

MASTER TAPE NUMBER: T146538A - ROBINSON

TAPE NO.1 - 10.5.97

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an interview room at Lurgan Police Station. I am [REDACTED] of Portadown Police Station. The other police officer present is Detective Constable Keys from Portadown CID. The date is Saturday May the 10th, 1997 and the time now from my watch is 10.12pm.

What is your full name.

ROBINSON

Rory Randolph Arthur Robinson.

And how old are you Rory.

ROBINSON

Twenty five.

And where do you live.

ROBINSON

[REDACTED]

Also present is.

SOLICITOR

[REDACTED], Solicitor.

At the conclusion of this tape I will give to you a notice explaining what will happen to the tapes, do you understand that Rory.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Rory at twenty to eight this evening in Portadown you were arrested by my colleague here for the involvement and suspicion of murder of Robert Hamill and also the serious offence of grievous bodily harm on [REDACTED] [REDACTED], is that correct Rory.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Before I can put questions to you I must caution you and the caution is 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 want me to explain that caution to you

or are you happy with it.

ROBINSON

I am happy enough.

I must also point out that you are entitled to legal representation which you have here at the moment, okay. Rory, I want to take you back to the early hours of Sunday the 27th of April 1997 to the area of Market Street/High Street, Portadown where there was a fight between a group of Protestants and a small group of Catholics. Were you in that area at the time that fight was taking place.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Will you, for the purpose of the records, tell me what happened, what you saw, where you were.

ROBINSON

I was just walking up the town and I got as far as the church. I heard shouting, orange bastards and things like that there. I looked around and there was a big scuffle that I could see.

And what time was that.

ROBINSON

After half one.

Half one. To take you back to the beginning and what you just said, whereabouts in the town where you before making your way to the church.

ROBINSON

What.

Where were you.

ROBINSON

Just walking, dandering up the town.

You were walking from the bottom of the town towards the St Marks Church right.

ROBINSON

Yes.

On what side of the road were you on.

ROBINSON

The left hand side.

Which is, which is.

ROBINSON

What do you mean.

Which side is that to you, give me a landmark, refer to a shop.

ROBINSON

Wellworths.

Wellworths. Who were you with.

ROBINSON

Myself.

Yourself and where did you come from.

ROBINSON

Where was I that night.

Yes.

ROBINSON

The Coach.

The Coach.

ROBINSON

Banbridge.

And who did you go to the Coach with.

ROBINSON

I was there by myself. I seen my girlfriend over there.

And how did you arrive at the Coach.

ROBINSON

On the bus.

Bus. Where did the bus leave from.

ROBINSON

The bottom of the town, Portadown.

Is that the normal way you travel to the Coach.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Are you a regular customer at the Coach, are you a regular user of that bus.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Who else was on the bus at that time.

ROBINSON

I don't know, I couldn't tell you, I don't know, I can't remember anybody.

You can't remember anybody.

ROBINSON

No.

What is the name of your girlfriend.

ROBINSON

Clare Glover.

And where is Clare from.

ROBINSON

Waringstown.

Whereabouts in Waringstown.

ROBINSON

I don't know what her address is.

How long have you been going out with her.

ROBINSON

Three or four months.

Three or four months and did you meet her at
the Coach.

ROBINSON

Yes.

And was it just you and Clare throughout the
evening or did you socialise with other
people that came on the bus.

ROBINSON

Just me and her.

So I take it you caught the bus back to Portadown.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Did you see anybody on the bus going back that you knew.

ROBINSON

Not that I can remember no, no.

During the course of the evening how much would you say you had to drink at the Coach.

ROBINSON

A few pints and a couple of half'ns.

Can you repeat that for me.

ROBINSON

A few pints and a couple of half'ns.

How many pints.

ROBINSON

I wasn't counting, I don't know.

Were you drunk.

ROBINSON

Drunkish.

What do you mean by drunkish.

ROBINSON

I still knew what I was doing like.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

I still knew what I was doing.

You are quite sure of that.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Okay so what time would you have arrived back
in Portadown.

ROBINSON

About half one or so.

Half one and where did the bus deposit you.

ROBINSON

At the top of the town outside Z-Cabs.

And what did you do from there.

ROBINSON

What did I do.

Yes.

ROBINSON

As I told you, I walked up the town.

Did you not speak to anybody when you were walking.

ROBINSON

No.

Did you not walk up the town with anybody.

ROBINSON

No.

You are quite sure about that.

ROBINSON

Yes.

You are absolutely sure.

ROBINSON

Positive.

So as you were walking up the town, you were on the left hand side going up towards St

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07568

Marks Church. What did you see ahead of you.

ROBINSON

The church.

Yes. Sorry did I say something funny.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

Did I say something funny.

ROBINSON

I don't know, what did you say.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

Why what did you say.

I said what did you see in front of you as
you were walking up the town.

