

MASTER TAPE NUMBER: T146530A

HOBSON - TAPE NO.1

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an interview room at Lurgan RUC Station. I am Detective Constable Honeyford. Other officers present are [REDACTED]. The date is Saturday the 10th of May 1997 and the time is 1421 hours.

What is your full name.

HOBSON

Paul Rodney Marc Hobson.

And your date of birth.

HOBSON

[REDACTED].

Your present address.

HOBSON

[REDACTED]

Right. At the conclusion of this interview I will give you a notice which explains what

happens to the tapes after the end of the interview. That's a form PACE 21. Other persons present are.

SOLICITOR [REDACTED], Solicitor.

I will caution you as follows. 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.

HOBSON Yes.

Now it is our intention that [REDACTED] and myself will interview yourself regarding the serious assault on [REDACTED] and also regarding the serious assault and subsequent death of Robert Hamill and these assaults took place in the Market Street area, Portadown in the early hours of Sunday morning the 27th of March 1997.

It was the 27th of April.

Correction. 27th of April 1997. Do you understand that allegation.

HOBSON Yes.

Would you go through your movements for Saturday night the 26th of April 1997.

HOBSON Yes. I was at Deans, Johnston's. I went down the Bann and went up to Deans about 10 o'clock.

And Dean Johnston is, for the purpose of the tape, he lives in [REDACTED]

HOBSON [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Either [REDACTED]

HOBSON Aye.

And what time did you go there at.

HOBSON About ten o'clock.

And who did you go there with.

HOBSON

Allister Hanvey and [REDACTED].

And both of these are mates of yours.

HOBSON

Yes.

Had you been drinking with those persons at the ban prior to that.

HOBSON

Aye I had been drinking with them ones.

You arrived there at the flat at 10pm.

HOBSON

Aye roughly.

Give or take. So what took place then Marc.

HOBSON

We just sat there and talked.

And who all was there please.

HOBSON

Us three and Dean and my sister Leeanne.

And is it true to say your sister Leeanne goes

with Dean Johnston.

HOBSON Yes.

Did you have drink while you were in the flat?

HOBSON Yes.

And what had you to drink.

HOBSON Harp and Cider.

Could you tell us how much Marc.

HOBSON I couldn't exactly tell you how much, it was about a right wee bit like.

Could you give us some estimation.

HOBSON I had about ten or twelve beer and a bottle of cider or so.

Did you bring that with you did you.

HOBSON What.

Did you bring that with you, the beer.

HOBSON No I drank that in Deans.

Aye but did you bring the beer with you as a carry-out.

HOBSON As a carry-out.

You brought it with you.

HOBSON Aye I brought it up to Deans.

How much did you buy that night drink-wise.

HOBSON About ten or twelve beer and a bottle of cider.

So that ten or twelve beer is what you had to drink all night including what you drank at the Band.

HOBSON Aye.

So just the two of them in the flat.

HOBSON Yes.

No-one else came or left during your time there.

HOBSON No.

So you're saying you had about ten tins of Harp beer and what else.

HOBSON A bottle of cider.

And a bottle of cider.

HOBSON Yes.

What time did you stay there to Marc.

HOBSON About half one, two.

And then you left.

HOBSON I went down to the Chinese.

In West Street.

HOBSON Yes.

And who did you go down there with.

HOBSON Allister and Johnny.

And what was the purpose of going down to West Street.

HOBSON To get something to eat and then we were going down the town.

And what was the reason for going down town after the Chinese.

HOBSON To see if we could meet anyones that had come back from the Coach.

And that's from the bus from the Coach.

HOBSON Yes.

Did you get anything at the Chinese in West Street.

HOBSON Yes.



What did you get.

HOBSON A chip in gravy.

And then did you proceed to eat that outside or did you carry it down the street.

HOBSON I ate it on the way down the street.

And who went down the street with you.

HOBSON Allister and Johnny.

And tell us, take us from there in your own time nice and slowly.

HOBSON We stopped at Call-a-Cab and Allister walked on. There was some drunkard asked us for a fag and Johnny give him one and then we walked down town so we did.

Right and how far did you get down town Marc.

HOBSON Just to the concrete roundabout, just on down from the church.

Right and did you intend stopping there or were you stopped from going any further.

HOBSON

We were intending to go on down but there was police who were moving ones up so we just stopped there.

Just to clarify it, what side of the street were you on. Did you walk past the middle of the town.

HOBSON

The middle of the town.

You know prior to getting to the church, did you walk down by Magowan Buildings or did you walk down.

HOBSON

On the other side.

Mandeville Street.

HOBSON

Aye straight down.

So Mandeville Street then Church Street.

HOBSON Yes.

Then down towards the town.

HOBSON Aye as you know the way Call-a-Cab is on this side, you cross the road here.

Do you know where Bennetts Pub is.

HOBSON Aye.

Right did you walk past it.

HOBSON No Bennetts Pub here in Mandeville Street.

Yes.

HOBSON We just, you know the road there, we just crossed there and walked straight down.

Just pass Magowan Buildings right down to the end.

HOBSON Aye.

Right and that's, Connors Chemist etc is on

the left there.

HOBSON Yes.

So you were on the, as you look down Portadown Street from the Church, you are on the left hand side.

HOBSON Yes.

Right. So how far did you get down there then.

HOBSON Just in front of the church.

Where.

HOBSON The wee concrete bit there..

Right is that where you stopped going any further or is that.

HOBSON Aye.

Or is that where you stopped.

HOBSON We were stopped, we were intending to go further, but the police were moving ones up.

So the police were as far as the church then.

HOBSON No they were just moving ones up that direction so they were.

Where would the police have been at that stage.

HOBSON I don't know, on down a wee bit from me. They moved ones on up you know towards us, me and Johnny.

Now were they still, were they on the left hand side of the street going down as you are looking down.

HOBSON No on the right hand street.

Right hand side.

HOBSON Aye.

The same side as Thomas Street/Edward Street

junction is on.

HOBSON           Aye.    The police were on down the town on the  
right hand side.

And you didn't go any further than that.

HOBSON           No.

Anyone in that crowd you remember being there.

HOBSON           No.

There's no-one at all that you knew.

HOBSON           I didn't recognise anybody.

Is it a question you can't remember or is it a  
question that you definitely didn't recognise  
anyone.

HOBSON           I didn't recognise anybody.

So there's nobody in that crowd that you knew.

HOBSON           No I didn't pay any attention to anybody in

the crowd.

Yes but you said there was no-one there you recognised which suggests.

HOBSON There wasn't anybody there I recognised.

You're happy, you're happy enough there was no-one there you recognised as opposed to you can't remember if there was anyone there.

HOBSON No there was no-one there that I recognised.

Right. Did you never got any further down than that.

HOBSON No.

You're absolutely certain about that.

HOBSON Yes.

So anybody that would say anything different would be telling lies in your opinion.

HOBSON Yes.

Right. So while you were standing outside the church or down about the church, what did you see, did you see anybody lying in the street badly injured.

HOBSON Aye there was a man lying on down, there was a body anyway. I found out later that it was a man on the news.

Is that on the right hand side.

HOBSON Aye on the right hand side, the side facing down the town.

And you could see that from the church.

HOBSON Aye.

Even though there was a crowd in front of us plus police.

HOBSON Aye you could see it, you know, glimpses of it, you know, because people were moving about.



And what sort of state was he in Marc.

HOBSON He was just lying there.

What way was he lying, was his head towards Woodhouse Street, feet towards Thomas Street or visa versa or was he lying parallel with the way the street runs. What's your recollection.

HOBSON I think he was lying across.

Across the street.

HOBSON Aye across the street.

You remember which, was his head towards Woodhouse Street or towards Thomas Street.

HOBSON I don't really know, I think.

But you can remember that okay.

HOBSON I think his head was probably towards Woodhouse Street.

What was the talk.

HOBSON Talk.

Amongst the crowd.

HOBSON I don't know, I didn't really hear anything.

Was any shouting at all going on.

HOBSON Aye there was shouting going on.

What like.

HOBSON I can't really remember what was shouted.

You can't remember anything that was shouted  
by any of the crowd.

HOBSON No.

Was there nothing sectarian.

HOBSON I'm sure there probably was.

Well if there was you know say so.

HOBSON I can't remember that's the truth.

Don't be shy, that's what he is trying to tell you, you know there's nobody going to be getting embarrassed there if you say people shouted 'black bastards' or 'fenian bastards' or 'orange bastards'. We are all men of the world.

HOBSON I'm sure it probably was shouted.

Anybody see anybody with any injuries in that crowd. Anybody bleeding.

HOBSON No I didn't notice anybody bleeding.

Okay. Right so you got standing there or round about the church for a while and you observed a bit of running around.

HOBSON They were being moved up and Johnny goes that ah I'm heading home here' and he went home and I went up to Deans again.

Okay. Now if I could take you on to another

wee aspect of it before we go into the depth of the interview, I would like to describe you on tape. Would you describe yourself and by that I mean weight, height, features and particularly hair features.

HOBSON Five foot eight, fourteen stone, short brown hair.

Very short.

HOBSON Aye very short.

Long sideburns but neatly trimmed to match the hairstyle.

HOBSON Aye.

And would you tell me about your beard please, what would it be described as.

HOBSON What.

Would that be described as a goatee beard.

HOBSON Aye goatee beard.

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And how long have you had that.

HOBSON Years.

Years.

HOBSON Aye.

It always been like that.

Would you say you were like myself, fair  
build, overweight.

HOBSON Aye.

In excess as the man says.

HOBSON Aye.

