

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: James Henry McBride

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21"): over 21

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: Police constable

ADDRESS: R.V.C. Station, Portadown, Co. Armagh.

TO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 4 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 16th day of December 1982.

[Signature]  
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received.

[Signature]  
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am a constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary stationed at Portadown, Co. Armagh. On Sunday the 12th December 1982 at 8.26 pm I was sitting in the living room of my home at 32 Killylea Road, Armagh watching television with my wife. There was nobody else in the house at the time. At that time I heard a volley of shots which appeared to come from the direction of the front of my house. There was a pause of a few seconds and then a second volley of shots. The shots were fired semi automatic and approximately ten shots were fired in each volley. I immediately thought my house was under attack and my wife threw herself on the floor and I called to her to switch off the lights. I joined her in a crouching position on the floor. I realised

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS ..... [Signature] .....

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almost immediately that the house was not under attack as no strikes were heard. Both of us went to the front hallway still in darkness and I opened the front door and stood to the left hand side of the porch. From that position I could see a car with tail lights showing and front passenger door open sitting at an angle with its tail towards the right hand footpath of the entrance road to Mullacree Estate. The car was approximately 50-60 yards past from the Kellylea Road junction. As I was looking at this car my attention was drawn to an engine revving at the Mullacree/Kellylea Road junction. This car took off at speed and went towards Annagh. As it started off there was a screech of tyres. As it passed the entrance to my home I then saw a second car start to reverse from the same junction towards Annagh. Its engine was ~~also~~ also revving and appeared to be reversing as fast as it could. After both these cars went past the entrance to my house way I am unable to say where they went because my view is obstructed by a high hedge. The first car seemed to be a large long car with a long boot sloping back.

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J.H. McBride

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towards the rear. I got the impression that it was a Japanese type car. The second car was a boxier type car and seemed to be higher. I couldn't see any registration numbers. As soon as these two cars went out of view I focused my attention on the car at Mullacreevie Road. The car was still in the same position that I first saw it and as I looked at it I saw a man get up from a crouching position from behind a summer seat which is situated adjacent to a footpath to the right and level with the car. This man appeared to be wearing a light coloured garment and from my recollection it covered the top part of his body. He went round the front of the car and went to the nearside door and locked in. This door was open and the man took a few seconds to lock in and then walked slowly back down the road towards the Killylea Road junction. While this man was walking he didn't appear to be carrying anything in his hands. My attention was drawn to another <sup>car</sup> which was parked at the Killylea Road junction. There was movement around this car and I saw outline of three persons who appeared to be wearing civilian clothes

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who were joined by the man who had walked down the hall. I went into my own hallway and made a 999 call to the police. I returned to the hall and this car which I can't describe was still parked there. The four people remained in the vicinity of this car and my wife and myself returned to the living room. I was of the opinion that this man a detonation attack and that someone may have been seriously injured so I telephoned the parochial home. I forgot to tell you that as my wife and I got to the front door following the first two volleys of shots I also heard a single shot. I don't know where this shot came from but it would have been several seconds after the first two volleys were fired.