ROBINSON

The church.

The church.

ROBINSON

Yes.

What about people.

995

ROBINSON

I don't think so no.

Did you walk past any people.

ROBINSON

I can't remember, no.

You can't remember. Were you part of any group of people.

ROBINSON

No.

So when you get to the church, what happens.

ROBINSON

I heard all the shouting and I stopped.

You stopped because it drew your attention.

ROBINSON

Yes.

What kind of shouting did you hear.

ROBINSON

I heard orange bastards and things like that there.

Well what else.

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ROBINSON

I can't remember.

You can't remember.

ROBINSON

No.

So how can you be sure then that you heard orange bastards being shouted.

ROBINSON

It was just things like that there that was being shouted. It might not have been shouted at all.

I beg your pardon.

ROBINSON

It might not have been shouted, just things like that there.

It might not have been shouted! Well look you know, I am looking for the truth.

ROBINSON

Well I am telling you the truth.

Well either it was called out or it wasn't called out.

ROBINSON

I can't really remember.

You can't remember.

ROBINSON

No.

Whether anything was called out.

ROBINSON

There was stuff being called out.

Can you recall what it was.

ROBINSON

No.

So you don't know if orange bastards was called out then.

ROBINSON

It might have been.

But you are not sure.

ROBINSON

No.

What about fenian bastards.

ROBINSON

I don't know, it might have been too.

It might have been. So when you heard this and this drew your attention to this shouting, did you turn around and face the direction that you walked from.

ROBINSON

Yes.

And what did you see.

ROBINSON

Just there was scuffling in the middle of the street.

Describe that bit of a scuffle for me please.

ROBINSON

A crowd gathering around each other.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

A crowd gathering around each other.

Right and what number of a crowd would you say it was.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

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Well roughly.

ROBINSON

Ten or twelve.

Male persons, female.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

A mixture of both.

ROBINSON

Probably yes.

You are not sure.

ROBINSON

No.

So what are these ten or twelve persons doing.

ROBINSON

What.

What are these ten or twelve persons doing.

ROBINSON

As I said they were shouting at each other, I told you.

Listen, can I just state quite clearly Rory, I don't want to hear things that aren't true regarding either it was or it was not, okay, because this is a very serious allegation for what you have been arrested for.

ROBINSON

I know.

Now please answer the questions, if you are not sure, say you are not sure. If you are sure, say you are sure. Do I make myself clear to you Rory.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Now I will just take you back over that again. You saw a group of ten or twelve persons, what were they doing, or what did they appear to be doing to you.

ROBINSON

They looked as if they were fighting like.

Amongst themselves.

ROBINSON

I think so yes.

You think so.

How far would you have been away from that group at that time.

ROBINSON

At the church.

You were right up at the church.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Did you move back down towards the town centre after that.

ROBINSON

About half an hour after that yes.

So you stood there for half an hour, did you.

ROBINSON

I don't, I can't remember the time like, I stood until the time the police all came up again.

Right.

ROBINSON

They walked me down home again, so they did, a couple of officers.

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07576

So you stayed there on your own looking at what was going on, observing for quite a period of time.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Which suggests you must have been taking a lot in, in that period of time that you were watching. Would that be a correct assumption on my behalf Rory.

ROBINSON

As I told you I couldn't really see right.

Why was that.

ROBINSON

It was a brave wee distance up like.

Was your view obstructed.

ROBINSON

I don't think so no.

Was the street lighting on and working.

ROBINSON

Yes.

So why was your view obscured.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

Why was your view obscured.

ROBINSON

It was night time like.

Go on.

ROBINSON

That's it.

That's it.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Do you wear glasses.

ROBINSON

Sometimes yes.

For what purpose.

ROBINSON

Long distance.

Long distance. What length of distance.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

What length of distance.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

You don't know. So you are standing there watching in your own words for about thirty minutes, did you walk towards it just to see what was going on, did you move closer.

ROBINSON

No.

No.

ROBINSON

No.

Did you hear anything being called out.

ROBINSON

I heard things being shouted like but I couldn't hear what they were.

What were you wearing that night.

ROBINSON

An orange shirt.

Yes.

ROBINSON A blue bomber jacket and cream pinstripe
jeans, trousers.

Right and what type of shoes were you
wearing.

ROBINSON I can't remember, I don't know.

How many pairs of shoes do you own.

ROBINSON How many.

Yes.

ROBINSON A brave lot.

How many is a brave lot.

ROBINSON Twenty or so.

Twenty. And where are those shoes at the
moment.

ROBINSON Pardon.

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07580

Where are those shoes at the moment.

ROBINSON

In the house.

What house.

ROBINSON

[REDACTED]

Between the two addresses.

ROBINSON

Yes.

So going back, what type of orange shirt was it you were wearing.

ROBINSON

Orange with check on it, wee small squares.

So you were watching this group of people yes.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Did you see anybody on the ground.