Right and you will tell me your full name is.

HOBSON Paul Rodney Marc Hobson.

Paul Rodney Marc and Marc is spelt M A R C.

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HOBSON Yes.

Okay. We will call you Marc, that's what you answer to, is it.

HOBSON Yes.

What about nicknames. What nicknames have you.

HOBSON Hobsey and then the odd person would call me Muck just for a laugh.

Can you say that again loud and clear.

HOBSON An odd person would call me Muck.

Muck. Okay, well Marc as I said I arrested you this morning at your home in the early hours of this morning and you were told then and you have also been told at the beginning at this interview what that's in relation to. You understand that.

HOBSON Yes.

You have no problems grasping that.

HOBSON

No.

Okay. We would say Marc that you're lying and in that there our assumption is you are lying and it is based on the evidence of three different independent witnesses that we have at the moment, okay. Now you understand I have got to put the allegation to you, your Solicitor will understand that too, there's no use me coming in here and giving you a kiss because that's not what I am here to do. I'm here to do a particular job. I've got to interview you, I've got to say to you big lad look, this is the allegation here, this is what we think you did and as your Solicitor I'm sure has advised, fairly advised you you have two options or three options. You can sit and say nothing, you can tell the truth or you can do other things.

HOBSON

I'm telling the truth.

Tell the truth is the best thing, it's easy remembered.

HOBSON

I just want it done.

Okay. So we will say, one witness here and I don't intend to name these witnesses to you at the moment. I don't feel I have to. If my authorities direct in a later interview that I should so be it, I will do it but at the moment I'm going to tell you this is the statement.

SOLICITOR

That statement you are reading from Constable, when was it taken.

That statement was taken last night, late last night. In fact it was the last statement I took last night prior to finishing duty and I finished duty late I can tell you. We will not go through all the statement but this chap will say, he's got as far as [REDACTED] Pub. That would be [REDACTED]. He says 'I could see a crowd of approximately 15 to 20 persons fighting in the middle of the town. I walked towards the crowd. There was fellows punching each other and I observed a fella with an Umbro sweater, grey colour, and I think blue



jeans fighting with another fella. This fella I know to see. He lives in [REDACTED] Portadown and is called Marc. He is also called Muck. I know this fella to see about the town. Marc has very short brown hair, goatee beard and is overweight and that is that witness' own words, okay.

SOLICITOR      Could you just read the description again please.

Marc has very short brown hair, goatee beard and is overweight. I think he was wearing a black leather jacket.

HOBSON            I don't even have an Umbro top so I don't.

No he's not saying you were wearing the Umbro top. Let's clarify that with you now Marc. He is saying the boy he is describing in this statement is fighting the boy with the Umbro sweater. So do you understand that or do you want to talk that wee bit over with your Solicitor because I don't want.

SOLICITOR      Perhaps you could just read what we have again

just to.

The witness is identifying a person the same description as Marc right. He names his first name and he names his nickname which you have agreed to prior to being told that that it was your nickname and he is saying that you were fighting with a person with a grey Umbro sweatshirt. He then goes on to describe you as having a goatee beard, short brown hair, overweight and wearing a leather jacket.

HOBSON

Whoever that was, it was probably himself from getting himself into trouble.

Now, no, let's give you a chance to comment on the substance of the identification.

He goes on to say 'I was standing four to five feet from Marc'. Now that is fairly close Marc, okay. He goes on to say the street lighting was good and by that he is saying he has no doubt what he seen, okay. 'Marc was punching this fella in the face with his fist, that's the fella with the Umbro sweater on, this fella was fighting back'. So he's saying

this fella was fighting you back, okay. 'But Marc was getting the better of him. Marc knocked this fella to the ground. He was lying on the middle of the road, opposite the bakery on the corner No.7'. That's the Number Seven Bakery, okay. And he goes on to say 'On the side of the street that the cars go up the saying you and this boy's fighting and bang and that's where you knocked him to the ground.

Now just to clarify that, that's, you would agree that that is in the Thomas Street side of the town. If you go back to where you are looking from the church, it's on the right hand side.

SOLICITOR

Okay.

He goes on to say.

If you would say yes as opposed to nodding your head, for the tape.

HOBSON

Yes.

The tape can't see your nods. He goes on to say 'This fella lay there for about one minute and got up again. I didn't see Marc hit him while he was on the ground'. He goes on to say 'Marc then started fighting with another fella' and he would describe this other fella as a man wearing a blue shirt and tie. He would say this man is in his mid-thirties with short hair, possibly Ginger. He says in his statement Marc that this man was trying to stop the fighting and that he saw you, Marc, grabbing this man and throwing him out of his way and we would say we have also located and interviewed that witness. I haven't spoke to him personally but I think from what I can gather that can be clarified, okay.

SOLICITOR

You have located the person wearing the shirt and tie.

I think we have yes.

