

P3 15

MI 22

The interview has recommenced the time from my wrist watch is 9.19 pm. During that last explanation and I didn't want to interrupt you.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

Because you had a flow and your memory was obviously working, but initially the question I asked you was, did you hear anyone say, "well what the fuck are you going to do about this" can you remember hearing words of that nature.

ATKINSON

There was.

Can you even remember who said it or when.

ATKINSON

There was words of that nature sir yes I couldn't put it down to an individual, the guy that I was having the bit of a confrontation with was very agitated and roaring and shouting but I couldn't, I couldn't exactly say, he said that but there was words like that coming from him and a couple of other guys standing about.

Well what, what do you think they, he meant by that then.

ATKINSON

Well he was obviously agitated because these two guys were down on the road.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

And had been injured.

Well these two fellas are on the road injured.

ATKINSON

Yes.

You are in essence protecting them.

ATKINSON

Yes.

The next thing it appears there's this other vehicle but yet you leave him to go to the assistance of.

ATKINSON

My colleague yes.

A woman Constable to bring a person back to here.

ATKINSON

Yes at that particular time there was no one in front of me, the road was cleared and they had moved across into the centre if you know what I mean, into the centre of the street.

Yeah well how many other police arrived.

ATKINSON

Eventually.

No at that stage.

ATKINSON

Oh two sir.

Two.

ATKINSON

Two and then I think she came, their car actually came down the street.

Aha.

ATKINSON

I don't know how they got in, they might have had a key to the barrier but I think I recollect seeing I think they were in a red car and they came down the street.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

So there was two or three in it, I think there was three in it.

Well do you think did that disperse any of the crowd or, or, what caused you, now I realise that you were going to a colleague.

ATKINSON

Aha.

And to the assistance of a colleague, I accept that.

ATKINSON

Aha.

But you must also remember that there is an injured person lying on the road.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Ah.

ATKINSON

Well I had left, I had left him because at this stage he was on his own, I think the lady might have been with him.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

And I had left him because I'd saw her in obvious difficulty to my right.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

And the crowd was all over, once they saw, once they saw her getting the hold of him, the whole crowd ran across and tried to sort of extricate him from her.

OK, right. Well you didn't hear him rasping for breath or heavy breathing from him or anything like that there.

ATKINSON Well he wasn't, it was fairly obvious that he wasn't well you know he was.

Ehm.

ATKINSON He was unconscious.

Yeah.

ATKINSON But I never actually got right down and against him, I had actually, I had shouted to Alan as I have said, what way is he.

Yeah. Did you see a number of persons around that person hitting that person.

ATKINSON Yes that's what I was going on to tell you.

Aha.

ATKINSON At X1 which is at LR3.

Aha.

ATKINSON I was having this confrontation with this big guy and like he's half as big as me again and built like a gorilla.

Aha.

ATKINSON And he's really got a grip of me and I'm trying to fight him off and he's roaring and shouting and he got the hold of my baton and I had the strip, strap around my wrist and he actually broke the strap off but I managed to hold on to my baton and push him away but I'm looking round for assistance for myself because at one stage I thought he was going to overwhelm me and get the baton off me and I'm looking round for assistance for myself and I can see across the street here then two or three guys at this person that was on the road.

Ehm.

ATKINSON Now all I got was, getting my head turned round quickly and turned away again, I never got turning round and saying, hey boy leave that fella alone or, I just got a quick glance round like that and back again.

Aha.

ATKINSON

So I immediately broke away from him and run across and took up a position in front of this guy again.

Right. Now at one stage, at the very outset of the interview, while we were talking, you said, "yeah I knew this person was a Nationalist because my knowledge was such that I knew quite a few."

ATKINSON

Well they had been, they had been facing each other sir.

You knew quite a few, you knew quite a few of the Loyalists as it were.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Now how many of those Loyalists at that stage could you identify.

ATKINSON

Would I have known by name.

Would you have known by name.

ATKINSON

I would say six or seven maybe at the most.

Six or seven.

ATKINSON

But when I say that they weren't all, although they were there and shouting and things, they weren't all getting involved in it, they were sort of taunting and staying in the background.

The point I'm making is, did you know any of the three people that were jumping on this individual.

ATKINSON

I, no sir, I didn't get a chance to sort of gather myself to say that's Joe Bloggs and that's this and that's that, all I could, saw was a quick turn out of the corner of my eye and I saw these guys at him and I run straight across.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

Now at that stage I think there was other police intervened.

Yeah now when you say.

ATKINSON

Prior to me getting.

Yes that's (inaudible)

ATKINSON

Prior to me getting. At that stage I think there was other police intervened, prior to

me getting back over there.

Where were these other police at.

ATKINSON You'll have to.

Where, were other police at, at this stage.

ATKINSON Right well this whole thing was taking place as you can imagine there was reinforcements arriving here and there and I couldn't tell you at what stage, I know the first two arrived and then I know this other car come, but there was another vehicle arrived at some stage, we were getting our numbers sort of built up from three of us out on the ground really and a girl on the thing up 'til sixteen or seventeen.

Ehm.

ATKINSON While this was all going on.

Yeah OK you went back to the person at this stage.

ATKINSON Yes.

Did you do anything apart from try to protect him to facilitate his recovery or anything like that.

ATKINSON Right at that time I think that was the time when I said to Dean, see is he alright.

Aha.

ATKINSON And just at that then the ambulance arrived.

Aha.

ATKINSON So the ambulance crew got out and I sort of made them aware, look here's two guys here you'd need to see 'til and the ambulance backed up with his tail gate in front of the (inaudible)

What way did it come up the street as a matter of interest.

ATKINSON I'm not sure sir to be honest I don't, I don't know but I remember, I remember, I didn't initially see it but I remember that the tail of it was open and I was looking in.

And you were.

ATKINSON And I was up the street looking down the street.

Now what.

ATKINSON Now whether he turned, whether he come here and swung and reversed back I don't know.

Ah just for the purposes of the tape here.

ATKINSON Right.

If you would indicate.

ATKINSON I imagine he came, I don't really know but I imagine he came down Edward Street, turned left, went up the town and sort of did a U-turn and reversed, the back of the ambulance back to the injured party.

You're talking, you're talking. Up High Street at the side of Granada.

ATKINSON Yes.

Cancer Research. Up that side.

ATKINSON Aha.

You're talking doing a U-turn and then reversing back up.

ATKINSON Aha.

High Street towards Market Street.

ATKINSON He obviously, the barriers were closed and he was obviously having to go out through.

Edward Street.

ATKINSON Edward Street again.

Ehm.

ATKINSON So he'd sort of led provision for that as he stopped.

Yeah. So the ambulance reverses back.

ATKINSON Yeah.

And explain to us now about these people, how many people were taken in the ambulance to the hospital.

ATKINSON Right, that is a good question, I don't know, I know well obviously the two males were and I'm not sure who went with them or if there was anybody else injured went with them, I

was too busy facing this crowd. I could say for I don't know.

You, you're not aware of any others.

ATKINSON No.

Or indeed if any others did go.

ATKINSON I don't know, I just don't honestly know.

Right so the ambulance takes off with whoever in the, did you see this person here being put into the ambulance, no you didn't see anything like that.

ATKINSON No. I can't, I can't recall sir no.

OK. The ambulance takes off, what transpired then.

ATKINSON Well there was still several of the Nationalists about and this crowd I had imagined had got a bit bigger.

Oh the Prod side.

ATKINSON Oh the Prod side.

Aha.

ATKINSON And there was still a bit of taunting and what not going on so I think at that stage then the Inspector and Sergeant and all had arrived and he instructed us to push them up the street.

Aha.

ATKINSON Which they weren't too happy about.

Ehm.

ATKINSON So after a long bit of pushing and shoving, hitting another boy a clout, we got them up into the mouth of West Street at Jeffers there.

Aha.

ATKINSON We pushed them up to the Bodega Barrier so there was still only is probably about seventeen of us.

Ehm.

ATKINSON And there was a fair number of them, once they got sort of up West Street about half way up they got a bit better humoured and

they were easier to control, but when they got them to the Bodega Barrier they just dispersed like that, they were away, there might have been only half a dozen of them standing about.

So you had to take them right up past the church.

ATKINSON Right up yes.

Up to the Bodega, right up to the other barrier.

ATKINSON So they had quite a bit of drink taken and the next thing we were aware of then was we were sort of holding our position at the Bodega Barrier and there was about three or four times the crowd appeared down West Street with sticks and cudgels and stuff.

Ehm.

ATKINSON To have a go at us and just by good luck the MSU arrived from Banbridge, reinforcements.

Ehm.

ATKINSON And once they saw the reinforcements, they kicked and tore about a bit but they didn't really come on and I imagine if we had've been on our own at that stage they were going to give us a lacing, but by good luck there was about twenty men arrived.

Aha. Right.

ATKINSON In, in moving them up the street what I forgot to say was, we'd the devil's bother getting them moved and we had to face them with baton guns to get them to go and it was Seamy Warnock.

He's R/Con Warnock.

ATKINSON He is. He actually had to put a round in, close the baton gun and warn them if they didn't cease their behaviour that he was going to open fire.

Yeah.

ATKINSON Because it was getting to the stage where there already had been two people badly hurt and we were going to be overrun.

You were all going to be hurt as well, that was your fear at that stage.

ATKINSON Well the whole, when I say, I don't, when I say I was going to be hurt.

No.

ATKINSON Some of the police party was going to be seriously injured.

Ehm. Right now just before we take it any further I want you to go back to you sitting in the landrover.

ATKINSON Yes.

At the very outset and there's a person comes up to the door of the landrover, right.

ATKINSON Aha.

Now did you see or hear any fighting prior to you getting out of the landrover.

ATKINSON No sir, no.

When you got out of the landrover were you aware of any fighting or anything like that there.

ATKINSON No when I was sitting in the landrover she was sitting ticking over and it's very hard to hear what's going on outside it's a muffled sort of sound but at that stage, no I wasn't aware of anything until the door opened and he literally, seemed to be wrenched out of the seat.

Yeah, but then.

ATKINSON So when I got out, when I got out they weren't fighting but I was aware that there was group, rival groups facing each other and there was a bit of cat calling going on.

Right. Now what would your view be at this stage of, there's an allegation made of inactivity against you, what would your view be towards that allegation.

ATKINSON Well my view is sir, I got out and I did my best in the situation, I certainly didn't sit as has been alleged in the, in the media, I'm sure you're aware of the hype the thing has created in the media, it's been alleged that we never got out of the landrover and I would say that is absolute nonsense.

Now sorry, go on. When you got out of the landrover can you say whether them two persons were lying on the street.

ATKINSON

Oh no, definitely weren't, no. No. They weren't there, when we run up, we actually had to sort of run past the position where the bodies would have been, you know we run at an angle across because there was a bit of a confrontation taking place here.

So that's why you're so sure there was nobody lying.

ATKINSON

I'm definitely sure they weren't there sir, yeah.

Yeah, yeah. That's OK.

ATKINSON

My opinion, well I don't know if it's right to give an opinion but my opinion was that the bodies appeared that quick that I assumed they had been struck on the head with a bottle or something, they seemed to just be, one minute, it wasn't as if there was a, a fist fight going on, one minute there wasn't a body there and the next minute you turned round and the body was lying there, to me like you just thought the legs had been taken away from the guy.

Ehm. Well you being about Portadown for quite a long time.

ATKINSON

That's right.

And you must have known quite a few of these people.

ATKINSON

I would have known a few I wouldn't say, I know a lot of people to see but I don't know their names.

Right. Well let, let's ask another question then, from the date that that happened until now, how many of those people would you have identified as having seen on that particular occasion and now know by name or identify.

ATKINSON

Well I've identified a couple round me.

Yes oh I see, yes I see that.

ATKINSON

As I said, right.

Who are you referring to just for the purposes of that.

ATKINSON

Right there was a Lunt.

That's the person with the Rangers' scarf on.

ATKINSON

Yes.

That was with Constable A [REDACTED].

ATKINSON

Aha and Rory Robinson.

Rory Robinson.

ATKINSON

Right and a boy ahm.

Could you tell us how you knew Rory Robinson or just for the, you haven't mentioned that name before.

ATKINSON

I did mention it.

SOLICITOR

Well he did, he mentioned that. I think he mentioned it along with Stacey.

ATKINSON

I think somebody, some of the boys in the Section had dealings with him.

Aha.

ATKINSON

And that's just, I had, I haven't had any personal dealings with him.

That, that night did you have any dealings with him.

ATKINSON

Oh yes I struck him with the baton.

You struck him with the baton.

ATKINSON

In this bit of a mêlée in the middle of the street.

OK.

ATKINSON

He was trying to push past to get through when I was sort of standing protecting this guy.

Aha.

ATKINSON

And I told him to clear off and he kept coming and I struck him in the stomach.

Right. And you've mentioned Stacey was at the landrover.

ATKINSON

Right he was, he was at the landrover now, I can't recall if it was Robinson was with him or not.

Righto.

ATKINSON

He was carrying a bottle, that's one thing I

forgot to say.

Stacey was.

ATKINSON

Stacey was carrying a bottle when he came up the town, a wine bottle.

Right.

ATKINSON

Right on the next morning or the same morning we were called in, to make statements then.

Aha.