ROBINSON

I don't think so, I can't remember if there were.

You can't remember. For a man that is standing there for approximately thirty minutes, you can't remember.

ROBINSON

No.

You must admit it, it was a special night really that night, wasn't it.

ROBINSON

Why was that.

Well it is not every night, every Sunday morning that you get somebody murdered in Portadown, is it. It is a bit like where were you when John F Kennedy was shot and killed. So when you stood there what happened after the thirty minutes had past.

ROBINSON

Just all your policemen came up and pushed everybody up towards where I was standing.

And you were there, you were still standing there when they pushed, when the policemen pushed this group up.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Did you know any of the group.

ROBINSON

Not really no.

What do you mean not really.

ROBINSON

No I didn't, no.

You had never seen them before in your life.

ROBINSON

No.

You had never set eyes on them before in your life.

ROBINSON

No.

And you had never spoken to any of that group before in your life.

ROBINSON

No.

You are quite sure about that.

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ROBINSON

Yes.

Did you speak to any policemen.

ROBINSON

Yes a couple, yes.

Who.

ROBINSON

I think it was your woman, Wright you call her.

Wright. Did you speak to any male officers.

ROBINSON

I was talking to a couple, I don't know their names like.

Can you describe them.

ROBINSON

There was one of them old, with grey hair and a beard.

Yes. So how long did you stand amongst this group that had been pushed back towards you.

ROBINSON

It would not have even been a minute.

Were you concerned by the fact that the police had pushed this group of ten or twelve people.

ROBINSON

Yes, up towards me, yes.

How concerned were you.

ROBINSON

I just told the officer I was going down home and two officers walked me down home, right down the town again.

Down the town again. Did you take part in any.

Sorry, you asked the police to walk you down the town, did you.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Do you know was it two male officers or a male and a female, or three males.

ROBINSON

Two males.

Two males and how far did they walk you down

the town.

ROBINSON

Just down to about Edward Street.

Had you, were you talking to these officers
as you were going down.

ROBINSON

Yes, we had a conversation like.

What about.

ROBINSON

About what happened there and all.

And what did they say to you.

ROBINSON

They said that it was awful.

Did you tell them you had been standing there
for thirty minutes.

ROBINSON

No they never asked.

Did you volunteer it to them.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

Did you volunteer the information to them.

ROBINSON

What information.

The fact that you had been standing at the church for thirty minutes.

ROBINSON

No.

So you were walking, do you know who the officers were that escorted you down.

ROBINSON

No.

What did they look like.

ROBINSON

I think you might call one of them [REDACTED] you know.

[REDACTED].

ROBINSON

Yes.

Right can you describe [REDACTED] to us.

ROBINSON

My height five eleven, fairish hair, medium

build.

What age.

ROBINSON

I would say about thirty five.

What about the other officer.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

Did you see them get out of a police car or a landrover.

ROBINSON

I never seen none. They were already standing there, I didn't see what they got out of.

Did they have their batons drawn.

ROBINSON

I am not sure.

You are not sure. So once you reach Edward Street, did they leave you there.

ROBINSON

Yes.

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07588

And where did the officers go.

ROBINSON

I don't know, I didn't look around.

Where did you think they might have gone.

ROBINSON

Probably back up to the crowd.

So where did you do from there.

ROBINSON

Where did I go.

Yes.

ROBINSON

Home.

Where's home.

ROBINSON

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

You haven't lived there for a while, sure you haven't.

ROBINSON

What.

You haven't lived in [REDACTED] for a while.

ROBINSON

My da was only telling you that this morning.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

My da was only saying that this morning to you.

Where are you living now.

ROBINSON

[REDACTED]
How long have you stayed there.

ROBINSON

A couple of nights, I only got the key last Tuesday.

Have you stuff in it.

ROBINSON

Just a bed.

Made up.

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07590

ROBINSON

No it is just lying on the ground.

Have you any clothes or anything in it.

ROBINSON

No.

Where is the clothes that you were wearing that Sunday morning.

ROBINSON

You took them this morning.

Where, how do you know that.

ROBINSON

What.

How do you know that.

ROBINSON

I was home earlier on.

You were what.

ROBINSON

I was in [REDACTED] earlier on.

What time.

ROBINSON

About five or six.

1017

07591

Where did you stay last night.

ROBINSON

I was at a party in Lisburn.

Whereabouts.

ROBINSON

I can't remember.

Well who were you with.

ROBINSON

Myself.

You couldn't have been with yourself if you were staying with somebody Rory.

ROBINSON

I met a crowd up there so I did.

Who were you staying with last night.

ROBINSON

Myself. I don't know the boys names, I just know them to see like.

Going back to your clothes Rory, the clothes that you were wearing that Sunday morning, you went home to where that Sunday morning.

ROBINSON

[REDACTED]

What's the full address.

