

CONSULTATION ON THURSDAY, 30-10-97 AT HIGH COURT

Present: Gordon Kerr, Counsel
 ██████████, DPP
 Colin Prunty, witness
 Ita Brady from ██████████'s Office

GK: You made a statement on 8-5-97 taken by ██████████. You read over it and checked it.

CP: Yes.

GK: If I advise prosecution is there any difficulty about you giving evidence.

CP: No.

Counsel recollects from statement: You had 5 or 6 pints but say you weren't really drunk. You can remember leaving the hall (St Patrick's).

CP: Yes.

Counsel produces a location map and asks Colin Prunty to retrace his movements.

CP: We were at St Patrick's hall that night. When we left we went up Thomas Street.

Robert Hamill was at the front, behind him was F ██████████, D ██████████, myself and Maureen, my girlfriend.

GK: When you got up to this area you recall seeing a Police Landrover and you say in your statement that there was no crowd around.

CP: The police Landrover was sitting diagonally facing the Halifax. The doors were closed. It was close to the side of the road.

GK: Were you aware of how many police officers were in the Landrover.

CP: I think about 3. We were heading toward Woodhouse Street. Robert was in front. A crowd came from the left hand side.

GK: Had you heard the crowd.

CP: No.

GK: Was ██████████ there.

CP: Yes. There was just us in our crowd. Robert was half way across the road. The crowd came running towards him. They shouted "get them, get them". Myself and ██████████ D ██████████ would have been down there. We seen Robert getting dragged to the ground. There was punching going on. He was doing his best to protect himself. D ██████████ went over to help. Robert went to the ground quite quickly.

GK: Did you stay and watch.

CP: I stayed and watched throughout. I was near enough beside the fight. 15 to 20 people round Robert.

GK: Could you see Robert.

CP: Not at first I couldn't see him. Then I could see him on the ground and blood.

GK: Was it a more concentrated group that were kicking.

CP: They were all booting at him.

GK: It appears that these were local people. Did you know any of them.

CP: No.

GK: Did you know them to see.

CP: No. I wouldn't know any of them.

GK: D ██████████ was hit by a bottle.

CP: I seen him being hit with a bottle. The bottle was threw at him. D ██████████ and Robert were about 6 feet apart. D ██████████ went to the ground. They were still hitting Robert. The police came out at this stage.

GK: Once the attack started how long before the police came out.

CP: Once Robert was on the ground.

GK: Did they try to get into the middle to break it up.

CP: Yes.

GK: Did it do any good.

CP: No. Not enough of them.

GK: How long was it before more police arrived.

CP: About 5 or 10 minutes.

GK: Could you see where Robert was being kicked.

CP: He was on the ground.

GK: The impression I get from your statement is that he was unconscious early.

CP: Yes shouting and yelling continue.

CP: Yes.
GK: What were they shouting.
CP: Kill him.
GK: Can you give a description of any particular person.
CP: There was a number of them but one I can picture. He was in the back of the landrover. Talking to a female officer.
GK: At what stage was he pulled out of the crowd.
CP: Robert would have been on the ground about 5 or 10 minutes.
GK: Was Robert being kicked for 5 or 10 minutes.
CP: I would say 5 minutes. My girlfriend was nursing his head.
GK: I am trying to time at which stage this man was pulled away. Was it very shortly before that he was pulled over to the landrover or was it more further back.
CP: More further back.
GK: One of the reasons you were at the landrover was to identify him.
CP: No doubt.
GK: That would suggest near the end. Was this man involved from the start.
CP: He was in original group. No doubt.
GK: He was wearing a rangers scarf. Was there anyone else you can recall wearing a rangers scarf.
CP: No.
GK: Was it outside his coat or inside coat or tied in a particular manner.
CP: Yes. Tied in a nought - like cravat. On his jacket. He was tall. Jet black hair, fringed down, gelled, clean shaving. In landrover he was laughing at what happened. I swung at him. Police let him go 5 minutes after. The crowd were shouting fenian bastards, up the UVF.
GK: You were positive he was kicking Robert but couldn't see where he was kicking him. Which area of body was this man at.
CP: I can't say.
GK: Did he kick him more than once.
CP: Everybody was kicking him.
GK: Can you say if he was one of the people doing the shouting.
CP: Yes.
GK: Did that include "kill him".
CP: Yes.