When we do ask you a question, and that you would answer the questions because they are relevant. So what did you hear.

ALLEN

I heard that Hanvey had hit somebody with a bottle.

When you heard that what was the discussion or what was the talk about it.

ALLEN

Myself I didn't, I just thought it was a stupid thing to do and I said that at the

781

07355

time. They were just talking about what happened, the usual old crack and I just went on home shortly after.

Sorry you say they talked about what.

ALLEN

Pardon.

About what to do.

They talked about what happened.

ALLEN

What happened yes.

What else was discussed.

ALLEN

Not a lot really, they were just talking, slabbering and carrying on.

Yes but when you are talking about talking and slabbering, what was actually said like.

ALLEN

Well there was a bit, they were talking about the fighting a bit but.

Who's they.

ALLEN

The people that were there.

Yes but who in particular are we talking about.

ALLEN

Well the girls were all, 'did you see what happened' and that carry on. I was sitting in the chair, I just didn't want anything to do with it and that's the truth. I sat there for twenty minutes or half an hour or so.

Did you have any drink while you were there.

ALLEN

No I had nothing to drink.

Do you go to that house often.

ALLEN

That is the first time that I have ever been there.

Well who brought you, well who invited you along.

ALLEN

I just walked up with P46, as I said.

He went there.

ALLEN

Yes.

Would he go there often do you think.

ALLEN

I don't know. It was the first time that I would have ever been there.

Well how did you know to go there or how did he know to go there, do you know that. Why did you end up there that is what I am trying to find out.

ALLEN

I don't know. She must have, Tracey must have said something, I don't know.

Do you know this Tracey through the Coach.

ALLEN

Tracey, yes I, all I really know those people is from just going to the Coach and that you know, but I haven't been out for about three or four weeks.

Did you see Hanvey hit this boy with the bottle.

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07358

ALLEN

No I never seen it.

Well who, who actually said it that Hanvey had hit somebody with the bottle.

ALLEN

I don't honestly know, I just overheard it, I just heard them saying.

You see what we have got to try and establish is what part of the assault caused this man's death.

ALLEN

Yes.

And if someone is hitting someone with a bottle, it is very very relevant. So as much as you can tell us about that.

ALLEN

That's all I know and that's it, I just heard it.

Did you see anybody getting hit with a bottle, did you see anybody smash a bottle anywhere that night.

Because there was a couple of bottles

785.

07359

smashed, there is no doubt about that.

ALLEN

I never, no.

Did you see a girl with a bottle.

ALLEN

No. I never see a girl with a bottle.

What actually did you see, for somebody who is standing watching something, you haven't really told us that you saw an awful lot.

ALLEN

All I could see was a crowd standing.

Right a crowd, you are talking about a crowd, how many roughly.

ALLEN

I would say there was about twenty.

Twenty people and what were they standing doing.

ALLEN

They were standing, well standing kicking.

Was everybody kicking in this crowd.

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07360

ALLEN

Not everybody no.

Well how many people would have been kicking.

ALLEN

I would say there would be four or five kicking at the front and the rest of them were just standing there.

And how many would have been kicked.

ALLEN

Pardon.

How many people do you think would have been assaulted. Who was being assaulted. If there is six kicking, how many were they kicking at.

ALLEN

I think there was two on the road.

You think there was two.

ALLEN

Yes.

Right so there was two on the road and they were getting kicked, these people who were on the road. Where they standing or were they

787

07361

actually lying on the ground.

ALLEN

They were on the ground.

They were on the ground. How many were on the ground, the two of them.

ALLEN

Yes.

So that is a progression from what you said earlier on because at one stage at the start of this interview you said you never saw anybody on the ground.

Now we have got people on the ground.

ALLEN

No I said I seen a fight in the middle of the road and I walked round behind it.

Yes.

ALLEN

You didn't ask me if I saw anybody on the ground.

It was asked at the start, well it is not relevant now. Okay I will accept that. So there was somebody on the ground getting

788

kicked.

ALLEN

Yes.

How many people would have been kicking him.

ALLEN

As I said.

The one in particular on the ground, well two were on the ground.

ALLEN

Yes.

They were both being kicked.

ALLEN

As I said there was a big crowd, there was a few at the front just kicking.

Well who was doing the kicking.

ALLEN

I don't honestly know, that is the honest truth.

But you see these boys are on your bus with you and you give us a whole string of names of people who were there.