ROBINSON

[REDACTED]

And I take it that you went straight to bed,
did you.

ROBINSON

Yes.

What did you do with the clothes that morning
when you got up, those that you were wearing
that morning.

ROBINSON

I put them back in the wardrobe.

Well are they there now.

ROBINSON

No you took them this morning.

Are you sure about that.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Did you feel concerned, what time did you speak to your parents.

ROBINSON

What.

What time did you speak to your father.

ROBINSON

When.

To-day.

ROBINSON

About five or six.

And did he tell you the events of the day, did he inform you regarding yourself.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Did you not become concerned.

ROBINSON

I did yes.

Why didn't you come to the police station then.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

Why didn't you not volunteer yourself at the police station if you were concerned.

ROBINSON

They told me to call back in the morning.

Is that right.

ROBINSON

Yes.

So where did you go after that then.

ROBINSON

Where did I go.

Yes.


ROBINSON

Down the town and met the girlfriend.

Which one.

ROBINSON

What do you mean which one.

Well was it this girl from 

ROBINSON

Yes.

Was it a pre-arranged meeting.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Did she come back to Portadown with you that night.

ROBINSON

No.

In the early hours.

ROBINSON

No.

Did you make any verbal chants that night.

ROBINSON

No.

Towards any group of people.

ROBINSON

No.

Did you make any attempt to go against the police that night.

ROBINSON

No.

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07596

You would remember that of course Rory if you did, wouldn't you.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

You would remember that of course if you did.

ROBINSON

If I did what.

If you had went against the police, or challenged the police or whatever.

ROBINSON

I would have yes.

Are you quite sure about that.

ROBINSON

I had no need to.

What.

ROBINSON

I had no need to, I was nowhere near the police.

You were nowhere near the police.

ROBINSON

No.

Why did you ask the police to walk you down

1023

07597

the street.

ROBINSON

Is that when they came up the town.

Yes, why did you ask them to do that.

ROBINSON

Why.

Yes.

ROBINSON

There was still you know people running about.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

I thought there still might have been people running about. After I had seen the rows like I didn't fancy walking down on my own.

Were you frightened.

ROBINSON

Yes, I was sort of yes.

Why did you spend thirty minutes at the church watching what was unfolding.

ROBINSON

It was nowhere near me.

So why didn't you make your way home through
the back streets.

ROBINSON

Up to [REDACTED]

Why didn't you make your way home, through
the back streets.

ROBINSON

How was I going to get home.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

How was I going to get home.

Well how do you get home normally.

ROBINSON

Down the town.

Why didn't you go around the town.

ROBINSON

It was too far to walk.

So you were not that scared.

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07599

ROBINSON

Pardon.

You weren't that scared.

ROBINSON

I was scared enough yes.

If you were scared enough, you would have got completely off side, isn't that right.

ROBINSON

Is that right.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

Is that right.

Can I just say something. Do you realise.

I take it, now hold on a wee second, I take it that you are being sarcastic there.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

You are being sarcastic there.

ROBINSON

Not really no.

Are you a well mannered chap.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

Are you a well mannered chap.

ROBINSON

I have got manners yes.

Tell me what is your view towards Catholics.

ROBINSON

I have no problem with them.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

I have no problem with them.

You are friendly with any, are you.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Who.

ROBINSON

The ones I work with.

Who are they.

ROBINSON

Boys from [REDACTED]

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07601

What do you call them.

ROBINSON

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

And where do you work.

ROBINSON

(Inaudible).

And what do you call the premises you are
working at.

ROBINSON

Rapid Engineering.

Rapid Engineering.

ROBINSON

Yes.

You have no dislike for Catholics, have you.

ROBINSON

Not really no.

Not really.

ROBINSON

No.

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What do you mean by not really.

ROBINSON

Nothing.

When you say not really.

ROBINSON

I have no dislike for them at all.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

Nothing against them at all.

Who are your friends, who would you socialise with if you are socialising with any people in Portadown.

ROBINSON

Ian Mahood.

Yes, who else. You just have the one person that you socialise with.

ROBINSON

I keep myself to myself.

Would Ian ever accompany you to the Coach.

ROBINSON

The odd time yes.

Do you know if he was on that coach.

ROBINSON

He didn't go out that night so he didn't.

Did you call for him.

ROBINSON

Yes I phoned him yes.

What time was that.

ROBINSON

About seven or so. Seven.

So you walk up the street, did you pass any groups of persons as you walked up the street and in particular at the mouth of Thomas Street and High Street there.

ROBINSON

No.

So why were you going up the street.

ROBINSON

I was going to the Chinese at the top of Jervis Street.

Right, is that the only one that is opened at

1030

07604

that time of the night.

ROBINSON

I wouldn't use anybody else's.

I beg your pardon.

ROBINSON

I wouldn't use any other ones, I always go to that one.

Did you get to the Chinese.

ROBINSON

No.