ATKINSON

And we identified in, in a group, most of the police involved was sort of sitting with I think it was Don Keys or Sergeant Lawther.

Aha.

ATKINSON

And we sort of individually identified people verbally that were there.

Aha. Who can you recall identifying.

ATKINSON

I named a wee girl Clayton I think.

Right.

ATKINSON

A boy Hanvey, I think there was a guy Forbes, I'm not sure of his first name now.

Right.

ATKINSON

All I know him to see, stout sort of a boy.

Aha.

ATKINSON

Ahm again verbally named Robinson and the other two boys that I named. I wouldn't be sure, we generally talked about it and whoever was the CID man was noting down the names and we named them all just.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

As best we could.

OK, did you during all this fracas ask anyone to help you quell the crowd apart from the police that were there.

ATKINSON

Aye, yes, yes. There was a lad Gray, right he wasn't, he wasn't involved in the thing at all, he seemed to have come out of the Queen's Bar or somewhere like that.

What, do you have any idea of his Christian name.

ATKINSON Ahm no he has a nickname and I gave it to George Lawther or Derek Bradley.

Is it Rat Gray.

ATKINSON Aye that's the very man, yes.

Right.

ATKINSON He came out and he says, what's going on Robert and he says to these boys, for God's sake catch yourselves on and he's the sort of boy he knew them all like every one of them and he wasn't a bit afraid of them.

Ehm.

ATKINSON And he told them would youse bloody clear off and wise up like he was, he was doing a grand job to be honest.

Aha. But did you ask, you asked him to give a hand.

ATKINSON No I said, I sort of says to him, say you know these boys, get them offside here say this is, this is going to turn out into a real bad handling.

Aha.

ATKINSON Now like at this stage we were pointing baton guns this was when we, when we were trying to really push them back you know.

Yes. Was there anybody else in there that you knew that you asked to, to help or, or to

ATKINSON I don't know sir, I can't recall, when you, when you say asked to help.

Well in the same capacity as Rat you know.

ATKINSON No I might have said to the boys by their names would you get, get away to hell up the street or something like that but.

Ehm.

ATKINSON No he was the only one really came over and genuinely tried to help the police as such.

Yeah.

ATKINSON The rest of them had to be pushed and shoved like, I might have said to the like of

Robinson would you move back there or something like that but he was the only guy that I can recall really come to our aid.

Aha.

ATKINSON

That I can recollect now.

Yeah of the people, of the people we've charged, you've named them all but we'll just go through them once more just to make sure. Ah the number of people that we have charged is Wayne Lunt, Rory Robinson.

ATKINSON

That's the guy yeah he was the one with the baseball hat and the red, white and blue scarf.

Right Rory Robinson.

ATKINSON

Rory Robinson was in a mustard, mustard coloured top I think.

And you hit him with a.

ATKINSON

Yes I definitely struck him.

OK. Alistair Harvey.

ATKINSON

He was away over to my right now.

Aha.

ATKINSON

In the middle of the road somewhere, I hadn't much dealings with him but he was away over to my right I know that.

Dean Forbes.

ATKINSON

He was, I didn't know him by name until somebody said to me, that's the boy Forbes, somebody on the night.

Aha.

ATKINSON

Some of the police that was on, duty that night had said to me, that's the boy Forbes. He was somewhere in the middle of the road too, he's a stout, sort of stocky boy.

Aha.

ATKINSON

I don't know what he was wearing now.

Stacey Bridgett.

ATKINSON

Stacey Bridgett was as I say at the, landrover at the start.

Did, did you see him with any injuries.

ATKINSON

Yes, I told, I told somebody, I told ah Derek Bradley that he had a cut in his mouth or something or his face somewhere.

Did, did you see how he got it.

ATKINSON

No I didn't see how he got it but I know, I know he had a cut because he walked up West Street behind the, or with a wee girl Clayton.

Right, Mark Hobson.

ATKINSON

I don't know him.

There was a number of other two person that were have been reported in relation to it, a boy Woods, David Woods.

ATKINSON

(inaudible)

And [REDACTED].

ATKINSON

No, I don't know him.

Fonsey Allen.

ATKINSON

No, no.

OK. Did you mention Hanvey.

ATKINSON

I did yes.

In relation to Hanvey.

ATKINSON

Yes.

He, during interview he has been spoken to.

ATKINSON

Yes.

And he alleges that basically he was asked by a policeman to help move the crowd back, up towards Church Street.

ATKINSON

Aha.

And he says that he pulled a few people back and this policeman was mid forties, five foot ten, stocky build, gingerish, greyish hair with a moustache.

