

2 December 1994

Police Interview Transcripts with Analysis: No. 2

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 02/ 12/ 94

POLICE OFFICE: KIRKWALL

INTERVIEW COMMENCED: Start: 1455HRS
Finish:1501HRS

INTERVIEWING OFFICERS: DI Angus Alexander Chisholm
DS Alan MacKenzie

DI The time is now 1455 on the 2nd December 1994. I am Detective Inspector Angus Alexander Chisholm of the Criminal Investigation Department within the Northern Constabulary. At this time we are within the interview room at Kirkwall police station. The following further persons are also present in the room.

DS I'm Detective Sergeant Alan MacKenzie also of Northern Constabulary Criminal Investigation Department.

DI Michael

MR I'm Michael Alexander Ross

ER I'm Edmund Andrew Ross.

DI Okay. As I said before the last tape broke we've finished the statement, I'll just remind you again eh Michael, for the purpose of the tape, that you're still under caution, you're not obliged to say anything. You made a statement to me on the last tape which I noted down em and what I intend to do now is just read that back to you on this tape so that we're quite clear that what I have noted here is an accurate representation of what you want to say. So I'll just read over if anything you want to pick up just stop me at that point and we can change it. Right. So it starts "I, Michael Alexander Ross, have been cautioned by Detective Inspector Chisholm that I am not bound to make any statement and that my statement which I make will be noted and may be used in evidence".

And then you've signed it under that.

"In May (000594) I had time off school for study leave. One Thursday while I had been on study leave I cycled in town in the afternoon. I left my bike at my Gran's house at 10 Pipersquoy Road, Kirkwall. I then walked up past the school to the woods at Papdale. My intention was to scare [REDACTED] (I think he is from Flotta).

I used to go out with a girl called [REDACTED]. She lives near to us at St Ola. I had been going out with her for about 7 weeks in all. I had finished with her about 2/3 weeks before this incident. It was her who broke it off and I was still quite keen on her. After we had split up I heard about [REDACTED] going out with [REDACTED]. I got to hear that [REDACTED] had beaten up [REDACTED] - I don't know what it was over but [REDACTED] told me about it and showed me some of the bruises.

I started to get mad when I heard this and decided I was going to give [REDACTED] a seeing to. It was about two weeks or so after I heard about this that I decided to wait for [REDACTED] in the woods.

On the day I went to the woods I arrived there about 3.15 (1515)

I went near the big wall at the back of the woods and got changed. I had carried a change of clothes in a green rucksack. I wanted to change my clothes so he would not know it was me. I went behind a tree to change. When I walked into the woods I was wearing a white T shirt with blue and red stripes. This is the one I took in to be photographed the last time I was interviewed. I had on blue jeans and black combat boots. In the woods I put the following on, on top of my T-shirt - a dark blue tracksuit top with a hood and a black balaclava with 3 holes for the eyes and mouth. I had bought this balaclava when I was down south with the Cadets. This was last year sometime. I pulled the hood up over the balaclava. I put the rucksack on under the jacket.

Once I was dressed I ducked down and hunched my back and went from tree to tree till I was near the path at the front of the woods.

When I got to the front I was kind of hiding between a tree and the wall. I was on my feet but crouched up in a ball. I just waited for about half an hour waiting for [REDACTED] to come out of the school and walk to the Hostel, where he stayed during the week.

After everyone had passed by and there was no sign of [REDACTED] I made my way to the back of the woods in the same manner going from tree to tree. When I got back to the same tree from where I started I took off the blue top and the balaclava and put them back into my bag. I then walked back on to the path and down past the Hostel back to my Gran's to collect my bike. I then just cycled home.

I have not gone looking for [REDACTED] again since this. He will not know I was looking for him.

A few weeks later I told [REDACTED] about what I had been up to and she encouraged me to give him a good hiding. [REDACTED] would not have known that I was waiting for [REDACTED] in the woods and I did not tell anyone about this.

I did not have any weapons on me when I was in the woods and I was just going to punch him if I got him.

This is the only time I was hanging about in Papdale Woods.

I have not worn the balaclava or the hooded top since that day.

My mum put the hooded top to a jumble sale in Finstown - this was a couple of weeks after I wore it in the woods.

About a week and a half after the murder at the Indian Restaurant I took my balaclava to school. This was the one I had worn in the woods".

Eh right, I told him I have here but who was it you had told about the balaclava?

MR [REDACTED]

DI "I told [REDACTED] that I had it and he told me to take it in to school to show him.

The day I took it in to school he was off so I just left it in my school bag. That night my mum found it in my school bag. I got a row from my dad because of the murder so I decided to get rid of it. The day after I got a row I put a stone inside the balaclava and threw it off the cliff at Scapa. I also threw away another balaclava I had a couple of days later. I found this one behind the Co-op in Pickaquoy Road.

[REDACTED] was with me when I found it. It was brown and it had an open face. I also put a stone inside it and threw it off the cliff at Scapa".

Okay is that all right Michael?

MR Yeah.

DI That's accurate, everything in there's okay. If I could ask you to sign the bottom of each page there. Working?

MR Yes, it's working.

DI That's it aye.

(PAUSE WHILE SIGNING PAGES)

DI Okay Michael again I'm just going to shut the tape off, okay.

MR Yeah.