SOLICITOR

But you haven't taken a statement from him, from this person as yet.

There's probably a statement taken from his

but what I'm saying I haven't taken it but I think I know who they are talking about there.

I'm not aware that that has been done yet but I would just stop there for a second. Any comment you wish to pass on what you have heard so far Marc, about putting you a lot further down the town than what you put yourself.

Now you remember Marc.

HOBSON What's there is not true.

Now you remember Marc.

Sorry.

HOBSON What is in that statement there is not true.

Look at me and listen to me. When you were arrested this morning you had a couple of minutes left in your house before the uniform boys finished doing the check for damage in your house, your mother told you one thing.

HOBSON Tell the truth.

That is right.

HOBSON And that's was I have done.

No you haven't even began to tell the truth  
this morning.

I would say.

HOBSON I have told the truth.

I would say you know you are as far away if  
not as I am away from the moon Marc.

Well just for the sake of the interview here,  
just to get what sort of fella you are. How  
do you feel about Roman Catholics?

HOBSON I don't mind them like.

You have no problem at all.

HOBSON No.

You wouldn't be a bigot like.

HOBSON I don't, I can't say I like them but I can't say I hate them either.

Right. You can't say you like them.

HOBSON Aye.

Why what's that based on.

You know what I am going to tell you Marc, there's nothing worse than a man who.

SOLICITOR I don't think this is particularly relevant.

Well this is, this assault took place simply because this man was a Catholic.

SOLICITOR Mr Hobson has denied any involvement, but whether or not.

Yes but we have put him fairly at the scene of the assault so we have. Now I think it is very important that this fella here tells us his beliefs and I can see now, if I could look

at you, I will just describe your face for the tape, it is one of distaste.

SOLICITOR Well I must take, I honestly object to that. I don't think.

Well that's my, that's my thoughts on his face.

SOLICITOR Well that's just your subjective comment on his face.

That's right. That's right. If you want to say to me look.

SOLICITOR I don't believe that his face has changed from this interview started.

Right [REDACTED], then, let us get what Marc thinks about Roman Catholics.

SOLICITOR I don't think this is relevant.

I think it is very relevant.

SOLICITOR Mr Hobson has denied all involvement in this



and he has given his version of the evening.

Do you want me to stop the interview now and release Mr Hobson.

SOLICITOR You are entitled to put whatever you want to, I mean he doesn't have to answer as your colleague has pointed out.

Quite right, that's quite right.

I'll tell you what we will come back to this because it is something that is obviously going to have to be debated and maybe better debated outside a taped interview room between the Solicitor and ourselves.

Marc to get back to that night in question, okay, which is Saturday night the 26th - the early hours of Sunday morning the 27th, you tell me in your own time what you were wearing that night.

HOBSON A pair of Nike Airmacs gutties, a black jacket.

Sorry.

HOBSON A black leather jacket.

And that would be waist length, a fairly plain black leather jacket, waist length, okay.

HOBSON And a pair of blue jeans.

And what about a sweater or shirt, what were you wearing.

HOBSON A grey Nike one or else Masumo, it was grey anyway.

So what you are basically telling [REDACTED] and myself on tape is that it was either a Nike tee-shirt or the other particular brand.

HOBSON Aye.

Or something similar to it.

HOBSON Aye.

But they're both round neck and they're both

grey.

HOBSON Yes.

And basically the only difference between the two tee-shirts would be that it had either Nike wrote on it or some other designer label.

HOBSON Aye.

SOLICITOR The person who made that statement, that was a witness statement, he was, that person hasn't been interviewed in respect of any of these assaults.

Why would he be.

SOLICITOR I don't know, I'm just asking you.

We are quoting you from a witness statement, you can see what the statement is taken on, you can see it is a witness statement. We have told you he is a witness. Now [REDACTED] if you can grasp that there without having to clarify it there's something wrong there.

SOLICITOR I mean there are people who can be spoken to under caution and subsequently make witness statements.

No people are not spoken to under caution in relation to criminal offences outside of a taped interview room.

I will tell you [REDACTED] that man is being interviewed as a witness. He is not being interviewed under caution.

SOLICITOR Well that is all I wanted to know to clarify it.

He's a witness.

So there you are, now young fella, I will say to you, you have a couple of options and the road you should be thinking of going down and believe me is the road to tell the truth because, wait until I tell you something, this doesn't go away, we all know what happened. This happens in Portadown every week. Only every so often there is one assault which goes a wee bit further and it ends up tragic. As

it did here. Mr Hamill is now dead. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] there got a bad beating and we're given the task of investigating it. And there is a witness who says they know you, they know you as Marc, they know you as Muck, which you accept is your nickname and by God if he hasn't described you, there's no hope of me winning the lottery because it's you! Would you accept that it is you that he has described.

HOBSON

Yes. That's me alright but it wasn't me who was there.