ATKINSON

Right.

That would fit your description.

ATKINSON Well I'm not five foot ten.

No.

ATKINSON Ahm I don't recall saying to him.

Is there any, was there anybody else there that night that, that would fit that description.

ATKINSON Wouldn't have a clue sir.

A policeman you mean. Aye, aye.

ATKINSON Wouldn't have a clue. Well I'll go through the police on duty like ah there was only seventeen of us, so. I don't recall speaking to him directly you know what I mean the whole thing was that much of a mêlée I may have said to him like, move along or move back but I don't recall saying to him, would you get these people gathered up and take them home type thing.

Do you know Alistair Hanvey.

ATKINSON I know him to see yes.

Just to see.

ATKINSON Aha. Well I would have no direct dealings with him as such.

Right have you any direct dealings with his relations.

ATKINSON Years ago I would have played football a bit maybe.

Are you involved in any club.

ATKINSON Yes I, I know what you're getting at, I'm involved in Tai Kwando Club yes.

Right.

ATKINSON Alistair Hanvey is not a member of the Tai Kwando Club, was put out of it a long time before this.

Right what, what. Why was he put out as a matter of interest.

ATKINSON Ahm the guy that runs the Club, as you would imagine a March Lodge Club is a very sort of a disciplined and regimented thing and I think he was dabbling a bit in E tabs and things like that and the guy that run it didn't want him about the place.

And were you in it at that time.

ATKINSON

I'm not in it.

Oh you're not in the club.

ATKINSON

No I'm not in the club, I'm not a member of the club.

Right.

ATKINSON

My little girl is in the junior section.

Right have you anything to do with the club.

ATKINSON

I just would sort of go to their competitions and things like that and they run a fund for, travelling expenses and things like that and I'd look after the money but I'm not actually, I'm not an organiser or, or a member of the club.

Yeah.

ATKINSON

I'm just there as a parent.

Right but you would look after money from the club is that what you're trying to say.

ATKINSON

Ah aye.

And how long has that been going on. Or how long have you done that.

ATKINSON

Probably less than a year, or about a year maybe.

And are you saying that Alistair was away from the club before that then.

ATKINSON

I would say he's out of the club, it could be coming up on two years maybe, a year and a half anyway at the very, easy a year and a half.

Aha.

ATKINSON

I never really had much dealings with him because he's with the seniors and Laura is with the juniors.

Aha.

ATKINSON

And as such even they train at different times like. I wouldn't be in the club one night a month maybe, leaving her up or down.

You've, one girl in the club have you.

ATKINSON Yeah and I just would go away on an odd trip with them you know to a competition.

Righto. Would you take any of them away with you in the vehicle in the car, I mean do you help to transport them or anything like that there.

ATKINSON Well normally sir when they're going it's, it's sort of a bus.

Ah right.

ATKINSON You know they'd go to Dublin and they'd go to Cork. They go on the train.

Yeah.

ATKINSON Travel to Cork on the train.

Was Hanvey any good as a martial art opponent or whatever.

ATKINSON Well he had been yes, aye. Had been I think they went to America one time and I wasn't, hadn't been going to the club at the time.

Ehm.

ATKINSON I think they went to America one time and he got second in some big competition or something.

Aha.

ATKINSON In California.

So really he'd be quite well known then that's the point I'm making.

ATKINSON Oh he would be aha.

Ehm. Do you know his parents.

ATKINSON Aye I know, I know his father to see for I played football against him years ago.

And what, what do you call him.

ATKINSON I think it's Kenny.

Ah and do you know where he lives.

ATKINSON

They're from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Would you have any contact

with.

ATKINSON No, I have no reason to contact them or you know, be in contact with them.

Ah would there be anybody from your family have reason to be contact with them.

ATKINSON Well I don't know that was, unless [REDACTED], sometimes the like of that young fella Harvey would learn [REDACTED] ah patterns you know, she's a black belt and he would have been senior to her.

Aha.

ATKINSON It's about, I don't know it could be six or eight months from I saw the father, maybe, he goes to the Portadown football matches an odd time.

Yeah. There's, there's obviously an allegation being made here that.

ATKINSON Well I'd say it's (inaudible) I can see that alright.

That you have had contact with Harvey, Alistair Harvey.

ATKINSON Oh certainly not, I've no reason to like, on the night in question or on the next day he was named along with all the rest and I was there and he was named and I'm not sure if it was Derek Bradley or someone, they took it in a hardback book anyway and they wrote it down.

Ehm.

ATKINSON And as a general crowd we all named people.