ALLEN There were boys that I seen that night that weren't at the Coach.

But you have already give us a whole lot of names of people who were there.

ALLEN Yes.

Was any of them kicking at these people.

ALLEN I don't know, I don't know who all was there.

You are not being truthful, you are holding back on us here.

ALLEN I am not, I am being honest with you.

You see you were at the front and you were kicking too.

ALLEN No I wasn't.

We have a witness to say that.

ALLEN And I know for a fact that I wasn't.

You see that is the part that we can't get

over with you, why somebody is prepared to say that you did this.

ALLEN

But I know I didn't.

And we would be happy enough that they are not out to do you any wrong intentionally, you know they are not out sort of to pick on you and say we will drop this bollocks in it. That is not the case, we believe through the investigation that you actually were involved in assaulting these boys on the ground. That is the one.

ALLEN

As I say I wasn't.

But you see it is hard to imagine that this is all going on in front of you and somebody gets hit with a bottle and you only hear about it when you are up in this house.

ALLEN

That's right yes.

And you never seen that when you were down at it.

791

ALLEN

That's right.

How would you describe the attack on these people, would you describe it as a vicious attack.

ALLEN

Well obviously it was.

Well your description would, would you describe it as having been a vicious attack.

ALLEN

Yes as I see it, it is just a stupid thing to happen.

So to be able to say that it was a vicious attack, you seen the attack taking place and you seen what was happening, why can you not tell us who done it.

ALLEN

As I say I was standing behind, all I could see was just people standing and you could see people just at the front of this crowd and you could see boots just going in.

Getting back to this fellow lying on the ground, is this the same boy that had a bit

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07366

of a showdown with you in Thomas Street.

ALLEN

I don't know where he went to, as I say he just ran down the street.

Is it definitely not him or could it be him or are you not sure.

ALLEN

I am not sure.

The boy that you had the confrontation with in Thomas Street.

ALLEN

Yes.

And that was punching at you and you were defending yourself, what was he wearing.

ALLEN

I am not sure, I am not honestly sure. I can't remember.

So after this confrontation you had with him, or while you were in the middle of this fracas with him, you are saying that three or four other boys came down and ploughed into him.

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07367

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

And knocked him to the ground. Where did he fall to the ground first.

ALLEN

He just fell on the ground, onto the road and then he got up.

Still in Thomas Street.

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

And then he got up.

ALLEN

And ran down the street.

Towards the town centre.

ALLEN

Yes.

So he ran down the street towards the town centre, where did he go from the town centre.

ALLEN

I don't know, he either ran into the crowd or ran round it, I don't know.

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07368

But he sort of ran into the group of people anyway.

ALLEN

As he headed off.

What we can establish for sure is that it is a possibility that it was him lying on the ground.

ALLEN

I am not sure.

You are not sure that he run away, that he got away.

ALLEN

He did run away.

That he escaped from the crowd. You are not sure of that. He run into the crowd.

ALLEN

He could have run into it, or run around it.

Well this is for no reason at all this boy starts punching at you.

ALLEN

Yes.

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07369

Immediately this group came down and break off this boy hitting you.

ALLEN

Yes.

Did you not do anything about that.

ALLEN

What do you mean like.

Did you not feel that you wanted to get your own back on this boy.

ALLEN

I just didn't want anything to do with it.

So that was it, as far as you were concerned that was it. This boy had punched you for no reason and you decided you were going to do nothing about it.

ALLEN

Yes.

You just said I will go on home.

ALLEN

He was knocked to the ground, he ran away.

Well how did you feel, were you not angry

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07370

about that.

ALLEN

Angry about somebody hitting me.

Yes.

ALLEN

Of course I was angry.

And there was police there.

ALLEN

Pardon.

There was police there that night.

ALLEN

There was police there that night yes.

Why did you not go to the police and tell them that this boy had hit you for no reason.

ALLEN

Because I didn't want to have anything to do with it.

But this boy had hit you for no reason. Why did you not go to one of the policemen and say 'that boy there assaulted me' and point to the boy that assaulted you.

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07371

ALLEN

Because as I say I didn't want to have anything to do with what was going on.

Would it not be right that you involved yourself and got your own back by sticking in.

ALLEN

No.

Cause that is what happened, isn't it.

ALLEN

No.

Be truthful with us.

ALLEN

I am being truthful.

You got stuck in.

ALLEN

I did not.

And you laid the boot in.

ALLEN

No.

