

Joint Statements of:

E [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Portadown

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

D [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Portadown

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Portadown

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

(E [REDACTED] is married to D [REDACTED] and E [REDACTED] and F [REDACTED] are sisters. F [REDACTED] and E [REDACTED] are cousins of Robert Hamill.)

On the night of the 26 April 1997 which was a Saturday, we were in St. Patrick's Hall which is in the middle of town. It is basically a Catholic social club. It is in Thomas Street. We had been there for about one hour before Robert came in. We arrived about 9:15 pm and we had got a taxi up to there. Robert arrived in about 10:30. He came in with two fellows and was standing at the bar. E [REDACTED] went and got him from the bar and he sat with the rest of us for the rest of the night. After 1.00 pm we went to leave the hall. We had been drinking and dancing in the interim. F [REDACTED] was not drinking. E [REDACTED] had about three pints of harp and D [REDACTED] had about six or eight pints of harp. Robert had been dancing with E [REDACTED] and he had not been drinking that much when he was in the hall. When they left Robert decided to go to E [REDACTED]'s house for something to eat. He lived in Lurgan. He was going to get a taxi from E [REDACTED]'s house to Lurgan. E [REDACTED] had Robert's sister babysitting. They were going to wait for a taxi but they needed to get home to let the babysitter out of the house. It would only have taken about five or ten minutes to walk, they had done it many times before. Mostly previous incidents which occurred in the main street had been incidents of verbal abuse although there had been some assaults. They would have got a taxi if there had of been a taxi waiting. They came out of the club and they saw a few fellows standing at the top of Woodhouse Street. This is the street which runs from the main street of Portadown towards the Catholic area. They saw a police jeep at the top of Woodhouse street. The jeep was facing to the right and they did not hear the engine and they did not see any lights on. High Street, which is the main street in Portadown, was well lit up. There are many banks and building societies on the street and there are always police about the place. When they saw the police they felt safe.

They did see two or three young fellows at the top of Woodhouse Street.

They walked out from Thomas Street onto High Street and as soon as they got off the kerb a crowd seemed to come from nowhere. You have to really be on High Street to see either to the left or to the right. Robert and his friends were talking and

did not hear anything until the crowd was on them. The first thing they knew two men were on the ground. The crowd clearly went for the two men. D does not remember anything about the incident from this point on.

The majority of the crowd were men but the girls can remember perhaps one woman. E said that after the initial attack a girl sat beside her and said "I am a prod and you are an RC are you going to be all right". E said that she lay on top of D after he was hit to the ground. She said that she basically had to get to him through the crowds, she had to crawl, she did not see any weapons. F was on her hands and knees sort of over Robert. The two girls were screaming. The whole thing seemed to occur very quickly. The beating of the two men continued while they were on the ground. The crowd was standing around and as the girls were going over to the two men they heard the crowd shouting "You Fenian bastard".

The two women were shouting "Police, help get an ambulance". They said it seemed to be a long time before any help arrived. They said that no police ever came out of the landrover which they estimate was ten to twelve feet away. E remembers an ambulance man coming to Robert and looking at him. He then got a stretcher and she then remembers the policeman telling her to put D in the recovery position. F says she remembers the ambulance being there and an ambulance man and her lifting Robert onto the stretcher. F says that the policeman that was there had glasses and he told her that the ambulance had arrived. She said that the whole time both D and Robert were very close to each other. Neither noticed where this policeman came from and he was not there during the attack.

D was able to get into the ambulance by himself. Two women and two men got into the ambulance and there was an attendant there as well. The attendant was treating Rob. He put an oxygen mask on Robert and he asked one of the girls to lift his head. They do not know who called the ambulance.

(The police have told Diane that they called the ambulance from the landrover. They also said that they phoned the hall to tell people to stay in the hall because there was a disturbance in the town.)

The two women said that the people involved in the attack were still there when the ambulance arrived. They said that the crowd was still very big. They say the ambulance reversed up Thomas Street to get towards them. None of them looked back at the scene. They estimate that the incident occurred about 1:15 pm or 1:20 pm.

They also spoke about a number of other eye witnesses who have spoken to [REDACTED]. They said that they are aware that people heard the screaming in the Railway Arms Bar which is a considerable distance away, perhaps one hundred and fifty or two hundred yards.

The two women said that police came to the hospital. There were two policemen in uniform.

They made statements the next day. The CID kept asking F was she wearing a white top. They said that there was a girl in a white top at the jeep. F said

she did not go the landrover and the police did not tell her what the girl had said. The police were stretched but at no time did they deny that they were there.

D [redacted] was in hospital just until the Sunday. He went to the police on the Monday or Tuesday to make a statement. They told him that when you are in that landrover you cannot see very much.

Both women agreed it seemed a long time between the attack and the arrival of the ambulance. All three agreed that they could not identify any of the people involved in the attack. D [redacted] had a cut on his right hand side of his face and bruising to the right hand side of his ribs, chest and his leg.