Well now, we will take you on a bit further. Here's another statement of a police officer this time who was at the scene, right.

SOLICITOR

Could you tell me when that was made Constable.

That was made on the 27th of April. And he, I will quote from his statement, 'During this a male, late twenties, round face with a goatee beard and very short hair, wearing a leather type soft casual jacket was near me. I saw

him kick at the injured man I now know as Robert Hamill'. So what about that, is he telling lies as well.

HOBSON

Yep.

Everybody's lying and we are not even stopping there, so there you are, the whole world's against you boy. I'll tell you what it was a bad day for your Marc. There's you, that's you, kicking a, what you would probably refer to as a fenian, which I can tell you is now the boy that's lying in the morgue with a it.

HOBSON

I have nothing to be proud of.

You're right you have nothing to be proud of.

You might as well say you have nothing to be proud of now when there is a man lying dead. But certainly you were happy with the outcome that night because the mood of the crowd was that night was kill the fenian.

Marc that was your chance (inaudible)

SOLICITOR Has the first witness statement that was read, did that person identify anyone else other than my client.

I'm not, we're not going into ins and outs of who else he's.

I think the only thing I could do there.

I think [REDACTED] you are pushing your luck.

SOLICITOR Maybe I am. I must stress I am representing.

No wait until I tell you, you are not representing everybody else that's arrested and I'm not about to give you evidence in respect of other people. I'm here, I'm dealing with your client. If we were in another interview room, we have another client, we will take that set of circumstances as they come, but we are not here to discuss the ins and outs of everybody. What I am saying to you is, this is what he said in relation to your client. We have got to keep it reasonably simple in an interview.

SOLICITOR Well I accept the point you made, as I understood it this was a group assault on.

Well certainly it's an assault - which has turned into a murder enquiry which is going to be very hard to sort out, no matter how good of an investigation is in to it. Because certainly you could have between, I would say, between twenty and fifty persons at one stage in the town centre and you know, different ones swinging at different ones and what you have got to grasp is, there is some who probably hit boys a kick in the back, hit boys a kick in the chest, hit boys a kick in the head and there was other ones punched people, there was other ones slapped people and there was verbal abuse and really what we have to turn round is try to decide where you client slots into it. Now at the moment your client's saying he is lily-white, he wasn't involved in it. I would say to you we'll put a dam bloody good case to show that he is not lily-white. My experience which is twenty one years of it would say that he's not telling the truth and what I'm saying to you is I'm trying to appeal to his better nature because



it's very simple, we all know it's an assault and it's an assault that went wrong and it would be far better for somebody to turn round and say 'look officer yes there was a bit of calling there, somebody calls us orange bastards and there was a fight and this is turned around and slapped some boy or hit him a dig in the nose and that was it, fair enough, or if they give him a couple of kicks when he was down on the ground, fair be it. It will be very much in their interest to sort it out but we are a long way away from that.

SOLICITOR I accept you are doing your job Constable, I appreciate that.

Yes will okay.

We have to clarify if there was that number of people between twenty and fifty in the town centre, not all were involved in this assault, not all were that bigoted that they took park.

Marc you tell the truth.

HOBSON I am telling the truth.

I am telling you something son, you have a long way ahead of you to tell the truth yet.

We will take it further to the third witness here.

And you have got problems.

The third witness.

And you would be better getting the truth out.

Marc the third witness here describes your actions. Now they know you simply as Muck, right.

SOLICITOR

Was this statement made yesterday.

I'm not, as far as I'm aware yes it was made late last night. 'These persons were kicking the person on the ground around the head and body, I saw them jump on the person on the ground, they jumped all over him, kicked him and I saw the persons who were doing this and I can identify them'. He identifies five persons and one of those five is you. Now I

think as my colleague has said to you it's about time that you grasped the situation, that you saying you went as far as the church and sat there and all this commotion was going on ahead of you and you sat there on your backside.

HOBSON

Inaudible.

Is just simple not true and you have got to realise and the sooner it's out.

HOBSON

It had already happened, the police were moving them out.

Yes but you might have been at the church but you certainly were at the end of Thomas Street prior to that there and you done your bit here because you have no love for Catholics. It is a simple fact and this is what this is all about. This is not a question of two fellas disagreeing over who won the football on Saturday afternoon, this is hate for Catholics, which is probably twofold hate by Catholics for Protestants. That's the age we live in, but you to sit there and know that

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was going on and what was being chanted about 'kill the fenian', in fact all these chants were going on and here we have Marc Hobson sitting back on the concrete and just saying 'well you know that's terrible'.

HOBSON

That there had already happened.