And when the crowd got this man down you got

stuck in and you kicked him.

ALLEN

No.

You kicked him about the face and that what this witness is saying, is right.

ALLEN

No.

Another problem that we have too, is going back to the very start when you are standing at the start of Thomas Street.

ALLEN

Yes.

Three guys come along and just take swipes at you without saying one word, not yous fucking Protestant bastards or yous fenian bastards, there is no mention of anything. Now you were just walking along minding your own business and all of a sudden you are all picked on.

ALLEN

Yes that's right.

You are all standing there minding your own

business, a boy comes at you and your other two mates are the same.

ALLEN

Yes that is exactly what happened.

Did it not cross your mind to think 'Who the fuck are these boys'.

If we said to you now that we know there was a comment made.

ALLEN

Yes.

'You fenian bastards' and that is what instigated the whole thing.

ALLEN

No I never heard it.

Could we not assume then that this was said by someone of the group of three that was standing on the corner.

ALLEN

I did not.

Which was yourself, Rory Robinson and who was the third one.

foo

ALLEN

David Woods.

David Woods.

ALLEN

I never heard anything.

Nobody said a word.

ALLEN

No.

It is strange you know.

You see it looks like from our enquiries, it looks like the three people at the mouth of Thomas Street you know are the ones who instigated this whole thing by making a comment like that.

ALLEN

I definitely didn't.

And then the fight started.

It turned into a free-for-all.

And because you were assaulted you wanted to

801

get your own back and you got stuck in.

ALLEN

No.

Because you were there at the very start you see.

ALLEN

I was there at the start yes I am not denying that I wasn't there, I was there at the start yes.

Sometimes when there is few drinks and all in a (inaudible) situation like that, well in the heat of the moment, maybe hindsight is a wonderful thing but in the heat of the moment you got stuck in. It happens many times.

ALLEN

No.

But I find it very hard to believe that after you were assaulted and you, were you hurt, were you badly hurt.

ALLEN

No.

Were you injured at all.

802

ALLEN

No.

Not at all. Nothing connected with you.

ALLEN

My ankle.

What do you mean, what happened to your ankle.

ALLEN

I had a lump on my ankle. It was there for about a week.

Did you get kicked.

ALLEN

I either got kicked or thumped or something.

So then there was more than a pushing match then.

ALLEN

Yes.

You were actually kicked then.

ALLEN

Yes but this could have been done by the boys coming in, the other boys that were, that hit him.

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07377

That launched the attack.

ALLEN

Yes.

Who were these boys that run in, who was this group. Like these boys were coming to your assistance, isn't that right.

ALLEN

Yes. I don't know.

Well how many of them was there, how many.

ALLEN

I don't know, as I said there was three or four.

You don't know these boys that came in.

ALLEN

I am not sure who it was, that's the truth.

But you didn't know them, did you.

ALLEN

No.

You didn't.

ALLEN

No.

804

You didn't say that earlier on.

So really these boys could have been coming in and they could have been picking on the wrong one.

ALLEN

Well they know, obviously they knew me.

But you can't remember who come to your assistance.

ALLEN

It is the truth, I don't know.

Well at that point they put him to the ground, did they give him a kicking, did they start kicking at him that time and he was able to get up.

ALLEN

He was knocked to the ground, he was lying on the ground, he got up and he bolted down the street.

What about his mates at that stage, where were they, the other two you were talking about, the other two boys. This boys that fell to the ground, where were the two boys

805

07379

that were with him.

ALLEN

Well there was a fight going on to the left hand side of me.

Involving which of your mates. Woods or Robinson.

ALLEN

Robinson.

Robinson right.

ALLEN

And there was a crowd there and just on down the street there was a crowd there too as I said.

With Woods, initially that was the Woods sort of scrap.

ALLEN

Yes just sort of there.

Everybody came to your three assistance as such, there was three wee fights going on, is that the picture.

ALLEN

Yes.

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07380

And people were coming to each one of your assistance and in your case this boy was put to the ground, he got up and run back into the middle of the street.

ALLEN

He run down yes.

And the whole thing moved to there. That is where the fight sort of moved to the main fight then.

ALLEN

Well there was more people in the middle of the street.

Right we are going to have to change the tape here, the time is now 1146.

MASTER TAPE NUMBER: T146546A - ALLEN

TAPE NO.2 - 15.5.97

The time is 1147. We are continuing with a second tape, the interview of Andrew George

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