Why not.

ROBINSON

Because I heard all the fighting in the middle of the town.

Yes go on.

ROBINSON

That was it.

So there was fighting going on in the middle of the town then.

ROBINSON

Scuffles yes.

(03)

07605

There was scuffles.

ROBINSON

Yes.

By that you mean what several scuffles.

ROBINSON

I noticed a crowd altogether and I could see hands swinging. I don't know if anybody was hit or not like.

You saw hands swinging, what do you mean, waving hands or punching.

ROBINSON

I don't know, it could have been slapping, I don't really know.

So what you are saying is you saw what could be referred to as an act of violence ie somebody could have been slapping somebody, or there may have been punches.

ROBINSON

I didn't stand long, they could have been doing anything.

Well why did you not make your way on to the

1032

07606

Chinese, this was a fight, so why should you stand about.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

Why did you not go on to the Chinese.

ROBINSON

(Inaudible).

Pardon.

ROBINSON

(Inaudible).

Why did you not go on about your business.

ROBINSON

Nosiness or something.

Well I am putting it to you that you were that nosey on this occasion that actually you went on down and you made it your business to get involved in this fight.

ROBINSON

No.

Can you prove that.

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07607

ROBINSON

Can I prove it.

Yes.

ROBINSON

No.

Was there anybody in the area of the church during the time that you were standing there.

ROBINSON

No.

No, nobody.

Did you see any pedestrians coming up along the sides of the High Street/Market Street area.

ROBINSON

Not that I recall no.

Were you joined by anybody.

ROBINSON

No.

So these two policemen that you approach, where were they coming from.

ROBINSON

With the rest of them, bringing the rest of

1034

07608

the crowd up the town.

And you walked forward through the group.

ROBINSON

No I was standing there and I asked if I could be covered and he told me to move on.

Yes.

ROBINSON

I told him I lived at the other end of the town.

Well were you aggressive with that policeman.

ROBINSON

No.

That was perfectly friendly was it.

ROBINSON

That's right.

So what did you do, walk on down.

ROBINSON

I asked him would he walk me down.

I just find it a bit you know difficult like it was such a violent scene that had taken place, that they could spare two policemen to

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07609

walk you down the street at that moment in time.

Whereabouts on the Coach bus did you sit.

ROBINSON

The front seat I think.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

The front seat.

Who sat with you.

ROBINSON

Nobody was sitting beside me.

Do you know who the driver of the bus was.

ROBINSON

No.

Was he the regular driver.

ROBINSON

I never noticed.

Who do you pay your fare to.

ROBINSON

[REDACTED]

And what does [REDACTED] do.

ROBINSON

He runs the bus as far as I know.

And what else.

Was he driving it.

ROBINSON

I don't think so no.

So where did you give your money to him then.

ROBINSON

On the bus.

And where was he on the bus.

ROBINSON

He was standing at the front of it.

In the doorway.

ROBINSON

I think so yes.

Or inside.

ROBINSON

He was standing in the doorway, I can't

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07611

really remember.

And how much did he charge you.

ROBINSON

Three pound.

So did you have any conversation with anybody
on the way to Banbridge.

ROBINSON

No.

Nobody and I take it you pay your entry at
the Coach.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Where did you arrange to meet your
girlfriend.

ROBINSON

In the Coach.

Whereabouts in the Coach.

ROBINSON

Just at the cocktail bar, you call it.

Was she with anybody or was she on her own.

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ROBINSON

On her own.

Does your girlfriend have a car.

ROBINSON

No.

And so you stayed the night together socially, were you joined by any other person at all. Did you recognise any other person from the Portadown area.

ROBINSON

No.

And you left at closing time and got on the Coach.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Where did your girlfriend go.

ROBINSON

She went home.

How did she get home.

ROBINSON

The Lurgan bus I think.

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So where did you sit on the coach going back.

ROBINSON

The front seat.

The front seat. You must be a lucky boy to keep getting this front seat all the time. Who checked the persons going on to the bus.

ROBINSON

I think [REDACTED] was there as well coming back, do you mean coming home.

Does he drive the bus or does he socially.

ROBINSON

I don't think he was driving that night.

You are not sure. So you go back and you are deposited at Z-Cabs.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Did you not stop to talk to anybody.

ROBINSON

No.

No-one at all, male, female.

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ROBINSON

No.

All you wanted was a Chinese.

ROBINSON

Yes.

How many Chinese do you know that are open at that time of the morning in the Portadown area. Within walking distance.

ROBINSON

I would say the majority of them.

So what made you go to the one in Jervis Street.

ROBINSON

That is the one I always use.

Every time you come back from the Coach.

ROBINSON

Yes.

And you fancied a Chinese.

ROBINSON

Yes.

That is the one you use.

ROBINSON

Yes.

