

MASTER TAPE NUMBER: T146552A

WOODS - TAPE NO.2 - 16.5.97

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an interview room at Lurgan Police Station. My name is Detective Sergeant Richard Harkness and I am based at the Regional Crime Squad in Gough. The other officer present in the room is Detective Constable Keith McIlmurray of Lurgan CID. Today is Friday, it is the 16th of May 1997 and the time is 1112 hours.

What is your full name please.

WOODS

David William Thomas Woods

And your date of birth David.

WOODS

[REDACTED]

And your current home address.

WOODS

[REDACTED]

Portadown.

WOODS

Portadown.

Also present in the interview room is.

SOLICITOR

[REDACTED], Solicitor, Portadown.

Right David this is the second interview we are having with you, with regards the same matter which is the murder of Robert Hamill and other serious assaults which occurred at Thomas Street/Market Street, Portadown on the 27th of April this year. Before I ask you any questions regarding that matter I am going to caution you. I am going to tell you that 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 David.

WOODS

Yes.

David last night we had an interview with you

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here in relation to your movements on the night of the 26th/27th of April 1997. You gave us a version of events and we have subsequently went and spoke to Carol Anne Woods, your sister and her boyfriend [REDACTED], who both reside in a flat, a first floor flat which [REDACTED] the junction of Thomas Street and Market Street in Portadown. Is that right.

WOODS

That's correct, yes.

We spoke to them this morning and we have recorded statements from them with regards as to what they say happened on the night in question at or about a quarter to two in the morning. There are some other things I want to ask you David and that is why we are having a further interview here. You say on the night in question that you were assaulted.

WOODS

Yes.

You were struck on the face.

WOODS

Yes.

By a man who was wearing a dark leather jacket.

WOODS

Yes.

Whereabouts on the face did he strike you David.

WOODS

On the cheek.

Do you remember which cheek.

WOODS

On the left cheek.

The left cheek.

WOODS

The left cheek.

And you are pointing towards your left cheek.

David were you injured as a result of being hit in the face.

WOODS

No.

Not at all.

WOODS Well I had a sore cheek but I wasn't really injured, no.

You didn't have a broken jaw or anything.

WOODS No.

But had you any visible bruising or marking afterwards.

WOODS No.

Okay. Who all did you tell about being hit on the face. Apart from your sister and her boyfriend, witnessing, well claiming to have seen the assault and bringing you into the flat, who else did you tell.

WOODS Just my family that was it.

Who was that now.

WOODS My mum and dad.

Did you tell your mum and dad about this.

WOODS Yes.

Right, well what did you tell them David.

WOODS That I was going home and I got hit last night.

Right. Did you go into any more details than that.

WOODS I said it was Catholics.

Right, because of what they had said to you.

WOODS Yes.

That being, I am referring to the phrase 'orange bastard', is that the phrase you mean.

WOODS Yes.

And did your mum and dad see any injuries on your face.

WOODS No.

They didn't. Right. Did they not worry about what had happened to you.

WOODS

Yes.

They did right and did they ban you going out of the house of anything like that as a result of it.

WOODS

No they just said 'Don't be up the town late'.

Don't be up the town late. Did you know who had hit you at that time.

WOODS

No I still don't know who hit me.

You still don't know who hit you. Right. Do you know the names of any of the persons that were involved in the crowd which you met in Thomas Street.

WOODS

No.

Right, from talking to your sister, she tells me there was a crowd of other people. When I

say a crowd I mean about seven or eight persons possibly standing at or about the middle of the street in Market Street, just you know opposite the junction of Thomas reservation.

WOODS

Yes.

She tells me there was maybe six or seven other people there who she believed were friends or associates or she got the impression that they were friends or associates of the people who had actually been involved in the assault on you. Do you remember seeing those people David.

WOODS

No.

You don't.

WOODS

No.

Right, I asked you last night about a couple of lads, Rory Robinson and a young fellow called Andrew Allen.

WOODS

Yes.

Do you remember that.

WOODS

Yes.

Do you know those people.

WOODS

Yes.

You do.

WOODS

I know them to see, I am not close to them.

You wouldn't be close to them but you would know them to see.

WOODS

Yes.

And would those people know you do you think David.

WOODS

They would probably know my face.

Right okay, did you go to a party in the  
[REDACTED] at the home of a Tracey  
McAlpine.

WOODS Not that I remember no.

You didn't.

WOODS I went to my sisters.

What time do you think you left your sisters  
David.

WOODS I lost track of time, it was, I stayed there a  
brave while then went home.

Was your sister still up when you left or was  
she in bed or what.

WOODS I can't remember.

You can't remember.

WOODS I think maybe she was in bed.

You think she was in bed. And what time did  
you get home at on that Sunday morning.

WOODS I don't know, I lost track of time, I just

wakened up in my bed.

Was it daylight hours when you got home or was it darkness.

WOODS

I can't remember.

How long would you say you had been in the flat before you left.

WOODS

A right while like.

You were saying there when this boy came down and hit you on the face, was it just a blow with the fist or the side of the hand or was it, was he running on and he just.

WOODS

He was running by, he hit me and then went into the middle of the town.

But did he hit you with his fist or did he use the palm of the hand.

WOODS

With his fist.

He was a fair lump of a bloke was he.

WOODS

Yes he was a fair size, yes.

Right, did you make any attempt to defend yourself.

WOODS

No.

You didn't.

WOODS

No.

Why would that be David.

WOODS

Because he had his friends with him, I had nobody.

There was a crowd coming up the street behind you from the Coach, you know what I mean, there was a lot of your friends on the bus that left the Coach and came back to Portadown.

WOODS

Yes.

Now these people were just a short distance

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behind you, did you not feel that they would have come to your aid or help, if you had have required it.

WOODS

If they had have been with me they would have, but if I had got stuck back into him I would have got a right booting before anyone would have seen.

Right, how far were those people behind you David.

WOODS

I haven't a clue.

Right. We have had Andrew Allen in here and you have said that you know Andrew.

WOODS

Right.

Is that fair.

WOODS

Yes.

Now when we spoke to Allen, basically Allen told us about going to the Coach and coming back into town and he says that you stopped,

you were with Rory Robinson right, on the night in question. Do you recall that.

WOODS

No. I was on my own.

Right I am only telling you what we have been told. He says you and Robinson were in front and that basically he heard shouting from Thomas Street and he saw men and women coming down Thomas Street and that he actually saw one person strike you in the face. Would he have been in a position to see that.

WOODS

I never seen him, I was on my own.

Right so what you are telling me, you were the leader of the pack, you were the first out of the trap and you were up the street well in front of them.

WOODS

Yes.

And the rest of your friends on the bus were coming behind you.

WOODS

They could have been anywhere in front of me,

behind me.

But those people who know you, those people who I have named to you.

WOODS They would know my face, yes they would yes.

So if they saw you getting a thumping, or getting struck by someone, they would come to your assistance.

WOODS Probably yes.

They probably would. Well tell me this you got hit and you stood in the street. You said yourself you were dazed.

WOODS Yes.

Isn't that right.

WOODS Yes.

And it is my interpretation of things that the deceased Mr Hamill and his associate ran on out into the middle of Market Street where

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they were then confronted by your friends, some of whom have already appeared in Court and been charged with this offence. Did you see that occur.

WOODS

No I just seen them as I said last night, a hustle in the town and then I went into my sisters. I couldn't make nobody out.

Right but it is safe to presume David that Mr Hamill the deceased and his associates were not fighting among each other. They were fighting with an opposing faction who I have to put it to you, were your friends and were the people who got off the bus with you. Would that be a reasonable assumption.

WOODS

You are right yes.

It would.

Would it also be reasonable to say that if you were standing at the junction of Thomas Street and Market Street just adjacent to Eastwood's shop or on the opposite side of the street from Eastwood's shop, there is good street

lighting, isn't there.

WOODS

I was standing at Jamiesons.

Well it is not very far up, is it.

WOODS

It is far up for nobody to see me as everybody was round the corner.

Yes but what I am saying is, if you were standing at Jamiesons, you can still see that whole street area of the end of Thomas Street and Market Street, is that correct.

WOODS

Yes that is correct.

Well that is actually where the confrontation took place, at that junction, the fight, that is where that took place.

WOODS

Yes.

So if you are standing there and there is good street lights and your friends and the deceased and his friends are involved in a fight, are you telling me here you didn't see

what happened.

WOODS

Yes I am telling you I never seen what happened no. All I seen was the hustle in the middle of the town and my sister and her boyfriend pulled me into the flat to get me out of it.

Right. Okay. When your friends did arrive and you did see the hustle and bustle, if someone had hit you, do you not think revenge would be in your mind.

WOODS

Yes.

Yes so when your friends arrived in the middle of this hustle and bustle and there was more, quite considerably more of them than there was of Mr Hamill and his associates, did you by chance take your opportunity to get revenge and go over and strike the person who struck you.

WOODS

No and if I would have my sister wouldn't let me go anyway.

Right, you respect your sister.

WOODS

Yes.

If she tells you to do it, you do it.

WOODS

Well not all the time like but.

You know what I am asking you David, if you were standing there and your friends arrive and they basically laid into these boys who had hit you, would you not have taken your opportunity to run over and get your own back.

WOODS

No I was in my sister's flat.

Right. I can't put it any further than that and I don't intend to, alright.

WOODS

Yes.

Is there anything you want to ask.

WOODS

No.

[REDACTED]

SOLICITOR No thank you, that's fine.  
David is there anything you would like to ask  
before I terminate the interview.

WOODS No.

One thing I have thought of, did you attend a  
doctor at all.

WOODS No.

You know what I am saying just.

WOODS No I didn't no.

You weren't off work sick or anything like  
that.

WOODS No.

And the only people you told was your mum and  
dad.

WOODS Yes.

None of your mates, the likes of big Ian Mahood or them lads.

WOODS

No.

Okay the time being 1124 hours, I have already given you a Form PACE 21 last night, I am going to turn off these a Form PACE 21 last night, I am going to turn tapes.

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