

EH9

MASTER TAPE NUMBER: T146532A

HOBSON - TAPE NO.2

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 the 10th of May 1997 and the time is 1615 hours. Also present is.

SOLICITOR

[REDACTED], Solicitor.

What is your full name.

HOBSON

Paul Rodney Marc Hobson.

Your date of birth.

HOBSON

[REDACTED]

And your address.

HOBSON

[REDACTED]

Marc we wish to continue to interview you regarding the serious assaults on [REDACTED] D [REDACTED] and Robert Hamill and the subsequent death of Hamill. Again I have got to remind you that it happened in the Market Street area of Portadown in the early hours of Sunday morning the 27th of April 1997. Now in relation to that I again will 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.

HOBSON

Yes.

Is there anything further that you wish to say to us at this point.

HOBSON

No.

Okay. At the end of the last interview we asked you about the identification parade, were you willing to go on one and I believed

your answer to that was no.

HOBSON

No.

Is that right.

HOBSON

Yea.

Is it still no.

HOBSON

Yea.

Any particular reason for that.

HOBSON

I am just taking my Solicitor's advice.

Alright. Do you know Rory Robinson from

[REDACTED]

HOBSON

I know him to see aye.

When was the last time you seen him.

HOBSON

I don't know.

If I was to suggest to you that it was

Saturday night the night that the assault, although it did happen in the early hours of Sunday morning, if I was to say you were in his company on Saturday night/Sunday morning the 27th of April 1997. Now I know you are nodding your head in the negative form, but believe me that the mike can't pick it up.

HOBSON

No.

He wasn't standing there with you.

HOBSON

No.

I would also say that on reading the policeman's statement that identifies you, that you were taunting both the police and other persons trying to assist the police in rendering first aid to both injured parties. Now by that do you know what I am saying. I am saying you were taunting the police, calling them names, calling the people that's lying on the ground injured, names.

HOBSON

No.

Do you deny that.

HOBSON

Yes.

And you deny seeing Rory Robinson down the town that night.

HOBSON

Yes.

Right. Was, you were along with Allister Hanvey, is that right.

HOBSON

Yes.

Was he with you at the top, at the church.

HOBSON

No.

Sorry.

HOBSON

Johnny Wright was.

He wasn't with you.

HOBSON

No Johnny Wright was.

Johnny Wright was. Do you know where Hanvey was.

HOBSON

No.

Have you spoken to him since.

HOBSON

No.

Sorry.

HOBSON

Aye I have seen him a couple of times.

Have you talked about the fight.

HOBSON

No not really.

No. Yes or no.

HOBSON

No. Sure I didn't see anything anyway.

Aye but were you not, obviously it was, he was there for a while. About the assault taking place, prior to the man's death.

HOBSON

Aye I was, no.

Right. You see the witness that, the one that we talked about earlier there, names you and Hanvey. Hanvey is one of the other ones as well. Both of you together. Kicking and jumping on top of this person.

HOBSON

Is this the first witness or the third witness.

I will just have to clarify that with the statements so I will. It is actually the third, the second civilian witness so it is, who identifies Hanvey and yourself along with the others. What have you to say about that.

HOBSON

Nothing to say.

Still telling lies.

HOBSON

No.

They're still telling lies.

HOBSON

Aye yes.

Yes. Hanvey definitely wasn't there.

HOBSON

No. Well I didn't see anybody there anyway that I knew.

Aye but I am talking about where this man is lying on the ground unconscious. Or are you talking about in front of the church.

HOBSON

Aye he wasn't with me at the front of the church.

He wasn't with you at the front of the church.

HOBSON

Aye. We lost him at Call-a-Cab.

Right. Could he have been down there do you think.

HOBSON

I don't know.

You didn't see him on the way back home again.

HOBSON

No.

I take it that Johnny Wright will verify all this.

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stion about that.

ify it alright.

being struck by a baton that
eman's baton.

you.

to the lower part of

06776

your body that will be consistent with getting struck with a baton. Do you have any injuries at all.

HOBSON

No.

It says here.

HOBSON

The doctor checked me earlier.

Well it is a fortnight later obviously any injuries, there would be no signs of them. It would have healed with the passing of time, but it is strange how he remembers you getting hit by, he remembers hitting you with a baton trying to stop carrying on the assault. Isn't it.

And you say you weren't there.

HOBSON

Aye.

'I tried to get this person off'. You were assaulting someone in the group, he can't really say at that stage, but he tried to get you off and he had to strike you with his

baton. So that's how bad it was, it wasn't a question of you taking advice, or him able to give you advice. He felt it necessary to use a baton to stop you. This is a very very serious matter, I don't know whether you grasp it or not. You are a very very violent young man. Do you understand that.

HOBSON

No.