Aha.

ATKINSON On that night in question I only named the people that I directly was involved with, hand to hand on the street. That I had actually fought with you know and pushed away.

Sorry. What time would you have finished work that morning at.

ATKINSON Well we were back in ah. I had a phone call maybe half five or something.

So you had went, sorry you had went home before half five.

ATKINSON Yeah we went home, I'm not sure, it will be in my notebook entry what time I finished at.

OK. 4.15.

ATKINSON Yeah, 4.15.

And you recommen, recommenced 6 am. You recommenced 6.

ATKINSON Oh aye six o'clock and terminated at eight again.

Aha.

ATKINSON I was back in the station for a couple of hours.

Aha. And, and you live locally in Portadown.

ATKINSON I do.

Would you have had any contact between that time and since we are talking to you now with Hanvey, Alistair Hanvey, Kenneth Hanvey.

ATKINSON I had contact with Kenneth Hanvey about, he works in the Electric Board and he came out to inspect the house, for to put electric into it, my mother-in-law's was getting renovated.

Aha.

ATKINSON A lot of doors below me. But I wouldn't have been talking to him for two or three minutes.

Right. Was this, how was this, was this you call at the house or.

ATKINSON No I think.

In what capacity.

ATKINSON Ah my mother-in-law is eighty years of age.

Aha.

ATKINSON And her house was being renovated and the electric had been disconnected and he's in charge of linesmen.

Aha.

ATKINSON And he came to say that there would be somebody there in the morning to fix, to attach the electric.

Are you saying that that was around this time

or that was.

ATKINSON Oh no that, no, no, no that's, let me see, what's this, this is September, that's about ah maybe late July.

Ehm.

ATKINSON Not so long after that.

Yeah. There is a suggestion, an allegation that you made contact with Hanvey.

ATKINSON No sir I did not.

Ehm.

ATKINSON I did not. Like wait 'til I tell you if anybody, as Mr Hagan knows, my house has been attacked on numerous occasions by these so called Loyalists.

Ehm.

ATKINSON I've had armoured glass fitted, I've had two incendiary bombs at the house.

Ehm.

ATKINSON I've had my life threatened, my children's lifes threatened, my wife's, I certainly have no leanings towards these boys in any way.

Ehm.

ATKINSON As far as I'm concerned the boys that did this here is the scum of the earth.

Ehm.

ATKINSON And I went out and did my job to the best of my ability and as I'm sure you're aware sir that the rest, the other three has been on the sick ever since and we've been, like it has been a traumatic time for the whole lot of us.

Aha.

ATKINSON And I certainly have no leanings towards these boys, in fact.

Yeah.

ATKINSON I think, I think they're scum.

Yeah. But there is an allegation that you did make contact.

ATKINSON

Well I.

With Hanvey.

ATKINSON

No I didn't sir.

And over and above that that you may also have told him to dispose of clothing or whatever.

ATKINSON

Definitely not, I didn't, no, that's the last thing I would.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

I find that, when I come tonight Mr Hagan said there was some sort of an allegation and I'm dumbfounded.

Ehm. Well there is an allegation and it's up to us to investigate it.

ATKINSON

Well I understand that.

And indeed to pursue it.

ATKINSON

Yes.

Do you understand.

ATKINSON

I understand that sir.

And in that regard what about you obviously say you didn't call with them.

ATKINSON

No I definitely didn't.

Did he call with you.

ATKINSON

No.

What about the telephone.

ATKINSON

No well I didn't definitely contact him by telephone, the only contact I have had with him as I say is I think probably it was July.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

I wouldn't be sure of the date but I'm sure it wouldn't be hard to find out.

Yeah.

ATKINSON

And he called in his capacity as an Electric Board.

Yeah.

ATKINSON

I think he's over the linesmen or something.

OK well then would you mind if we looked at your telephone account, could you produce that for us.

ATKINSON

I probably could sir.

For, for that time.

ATKINSON

Aha.

Ah just so that we take a look at it, we can take a look to see if there were any telephone calls or anything like that made and we can assess from there then what the position is and at some subsequent stage then if it's necessary we can go back speak to you.

ATKINSON

Aha.

You understand.

ATKINSON

Well I have nothing to hide sir you know.

No, no, no I, no I, don't get me wrong, I accept that, but if allegations have been made, or suggestions have been made or someone has said it then there's an obligation on us.

ATKINSON

Oh I understand.

To pursue that.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

And indeed that's what we will do and intend to do. You mentioned and refer, we rather referred earlier on to different people that had been charged with this and you.