Yes it already had happened, you're telling us, but the story you're telling us where you were sitting, it had already happened, but what you're not telling us that you came from Thomas Street. The police put you us there at the church. Three people have identified you. Three people have identified you, one has even named where you live. Two have named you by your nickname and a third one, a police officer, makes a description of you. Is it not about time you grasped the situation, you jumped all over this man's head so you did. You kicked him on the ground, one of the most despicable, it's defines description to kick someone. The witness describes the person, 'I thought the person lying on the middle of the road I thought was dead, as he was not moving'. That's how a witness described that

person, so that's an objective view. How did you view it. A Catholic who can't fight back so sink the boot in. All great fun at the time, isn't it. Great crack.

HOBSON

No.

Great fun, we beat a Catholic up.

Certainly the witness who's saying that you're beating and kicking at the fella wearing the black jacket, that is obviously Mr Hamill who is now the deceased. So you can be really proud of yourself that you have contributed to his death, because that is the bottom line and Marc as much as your Solicitor is sitting with you here and we're sitting here on the other side of the table, you have got to remember one thing, this doesn't go away, do you understand. You can not turn the clock back as much as you would like it and I know it's a fair while since the 27th of April and there has been a lot of crack about the town and there's a lot of boys who have gone to ground and there's a lot of toing and froing and talking. A lot of boys have got their story

right and then I was up with you late yesterday evening and I spent a couple of hours yesterday evening taking a fairly details statement of you. And then I returned this morning and you find yourself arrested and you're here. So you know we were on to you, you had time to think about it, you have had time to worry about it and you have had time to get your story right, albeit lies, it's what you want to say.

Marc do you want to.

There's two ways of facing it Marc, you can either lie or you can tell the truth.

You have got to realise that what happened to Robert or to Mr Hamill was a natural consequence. If you kick someone in the head that's the chance, you either leave them like a vegetable or you kill them. That is all a very distinct possibility and you, that was your intention that night. Whether it was drink orientated or whatever, but you are not walking away from this, so you're not and if you think of running a half, a half story past

us is going to let you walk out of here tonight and you think I got away with that one, that is not the case. As my colleague has said to you it's going nowhere and neither are you. Get that into your head. We are giving you an opportunity now to do whatever good can be done out of this here by facing up to what you done.

You have to make the best of a bad set of circumstances, do you understand that.

If you kicked this man on the ground, you have got to realise.

You have got two civilian witnesses and you have a policeman and they are certainly identifying you there and I don't know what else my authorities will decide and you wouldn't know what else evidence will come in today or what is ready in, or what will be told at the next briefing tonight.

SOLICITOR

That's what I am saying.

Well we can only deal with what we have at the

moment, we will not speculate on.

Yes it has to be said that this enquiry into the death of Mr Hamill is only days, hours old and evidence is still coming forward.

But there you are you are beating and you are kicking him and that's the deceased and I would also say the evidence of the first one that I read out to you there, of those three statements, I would say that was a good chance that was D that you were beating. So here you are, you were beating D and you were beating Hamill who's now deceased. Alright he's a Catholic, you might not like him, but he's now dead. You know, is that what it is all about. A dead Catholic today and a prod next wee. No wonder you are sitting looking down.

SOLICITOR You have problems Marc, would you agree.

Don't answer that Mr Hobson.

SOLICITOR No don't answer that, do what your Solicitor tells you.



Mr Hobson has given his account.

What do you want me to do, do you want me to stop interviewing him.

SOLICITOR Look we have been through this.

Well let's.

SOLICITOR I appreciate you are doing your job.

Well I wish you wouldn't hinder it.

SOLICITOR But I am not hindering it, I don't.

Yes you are!

SOLICITOR Appreciate that comment.

Well I'll tell you I don't appreciate you hindering it. I have got to come in here and I have got to put the allegation to him. I am not going to end up in front of a High Court Judge in about a year and a half's time and have somebody turn round and say to me 'Mr

Honeyford you didn't put half the allegations to him'.

SOLICITOR But you have to appreciate that I have to represent my client to the best of my ability.

Well if you want to tell him to remain silent, remain.

SOLICITOR fhat's what I told him.

You seem to be here advising us, not your client.

SOLICITOR I am not advising you, I am advising my client.

What you have got to realise Marc is that this happened. Okay if we could turn the clock back, we probably all would. It is a fortnight today it happened. What we are telling you now, what we are suggesting to you now, or what we are asking you to do is to tell us the truth. You have told us I would say a story which probably resembles the truth in, well the greatest majority of it is, but sadly there is parts missing. We can put you

in Thomas Street, there's no question about that, that's a fact, that isn't made up, that's people who have, you are well known, you signed the same witness statement last night if I could quote from the top of the front page of it. That you make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, you shall be liable to prosecution if you have wilfully stated in it anything which you know to be false or do not believe to be true. They have signed the exact same declaration as you did last night so it's about time that you started to realise this here. That the story, okay, we don't expect people, in the real world it doesn't happen with people walking in and saying 'fair cop it was me, I done it'. That doesn't happen to you, you want to take us as far as you can and we will take you even further so we will. Do you understand that. There is no question about you were involved in this assault, we are asking you to put, to dot the I's and cross the T's. We were not there, you were there. How many times did you kick him, did you jump on him.