So you are walking on up through the town and you hear this commotion, you see a group of youths or persons. Are you listening to me Rory.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Just tell us, as you walk up past the junction of Edward Street, did you see any persons outside Boss Hoggs Chip Shop before you reached the end of Edward Street.

ROBINSON

No.

What time would it have been that you would have been passing the junction of Edward Street.

ROBINSON

It was sometime after half one.

Would you try and narrow that down if you would please.

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ROBINSON I couldn't really tell you, I had no watch with me.

You hadn't stopped.

ROBINSON Pardon.

You hadn't stopped after getting off the bus.

ROBINSON No.

How long did it take you, five, ten minutes walking up that length, would it.

ROBINSON Up and down.

Yes.

ROBINSON Yes I suppose so.

Whenever you were passing the end of Thomas Street, what did you see.

ROBINSON Not a thing.

Not a thing. Was there many about.

ROBINSON

Not that I seen.

Are you saying that you were the only one on the street then at that time walking past the end of Thomas Street.

ROBINSON

It is just because I never seen anybody else like.

ROBINSON

And you would do if there had been anybody else there.

If I had seen anybody I knew I would have.

ROBINSON

You didn't see anybody you knew, if there had have been anybody else there, you would recall that, wouldn't you.

ROBINSON

Probably yes.

Did you see police at any stage.

ROBINSON

Yes there was a landrover sitting somewhere in the town, or it was driving past or something.

1044

07618

Whereabouts was that at.

ROBINSON

I don't know. It was the right hand side of the street any way so it was, whenever I seen it sitting there. It is usually there all the time.

And is it because it is usually there all the time, is that why you were assuming that it must have been there in the early hours of Sunday morning.

ROBINSON

Yes.

You don't know whether there was one there or not.

ROBINSON

I think there was one yes.

And there was absolutely nobody else about, you walked on up the street.

ROBINSON

Yes.

How long have you lived in Portadown.

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ROBINSON About ten years.

About ten years. Your parents' address, is that the only address that you have lived at in Portadown.

ROBINSON Yes.

Do you have any association or are you friendly with anybody out the [REDACTED] area.

ROBINSON I run about that end of the town yes.

Who.

ROBINSON Ian Mahood.

Ian Mahood. Is that where he lives, in the [REDACTED]

ROBINSON Yes.

I find it difficult to accept for a person that has lived in the Portadown area and who

goes to the Coach on a regular basis, gets on a coach, doesn't recognise anybody except [REDACTED] doesn't converse with anybody.

Gets to the Coach, doesn't recognise anybody apart from his girlfriend, gets back on the coach and he doesn't converse with or recognise anybody going home. He is deposited outside Z-Cabs in Portadown along with the rest of the coach, you don't stop and converse and you don't recognise anybody, yet when you get to the top at St Marks Church there, your attention is drawn to something that is taking place. Now when we put the questions to you about this incident, as I pointed out to you, you were very vague, but when it comes to asking you who you were with, you were absolutely sure, positive you didn't see, speak or recognise anybody else for the whole evening apart from your girlfriend. I find that difficult to accept.

ROBINSON

That is the truth.

So were you assaulted or anything or hit that night. Did it happen that night or in the early hours of that morning.

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ROBINSON

I had no reason to be assaulted.

I am putting it to you in fact that you were actually struck by a policeman using a baton that night.

ROBINSON

They must have the wrong person.

Isn't that right.

ROBINSON

They must have the wrong person.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

They must have the wrong person.

By a policeman who actually knows you by name.

ROBINSON

No.

Well why would he say that he had to use his baton on a person he knows as Rory Robinson if that wasn't true. Why would he say that.

ROBINSON

I haven't a clue, you need to ask him.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

I haven't a clue, you need to ask him.

Are you suggesting that he is lying.

ROBINSON

I never got struck by no baton.

Are you suggesting the officer is wrong or is he lying.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

You don't know. So when this group was moved up towards you, did you not feel frightened or scared.

ROBINSON

I did yes.

So what did you do about it.

ROBINSON

I seen the police coming up, that's when I decided to go home.

Did you not move further away as you saw this

group coming towards you. This violent group.

ROBINSON

No.

Why not.

ROBINSON

They were on the left hand side of the street and I was standing over a bit.

So you, say that again.

ROBINSON

They were on the left hand side and I was over on the right hand side of the church.

So you are saying that as you were looking down Market Street, they were on your left hand side.

ROBINSON

Yes.

And where were you standing exactly.

ROBINSON

The traffic lights near the church there on the right hand side.

Which is opposite Boots or Connors.

ROBINSON

The right hand side, the other side, you know
the Market, there.

Near the market, you were standing on the
traffic island.

ROBINSON

No.

In the middle of the road.

ROBINSON

The church, the traffic lights at the corner,
there.

And this group was coming up your left hand
side.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Why didn't you move out of the way, why
didn't you cross to the far side of Market
Street onto the pavement by Hoggs Cafe there.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

You don't know yet you are frightened of this group, aren't you.

