

Now this interview is being tape recorded, the interview is being conducted in an interview room at Lurgan Police, I am Detective Constable Lilly and other police officers present are: Detective Constable Keys, Portadown CID. Ah the date is the 6th of May '97 and the time ah from my watch is 11.45 am. What is your full name.

FORBES

Dean Forbes.

Ah there is no solicitor present at the moment and ah you requested no solicitor.

FORBES

Yeah.

You're happy enough to be interviewed without a solicitor.

FORBES

No problem.

Right, now at the conclusion of this interview I will give you a notice explaining what will happen to the tapes, that a, a Form 21 ah that's and you've no solicitor present so we'll give you that and we'll explain ah

in full what exactly will happen to them OK,
are you happy enough with that.

FORBES

Yeah.

Now before we question you in relation to
this here I have to caution you, and the
caution is, 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
caution.

FORBES

Yeah, yeah.

Do you understand the full wording of it.

FORBES

Yes.

Ah what it means there is, is that you don't
have to say anything but if you, if there's
something there which you don't mention which
you later maybe rely on in court or any other
ah proceedings that take place.

FORBES

Aye, yeah.

It ah an inference could be drawn by the court as to why you didn't say it at this particular time, may be drawn, do you understand.

FORBES

Yeah.

OK. Now as I told you this morning we're ah making enquiries in relation to a serious assault which took place in Portadown during the early hours of the 27th, that was the Sunday morning ahm 26th, 27th that's Saturday night, Sunday morning ahm whereby two people were injured, one seriously and who still remains in hospital and that's what we're ah carrying out enquiries in relation to and ah we've reason to believe that you had involvement within that, do you remember that actual evening, do you, do you remember that actual evening.

FORBES

What, that night.

Yes.

FORBES

Yes.

Well could you ah outline to me what your movements were for that evening ahm starting from were you at the Coach.

FORBES

Yes.

Well if you start from ah you came back from the Coach in Banbridge.

FORBES

Where like from I got off the bus.

Yes.

FORBES

Well as soon as I got off the bus we stood about down beside Z Cabs for a while and then headed up the town, got something to eat in Boss Hoggs so, there was a crowd of us but then half of them went on up the town so. Could I just stop you there at that stage, you walked up the left hand side of the street.

FORBES

To Boss Hoggs.

To Boss Hoggs, with who.

FORBES

Yes. Stacey and ah Neil, Neiler or something
I don't know what his surname was.

Where's he from.

FORBES

[REDACTED]

Whereabouts.

FORBES

Ah I don't know his address now but do you
know where [REDACTED]

Yes.

FORBES

[REDACTED] that estate in there but I don't
know the number or anything.

[REDACTED] that's up ah the [REDACTED]

FORBES

Near [REDACTED], just when you're going up
towards the [REDACTED]

Yes.

FORBES

It's just up there.

And who else was with you.

FORBES

Ah I think his wee sister was there and some girl called McCartney and a couple of young other ones.

Right. You went to Boss Hoggs.

FORBES

And got something to eat and then we came out and they were already away on up the town because they were going back to her house, the young girl McCartney's.

What direction did they go from they left Boss Hoggs.

FORBES

To St Marks Church direction.

OK. Who was in that group again then that left before you.

FORBES

Left before us.

Yes.

FORBES

Ah Neiler, his sister, Sar, Sarah McCartney I think it is and.

Where's Sarah McCartney from.

FORBES

Right.

FORBES

And there was a couple of other ones as well but just there was just her mates.

How long did you stay in Boss Hoggs.

FORBES

There was a big queue in it about, about fifteen, twenty minutes probably.

Did you recognise anybody else in Boss Hoggs.

FORBES

No it was all, just all oldish people you know right, like out of the Queens or Jamesons now and just like a normal crowd in it.

OK whenever you came out of Boss Hoggs what direction did you go.

FORBES

Got as far, walked up Edward, just towa, walking past Edward Street and then we got so far up and we heard the shouting so we crossed the road to, know just walked straight across to the Northern Bank and then we decided we walked up about another bit and then the police landrover was sitting.

Right who was, who was with you.

FORBES

At the corner.

At that stage when you cross over the road towards the Northern Bank.

FORBES

Just me and Stacey.

What was Stacey wearing.

FORBES

I can't remember. I know he had a check shirt on but I don't know.

What colour was that check shirt.

FORBES

I think it was blue or something I don't know. It was like a blue check or something, I can't really remember.

Do you remember what colour his trousers were.

FORBES

Ah I don't know if he was, if he was wearing dark ones or light ones tell you the truth.

What were you wearing that night.

FORBES

What I gave you at my house a, like a beige colour Ralph Lauren shirt and the dark Sonetti trousers.

Are you certain.

FORBES

Yeah. That's what I said in the house (inaudible) that's the way to prove it for me unless, because I was talking to [REDACTED] that night in the Coach and I was saying you know about him buying the Seagoe and all and I gave him my name and address and my phone

number and all that night to his brother, or his neph or cousin or something, [REDACTED], and he passed it on you know for getting an estimate for the Seago for painting it and all.

Right but yet there's no doubt in your mind that that's what you were wearing.

FORBES

That's, that's what I was definitely wearing. I'd say there was a couple of girls could probably if you asked what I was wearing.

Who would they be.

FORBES

Well the crowd that, round the Coach would be a girl from my estate, Pauline, to you know her.

Who.

FORBES

Pauline. Pauline Newell.

Pauline Newell.

FORBES

Yes. Newell aye I think that's what her.

second name is Newell.

Is that your girlfriend.

FORBES

No.

Pauline Newell and where is she from.

FORBES

[REDACTED]

Is she a half sister.

FORBES

Of Tracey.

Aha.

FORBES

Aye, I don't know if it's half or a full sister.

Or step sister or something.

FORBES

Yeah.

Or whatever.

FORBES

Their da lives in England or something so

they do.

Right you cross over the road ahm as you're crossing over the road did you see anything.

FORBES

There was, just at Eastwoods there was a row going on between.

What do you mean a row.

FORBES

Just people shouting at each other you know I didn't know if it was people coming out of Jamesons you know.

Was there any fisticuffs or.

FORBES

Just (inaudible)

Physical fighting going on at that stage.

FORBES

Not at that time no.

Right.

FORBES

Just, just rowing like mad.

How many people were rowing at that stage.

FORBES

Ah about six or seven, not even that probably.

And what was this row about.

FORBES

I couldn't tell you just, it was just everybody was just rowing at the same time and you couldn't actually hear what they were rowing at.

Was it, was it sectarian.

FORBES

No I don't think so.

Do you know what I mean by sectarian.

FORBES

Aye I know aye slagging off the Catholics or Protestants.

Aha.

FORBES

But that's what I say I didn't know if it was, if they were ones coming out of Jamesons Bar you know rowing at that time or whatever.

And did you hear any remarks at any time that would suggest to you that there was.

FORBES

Just whenever we were talking to the police officers in the landrover and the, the driver had his door open and they were all facing us, you know talking away and then, I don't know, I think there was a boy wearing blue shirt and tie or something and he, he went like that, he just grabbed a police officer and he just says, are youse going to let them Orange bastards get away with that there. So and then the woman police officer in the passenger seat looked at us and she just says, she says get, you know get down the town and we says, know like we live up there and then the police officer in the back says, but no go on and they all got out at that stage and by that time when we, we went round the back of the landrover they were already you know chucking bottles and everything at each other.

Aha. Had you a bottle with you that night.

FORBES

No.

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Had Stacey.

FORBES

He had a plastic bottle, plastic Strongbow or something it was.

Plastic.

FORBES

Aye.

Right so what happened then.

FORBES

Well there was, the police officers got out of the back and then know like there, there was ones you know they were just right into the middle of the road by this time you know at the traffic lights and all and then the police officers saw us and he saw a group of them coming round the corner and we didn't know who they were or anything and they just got closer and then the cop just says, right get you up the town and then all you heard out of them was you know, come on you, come on, we'll take you now, we'll take you now. I mean it must, I don't know if they thought we were Protestants or Catholics at that time

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you know because we were at the top of Woodhouse Street at that stage.

Well who did you think were saying that to you at that stage.

FORBES

Ah what, like Protestant or Catholic.

Yeah.

FORBES

Well we didn't actually know because you know we were at the top of Woodhouse Street and they must have thought, if it was ones coming you know from Jamesons or whatever you know saying well they must be Taigs or something, we'll get them.

Did you recognise any of them.

FORBES

Well the boy had a shirt and tie on, a blue one but we didn't know you know what he was but now whenever the rest of the police officers came in there were, there was about two or three car loads and then whenever they, they got the crowd back where we were standing from at the Summer seats you could,

I could see him in the distance and then I,
you know and then I knew.

You knew what.

FORBES

You know that he was a Catholic at that
stage, because he was on this side of the
town and then the police officers you know
were starting to push the rest of the crowd
back you know up to the top of the town and
then they just, some of them, so many of them
walked the rest of them down Woodhouse
Street.

Right. When did you ah exactly see the
fisticuffs, you talking about rowing and I
take that you mean people shouting and.

FORBES

Aye.

Slagging each other off.

FORBES

Slagging each other off.

And what not, when did you actually see the
fisticuffs starting.

FORBES

When I came round the back of the landrover, when, after, just after that fella had either gripped a cop or hit the cop I don't know what he done.

Right. Where was ah, ah Stacey at that stage.

FORBES

He was still talking to the woman police officer at that stage.

Right. Did you think that the policeman had been hit.

FORBES

Yeah.

Why did you think that.

FORBES

Because when, whenever the police officer turned round he was gripped but I don't, know that's what I didn't know if he was hit or not.

Right.

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FORBES Because that, he just turned.

What did you think about that.

FORBES Nothing really, you know like.

Did it annoy you.

FORBES No if the, if they you know like they should have lifted him at that stage.

Did it annoy you the fact that you thought maybe it might have been, here's a policeman, ah.

FORBES No.

Being assaulted.

FORBES You know like if somebody gets assaulted you know like them the police there you know do, they're the ones that should deal with it.

But what if it annoyed you if you thought that there was a policeman getting assaulted

by say a Catholic.

FORBES

No wouldn't be no different if it was a Protestant either.

Aha. Did you see anybody else ah being put into the landrover or getting out of it at all at any time.

FORBES

There was a boy with a scarf round his neck but I don't know who he was because A grabbed him, the woman police officer and he, he was about, he came running from the top of the town, down with a bottle and then they, whenever he got to the lights just before, you know like level with Dorothy Perkins.

Aye.

FORBES

There's like a light there, and A just grabbed him like that there and put the arm behind his back and then two other, she called over two other police officers and then they threw him into the back of the landrover about, about ten or fifteen minutes later whenever the crowd was getting pushed back they musn't have you know locked the

door right and he got out and then he tried to run to the crowd and ah the cops got him on the ground and then put him back in again I think. But I don't know who it was.

Aha. What sort of a scarf was he wearing.

FORBES

A bar scarf, red, white and blue one.

Which.

FORBES

Boy's scarf, red, white and blue one he was wearing a white top as well and a baseball cap.

Right, was it a Rangers scarf.

FORBES

Aye a red, white and blue one.

Right. So you were hanging about for a wee while then at that stage if you seen all this, if you seen.

FORBES

Up at that circle aye.

Yeah.

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FORBES

At the top of the town, we were talking to ones in band uniforms, they were only back from a band parade from somewhere, there was ones in True Blues uniforms and Defenders uniforms, married men and they says, what's going on down there, here's me, you don't want to know, here's me, just getting tore into each other. At that stage there was bottles flying everywhere.

Well at that stage when you seen this guy ah getting out of the landrover and being rearrested and all the rest, were you just standing, were you being held back by police at that stage.

FORBES

No I was just up at that, you know that new bit in front of the War Memorial I was just, we were just standing up there and then when the rest of the crowd was getting pushed back A just comes over to me and she says, come on, out of the town you know, you know disappear as if to say and then she just said that everybody, it was just anybody that was even sitting on the Summer Seats in the town

3.75

that night, they just turned round and said, come on out of the town, you shouldn't be hanging about.

This is ^A [redacted] the policewoman.

FORBES

Yeah. And then there was a couple of others that knew us you know from the football matches and they were saying, you know, come on, get this crowd out of the way and it's not as if I'm their mum and dad, I can't tell them what to do.

Had you much drink on you Dean.

FORBES

I had, I had a few but I hadn't that much because I was sick that night so I was.

So you can remember what was going on really the.

FORBES

Aye.

Just, so you weren't drunk in other words, you had a few drinks but weren't drunk.

FORBES

Aye just a few drinks.

Ah.

FORBES

Didn't even drink one over at the Coach just a couple of bottles The Coach and that was it.

So in essence what you're saying is you came back from the Coach and you walked up the town to Boss Hoggs.

FORBES

Yeah.

Along with ah.

FORBES

Stacey and the group of the girls and another fella.

Group of the girls and you got something to eat. I take it you actually got something to eat in the place did you.

FORBES

Aye I got a chicken burger.

Yeah.

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FORBES

Because Paula, I think Paula was on that night.

You then came out and you walked up.

FORBES

They had already gone we told them to wait and (inaudible) they must have shouted in or something you know we're away on here.

That's the two girls.

FORBES

And the other fella too, it was just me and Stacey left in Boss Hoggs at that stage.

Right, the other fella being Neil is that right.

FORBES

Neiler or something.

Yeah. So youse came out of Boss Hoggs and you crossed over the street then.

FORBES

Ju, whenever we got, just past Edward Street, it was near what's, is it a pub, I don't know if it's a pub or the bookies but when we got to about there we just crossed straight over

across the road to the Northern Bank and then we, we walked up to, that was whenever the landrover was, Woodhouse, Woodhouse Street and between Woodhouse Street and and Alliance and Leicester and then the, the doors opened and the police officer in the back noticed us and he called us over and he was saying to Stacey and all, I take it you didn't go and join the Army and all, he says no just left school and went to work for Davy Jamesons he said.

Right do you know that police officer.

FORBES

I, I can't remember if it was [REDACTED] or P40 or something like that there.

Right. So the both of you were.

FORBES

Talk, just talking away.

So that's, that's your story at the moment and then ah the melee started, you were told to get off side and you immediately did that.

FORBES

Aye because the police officers were getting

out of the back of the landrover whenever the fella was coming, the fellas were coming towards us at this stage.

Aye.

FORBES

And then they just says to us, go on, down the town and we says, no we need to get up the town.

Right.

FORBES

Because you know like there's no point going down town if you live up in Brownstown.

And you didn't see anybody physically getting hit with a fist or a boot.

FORBES

There was, when I came back, round the back of the landrover, that's whenever the bottles they started and people were just starting to get tore into each other and then the, the police they know just ran straight in and tried to break it up but well there was too many of them, there was only four police officers at that stage or even three because

the other one stayed in the landrover you know to radio for help or whatever and then they tried to run in but the crowd just, they just came in like that from both sides you know and the police are getting hit as well with bottles and everything and then all of a sudden boys were just hitting the ground.

Did you see anybody there that you knew.

FORBES

I, I know a couple of faces but I don't know all their names.

Well there was obviously ah quite a few on the bus, back from the Coach.

FORBES

Aye but most of themuns all live you know up towards [REDACTED] and all that there, so they do.

And would you know anybody else on the bus.

FORBES

Ah Carville was on it, he went straight home so he did that night, because I was talking to him in school on the Monday so I was and then Connor was on it.

Who's Connor.

FORBES

I, I don't know his second names, they're all, you know they just recently hanging about with us, they all live up you know is it Keenan and all that direction.

People called Bloomers.

FORBES

Aye they're in there too.

Where were you sitting on the bus.

FORBES

Just half way up it beside a young girl.

Where was Stacey sitting.

FORBES

Ah I mean just, he'd be near the back but not right at the back because there's a big crowd of them and people were standing and all at that time too so they were on the bus.

Are you sure of where he was sitting. Are you definite about that.

FORBES

Well I think so it's just.

If he was sitting at the front of the bus,
would you have known that.

FORBES

Well I had my head down at you know like that
there but you know people were you know
singing and having a laugh you know telling
like wee jokes and all and I looked round and
he was just, I'd have been sitting about here
and he'd have just been sitting, just a wee
bit back from it.

Behind you, back from you.

FORBES

Well not, just a bit back just on the other
side.

Back, right.

FORBES

Of it.

Who was he with on the bus. Who was he
sitting beside.

FORBES

Ah actually sitting beside him.

Aha.

FORBES

I don't, there was.

Had he a girl with him like.

FORBES

There was a girl, there was three of them on the seat I think and there was a girl in the middle, Jenny or some girl Gemma or something I think she is, she goes to the College so she does.

Where is she from do you know.

FORBES

I don't know.

You say there was three of them on the seat.

FORBES

Three of them on the seat.

Two fellas and a girl in the middle.

FORBES

Two, aye.

Who was the other fella.

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FORBES

Either Neil or Chris or somebody.

Who's Chris.

FORBES

Chris Henderson.

Who.

FORBES

Chris Henderson.

Where's he from.

FORBES

[REDACTED]

Did you see him up the town later on.

FORBES

No he had to go to work so he did, he works in Moypark or something so he does and he was doing nightshift or you know into their Sunday morning shifts that they do. Because there was a couple of people do that there, go in, in the Sunday just.

Now did you at any stage move towards that fracas in the middle of the street.

FORBES

No, I just.

Are you sure about that now.

FORBES

Stayed, I stayed back away from it, a good bit away from it, right out of the road.

But Stacey didn't.

FORBES

But that's what, I don't know.

Well where did you, where did you see him going.

FORBES

Well that time whenever we were at the Alliance and Leicester whenever we were trying to get back I don't know if he went down and came up because I, I just you know just backed off and just kept walking, just near the, that wooden bit you know they're building, knocking down the shop or whatever.

Are you sure you don't know where Stacey went.

FORBES

That's what, I don't know if he went down the

town or.

Well now just think about it now Dean. Don't be trying to cover for anybody else.

FORBES

I, I'm not trying to cover, that's what I just don't know if he went down the town or not.

Now what's important in here is ah your honesty, you know it's important for yourself. Now did you see Stacey doing something else.

FORBES

No.

Now are you sure you can't be identified or seen going towards where that fracas took place, where that fight was.

FORBES

Well where the fight was, we were standing, I stood with these two girls at the flower, you know the flower beds away, away back.

Who were they.

FORBES Bowles girls they live up, what do you call
the [REDACTED].

Where.

FORBES [REDACTED], is it [REDACTED].

Where's that.

FORBES On the [REDACTED], near the.

[REDACTED].

FORBES Or whatever, near the.

The daughter of the [REDACTED] are they.

FORBES Aye.

Daughters of the [REDACTED].

FORBES And she says.

What their names, no their first names.

FORBES Ah one of them goes with one of the boys.

plays, play football with me too, Lynn, one was called [REDACTED] but and Anne, and Anne Bowles.

[REDACTED] and Anne Bowles.

FORBES

Aye.

What age are they.

FORBES

One would be eighteen and one would be twenty odds probably.

Right. Do they know you.

FORBES

Yeah because they came over to me and they says you know were you in the middle of that and I goes, no I was over there and they says, and they, they pulled me back another bit and then this woman was standing pointing and shouting.

Why, why not. Yes. And what, what does she look like.

FORBES

The woman that was shouting.

Aha.

FORBES

She was wearing a white t-shirt or a jumper or something.

Aha. Could you describe her hairstyle.

FORBES

Short, streaky probably I don't know.

What was she shouting.

FORBES

No I, I don't know if she was just shouting you know, you know, get you away from here and all this here or.

Who was she shouting this at, you.

FORBES

No she was just pointing at people and you know and just shouting at them and then she was pulling a police officer over and all, I heard her, her shouting that's my, my brother-in-law or something she shouted or something and then there was a wee blondy haired girl was holding the fella at this stage.

Aha.

FORBES

Near, near the traffic lights or something. And she was saying, who hit my brother-in-law who hit my brother-in-law and she was pointing at everybody and all, I can identify all youse in this she was shouting.

Aha. Where was Stacey at this stage.

FORBES

That, that's what I don't know at that stage, I couldn't actually because there was that much of a crowd in the, in the middle of the fight.

Well you cert, well you certainly weren't with him when, whenever he got a smack in the nose were you.

FORBES

No I had already, he said, he says to me the next day, he says look at my nose, he says I got hit at the back of the landrover or something he said and then he says that P40 you know pushed him back I don't and he must have tried and just threw him out of

the way or something.

Did he not say something else to you.

FORBES

What, Stacey.

Aha.

FORBES

No he just turned round and he just says look at my nose he says blood, my nose is broke, that was the next day I saw him over in the park.

Did he not tell you about getting a dig at somebody.

FORBES

No.

Are you sure.

FORBES

Aye I'm positive.

See the, was there not more discussion between the two of you Dean about what had happened.

FORBES

No. He, he just, he says, he just, he says

to me you know, where did you go to, you know whenever you got pushed back, I says I just went straight up the town and I says did you not see me getting hit or something at the back of the landrover and I goes no, and that's whenever the two police officers were in the back got out and then they pushed him away so they did.

Do you remember whenever you were crossing over the street towards the Northern Bank and walking up towards the junction of Woodhouse Street.

FORBES

Yeah.

Do you remember that. Do you remember that clearly.

FORBES

Yeah.

Did you see anybody either at the landrover or who or anybody who appeared to be coming from the landrover.

FORBES

No.

At that time.

FORBES

There was nobody.

Well was there not a gentleman who was coming from that direction, maybe heading down Woodhouse Street and ah spoke to youse and vice versa.

FORBES

No. There was jus, there was just the two of us just walking up that direction around the corner.

You see the police, the police that were on duty there at that time know the both of you.

FORBES

Yeah.

Right. And they described how you two had come up the street and approached a man in a very threatening manner.

FORBES

Well that must have been before us, there was no way.

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No but the, the, no, no listen to me, they know the, know youse.

FORBES

Aye they might know us but definitely we definitely didn't approach anybody at the top of Woodhouse Street, there was nobody to be seen apart from the landrovers.

Did youse come up to anyone and say here what's, what are you doing or, did they say to you, what are you doing.

FORBES

Nothing. There was nobody there was, there wasn't a sinner.

Was there not a man said.

FORBES

On that side of the road.

Was there not a man said to youse, look I don't want any bother, I want no hassle.

FORBES

No.

No. Head off.

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FORBES

Well there was somebody away down Woodhouse Street so there was but that was away down at the bottom of the street and that was it, near the Royal Oak or something.

Right you didn't have a conversation with him but.

FORBES

Well we couldn't have if he is away down the bottom of the street.

No. You didn't have a conversation with him at any stage in the night did you.

FORBES

No.

Tell me this, did you see anybody ah in that crowd or hear anybody in that crowd saying, oh I hit him, I, I jumped on his head or anything like that.

FORBES

What, like, just shouting.

Did you hear any, any.

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FORBES I, I battered him or something.

Aye or I hit him, I.

FORBES There.

I done it, I done it.

FORBES Well I didn't actually.

Not those, not, not necessarily those words.

FORBES In the big, in the big crowd but there was somebody saying, look at him just lying on the ground there you know but I don't know who it was, who said that there. That was, he was lying you know just near the traffic lights and he was just lying like that there with the face right down on the ground at this stage.

Did Stacey, what did Stacey do with his bottle.

FORBES The plastic bottle.

Aha.

FORBES

He turned round and he says, whenever we get up to the top of the town the police officer, he says to the police officer, away later on this was, this was about oh I don't know how long this was, but this was whenever we was about the church and the police you know were going like this, pushing everybody up the town and he turned round and he said to P40 or something he says, you didn't see my bottle you know my plastic bottle lying there and P40 says, no.

Did he throw his bottle.

FORBES

No.

He didn't. You're sure about that.

FORBES

Probably just, I, I think he just dropped it you know on the spot whenever he got hit or something.

When you seen all this fracas you seen this man lying on the ground, you were in the

vicinity all the time that happened.

FORBES

Ju, I was just at the pot the flower pot thing.

Yes but.

FORBES

At that time.

But you didn't leave ah that area, in other words that row were it started, where you seen that man lying, that was within your view continually wasn't it.

FORBES

Ah a good, would have been a bit yeah.

There was nothing to obstruct your view of that.

FORBES

Well.

From the start.

FORBES

From where I was standing I could see him lying on the ground.

Yeah.

FORBES

But there was just a big crowd just hanging about.

Prior to seeing him lying on the ground, prior to the, the fight actually starting you would have view of that particular spot hadn't you.

FORBES

Yeah.

And that was visible to you. You seen that fight starting.

FORBES

Yeah I saw the row yeah.

You see the guy lying on the ground, what did you see happening to him.

FORBES

Well when he was lying on the ground there was a boy with black hair, real dark hair, with a black bomber jacket on and he just ran in with the boot and just wallop right in the back of him.

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Yeah. Who was that.

FORBES

That's, that was (inaudible) everybody you know were standing with their backs to me, I couldn't you know I could only see the other crowd, other ones.

Yeah but you seen this guy doing that.

FORBES

Yeah but that's I didn't know, I could only see the back of him because he had long black hair and.

What dir, what, what direction did that guy run from.

FORBES

Just from the middle of the crowd so he did, just where the boy was lying he, he was just so far back in the middle of everybody and from where I, I could just see him, he just ran in and just boot and he just, he just backed back in just.

Where did he hit him.

FORBES

About there or something, whenever he ran in

and then there, there was a couple of other ones were just running in too.

Did you see anybody jumping on his head.

FORBES

No there was, there was people were booting at him at this stage he was all, he was just lying with face, lying down on the ground just flat out at this stage.

Now the question I'm going to ask you again is, who did the booting.

FORBES

Well that's what I don't know. Everybody had their backs to me I couldn't see, see nobody.

Now Dean you, you're in a situation here you've lived in Portadown for a long time haven't you.

FORBES

Yeah I don't even know the people that live round my own estate.

You're, you know people in the town right and ah this assault here has been the subject of many conversations I'm sure ah amongst people

around the town as what happened.

FORBES

Well I've been working day and night.

Right.

FORBES

Since it happened.

I know you may have been but people have talked about it.

FORBES

Well there was talk in the school just people saying.

Now you know.

FORBES

But they didn't mention names or anything.

Who.

FORBES

In, in school on Monday, on that Monday.

Who, who is supposed to have actually done this.

FORBES

That's, they were just talking about he says you know did you see that fight in the town

and I says, aye I says, hear that, that boy is supposed to be really ill and all I says, I know.

And of course then everybody gets a bit scared don't they, they realise the seriousness of the matter.

FORBES

Well that, that's the names that I mentioned to people about home that night, went straight home because they have work the next day.

And immediately everybody then wants to try and protect themselves because they realise how serious the thing is and ah stories get made up and people generally just refuse to disclose things and refuse to tell the truth isn't that what happens after a thing like that.

FORBES

Well these ones at school they were just you know saying about it because they were, went straight home that night, they were just saying you know, did you see what happened and I says, aye I says it's cat.

Yeah. Well we'll get back to the actual scene again of ah where this man we think or we're nearly certain received his injuries, that's where he, you see him lying.

FORBES

Yeah.

Ah and you see a guy going in and booting him in the head.

FORBES

No round the back it was.

And you see, round the back rather, sorry in the back, you see a few others going down and putting the boot in as well, isn't that right.

FORBES

Well I saw there was people just running in and just booting him, coming back out and, and then just the woman ran over and she held him you know in tight in to her so that they couldn't run back in and hit him or hit him again.

Well I put it to you again you know that you

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know who ran in, you were standing, you had a good clear view, you could ah recognise the people.

FORBES

Aye from the back.

And that you know who.

FORBES

I could only recognise them.

That you know.

FORBES

What they were wearing that was it.

Who ran in and put the boot into that fella as he lay on the ground.

FORBES

I, I don't know who put the boot in, I, I just saw the back of the people that were standing about and that was it.

I mean you were watching there because it's in your view.

FORBES

Aye I was standing back.

If somebody.

FORBES

You know that's like you with your back to me, I wouldn't be able to tell who you were from the back.

Could you tell who Stacey was from the back.

FORBES

If, if I knew what he was wearing probably I would but.

As a friend of Stacey's.

FORBES

(inaudible)

Could you recognise Stacey from the back.

FORBES

Well aye, from the way he walks because he walks real funny all the time. But I didn't see him.

Didn't see him what.

FORBES

Didn't see him about there at that stage.

So you're saying you've absolutely no idea

who ran and put the boot into him.

FORBES

That's what I mean, I, I saw a couple of boys, there was a boy in a green, green top he ran in, he had short hair and then the guy in the black jacket run in with the long black hair and that's all I could see from the back.

Long black hair, what do you mean, what length would it have been.

FORBES

Down to about there.

Now you're describing now for the purposes of the tape, down to what.

FORBES

Down, shoulder length.

Shoulder length. What age of a guy would he have been.

FORBES

I couldn't tell you he was, you know sort of biggish fella you know stoutish.

Fairly stout.

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FORBES

Well you know whatever it is broadish or whatever it is.

Broad. What height would he have been, look tall or what.

FORBES

A bit smaller than me, about five, five nine I'd say he'd be because he's just like a wee stoutish fella so he was.

Have you seen him before.

FORBES

No. That's what I mean, see the crowd that was on the bus I, you know like I didn't recognise any of themuns but there was just, there was crowds coming from the top of the town so there was and they were, you know they were just coming down and getting involved in it.

Did you see anybody with a goatee beard, do you know what a goatee beard is.

FORBES

Aye.

What's a goatee beard.

FORBES Comes down there like a, comes in round your chin.

Yes. Did you see anybody in the crowd with a beard like that.

FORBES A goatee beard. Well not back from the back, no.

What about the front.

FORBES That, that's what I mean there was nobody facing me at this stage of the time.

But you've gave a, a reasonable description there's one guy you've talked about him, his hair length, his ah, his physique that he's fairly broad and his height and everything else, have you not seen that chap before.

FORBES No. Ah because whenever we were walking up the town I didn't even see him coming up the town you know like he must have just disappeared down the town.

So you're saying that's all.

FORBES

Well I could.

You know.

FORBES

Say I would probably know what a few people were wearing but I wouldn't be able to tell you who they were.

Right. Anything else. No that will do at the minute. There's your PACE Form 21 there, right and what time is it now. Time is 12.20 pm. That's the form 21 ah Dean that will explain to you there what happens ahm to the tapes, now one of them will be sealed here in your presence and ah now you don't have a solicitor here at the minute but.

FORBES

No.

Ahm if in future, if it's required for court ah you probably will get a solicitor then but if you don't you can get a, a copy of this ah.

FORBES

That, the tape.

Of this tape yes. Ahm you will, if there is a prosecution in the future you get a copy of the summary and you, you know you can study that and you can see if it differs ah with what was said on tape but the bottom line is that ah you can get a, a copy of that tape supplied to you so you can for any future court proceedings if required. Are you happy enough with that.

FORBES

Yeah.

OK. Would you just sign that form there for me that says I acknowledge receipt, I've noticed the person who's interview has been tape recorded.

FORBES

Where do you want me to.

Form PACE 21, just sign there. So ah is there anything else you wish to clarify or say or anything you wish to add.

FORBES

No.

You're happy enough.

FORBES

Yeah.

OK well I'll terminate this interview now,
the time being 12.21 pm.

CHECKED & CERTIFIED AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF PACE

TAPE

NO T146504A

INTERVIEW OF DEAN FORBES

ON 6.5.1997

BETWEEN 1145 HOURS AND 1221 HOURS

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