

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF MAUREEN MCCOY

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

I declare that this statement consisting of 8 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 09 day of May 1997

[REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

MAUREEN MCCOY

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I reside at an address which is known to the Police Officer recording my statement. At about 10 45 pm on Saturday 26th of April 1997, I went with my boyfriend Colin Prunty to a dance at St Patrick's Hall, Thomas Street, Portadown. We had walked to the above hall from the Royal Oak, Public House, Woodhouse Street, Portadown. Prior to arriving at the hall I had consumed three 1/2 pint glasses of Cider. Colin and myself stayed at the St Patrick's Hall until 1 20 am on Sunday 27th April 1997. During my time at the hall I had consumed four small bottles of Strongbow Cider. At 1 20 am both of us made our way to the outside of the hall to get a taxi, but due to the large number of persons waiting for taxis, we decided not to wait and to make our way home on foot. Myself and Colin were walking up the middle of Thomas Street towards its junction with the High Street. As we approached the British Legion Club and the Credit Union premises, we were caused to stop by a female I know as F [REDACTED]. She said to me, "Don't be going down there Maureen as there is a crowd down there." F [REDACTED] was standing with her sister E [REDACTED] and her husband D [REDACTED]. Also standing with them was another male person whose surname I knew as Hamill. I did not know his christian

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name. I then looked down Thomas Street at its junction with the High Street and I saw a group of 10 to 15 male persons standing outside a baker's shop on the corner. Some of this group were looking up the street towards us, whilst the rest were talking amongst themselves and also I could see a Police landrover stationary on the High Street facing towards the bottom of the town. The landrover was also covering the junction of Woodhouse Street and the High Street, in particular the lane that gives traffic access into the High Street from Woodhouse Street. I could see no Police Officers standing outside the landrover. On taking in what I had seen, I said to Colin, "We'll be all right, the Police are down there," and Colin and myself continued our journey on foot walking the pavement which led towards the group on the corner. As Colin and myself got to within touching distance of the above group I was aware that the Hamill fella was behind me along with the D, E & F family, when for no reason at all, members of the group began to shout, "Fenian bastards," several times, and then they surged forward towards us, making us all move into the road. I became frightened and scared and I knew that somebody behind me was being attacked by this group at the mouth of the Thomas Street and High Street junction, so for safety I ran across to the opposite corner of Thomas Street and stood outside the front of Eastwood's Clothing Shop with two other female persons who were already there. I can describe one of the girls as follows - a white female aged approximately 23 years, of slim build, with straight shoulder length blonde hair, which covered her ears and a centre parting. Facially she was an attractive looking girl. She was wearing a light pink

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coloured top with short sleeves and she was wearing jeans, which may have been stone washed. The second female I could only describe as being smaller in height. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed that the group of males that was outside the baker's shop had moved into the centre of the Market Street, opposite Eastwood's Clothing Shop. The group was very angry and agitated and vocally very loud. They appeared very aggressive and threatening and I knew that an act of violence was taking place on a person or persons, by the way the members of the group were punching and kicking. I did not know who the victim or victims were. Before I saw the group in the centre of the Market Street, I had said to the blonde haired girl, "This is terrible, there's no call for this." She replied, "That's terrible," and we continued to pass comment of what was going on around us, and the group was still opposite us. The blonde girl then picked up a Buckfast bottle which appeared large in size and she ran out onto the Market Street towards the group and she shouted out, "Yous done my dad." I then ran across the Market Street and stood near to the Alliance & Leicester Building Society looking towards the group and they began to run towards the direction of St Mark's Church. I then saw a male person lying unconscious in the centre of Market Street and I ran over to him, to give him assistance. On reaching him I saw a pool of liquid underneath his body and around his sides. This person whom I did not know was lying on his left side with his face towards the ground. I then looked across to Eastwood's Clothing Shop and on the corner of Thomas Street I saw E [REDACTED] giving assistance to another male person who I assumed to be D [REDACTED]. On returning my

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attention to the male person I was with, I was aware of Police Officers to my left. F [redacted] then shouted across to me, "That's our Robert, watch him," which I continued to do. I was then joined by F [redacted] and it was then I saw that the group of males was coming back towards us, so Colin came over to me, and moved me back across to the front of the Alliance and Leicester building. I refused to stay with Colin and I went back over to F [redacted] and Robert and stayed with them until the ambulance arrived and at this time I was fully aware that the group of males were close to us and they were shouting various things. At this time I was crying and upset and I heard one of the group shout, "I hope he dies the fenian bastard." Once the ambulance arrived and took Robert away I walked over to the Police landrover and spoke to a blonde haired Policewoman. I remarked to her that the events that had taken place were terrible and uncalled for. She made no reply. One of the doors of the landrover were open and upon looking inside I saw a male person sitting inside. Even though he was sitting down, he appeared tall and to have long legs. He was wearing a light coloured jacket and blue jeans. This person was not aggressive. He was also wearing a Rangers Football Club scarf around his neck. The Policewoman then closed the landrover door. Approximately 2 or 3 minutes later the same Policewoman opened the landrover door and said, "Right you out," and the male person I had seen inside, got out and ran towards the group that had caused the trouble. I said to the Policewoman, "What did you do that for." She made no reply. I then left the scene with Colin and made my way home. At 8 30 pm on Friday 9th of May 1997 I handed over to Detective

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Constable [REDACTED] a dark blue coloured half jacket that I was wearing the evening that Robert Hamill was attacked. I would like to add that as the events on Sunday 27th of April 1997 were unfolding, the area was illuminated by a system of street lights which were on and working.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

MAUREEN MCCOY

CHECKED AND CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNED :

