

2 December 1994

Michael's Police Interview Transcripts with Analysis: No. 4

NAME OF SUSPECT: MICHAEL ALEXANDER ROSS

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 02/12/94

POLICE OFFICE: KIRKWALL

INTERVIEW COMMENCED: Start: 1633 HOURS
Finished: 1658 HOURS

INTERVIEWING OFFICERS: DI Angus Alexander Chisholm
DS Alan MacKenzie

DI The time is 1633 on 2nd of December 1994 (021294). I am Detective Inspector Angus Alexander Chisholm, of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Northern Constabulary. This time we are within the interview room at Kirkwall Police Station. The following further persons are also present in the room.

DS I am Detective Sergeant Alan MacKenzie also of Northern Constabulary, Criminal Investigation Department, based at Inverness.

MR I am Michael Alexander Ross.

ER I am Edmund Andrew Ross.

DI Okay, we'll just carry on as we finished on the last tape, eh, Michael. We got to where you reached Eastabist. So, once you got into the housing scheme at Eastabist, what happened then?

MR Well, I seen [REDACTED] in the garden opposite, beside [REDACTED]'s and I stopped and eh, said hello to him and then [REDACTED] came running out of her house and, eh, told me that, eh

DI Hold on now, wait til I get up to there.

(PAUSE)

DI When you reached Eastabist you saw [REDACTED] in the garden of a house near to [REDACTED]'s house.

MR Yeah.

DI Eh, so you went over to speak to him, did you?

MR Yeah, I, well.

DI Did you go into the garden or what?

MR No, I was eh, standing on the wall outside of the garden. Well I hadn't started talking to him but I had said hello and then [REDACTED] came running out of the house.

DI Right, okay.

DS Before we go any further Michael, can I just ask you to confirm at the start of the interview you saw us break the seal on two cassette tapes and insert them in the machine with the number K027A-94?

MR Yes, I did.

DS Thanks.

DI Thank you very much. Outside the wall when [REDACTED] came out of her house, is it?

MR Yeah.

DI So she came over to speak to you too, did she?

MR Yeah.

DI Mmhm. And what happened then, what did she say?

Chisholm is referring to one of the alibi witnesses.

MR [REDACTED] said, eh, [REDACTED]'s not going to grass on you this time but if you punch him again he will, and.

(PAUSE)

DI So [REDACTED]'s father's in charge of the T.A. is he, or?

MR Yeah.

DI Ah, right, and how did the conversation go then?

MR Well, eh, I said Oh and then [REDACTED] goes, eh, eh, what are you doing up about this area, and I just goes, oh I'm just going for a run on me bike and I just said goodbye and went off.

(PAUSE)

DI Did the conversation go any further than that, no?

MR No, eh, I just goodbye after that and

DI Did [REDACTED] speak at all?

MR Eh, I think he did but I don't remember what he was saying. Oh yeah, he did, he said let's have a look at your knuckles and showed him me knuckles and just had a laugh at that, and, that's when I said goodbye.

DI Where they injured in any way, no?

MR Yeah, and a couple of cuts there.

DI Mmhm.

(PAUSE)

DI So why didn't you hang about longer?

MR I just didn't have anything more to talk about, so just left.

DI Where did you go then?

MR Eh

DI Just that route you showed us there, was it?

MR Yeah, just carried on on that route and then headed home.

(PAUSE)

DI So, at the time you were speaking to them, would have been about what?

MR Em, about eh, ten past seven (1910) or around that time.

(PAUSE)

DI You went back home the same route you had come?

MR Yeah.

DI And where were you when you heard the sirens?

MR Just outside the gates these, eh, Bignold Park.

(PAUSE)

DI Where were they, where did you hear them then?

MR Well, Bignold Park gates, eh, I was just, eh, about there and then I heard sirens.

DI And did you see anything, no, just heard the noise?

MR Yeah.

DI Do you know which direction it was coming from?

MR It was coming, eh, roughly from about the area of the pier.

(PAUSE)

DI Did you meet anyone else on the way home that may remember you or?

MR No, well not anybody that I know anyway.

DI When do you think you arrived home?

MR Eh, just, eh, around well maybe before eight o'clock (2000), that sort of area time.

DI But there was no-one in?

MR Yeah.

DI Yeah, so what did you do?

MR Eh, I took the dogs out for a walk.

DI Mmhm, where to?

MR Eh, eh, where's that called?, eh this here?

ER Eh

MR What's that field called?

ER Eh

MR That band, just up past the, that old school

DI The field across the road, is it?

MR Yeah.

ER Across the main road, up to the hill.

DI When did you get back to the house?

MR Well, I got back to the hooose about, eh, eh, may be twenty to nine (2040) or so.

DI Your mum was there then eh?

MR Yeah.

DI Mmhm.

(PAUSE)

DI So how did the balaclava thing, could we just go through that one more time before we finish. How did that come to be at school? How many days after the murder was it?

MR Eh, maybe 8 or 9 days or so, about a week and a half or so.

DI So yourself and [REDACTED] were discussing the murder in school, yeah?

MR Yeah.

(PAUSE)

DI Mmhm. You tell me exactly what happened then?

MR Well, I told him eh, I had a black balaclava with three holes in it, eh, like the one that was meant to be used and that, eh, eh, he asked me if I could take it in to show him and the next day I took it in but he was off that day.

DI So he asked you to take it in?

MR Yeah.

(PAUSE)

DI [REDACTED] was off sick was he?

MR Yeah.

DI You just left it in your schoolbag?

MR Yeah.

DI So that night?

MR Eh, that night me mum was looking through me schoolbag and found it there.

DI And what was said?