HOBSON No.

Were you one of the persons who jumped on him.

HOBSON No.

Those are the things, well did you kick him.

HOBSON No.

You didn't kick him.

HOBSON No.

You were nowhere near Thomas Street.

HOBSON No.

Absolutely that is your last word on it.

HOBSON Yes.

There is no way you could be mistaken.

HOBSON No.

And we have three people here who are telling lies. Is that right.

HOBSON They must be.

They must be.

HOBSON Yes.

Are they or are they not.

HOBSON Aye.

They are telling lies. The three of them don't know you, except by your nickname, so that would rule out the possibility of.

HOBSON How did one of them know my address then.

Well it's like this, I could say I know where this man comes from but I don't necessarily have to know him. He could have seen you walk into that estate, that avenue or whatever it was one night. He doesn't know you. He couldn't put a second name to you. Tell me

does anyone else, do you know anybody else in Portadown with the nickname 'Muck'.

HOBSON No I don't think so no. I don't know, I couldn't tell you.

But you don't know of any.

HOBSON No.

I will go one further than that Marc. I'll say to you here and now there is nobody features in our enquiry with the features that you do, that we have been looking for. There's nobody with a goatee beard, or the short hair cut or the features to match you. You are there Marc. You have two options. You can either sit here and tell lies or you can turn round and say yes I took a swing, I was in there and tell the truth. It's not for me to put words in your mouth. I don't know how far you wanted to go, that's up to you. If it was a good auld slapping match and that's all it was to be, bloody well tell me that. If you went down the street to kill somebody, tell me too. I don't know, I'm

hardly likely. I wouldn't like to think we are dealing with a fella that is that bad.

There is no doubt Marc these statements here weren't there wasn't words put in their mouths. These are statements of people who came forward voluntarily to, two civilians and a police officer came forward voluntarily and made those statements. It is not a question of someone you know, us saying we want you to put so and so this and so and so that. These are entirely voluntarily words coming out of their mouths and identifying people whom they know or whatever. You have got to realize that, perhaps you haven't had time to think about it maybe it all comes as a shock to you the weight of the evidence and the strength of the evidence against you but I think even your Solicitor would agree the weight of evidence against you at this moment in time identification is fairly overwhelming.

I say even look at these witnesses here. 'These persons were kicking the person on the ground around the head and body. I saw them jump on the person on the ground'. Now jump on them. You know what are we talking about, are we talking about mad men here. 'They jumped all over him and kicked him. I saw the persons

who, the persons who were doing this and I can identify them'. And here they name one of them as Muck. That's you Marc! There is other names mentioned here too but we are not interviewing the other people, and I am certainly not going to divulge them here at the moment, but you have a problem son. You have a fucking big problem and you have got to sit there and give yourself a shake one way or another and decide what avenue you want to walk down. Do you understand.

So if you.

Because if there is any decency in you and they are telling me, although I am too long in this job to believe this, maybe your Solicitor still believes it, but they tell me there's a bit of decency in everybody. I hope that is right. And I hope to see it and find it in you before this interview goes over. Do you know what I am saying Marc. Look at me son. Do you know what I am saying. I seem to be talking to the back of your head and it is, where do we go from here. You know what I mean, we would all, you know, we would all



like to do different things and if I could wipe the clock back twenty years I wouldn't be doing the job I am doing. If you could wipe last Saturday fortnight out of your mind, you wouldn't have been going down the street or maybe you would have kept your hands in your pocket. You will only be one of quite a few boys that will be saying that to themselves, whether they say it out loud or they say it secretly. Believe me they will be saying it! But you understand Marc, these are just the handwritten statements, one typed, two handwritten here you know and we can't do that there - buzz sound - and put them through a shredder and forget about them. They are there, they are not going to go away and they are identifying you, so you have got to turn round and say 'I have got to think about this' and there is only two ways you can come across to us as policemen. And if somebody here, I'm sure Mr, sorry I can't remember your second name.

SOLICITOR [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] sorry. I'm sure [REDACTED] will tell

you if he knows anything about court cases, this goes to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who has never seen you, or never will see you. Do you know what writing a report is like, I'll tell you, it is like being an artist, only rather than drawing and painting a picture, you have to write a picture about a person. You have got to tell that man everything you know, everything against him and let me tell you, even more important, everything that is in that man's favour, cause he is the guy that makes the decision, and what can we say. You know what I mean. Are you saying to me 'Frig wait until I tell you Mr Honeyford, yes I went down the town, you know what it is like, Portadown, a few beer in me, the old cider, couldn't keep my hands in my pocket. There was Catholics there, they were calling us names, we called them it back. There was a fair dig. I have a fair picture of what happened, in fact I could nearly write it out for you and you could lift it and say 'yeah that's exactly what happened'. It started off as a fair dig, did it.