ATKINSON

Aha.

Referred to people that you had seen.

ATKINSON

Aha.

At the scene and the fracas that particular night, did you see any of those particular people strike either of the two injured persons, or strike anyone else for that matter.

ATKINSON

That guy Rory Robinson was attempting to strike or get through and that's why I hit him.

Yes so that's Robinson.

ATKINSON

Yes.

What about the others, just name the others again and we'll go down through them a bit more. Lunt. Lunt.

ATKINSON

No the only involvement I saw Lunt was with getting into the whole handling with the policewoman.

Hanvey.

ATKINSON

Hanvey was to my right, now there was, there was an incident going on to my right but I couldn't turn round and say who was hitting who or what, whoever the police were to my right obviously they were dead in front of them you know, I, the people that I have named or the people that I dealt with a hundred percent in front of me.

Yeah and people that you saw there.

ATKINSON

And people that I saw there yeah.

And you saw them all but you didn't see any of the others strike these injured persons.

ATKINSON

No.

Or anything like that or fight with anybody else.

ATKINSON

Well there was, struggles going on as I say across from me but I wasn't involved, I was too busy trying to keep this boy Robinson and the cohorts that was with him away. There was guys fighting across to my right, every now and again if you could imagine it, some of these guys were running through, whacked in with the fist or something and out again.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

Maybe struck and then vice versa some of the Catholic people would run up and stuck in and out again, we just hadn't the manpower to keep them separated.

Right now here's a man Hanvey, who turns round and says, a man, a policeman at the scene.

ATKINSON

Aha.

Told me to do such and such and quite obviously whoever that policeman was or either that or he's telling lies, he's one or the other and I mean both are open so I take that point but he describes you quite well actually.

ATKINSON

Aha.

And he says this policeman asked me to do such and such, right and.

ATKINSON

Well I certainly never, I'm not trying to stop you, I certainly on the night did not say that 'til Harvey, will you try and move this crowd back or anything like that.

Aha.

ATKINSON

I may have pushed and shoved and told them to get back.

Yes.

ATKINSON

As we did to them all but I certainly didn't say to him, will you use your influence and move these boys.

Well what sort of a boy is Harvey as a matter of interest.

ATKINSON

He's ginger haired he's.

No, no but what's his nature.

ATKINSON

I would say he'd be a bit mad like you know, he'd be a rowdy sort of a client.

Yeah.

ATKINSON

That's why, I think the guy that put him out of the Tai Kwando Club as I say the martial art thing is all about discipline.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

He probably wasn't prepared to accept the discipline so.

Yeah. But notwithstanding that he still teaches or demonstrates moves to your daughter and you facilitate that.

ATKINSON

No I said at a time he would have, what happens in these classes is, I don't be there because I don't go to the classes.

Ehm.

ATKINSON What happens is that the senior belts bring the juniors on and they show them the moves up through and he would have been a senior belt and she was about a junior belt.

But then if he was put out of the club.

ATKINSON Well at that stage.

He wouldn't have been there.

ATKINSON No at that stage he might have been there.

Who was the person that put him out of the club.

ATKINSON Michael McKee.

Do you know where he lives.

ATKINSON Ahm.

Or do you know a contact number for him.

ATKINSON I don't, I know his number at the gym.

At the gym.

ATKINSON Aha.

He works at, does he work full time at the gym or.

ATKINSON Yes.

What gym is that.

ATKINSON Ahm it's on the Brownstown Business Centre.

Sorry just for your, for convenience your, what is your telephone number.

ATKINSON

ATKINSON Aha.

You say that you certainly didn't call with Hanvey.

ATKINSON No.

And he didn't call with you.

ATKINSON No.

Is there a possibility that he could have rung you.

ATKINSON Well I don't know.

Or you ring him.

ATKINSON Aye he didn't, well I didn't definitely ring him sir I know.

Ehm.

ATKINSON You know what I mean.

Right. Well I tell you what I'll do, at some subsequent stage now and I don't mean in the distant future, in the near future.

ATKINSON Aye.

Ah we'd appreciate it actually if you produced your.

ATKINSON Telephone account.

Telephone account.

ATKINSON Right.

Just so we take a look at it.

ATKINSON Right.

And we'll check it and we'll see what it displays or shows.

ATKINSON Aha.

And we can take it from there if it's necessary, if it's not, well then that's it.

SOLICITOR This is from the period of the incident until now.

