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YOUR COMMENTS

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173 comments
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15 comments
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14 comments

LOCAL NEWS



Robert McCartney

Thursday 29 May 2008 19:27

McCartney witness received IRA visits

A crown witness giving evidence in the Robert McCartney murder trial revealed he decided to tell the truth to police after being given clearance from the IRA.

Ed Gowdy, 40, said he *"can't remember 90%"* of what happened that evening.

However he told the court that following the killing, IRA members called to his house on several occasions.

He said: *"as soon as I got clearance from the IRA, I made a statement to police."*

During cross examination, Mr Gowdy had already admitted lying to police because of perceived paramilitary involvement in the murder.

He said that because of where he lived, he *"didn't know the situation at the time, what I could say or what I couldn't say"*.

On Wednesday, he detailed for the prosecution how he had been drinking in a Belfast bar with Robert McCartney and his friend Brendan Devine when a fight broke out which spilled out into the street.

Robert McCartney died after suffering a stab wound outside the bar in January 2005.

Terence Malachy Davison, 51, denies murdering him.

Along with two other men - James McCormick, 39, and Joseph Gerard Emmanuel Fitzpatrick, 47 - he is also facing charges of affray.

All three defendants deny the charges.

The trial continues.

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