MR Eh, she telt dad and then I got a row fae him.

DI So, she told your dad and you got a row from him, eh?

MR Yeah.

DI And why did you get a row?

MR Eh, because, eh, because I had taken it in and eh, I might have got caught with it or, and, I might have been scaring folk with it or,

(PAUSE)

DI So, did they take it off you, no?

MR Eh, no I just took it out of me bag and then got rid of it the day after.

DI Put a stone in it and threw it over the cliffs at Scapa, in your other statement.

MR Yeah.

DI Right, two or three days later you threw another of your balaclavas away the same way.

MR Yeah.

DI Was it? Had anybody got onto you about that one, or why did you throw it away?

MR Eh, I threw it away cause, eh, I didn't like it, I didn't like the colour of that one, eh, I never wore it all that much anyway so I just got rid of it as well.

DI What colour was that one?

MR It was brown.

DI Open face?

MR Mmhm.

DI When was it you found it?

MR I donno, it was, I can't remember exactly when I had it

DI This year, last year?

MR Yeah, it was this year sometime but.

DI Earlier this year, eh?

MR Mmm.

DI Had you ever worn that one?

MR No.

DI No?

MR No.

DI So were you anywhere near Bridge Street that night at all then?

MR No.

DI Do you know the man that was murdered?

MR No.

DI Have you ever met him?

MR Nuh.

DI Seen him?

MR I only seen him in the papers and that after the murder but

DI Have you ever been in the restaurant?

MR No, never been in the restaurant afore.

DI Okay, I think that's it. I'll read this back and see if we've missed anything.

"On Wednesday the 1st June 1994 (010694) I was at the Army Cadet Centre, Weyland, Kirkwall. This was just one of our regular meetings. During the course of the night [REDACTED] kept disobeying orders I gave him, we were doing drill or something and I am a Corporal and he is a Private. After he told me to fuck off I told him to do it again, he wouldn't do it and eventually I had to get someone else to do it. After the Cadets ended I got [REDACTED] outside and punched him once on the face. That night dad took the Cadet minibus home and when he took it in town the next morning my brother Colin and I got a lift in town with him. The time was about 10am (1000). On the way we met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were walking out to our house, we picked them up and took them back in town. We all got dropped off at the T.A. Centre. We then walked about the shops all morning. At about 12 o'clock (1200) I bought a roll at Cumming & Spences and we then went to the Community Centre at the Town Hall. Just stayed down the town all afternoon and went about the shops. At about 4pm (1600) I met dad at Woolworths and got a lift home, Colin stayed in town. When I got home we had our tea and about 6.30pm (1830) I left home to come back in town. I cycled in on my Raleigh Mustang mountain bike, it is black with maroon on it. It is mainly maroon. I was wearing the jumper I have on now with red basics written on it. This is the one you photographed the last time I was here. I wore a green rucksack on my back/ it was also photographed the last time I was here. I had a jacket in it in case it was going to rain. This is the jacket I have now and it is coloured blue, yellow, orange and black. I wore blue jeans and black combat boots. I cycled the Orphir Road and when I got to town I went up Nicolson Street, I've drawn a map the route which I took. I went up to Eastabist to have a cycle around. It was a dry night and wasn't raining. When I reached Eastabist I saw [REDACTED] in the garden of the house near to [REDACTED]'s house. I went over to speak to him. I was standing outside the wall when [REDACTED] came running out of her house. She came over to speak to me and said that [REDACTED] was not going to grass on me this time for punching him but if I hit him again he will, would. [REDACTED] then asked me what I was doing up about in this area and I said I was just out for a run on my bike. I think I may have spoken to [REDACTED]. I think he asked to have a look at my knuckles. I had a couple of cuts on my knuckles. I then said goodbye and left them. I then cycled on through the scheme on the route I've shown you on the map. The time I was speaking to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would have been about 7.10pm (1910), I then just cycled back home by the same route I'd come. When I was outside the gates of Bignold Park I heard the sound of sirens. I did not see the vehicle with sirens but it sounded like they were in the area of the pier. I just cycled straight home. I did not see anyone that I know on the way. I arrived home about 8 o'clock (2000), may be just before. There was no one at home I took the dogs out for a walk in a field just across the main road. I got back to the house at about 8.40pm (2040). My mum was home by this time. About 8 to 9 days after the murder [REDACTED] and I were discussing the murder at school. I told him I had a black balaclava with 3 holes, like the one that had been used by the murderer. He asked me to take it to school to show him. The next day I took it in but [REDACTED] was off sick. I just left it in my school bag. That night my mum was looking through my school bag and found it there. She told my dad and I got a row from him for taking it into school as I might have got caught with it. He thought I might have been scaring folk with it. I just took it out of my bag and got rid of it the day after. I put a stone inside it and threw it over the cliffs at Scapa. Two or three days later I threw another balaclava off the cliffs at Scapa. This was a brown open faced one which I found behind the Co-op at Pickaquoy earlier this year. I had never worn this one. I was definitely nowhere near Bridge Street that night. I did not know the man that was murdered. I've only ever seen his photo in the paper since the murder. I have never been inside the Indian Restaurant."

Okay?

MR Yeah.

DI Happy with that? Anything you want to change or not right?

MR No

DI Okay. Right, get you to sign that one again Michael.

(rustling)

DI Right Michael had just now signed the bottom of each page of the, that statement there. So we'll just conclude this interview. The time is now about 2 minutes to 5pm (1658) on the 2nd of December 1994 (021294). This is Detective Inspector Chisholm concluding the interview with Michael Alexander Ross which took place in the interview room at Kirkwall police office.

DS Okay Michael I'm just going to switch the tape off.