This is from the period of the incident until now, yeah. Yeah. Now just to cover, is there anything you want to ask. There's a couple of issues. A couple of issues here yeah. There's a couple of issues that I want to cover, coming out of other statements and they may not refer to you in that I just want to clear up any, any cases that. Did the policewoman Denise Cornett get out of the vehicle to talk to the two persons Stacey Bridgett and, and the person that was with her at any, at that stage, at the initial meeting.

ATKINSON No I don't think she got out I think she sat

there and talked to them. She may have put one leg out sort of just threw herself sideways.

Aha.

ATKINSON

And stood with her feet on the road but I don't think she got out now.

Right did you grab hold of a person in the group that was kicking Robert Hamill and this person was described as a Rangers' scarf, obviously was Lunt that we were referring to at that stage, did you grab hold of him at any stage.

ATKINSON

The only time I had him was when running to what do you call her's assistance.

A [redacted] assistance, OK. A female alleges after Robert, Robert Hamill was injured she ran to the landrover and asked them to get help did, did this person speak to you.

ATKINSON

No the only girl said to me, will you get an ambulance please, will you get an ambulance or something like that.

Was at the scene.

ATKINSON

But that was right over, aye.

At the body and then you went and contacted to get.

ATKINSON

Yeah.

OK. Constable P40 [redacted] in his account gives a similar circumstances as you that youse were talking to these two persons at the door when this other person came walking across in front of the landrover.

ATKINSON

Aha.

Constable Neill would say that this person come walking across the landrover and then.

ATKINSON

Come back 'til him.

No shouted into the landrover and then these two persons came to the landrover, if you get what I mean, your account is that these two persons were at the landrover and then that's include, that's Bridgett and then a person walked across the sort of front of the

landrover and mouthed in.

ATKINSON

Aha.

Constable Neill would say that the person walked across the landrover first and then the two persons come to the landrover.

ATKINSON

Ah I don't know sir it's hard to get it sort of into like you say.

Well I think we've put the point over to you.

ATKINSON

In numerical order you know.

Yes and the fact that you were in the back I think you said.

ATKINSON

Aha.

Back earlier on that your, your view was restricted. Constable Neill saw you or allegedly saw you trying to separate a fight with R/Con P40, can you recall that incident.

ATKINSON

Could have been, yes, I can't recall it but it could have been, it was just a whole mêlée like and we were trying to back each other up and the big thing in a situation like that is trying to keep one of your mates from getting pulled into the crowd and I might have grabbed him by the back of the collar and pulled him back out of a situation.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

I don't know.

OK. So to sum up from your point of view, was it the most serious set of circumstances that you had seen in that location.

ATKINSON

Well.

That would have been dangerous or the most dangerous or how would you describe it.

ATKINSON

Normally the situations that are there would involve at the most half a dozen sir.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

You know.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

And this situation obviously involved a lot

more people than that.

Ehm.

ATKINSON

My, my thoughts on the thing are there weren't enough people just there to deal with it full stop.

Yeah. But was it, did you feel that you were in danger.

ATKINSON

Oh yes at any time the three of us could have been overrun like with, if you count, if you count maybe sixty of a crowd at one stage there was three of us on the ground, we were outnumbered twenty to one.

Yeah and from your point of view you feel you did a reasonable job is that what you're saying.

ATKINSON

Yes, aha.

Right.

ATKINSON

And I feel that the media sort of hung us out to dry over it you know we never.

Well that's, that's.

ATKINSON

I know aye we never got our point of view sort of, well I understand you can't talk about these things before they go to court so from that point of view we sort of.

Who do you think started this fracas. This fight, this riot, call it what you like.

ATKINSON

I don't really know because as I say when we got out they were sort of cat calling at each other and just, they seemed to just meet, just out of the blue, I don't know, I couldn't say the Nationalists run to the Prods or the Prods run to the Nationalists they just seemed to, it was like two clouds meeting and a bolt of lightning coming, you know they just bang and away they went.

Thank you indeed. One more thing who all lives in the house with you.

ATKINSON

My wife, my son and my daughter.

And what age is your son.

ATKINSON

He'll be seventeen this birthday.

And your daughter.

ATKINSON

She's twelve.

Yeah. OK. OK I'm now terminating or we've now finished with this interview I'll give you the notice that'll explain what will happen to the tape, it's a form PACE 21, before I switch off the tape recorder do you wish to clarify anything Robert.

ATKINSON

No.

Do you wish to add anything.

ATKINSON

No.

Do you wish to make a written statement about this whole matter.

ATKINSON

Well I've already made a statement to, what youse have.

OK I'm now switching off the tape recorder the time which is taken from my watch is 10.02 pm.