I wouldn't even put it down as a fair dig.

Well it started off with I think with two boys and then somebody else joined in and then the next thing everybody was on the bandwagon.

There was five people coming from the Disco.

But it has happened, but you know Marc what can I say, because you are not telling me anything, you are not telling me the truth and I certainly don't believe you can't, and can't see me changing because and if you say why, it's not me personally because I have absolutely nothing against you personally. Up until last night if I had have met you in the street, and I had been in this town a lifetime, I wouldn't have knew you. Would you have knew me.

HOBSON

No.

I have never seen you in my life before, but I sitting here with three statements and I can tell you something, they will burn you, that's what those statements will do. The evidence

is there, it is up to those people to stand up in court and be counted. You know I am sure [REDACTED] knows where he was Saturday fortnight ago. I certainly know where I was and it's up to these people to sort it out. They have to give their evidence and you have to give an account if you so desire. Only if you desire. You can keep quiet, you don't have to talk to me, you have been cautioned, you know the ins and outs of it and your Solicitor has advised you, but where do I go Marc. Can we turn round and talk about a bit of sense about this.

How do you feel about this man's death now that it has happened.

HOBSON

What do you mean, how do I feel about it.

Well is it a tragedy, (inaudible).

HOBSON

Of course it is a tragedy.

Why's that, why is it a tragedy.

Have you any thoughts on it.

HOBSON           Somebody died like.

Why is it a tragedy.

HOBSON           Somebody died like.

Any thoughts on the people responsible.

HOBSON           What do you mean any thoughts.

Any thoughts on what sort of people they are.

For the indication of the tape you are shaking  
your head in the negative. Is that right.

HOBSON           Pardon.

You are shaking your head meaning no.

HOBSON           Aye.

Marc you have no thoughts on the people who  
done it at all.

HOBSON           No.

No. Are they bad, do you see them as bad people or do you see them as normal.

HOBSON No they are not normal.

They are not normal.

HOBSON No.

Well we would have.

HOBSON I don't know what happened.

You don't know what happened. Well what about these statements here. How can you get round those there. By simply saying that they are telling lies, it is just not good enough. Do you understand me.

HOBSON Aye I understand you.

Well what do you think now, what is your own thoughts now having heard the measure of the evidence against you. What is your own thoughts on where it is going from here.

HOBSON I can't believe that has been wrote down.

You can't believe it has been wrote down.

There must be an awful lot of people who wants  
to commit a conspiracy against you.

HOBSON It's not true.

It's not true.

HOBSON No.

You did not hit anybody that night at all.

HOBSON No.

You weren't involved in no fights whatsoever.

HOBSON No.

None at all whatsoever.

Now you must speak because as I say the  
microphone cannot pick up nods of the head.

HOBSON No.

You were involved in no fight and that is your stance, that's your story and you are sticking to it.

HOBSON Yes.

Right. How do you feel about Catholics generally. We touched on this earlier but your Solicitor was a bit.

HOBSON I have got family who are Catholics.

You have got family who are Catholics.

HOBSON Yes.

What are they, what relations.

HOBSON An auntie and uncle and cousins.

Right. Where are they from.

HOBSON 

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HOBSON Yes.

So you have, you being against Catholics would be a total, wouldn't be truthful. You haven't a dislike for them.

HOBSON I have a dislike for them!

No that you have not.

HOBSON No.

Sorry.

HOBSON No I don't have a dislike for them.

You don't have a dislike for them.

HOBSON Sure I have family that's Catholics.

No that doesn't mean to say anything at all, you can choose your friends but you can't choose you family. Now that's not to say anything there that that covers that, you

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don't have to like your family. It doesn't mean to say you have any great love for them but I think personally that you don't like Catholics. That you would take great opportunity of doing what was done here if any opportunity arose where these people were outnumbered. There were five persons and two or three were females. A crowd of twenty who were already in the town centre. These people were coming from the disco, they were coming out in great numbers, they were walking to their homes. Fenian, fenian and that's it, all hell breaks loose. You would just fight anybody, it is just a free-for-all for anybody. Like you are described there as fighting two people and that's even before you get to Mr Hamill who is on the ground by the time you get to him. You stand and you kick him and jump up and down on top of him.

HOBSON

No.

You didn't do that.

HOBSON

No.

You didn't do that. Just, the tape is about to finish here in a minute or so. Would you be happy to go on an identification parade.

HOBSON

Yea.

You would be.

SOLICITOR

We will take advice on that, I want to speak to my client on that.

But at this moment in time as it is you want to wait to take advice.

Right the time is 1506. I serve this Form PACE 21 on you now which explains what happens to the tapes. There you are.

Just before we leave is there anything you want to ask us about the interview or anything you want clarified.

HOBSON

No.

Or add.

HOBSON

No.

Right. I am switching off the machine.

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