ROBINSON

Pardon.

Did you hear what I said to you.

ROBINSON

No.

Why not, are you listening to these questions Rory.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Now for the purpose of the record, the suspect is leaning back in his chair, with his arms folded over his head.

Now I will repeat the question to you.

Why didn't you walk away to safety to the side of Market Street where the Hoggs Cafe is situated.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

You don't know. Well that tells me you either weren't concerned for your safety or you didn't feel threatened about this group coming towards you.

ROBINSON

I was scared yes. I don't know why I didn't move like.

Were you that scared that you couldn't move.

ROBINSON

No. I felt safe because I seen the police coming up.

Or did you feel safe because you knew who was in the group.

ROBINSON

No as I said, I felt safe because I seen the police coming.

How many officers did you seen there.

ROBINSON

I don't know, there was a brave few.

Well what is brave few to you.

ROBINSON

I don't know, I couldn't tell you.

I don't think you were really bothered about this.

ROBINSON

What.

I don't think you were really bothered.
Would that be a correct assumption on my
behalf.

ROBINSON

No.

What did you say to these officers.

ROBINSON

When

Sorry.

ROBINSON

When.

When you approached them.

ROBINSON

I just asked them was it alright to walk down
the town.

Yes.

ROBINSON

They said yes and I said do you mind walking

down with me.

And did you say why.

ROBINSON

Why what.

Why you wanted them to walk with you.

ROBINSON

No.

So you are asking us to assume that you
approached two police officers.

ROBINSON

They approached me.

They approached you and what did they say to
you.

ROBINSON

They told me to move on up the other road, up
the town.

And why did they say that.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

And what did you say.

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ROBINSON There were probably looking the town clear.

And what did you say to that.

ROBINSON (Inaudible).

Did you tell them where you lived.

ROBINSON Yes.

Were was that.

ROBINSON [REDACTED]

No whereabouts in [REDACTED]

ROBINSON [REDACTED]

Did you give them your address and the
number.

ROBINSON No.

Did you say [REDACTED]

ROBINSON

Just [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and they both agreed to walk down with you.

ROBINSON

Yes.

So what were you chatting about as you were walking down there.

ROBINSON

Just conversation.

Because this is quite important, because they can support these two police officers, they can support your version of events, can't they and they can also support the fact that possibly you weren't struck by a police officer with a baton.

ROBINSON

I wasn't.

As you say they were escorting you out of the area from the scene to safety. Did you thank them.

ROBINSON

I don't think so no.

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Did you stop on the way going home.

ROBINSON

No.

Did you see anybody going home.

ROBINSON

No.

What time were you in to the house that night.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

Was there anybody up or.

ROBINSON

No.

And what did you do with your clothes then.

ROBINSON

I put them back into the wardrobe.

Take your foot off the table.

And have those clothes been washed since then.

ROBINSON

No.

Did you discuss the events with your parents.

ROBINSON

No.

Have you had any conversations with anybody else in relation to this.

ROBINSON

No there was just talk about the town and in the paper.

What did you hear, what was the talk about the town.

ROBINSON

There was a thing in the paper about somebody getting a hiding.

Now you read that in the paper, (inaudible).
You said there was talk about the town, what was that.

ROBINSON

Just that somebody got a hiding.

And who was telling you that.

ROBINSON

I can't really remember who.

When did that conversation take place.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

So again I have to put it to you, I mean that you are vague on matters such as that and I would suggest to you that you are being vague deliberately. You are being evasive here.

ROBINSON

Why is that.

Because you are involved in this incident up to your two eyes.

ROBINSON

It had nothing to do with me at all.

That you were one of the leading lights in it.

ROBINSON

It had nothing to do with me.

Well I would suggest to you that you are lying.

ROBINSON

No I am telling the truth.

You are lying in an attempt to try and distance yourself.

ROBINSON

No.

And yet there is witnesses there even to say that you were at the scene, you were part of that crowd.

ROBINSON

They must be telling lies well.

You weren't escorted down the street Rory at your request to say to two policemen 'listen I am scared here, would you mind walking me down the street'.

ROBINSON

I was yes.

No!

ROBINSON

Yes I was.

How long have you known [REDACTED].

ROBINSON Six or seven years.

And have you spoken to him before.

ROBINSON I have said hello, yes.

Where.

ROBINSON When he was walking around the town.

Where is he stationed.

ROBINSON I think it is Portadown.

In Edward Street.

ROBINSON I think so yes.

How did you first come to know him.

ROBINSON I think (inaudible) one time.

For.

ROBINSON I don't know what it was for.

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A motoring offence.

ROBINSON

No I think it was for criminal damage or something.

What age. Do you have a record.

ROBINSON

Why.

Well it is a matter for the tape, do you have a conviction for criminal damage.

ROBINSON

Yes.

You do, so that supports your theory of events ie my knowing [REDACTED], would that be correct.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Can you recall whether it was within the last year, the last two or three years.

ROBINSON

What's that.

When your dealings were with Constable

██████████, I think you said.

ROBINSON

About five or six years ago.

Five or six years ago and I take it you were just on speaking terms in the way of hello since then.

ROBINSON

Yes.

How many times would you say you said hello to him in that period of time.

ROBINSON

I couldn't recall.

You couldn't recall. So you felt quite comfortable and secure in the fact that when you approached ██████████, that he would escort you.

ROBINSON

Yes.

And yet here is this man that you have known in a very lackadaisical casual basis and you didn't talk at all to him as he was escorting you down the town.

ROBINSON

There was conversation talk but I can't remember what was said.

You can't.

ROBINSON

No.

Tell me something, how can you not recall these things right, things which I consider important, so does my colleague, and yet you can quite categorically say that you are not involved in anything.

ROBINSON

It had nothing to do with me.

Is it a case Rory now that this gentleman has died, that you don't want to have anything to do with it.

ROBINSON

I told you the truth all along.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

I told you the truth all along.

But we are saying that you are not telling

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the truth Rory.

ROBINSON

No.

You are not because your version of events is a total variance to what witnesses say.

You are not even being straight about a simple issue like your home address.

ROBINSON

What are you talking about.

Pardon.

ROBINSON

What are you talking about.

I am talking about your home address.

ROBINSON

My home address is [REDACTED]

You don't live there.

ROBINSON

I do fucking live there.

You do.

ROBINSON

I did to the weekend there.

You see that you told me that you lived there.

ROBINSON

I only got the keys to the flat last Tuesday.

When I spoke to your father, your father said no. Why have you left home as a matter of interest.

ROBINSON

Because I wanted to get a flat of my own.

Is it not a case that your father was fed up with you and told you to get out of the home.

ROBINSON

No.

How can, just going back to where you were standing there by the traffic lights at St Marks Church, you were looking down towards this group of ten or twelve persons for approximately thirty minutes. You were watching events, what events were taking place, or have taken place or what was taking place after. Is that correct Rory.

ROBINSON

Yes.

And yet you cannot recall anything whatsoever of that thirty minutes.

ROBINSON

No.

Yet leading up to that time and after that time you can quite clearly say that you never stopped, you never spoke, you never saw anybody you recognised.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Yet when it comes, you are absolutely adamant about that and here you have a pedestrian walking about his business, you stop, you are concerned because this noise is going on behind you and you don't recall nothing.

ROBINSON

No.

Why is that then.

ROBINSON

I have a bad memory so I have.

You have a bad memory, so are you saying that due to your bad memory that certain things that you say cannot be believed or recalled.

ROBINSON

I can't remember seeing what happened.

You can't.

Your body language gives and at the minute it gives me the impression that you are just totally not interested in this interview. Tell me I am wrong.

ROBINSON

You are wrong.

I can't believe you. Look at you. Just lying back in your chair, legs folded, arms across your head and I will say this to you, you have conducted yourself with a bit of sarcasm in the last forty minutes considering the serious allegation that you are facing.

I can't accept Rory that you got on a coach with people from the town where you live and you don't know anybody and you don't converse

with anybody and the only person you recognise is [REDACTED], the person you pay your money to.

ROBINSON

Yes.

I cannot accept it that when you returned on that journey, you don't converse, you don't even have anybody sitting next to you and you don't recognise anybody.

ROBINSON

That's the truth.

I put it to you, you are lying.

You have been put into this scene here by a number of persons and you are seen as part of the crowd, you are being aggressive, you are shouting and taunting the Nationalist crowd that is there.

ROBINSON

No.

And that shows that you have an absolute hatred in you.

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ROBINSON

No.

Absolute hatred. The evidence of the police that were there say that you were aggressive, you were verbally abusing the police and you were taunting and teasing the Catholic folk that were there.

ROBINSON

No.

And why would they say that.

ROBINSON

I don't know.

I put it to you now, is that lies.

ROBINSON

It could well be.

Is it or is it not.

ROBINSON

It must be yes.

It is lies.

ROBINSON

Yes.

They are telling lies.

ROBINSON

They must be.

You see your actions at that scene Rory was one of aggression, hatred, trying to force your way through.

ROBINSON

No.

Abusing the police. Your behaviour was such that night that in fact a police officer used his baton on you.

ROBINSON

No.

You will have remembered if he had one.

ROBINSON

If I was hit.

Yes.

ROBINSON

Yes.

Alright, is there anything that you wish to say or add at this stage.

ROBINSON

No.

We will give you a Form PACE 21 here, that is a notice to explain to you how you or your solicitor can have access to the tapes, alright.

That form has now been served on you at 2255, sorry 23, no 2255.

It is 2255 and we are now switching the tape off.

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