

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF COLIN MARTIN PRUNTY

AGE OF WITNESS [If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21 [REDACTED]

I declare that this statement consisting of 5 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 08 day of May 1997

[REDACTED] DSGT

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

COLIN PRUNTY

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I live at the address known to the Police Officer taking this statement. On Saturday night 26th April 1997, I was at a disco in St Patrick's Hall in Thomas Street, Portadown. I was at the disco with my girlfriend, Maureen McCoy. There was just the two of us. We went to the hall at about eleven o'clock. Prior to going there we had been at the Parkside Inn on the Garvaghy Road. We went there at about a quarter to ten, all I had there was a couple of pints. We got a taxi from the Parkside and went to the hall. At the disco in the hall I had about 4 or 5 pints. In total then I had about 6 or 7 pints of Bass. I was in good form but wasn't drunk. I was fully aware of what I was doing. Shortly after half past one which was actually Sunday morning, Maureen and me left the hall to walk home. We were walking down Thomas Street on the footpath on the right hand side of the road. We were walking along towards the main street to cross over into Woodhouse Street. Ahead of us was a fella called D [REDACTED], he was with his wife E [REDACTED] and another girl called F [REDACTED], I'm not sure of her second name, but I think it's [REDACTED] she's E [REDACTED] sister. Ahead of them was Robert Hamill. He was on his own and about roughly 30 to 40 yards ahead of me. I know both D [REDACTED] and Robert very well.

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I knew them through school although we were not all in the same year and just generally about the town from going to discos and things like that. We were just walking along and thought everything was safe enough because we could see the back end of a Police landrover sitting in the middle of the main street. It was like diagonally parked facing towards where the Halifax Building Society would be. The next thing I heard a lot of people shouting, "Get the fenian bastards." I looked up and saw a crowd of about thirty odd people mostly fellas coming from the left of the main street, they were running and the front ones of the group had caught Robert Hamill and were dragging him on to the ground. He was lying on the road in front of the Thomas Street junction. He was lying there and was obviously out of it, unconscious because he wasn't able to defend himself at all. There was a group of about 15 to 20 kicking him as he lay on the ground. They were kicking him violently all over him, his head, his body, his arms and his legs. They were shouting in a real angry way, "Kill him, kill him, kill the fenian bastard." D [redacted] run down towards the crowd and I ran as well. I didn't see D [redacted] getting hit but the next thing he was lying on the ground and not moving. He was unconscious as well. He was maybe about 10 yards from Robert Hamill. By the time I got down they were still kicking him all over. I think he was lying on his side and the blood was just pumping out of him mostly from about the back of the head. If anything there were more people kicking at him by the time I got there. They were still shouting, "Kill him, kill him," so I just ploughed into the middle of them to see what I could do to help him. I wasn't able to do anything

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for there was just too many of them. By this stage the Police had got out of the landrover and were over at the crowd. There was either two Policemen and one woman or three Policemen and a woman. They ran in to try and stop it. One of the Policemen actually pulled me back and as he was doing this I saw another Policeman grab hold of one of the fellas in the group that was kicking Robert Hamill. He was wearing a Rangers scarf and he was took away and put in the back of the landrover. He, like everybody else in the group, was kicking Robert, he was definitely kicking him but I can't say where. I am positive he was kicking him but amongst all the feet I can't say where he kicked Robert. When the Police got involved they seemed to back off a bit. They didn't run away, in fact the most of them were standing laughing. By this stage my girlfriend, Maureen, had got in and was cradling Robert Hamill's head in her lap. When they were standing laughing at Robert there was a couple of bottles thrown. I got a Buckfast bottle threw at me but it went past my shoulder. They were still shouting, "Fenian bastards," things like that. After 5 or 10 minutes I saw the fella with the Rangers scarf being let out of the back of the landrover. He went back into the crowd shouting, "Up the UV" which I knew to be the UVF. I was surprised he had been let go and asked the Policewoman if she had got his name. She never answered and I told her the fella with the scarf was one of the people that had been kicking at Robert Hamill. Soon after the ambulance came and took Robert away. The crowd by this stage had moved up to outside the Queens Bar. After Robert was took away, I think D went in the same ambulance, I just walked on home. The fella that I said

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was wearing the Rangers scarf was probably aged twenty to twenty five, roughly about six feet tall and had short dark hair. I don't know this fella. What was distinctive about him is the scarf and how he was wearing it. The scarf was mostly blue with red and white bands running across it at intervals. It was up tight to his neck in like a knot. The only other thing I can say about him is that he was wearing something light coloured, whether it was a shirt or a jacket I don't know. I do not know and cannot describe any of the others who were kicking Robert Hamill. I was wearing a dark blue shirt and a pair of black dress type trousers with black laced shoes. The closest I was to this fella in the scarf was only a couple of yards and like I said earlier he was definitely one of a group kicking Robert Hamill as he lay unconscious on the ground.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

COLIN PRUNTY

CHECKED AND CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNED :