

MASTER TAPE NUMBER: T146531A

FORBES - TAPE NO.2

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an interview room at Lurgan Police Station. I am Detective Constable Keys. Other police officers present are [REDACTED]. The date is the 10th of May 1997 and the time is 1621.

What is your full name.

FORBES

Dean Forbes.

Also present is.

SOLICITOR

[REDACTED], Solicitor.

You have already had a notice explaining what will happen to your tapes, the Form PACE 21 served on you. Dean I will just remind you again of the nature of our enquiries and they are, we are investigating the death of Robert Hamill and the serious assault around that on him and D [REDACTED] at the junction of

Thomas Street/Market Street, Portadown in the early hours of the 27th of April 1997. Before I ask you any further questions in relation to that matter, I would remind you again that you are still under caution.

FORBES . Right.

Do you understand that.

FORBES Yes.

I will just read the caution to you again. It says you do not have to say anything, but I must warn you that if you fail, sorry 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 and I've explained that to you previously.

FORBES Yes.

And do you understand that caution.

FORBES Yes.

Okay when we spoke to you last, we were asking you, in relation to, did you know a number of persons at that time.

Inaudible.

I asked you did you know Allister Hanvey.

Isn't that right.

FORBES

Yes that's right.

Stacey Bridgett. You obviously know him cause you were with him, isn't that right.

FORBES

Yes.

Mark Hobson.

FORBES

Mark who.

Sorry Marc Hobson. Do you know Marc Hobson.

FORBES

Yes I just know him to see.

Right. Do you know does he have a nickname at

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all.

FORBES Muck I think it is.

Sorry.

FORBES Muck.

Muck.

FORBES Yes. I don't know how he got that there.

Do you have a nickname do you.

FORBES No just Forbes.

Forbes or Forbesy aye.

FORBES Frobes or Forbesy.

Right. Do you know anybody of the nickname

Grog.

FORBES Yes.

Who's that.

FORBES Eh Gregory Blevins.

Gregory.

FORBES Blevins.

Do you know where he lives.

FORBES [REDACTED] [REDACTED] it would be.

Anyone by the name of Fons or Fonsey.

FORBES Yeah.

Who's that. Is it Fons or Fonsey, which is it.

FORBES Fons. I don't know what his real name is.

Do you know what he looks like.

FORBES Curly black hair, sort of, he lives up beside the [REDACTED] so he does.

He lives up beside the [REDACTED]

FORBES Yes.

The [REDACTED]

FORBES Yes. He has a wee brother called Dee.

A brother called.

FORBES Dee.

Dee.

FORBES Yeah.

Now did you see either Gons or Fons or whatever you call him.

FORBES Fons. No. I don't even think he was out that night.

Did you see the other chap that we asked you about there a short time ago, did you see him there that night.

FORBES Grogs. No. As in Coco as I call him.

Pardon.

FORBES I call him Coco.

Coco, right.

FORBES He wasn't, I don't think he was out either that night, cause he wasn't even on the bus. Not unless he got the second bus home.

You see there is a witness that has said that you along with a number of other people namely Allister Hanvey, Stacey Bridgett, Marc Hobson and Rory Robinson.

FORBES No.

Were involved in this fight. Do you understand that.

FORBES I understand but I was not involved in it.

I am specifically putting it to you that you were one of a group of people seen actually fighting with the deceased Robert Hamill.

FORBES

No.

Seen assaulting him. Kicking and punching at him.

FORBES

That's not true.

Now Dean I want you to be truthful about this.

FORBES

I am being truthful.

Right. This is a very serious allegation right and somebody has lost their life as a result of this.

FORBES

I know there has.

There was a fight on the street.

FORBES

There was a fight on the street but I was not involved in it. As I have said before I was standing.

Why, why, why would somebody say this.

FORBES

I don't know.

They would say it because they have seen you.

FORBES They didn't see me in that crowd anyway because I stayed away back from that crowd with the girls.