I know, I know (inaudible) sitting there saying to yourself, 'Well I didn't do it' or 'I'll have to keep up my story because I have given a statement'. If you are concerned about giving a witness statement on, last night, outlining half the truth or two thirds of the truth, or not the complete truth whatever, I would be more concerned now from your point of view of not taking your part in this here. There's no question that you were there. I have no doubt with the passing of time that no more people will come forward. People who you probably before hand thought would not have. You are dangerous. Do you understand that. You are dangerous to be out in the street. Anybody that can kick someone

to death is dangerous by any stretch of the imagination and to be shouting kill the fenian, kill the fenian, these are the words that sticks in the minds of the witnesses. This is the mood of the crowd that you were part of.

HOBSON

This is not, it wasn't me.

You might not have said those words, no-one can say whether you did or not, only you can say that, but that's the mood of the crowd. Like this is a man, this, can you picture a man lying on the ground, he's, as one witness describes him as being dead right. There was a female lying over trying to cradle his head and you are still trying to kick him and you are still taunting the people.

HOBSON

No.

Now taunting I am sure is we elaborate on that would be sectarian, sectarian comments, chants etc. You were still taunting the people who were trying to help him and him there lying unconscious on the ground. This fella

Robinson who you know, who was standing beside you, he's not only happy with having done what he done, he's still trying to give, he had to be hit in the stomach with a baton to get him to desist from carrying on this assault on a person who is. He may as well be kicking a piece of rubber because there's no, the man is unconscious. He was beyond pain at this stage. You are a violent man. Do you understand that. What is it going to take for you to face up to what you done. What. Are we going to have to fill the room with witnesses. What. And all you can do is sit there. You are not even showing remorse for what you done. Not even remorse. You were part and parcel of someone who kicked another human being to death. Now you just think what that means there for one second and you sit there and stare at the table because if you are looking for help or assistance or whatever you are not going to get it from a black table, so you're not. You have that much hatred for Catholics that you kicked a Catholic to death and that's what it amounts to. That's what it amounts to. And not only have you kicked him to death, you still carry

on. I know there is people who get involved in fights and then when someone is unconscious they realise they didn't mean to do that and they walk away or they try to help them. Not you! You were trying to stop people giving him first aid. You were still trying to kick him. Whenever you are jumping up on top of his head and his body, he's unconscious, you are getting no response out of him. He never even had the chance to defend himself. Are you taking this in Marc.

HOBSON

It wasn't me.

It was you! Saying it wasn't me is absolutely, it doesn't carry any weight. You had to be struck with a baton afterwards to get you to stop. Now the Constable doesn't even know if that was successful or not because there was obviously more happening around him that just, you trying to kick this person.

You took the very first statement although I didn't read it all out because it all doesn't refer to you, but I read out the relevant

paragraphs that did refer to you. The witness who says he was only several feet, you know like you are talking probably from the door in this room to where you are sitting. That many feet away from you, he clearly identifies you, and at least he said, and he's being truthful, you were digging this boy but the boy was digging you back, but you got the better of him. Marc he is saying you put him on his arse on the ground and the boy lay there for about one minute and he got up again. But then the sequence of events goes on. We could turn round and say that was D but then when you look at some of the other statements you could possibly have been fighting and assaulting a boy by the name of Prunty. You could certainly have been jumping up and down and fighting with the deceased. The now deceased at some stage, Mr Hamill. You have a lot to answer for, haven't you. You know you can sit there and do you know what I notice you, you could not hold that head up to look at anybody but then again you don't have to. If you want to sit there and stare into the black table, that's entirely up to yourself. It is not going to go away Marc. You have got

to realise that. You have got yourself into a handling now and really it is up to you to make the best of a bad job. That's my advice and it is my belief that you should grasp this and tell the truth, not the load of shit that you have been telling us all along because basically that's what it is. It is lies. It can't be described as any else. Lies. And I am saying to you Marc you have things to sort out, you get them sorted out. I wasn't down the street, I wasn't in Portadown that night. I work in it, as the man says I don't have to live in it. But this is what happens. It always happens.

1627. [REDACTED] leaving the interview room.

Can you tell us the truth.

HOBSON

I've told you the truth.

Marc I'll tell you something, we have got to interview you and I don't anticipate a lot more interviewing of you. I don't even know if the bosses will direct a third interview.

1628. Detective Constable back in the interview room.

But it's your chance to put your side of the story across about what happened, to show some face, to show that you are not all bad because I can tell you that the moment you don't look anything other than bad, you just look just a typical prod bigot. And yes, if I was, if I had to stand up in Court tomorrow morning, and if somebody said 'for what it's worth Officer from your experience and the amount of years you have been in CID, what do you make of this man', I have got to turn round and say 'There's little anybody could say in your favour' because I think you are only to glad to go down the street and beat the shit of some boy and jump up and down on his fucking head until he is dead. Well it has happened, it is a sad set of circumstances, there's no winners in this here.

There is another description of Hamill lying on the ground. 'The fella was just lying there with his hands at his side. He didn't

move'. That's the fella that you jumped up and down and you kicked, you kicked him to death. You and four or five others.

And your description Marc.

Like it's not, you know you could understand it possibly from your point of view, your innocence or the possibility of innocence if someone just said to you 'He has a goatee beard and short hair'. But we have your nickname, we have your first name, we actually have the street you live in.

And we have you described down to a 'T'.

I can assure you that people that are doing it don't have an axe to grind with Marc Hobson. They come forward out of a sense of decency.

Marc are we boring you.

Tell me this just as a matter of interest.

No hold on a second. Are we boring you Marc.

HOBSON

No.

Well you seem to have very little interest in this. You're sitting here in an interview room.

HOBSON

I've said my story.

You know what you are being interviewed about, don't you.

Yes.

It's just the top of the apple tree, it's murder! We are investigating the death of Mr Hamill which is in fact murder and we are also investigating the serious assault of a number of others D being one of them. And you are sitting there with your head down and really when I look at you, I am wondering do you care. Now is there anything you want to say for yourself.

HOBSON

I have said everything.

You have said everything. Well tell me this,

do you know Wayne Lunt.

HOBSON

No.

Stacey Bridgett.

HOBSON

Aye.

Sorry.

HOBSON

Yes.

Did you see him.

HOBSON

No.

On Saturday night.

HOBSON

No.

Dean Forbes.

HOBSON

No.

You don't know Dean Forbes.

HOBSON

No I do know him.

Did you see him there that night.

HOBSON

No.

You didn't. Of course, course, telling us you saw him there or spoke to him there would take it away from your witness statement, wouldn't it and your account of your movements that night. Can you offer any explanation as to why two civilians and one policeman would put you at the middle of it doing what we have described to you. Can you offer any explanation for that.

HOBSON

No.

None at all. What about it being the truth. How does that sound. Well. Marc.

HOBSON

What.

Definitely not. Just simple wipe it off, you know it doesn't, they are telling lies and all you have to say for yourself is 'I wasn't there'. That's all you have, that is your

only alibi. I wasn't there, is that right. I wasn't any further than the church. Is that your only explanation for this here.

HOBSON

Yes.

You don't want to show remorse for what you done at all.

HOBSON

I didn't do anything.

You didn't do anything.

So these people are telling lies. All telling lies about your involvement. Even taking it at its very least, you were there fighting fist to fist with at least two people. That is it at its very least. And you won't even accept that. That's lies. Is it.

HOBSON

Yes.

And tied in with the fact that you don't want to go on an identity parade. Yes. What way is it looking from your point of view. What do you think.

SOLICITOR

Mr Hobson doesn't have to answer that.

No he doesn't but I would just like to know his comments on how the thing is going. He seems to be a person who doesn't even have much interest himself in denying the whole thing. All he can say is the same rhetoric.

SOLICITOR

I am saying (inaudible).

I wasn't there, I have said my story, it wasn't me, they are telling lies which are, you know that's the most, you could walk into any primary school any time of the week and get that out of a four year old. There is absolutely no substance, I don't think there are any reasons why you wouldn't do it, I don't think there is anything to say that so and so can say that I stood there, Johnny Wright can say that I stood at the church all night and didn't move down the street. It was all over by the time we arrived there. Will he say that.

HOBSON

Yes.

He will say that.

HOBSON

Yes.

Well let us go to the hypothetical. although it's not really nice to go into the hypothetical, but just say he didn't contribute to that.

SOLICITOR

Well let's not get into hypotheses here. Mr Hobson has given his account and he says.

No it would just be interesting to know what his comments would be on that if Wright is absolutely telling lies then.

SOLICITOR

Well absolutely Mr Hobson can answer that if and when that arises but I don't think we gain anything by.

No it's not.

Speculating.

It's just something I would ask him just to see if again it would be everybody is telling

lies except me, I'm telling the truth, which is basically what you are saying. And the way things are going I have no doubt with the passing of time more people will come forward. You are fairly distinctive in your looks, would you agree Marc.

HOBSON

Aye.

Sorry.

HOBSON

Aye well everybody has got a biker's beard.

Everybody's got a biker's beard.

HOBSON

Well not everybody like but there's a brave few people.

Right well do you think you are more distinctive than most.

HOBSON

I'm sure I am.

Well no doubt there will be more people come forward. I'll be surprised if they don't, so I wouldn't.

Anything else you want to put to him.

Sorry.

Anything else you want to put to him.

No I think he's has been given ample opportunity here to tell his side of the story and at least to show some remorse at this stage for his actions a fortnight ago but he choses to remain as he was before saying 'I didn't do it, it wasn't me and everyone else is telling lies'.

Right Marc we are going to terminate this interview. Now before we terminate it you already know the procedure regarding what happens to the tapes after. You have got the Form PACE 21 served on you in the previous interview. Is there anything you wish to clarify.

HOBSON

No.

Anything you wish to add.

HOBSON

No.

Do you wish to make a written statement.

HOBSON

No.

Interview terminated and the time is 1635.