

CONFIDENTIAL

HMP Maze Cellular
Lisburn
Co Antrim

Sir,

I was on Continuous Association and Night Guard Hospital Officer on duty on the evening of the 16 May 1981 in South Wing, in the Prison Hospital.

I was aware that 354/77 McCreesh was considering ending his hunger strike as I was present earlier with S/O Nolan when Dr Emerson asked McCreesh "Do you wish me to save your life" to which he answered a definite "Yes".

Mr McAleavey reported on duty at 2030 hours and accompanied me to McCreesh's ward. We offered him a drink of water, he drank a little, and then asked "Is this milk". He was told "no" and was asked if he would like milk, to which he replied "Is my family here yet". We told him "yes" and he then said, "I'll wait till I see them first."

At 2120 hours, 354/77 McCreesh's visitors entered the wing, his mother, sister and two brothers (one of whom is a priest). Mr McAleavey and myself were told by S/O Nolan that the McCreesh family could have their visit, "In sight out of hearing".

Whilst standing outside the ward door we could both clearly overhear parts of the conversation, probably due to the fact that McCreesh's hearing was affected and the visitors had to speak loudly.

I could hear Fr McCreesh repeatedly telling his brother to be strong and to remember where he was - "You are in Long Kesh Concentration Camp", being looked after by prison warders. "Remember O'Hara, he is strong and on hunger strike the same number of days as you."

McCreesh 354/77 asked about Francis Hughes to which his brother (Fr McCreesh) replied "He is in Heaven with Bobby Sands". Both brothers told of how proud they were to have carried Hughes' and Sands' coffin at their funerals.

At one stage his mother said "Now Raymond, you are going back on your word".

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When we came out of the ward, Dr Emerson said that he wanted to phone his superiors. He also wanted to phone McCreesh's family.

Principal Officer Orr spoke to the Duty Governor by telephone and Mr Murray arrived at the hospital about 2000 hours.

The Duty Governor on the doctor's request, asked that one telephone, Ext. 237, be left open to facilitate the making of outside calls. This facility was cancelled when it was pointed out that the night switchboard was in operation.

At 2030 McCreesh's visitors arrived and were interviewed by Dr Emerson. At 2115 hours, Dr Bill arrived at the hospital and after being introduced to McCreesh's relatives they, the relatives, went to visit McCreesh.

The visit ended at approximately 2215 when the visitors left the hospital block, after having expressed to Drs Bill and Emerson, in my present, that the wish of Prisoner McCreesh which was expressed some weeks ago, should be respected, and he should be allowed to continue his hunger strike with dignity.

At 2220 hours, both doctors left the hospital, followed some five minutes later by A G Murray.

I secured the hospital and left at 2235 hours to lodge the keys in the key room.

I am, Sir,

L Nolan, Hospital Senior Officer 96

The Governor

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