

I, Maureen McCoy of [REDACTED] hereby make the following statement:

On the 27th April 1997 at or about 1.30 am approximately I left St Patrick's Hall in Thomas Street, Portadown with my boyfriend Colin Prunty. As we could not get a taxis we decided to walk home. We headed down Thomas Street and when we got to around where the British Legion is we met F [REDACTED] and Robert Hamill and another couple I know. F [REDACTED] said to me that there was a crowd of protestants down there, don't go down. I said to Colin that it would be alright because the police are there. So Colin and I walked on down Thomas Street. When we got to the corner of Thomas Street and High Street a large crowd of protestants came to us and started calling us fenian bastards etc. Then I realised that someone behind me was being beaten and I ran to the other side of the road. There were two girls standing there and I commented to them that it is terrible that you can't even walk home now. She agreed. I looked to where the crowd was and seen them attacking someone, at that stage I didn't know it was Robert. There was a crowd of approximately 15 to 20 people punching and kicking at someone in the middle. The girl I had been talking to grabbed a buckfast bottle and ran over to the crowd and shouted "You'se did my da" and joined the protestant crowd.

I ran over to the other side of the road, where the Alliance & Leicester is and stood there. After a few minutes I noticed the crowd backing off and I went over to see the person who had been attacked. I sat down and F [REDACTED] shouted at me "watch him for me". I asked her who it was and she said it was Robert. Then I noticed a policeman standing to my left a bit behind me. I seen that he was watching the crowd who had started moving towards us again. Colin came over and tried to pull me away but I said I was not leaving him and I went back and sat with Robert. The crowd were directly behind me and one of them was shouting, "I hope you die you fenian bastard." I stood up and said that that was a terrible thing to say with this fella lying here. He said to me to fuck up. Then after about five minutes approximately the ambulance came and took Robert to hospital. I then went over to the Landrover that had been sitting at the top of Woodhouse Street on the main road through the town all the time this incident was going on. A police woman was standing outside the Landrover and I commented to her that I had never seen so much hatred in my life and she just shrugged her shoulders. Then I seen a man between 19 and 22 in the back of the Landrover. He had a Rangers scarf round his neck. He was sitting down in the Landrover. The police woman then closed the back door of the Landrover. Colin came over to me than we stood for a few minutes. We seen the ambulance driving away. Then the police woman opened the back door of the Landrover and said "Right you out." The man I had seen in the back of the Landrover then got out of the Landrover and went up the town to join the rest of the crowd. Then Colin and I headed on down Woodhouse Street to go home.

Dated this 19th day of June 1997.

SIGNED: Maureen McCoy

42971