There is also another person independent of what [REDACTED] has mentioned here. That they saw you punch a fellow in the face and run off up the town. Now were you punched in the face.

FORBES No.

Did anybody assault you.

FORBES No.

I mean as I say we have this person who says that you punched somebody in the face.

FORBES No.

I mean if you were involved in a bit of a fracas, a bit of a punching thing, which may have been separate, I mean from what we can

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gather that there was a number of scrapes going on, not just the, you know you confirm that, you saw a number of fights.

FORBES I can confirm that there was a number of fights in and around it.

Now in relation to the two men that were lying on the ground and one being kicked and what have you, could it have been the case that you got involved in something which wasn't near where that was happening. I mean if it was, say.

FORBES I wasn't involved in one row.

Pardon.

FORBES I was not involved in one row.

Not one row.

FORBES Not one.

So you walked up the street, talked to the police.

FORBES

Whenever the police, whenever I saw that man saying that to the policeman, he says.

What's that.

FORBES

He turned round and says 'Are you going to let them orange bastards get away with that there'. And then I just looked and at that minute I could see right through the other door, and you could see a row going on, so that's whenever the policewoman said go on, on yer bike. So whenever we backed off and then a couple of men came to the back of the landrover but then A [REDACTED] and the grey haired policeman had just come out of the landrover and they just stopped him. From there on in I just kept on walking. I didn't get involved in one row.

Well there is witness that will say you were one of a group of people actually seen kicking and striking and punching at this, the deceased Robert Hamill.

FORBES

No.

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And that in relation to the other assault, that the other witness says he seen you doing, was that you struck somebody who was wearing a grey sweatshirt with an Umbro logo on the front of it and that you ran back up the street after having done that.

FORBES

I couldn't have struck nobody cause I was just standing there.

Dean you could have struck somebody because you got caught up in that row.

FORBES

I didn't.

Have you ever had any problems like this before.

FORBES

No.

What is your attitude towards Catholics.

FORBES

I haven't any. I have got mates in my class that are Catholics and I don't mind them.

Did you ever have a problem with Catholics walking through the town late at night or.

FORBES

No.

There has been quite a number of this type of incidents.

FORBES

I know there has.

In Portadown, hasn't there.

FORBES

Yes there has.

Assaults, sectarian assaults.

FORBES

There might be a number of them but I have never been involved in any of them.

No I am not suggesting that you have been involved in them right, I am saying that there have been a number of them and I want to know if you had any, ever had any problem in relation to it.

FORBES

No.

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07099

You didn't shout anything, did you.

FORBES

No.

That's hard to believe Dean because here you have got two opposing factions right. Em hours of the morning there is drink on the go, people are intoxicated, they are coming from licensed premises. There's a lot of aggression and there is a lot of hatred there and are you honestly trying to tell us that there was no way you got involved in that. Not even to try and give anybody a hand out.

FORBES

I wasn't even drunk.

I am not saying you were.

FORBES

I have got nothing against, I have got nothing against nobody, why should I have.

Would you do that type of thing.

FORBES

No.

Would you hit somebody.

FORBES What, what do you mean like, bust them or something.

In a fight.

FORBES Not, well if somebody started slabbering like you mean you might just strike them or something for it but I wouldn't get if nobody gets involved with me I'll not get involved with them ones.

You see there is a lot of, for the sake of a better word, there was a lot of slabbering going on that night.

FORBES Aye there was, but I wasn't involved in any of it.

I am putting it to you that you were drawn in to that fight as a result of that, that's what.

FORBES No.

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07101

Whenever you went down to this girl Tracey's door.

FORBES Yes.

In [REDACTED]

FORBES [REDACTED] or something.

[REDACTED] or whatever, the [REDACTED] anyway. The second occasion right, did you go there on your own.

FORBES Yes and she answered the door and I says is there anybody in and she just goes no me. So then I just said I will see you later well and went straight home again. And then just got straight into bed.

What time was that about that you went down to Tracey's house.

FORBES Well I waited for about an hour just to see you know if she would appear, so then I went back. That was half three, half, actually an hour, half four or so in the morning.

And the first occasion that you were there at her door, you were with Stacey Bridgett.

FORBES

Yes.

There was nobody there.

FORBES

No. There was no lights on and we just knocked the door once and that was it, so we just went away just in case she was in bed or something.

And did you say to her that you had been to the house earlier.

FORBES

Aye I just says, I knocked on your door earlier and she just said I wasn't here. I didn't know she was there or in bed or not.

Where does she live in relation to the junction of [REDACTED].

FORBES

Right you come out of [REDACTED], you would turn [REDACTED] and then it's the row of houses [REDACTED] half on them.

Yes, to the front.

FORBES Yes. It is the front row, it is the second house so it is.

Now whenever you left her house on the first occasion with Stacey, what direction did you go from her front door.

FORBES Towards back into the estate again.

Aye but what direction was that.

FORBES Right and then left into the estate.

Right and then left. And where was this couple that were allegedly having this row.

FORBES That was away up, that was whenever we were coming down the street into [REDACTED] or whatever it is.

Yes whereabouts in [REDACTED]

FORBES I couldn't honestly say, it was, cause there

is that many estates coming into [REDACTED] that you can come into one, then come into another. They were just on the corner of the street.

What were they like.

FORBES

They were sort of plumpish on it.

What age.

FORBES

In their mid-twenties and her boyfriend had ginger hair. I know him to see just and then her mother, well I think her mother was there but her father was there and he was saying 'shut your gob' and all and he was trying to push him away and telling her to get on down the street. I was going to say hello.

You seen, you seen all that.

FORBES

Aye but as I said earlier, I didn't know what to say, hello or not, just in case they turned round and said something so we walked out on to the road and then back onto the path again, to get past them.

You told me earlier that you had put your head down.

FORBES Aye well.

And walked on.

FORBES That's what I meant. You know like I just didn't want to get involved with them ones, involved in a family row.

Well to put your head down as you said Dean, I mean.

FORBES And just walk on by cause they were taking the old path.

That couldn't be strictly true because if you had have done that then you wouldn't have been able to describe them as you have just done. Isn't that right.

FORBES No whenever I got right up to them I just put my head down, but whenever like you know, whenever you are coming down the road, I know who they are, they live in the estate. They

live on the corner of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]'s you call them.

These were the people that were having the row.

FORBES

Yes. The father and I don't know if it is her mother and the daughter and then the other fellow lives in [REDACTED], because I used to work with her son.

Now just hold on a wee second. The lady of the house is called [REDACTED].

FORBES

Yes they are all, that's their daughter.

It's their daughter.

FORBES

It's their daughter.

Their daughter lives in this corner house in [REDACTED]. Is that right.

FORBES

That's right.

And where was the other one, did you say.

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FORBES [REDACTED] but.

Her mother.

FORBES No her boyfriend lives in [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] and he is a ginger haired
fellow.

FORBES Yeah.

What age of a guy is he.

FORBES He would be late twenties, late twenties, well
around that anyway.

From you left the landrover until you got up
on to that traffic island as we call it, when
you stood chatting to.

FORBES The Bowles

The Bowles girls.

FORBES The Bowles sisters.

How long would that have taken you to walk from the landrover up to that.

FORBES About a minute.

Did you walk or run.

FORBES Walked just. I walked like you know facing the crowd so, just in case somebody came out of the crowd and ran at me and while I was walking away so I just watched just in case.

You walked into the crowd, didn't you.

FORBES Pardon.

You walked into the crowd.

FORBES No I can't walk into a crowd when they are walking back up the street.

Were the crowd not pushed back at that stage, were they not back.

FORBES No. The crowd was getting pushed back while

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we were standing up at the, at that corner and then all the police were you know shouting or whatever, like get up now.

Do you know a police constable called A [REDACTED], a policewoman called A [REDACTED].

FORBES

Aye I know her by A [REDACTED].

How long have you known her.

FORBES

About a, well the first time she called at the house about three years ago.

Yes.

FORBES

But it had nothing to do with me, it was in connection with my father.

Right.

FORBES

And I have known her ever since from the football.

Yes.

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FORBES Portadown matches.

What were you wearing that night Dean. I am not quite sure whether or not we did ask you that but.

FORBES Yes you did, I was asked that the last time.

What.

FORBES A cream top, Ralph Lauren top.

Pardon.

FORBES A Ralph Lauren.

Ralph Lauren, right.

FORBES And a pair of dark trousers, Cinneti.

Dark.

FORBES They are black, I think anyway.

Cinneti.

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FORBES Yes.

These are designer things are they.

FORBES Yes.

Are they jeans or trousers.

FORBES Eh corduroy jeans so they are.

Right. Do you know a fellow called Wayne Lunt.

FORBES Aye I have heard of him just, I don't know.

Did you see him there that night.

FORBES No.

Did you at any stage see anybody being put into the back of a police vehicle.

FORBES Yes. The person ran past me so he did and

A [redacted] grabbed this person.

Sorry.

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FORBES

A the policewoman grabbed this person whenever she was talking to me. And she was just backing off from me whenever this person ran right past. I described the person to you the last time.

Yes.

FORBES

He had a white top, bar scarf and a baseball cap on.

Yes and was that Wayne Lunt.

FORBES

I couldn't tell you who it was. The scarf was right up to just below his nose and he had a baseball cap down to it.

And what can you tell me about that, what happened then whenever you seen him running past.

FORBES

Well he, when I saw him he was running, he run right past me so he was running from the crowd so he just got past me and then A grabbed him and put the arm behind his back.

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07113

Where were you in relation to the crowd.

FORBES I was standing still at the flowerbeds at this time.

And where was the bulk of the crowd.

FORBES Ah.

You were in the crowd.

FORBES I wasn't in the crowd. I was standing back at the corner.

Yes.

FORBES That there and they would have been.

You said you were standing at the flowerbed.

FORBES Aye that's, well that's what I mean and they were just still at Eastwoods or just coming back from Eastwoods or whatever the shop is right beside there.

You see A [REDACTED], we would say that she observed a number of persons, one of whom was you, in that crowd.

FORBES

No.

In the crowd that had to be pushed back up the street, right back up the street. Isn't it correct to say that that crowd was pushed back up nearly as far as West Street.

FORBES

The crowd was pushed right up to Mandeville Street.

Yes, well up in that direction, that's up nearly as far as West Street isn't it.

FORBES

Yes.

Up to the security barrier and you were in that crowd.

FORBES

While everybody was getting pushed back I was getting pushed back too. She just says 'Right everybody out of the town' and people were sitting on the summer seats.

Well I am putting it to you that in fact whenever the crowd had to be pushed back, that you were part of the main crowd.

FORBES

No.

Down at the centre of the town.

FORBES

The crowd was starting to get pushed down and I was still with that girl Anne and her sister and then that's when A, she came up to me at this stage and she turned round and she says 'Ah wouldn't you know, a Forbes involved' and I just said 'What do you mean by that'.

So what you are saying to me is basically that you are at the traffic island, the crowd is further on down from you.

FORBES

I was further back.

Now hold on, hold on now just. From further on down into the town centre.

FORBES

Yes.

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07116

Right in front of you, the crowd is then pushed back towards you, you then become part of the crowd.

FORBES Yeah well that's.

And that crowd is then pushed.

FORBES I was.

Now hold on now, sorry.

FORBES I am automatically going to become part of the crowd.

FORBES I am automatically going to become part of the crowd.

Yes but it is just to be clear about the thing Dean, right. That what you say, you say that that crowd is pushed back towards you, you then become part of the crowd, and you are pushed then back right up into.

FORBES At this stage she says 'Right everybody out of the town' and she just pushed everybody out of

the town.

Now tell me this, for somebody that has absolutely no involvement allegedly in this thing as you say right and I must say that I am not inclined to believe you right. I don't believe that you are being truthful. I want to make that quite clear to you right. Do you understand that, do you.

FORBES

That's okay.

You didn't hit anybody you say.

FORBES

I definitely didn't hit nobody.

Have you any objection to going on an identification parade.

SOLICITOR

Now he is looking at me. It is a question of where I can give him proper advice knowing the purpose of it. For obvious reasons and because of the discussion we had before the first interview Detective Constable, I haven't made any comments with regards to the matters you have put to him. It may well be that

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subject to what you tell me about that, I will give him advice that may differ depending on the nature of what the purpose is. If the purpose behind the ID parade is for a person or persons who know him/recognise him, merely to pick him out, I may give him certain advice and if it's again a true identification matter as opposed to recognition matter I may give him different advice. So I'm aware of the constraints that you feel that you have, so at the moment I can't really give my client advice as to whether to say yes or no to that, because it's a pretty complex issue as you know and it is a serious matter.

He has been, the witness knows him by name.

SOLICITOR

Right.

Right and there are witnesses who don't know him by name.

We have only had two witnesses put to him as far as I can gather.

SOLICITOR

Yes who know him by name.

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07119

And as far as anybody is concerned who knows him by name, I would be inclined to advise him that an identification parade would be frankly pointless.

SOLICITOR Yes, yes.

As you can realise.

Yes, but where he is not known by name.

SOLICITOR Well at the moment the only allegations that have been put to him involving criminal activity as far as I can gather, come from people who purportedly have said to the police, the person I saw doing so and so was Dean Forbes. So far you haven't said to him, I don't know obviously about Tuesday, other people have said you did so and so or did so and so. I mean he accepts he is in the town centre.

SOLICITOR Well with regards to people that gave a (inaudible).

Well it depends what description they have given of anyone committing criminal activity because technically.

Well that is a matter like obviously for later on, but I mean we must merely ask is he prepared to take part in an identification if that arises.

SOLICITOR

Well subject to the terms of that, and I don't wish to tell the pair of you, but I feel that I can't fully advise him with the limited information that I have.

But would you not agree that where, yes what you are saying is that where.

SOLICITOR

Well from what has been put to him so far my advice would be no thank you.

No. I am not asking you about that or anything in relation to that.

SOLICITOR

Right.

Because they know him by name so I mean that's

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out. That's as far as we are concerned, so I will just leave it there on that. But where there are people who don't know him by name, but proper description or descriptions, would you be prepared to take part in an ID parade in relation to those matters, should that arise.

SOLICITOR It is very hard to give you a no on the spot, yes or no (inaudible).

Yes well I think for the purposes of clarification then, we will terminate the interview so that that matter can be dealt with.

I think that is fair thank you, I appreciate that.

We will terminate the interview now. Is there anything else just before we do switch off the tape that you want to say in relation to all other matters that we have discussed in this interview.

SOLICITOR No.

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07122

Now just one thing before we do terminate the interview, did you square up to anybody without blows being exchanged.

SOLICITOR No.

Did Stacey Bridgett square up to anybody without blows being exchanged.

FORBES Well I couldn't tell you but, at the time of the landrover or anything.

Yes.

FORBES Well I couldn't tell you from the landrover on, but I.

Whenever you were with him.

FORBES As far as I could see, no.

At any time you are saying you didn't see him squaring up to anybody.

FORBES He could have.

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Or anybody squaring up to you.

FORBES

Nobody squared up to me and I didn't square up to nobody but for Stacey I can't say.

Right. Okay the time is now 1649 and the interview is being terminated.

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