

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: COLLINS TERENCE JAMES

Age if under 18: over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: CAR SALES

This statement (consisting of 6 page(s) 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, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: T Collins

Date: 12/08/2002

My full-time job is as a car sales-man, and I also drive a private hire taxi several nights a week.

I was working on the evening of Thursday 11th July 2002 (11/07/2002) from about 7.30pm (1930).

I drive a Skoda Octavia which is metallic dark blue in colour. I do not own it and don't know the registration number. I drive for United Taxis.

Having dropped a fare nearby, I found myself at the Cemetery Junction end of Charminster Rd in Bournemouth at about 2.30am (0230) on Friday 12th (12/07/2002). I intended to park up to await the next job.

Opposite me, walking along the pavement by the cemetery towards me, were two oriental girls deep in conversation. I also noted that behind them and apparently following them, was a cyclist. He was about 50 yards from them cycling very slowly. I thought his behaviour was suspicious. I proceeded to do a U-turn in Portchester Rd then came back up behind them. I saw the girls turn left into Heron Court Rd and the cyclist followed them. He then caught them up, passed them and turned left into a side road. I remained at the junction of Charminster Road as the girls continued to walk away from me.

Then the same cyclist reappeared from a side road on the left behind the girls again. What I think he'd done was go past them, then double back round the block and come out behind them again. I thought this appeared to be deliberate behaviour and I became very suspicious.

I drove along the road almost level with the two girls as they continued up Heron Court Rd, then parked on the right and turned the engine off. I had passed the cyclist.

The two girls continued chatting and walking, oblivious to my presence. The cyclist cycled past the girls again, and continued round the bend in the road and out of my sight. I had decided to

Signed: T Collins
2000(1)

Signature Witnessed by: N Gilbraith DC

accompany the girls home without their knowledge, as I was concerned for their welfare. As the girls approached the corner I moved up and across to the left hand side. This allowed me a line of sight as far as the Alma Rd traffic lights and the park beyond. I then saw the cyclist, stationary, at the junction of Heron Court Rd and Fitzharris Avenue by the park, across the traffic lights from my position. At this point the two girls were crossing Alma Rd at the lights, towards the cyclist and away from me.

The cyclist disappeared from view. I moved up to the traffic lights. The two girls approached Fitzharris Avenue, I passed them and pulled across to the edge of the park and stopped. I had a good view along Heron Court Rd through the dip and going up the other side. The two girls were now behind me, walking towards me on the other side of the road.

Heron Court Rd becomes Abbott Rd as you come out of the dip. I saw the cyclist appear near the top of the hill, dawdling down the hill towards me and towards the girls. He was on the same side of the road as the two girls.

The girls got to the bottom of the dip, then did a sharp left turn into Truscott Rd and out of my sight. The cyclist picked up his pace towards them. I got out of my car, locked it and walked to the junction of Truscott Rd. I arrived just as the cyclist did. He stopped. I went into Truscott Rd and the girls had disappeared. There was a light on in a house on the left. The cyclist rode off.

There was a Bournemouth Hackney Carriage parked nearby with the internal light on. The driver was in it and appeared to be cashing up at the end of a shift. I did not speak to him and don't know if he saw where the girls went.

I returned to my cab. I drove into Maxwell Rd, down the side of the park, and out into Charminster Rd by the big Church in Fitzharris Avenue. I turned right, up through the Alma Rd lights, then parked up in Kings Rd near the Richmond Arms Pub, facing Heron Court Rd. I remained there for five minutes or so. There were no jobs coming in, so I decided to knock off for the night. I turned down Belvedere Rd, left into Heron Court Rd and down to Charminster Rd. I saw a Police car parked across the entrance to Malmesbury Park Rd with the officer taping off the road. I went down Lowther Rd and into St Leonards Rd to the Brunswick Pub. The bottom end of Malmesbury Park Rd by the pub was also being taped off. I turned right into the lower end of Malmesbury Park Rd and into Bennett Rd to check my work premises on the corner. Satisfied there was no problem I returned along Bennett Rd to Lowther, right then left into Beechey Rd and across the junctions to Lansdowne Rd. I crossed Lansdowne Rd into Dean

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2000(1)

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Park. I then went to Richmond Hill to return the taxi to Branksome Wood Rd. I did not return to the Malmesbury Park Rd area, but drove straight home in my own car to Wallisdown.

I did not see the cyclist again after I had confronted him in the street. He was a white male, stocky build with a large head and old fashioned big hair. He was wearing all black clothing, tee shirt, leather jacket and jeans. It was a bomber jacket.

The bike was a black mountain bike.

I do not know the man, I have not seen him before or since. I would recognise him again.

When I passed the Hackney Carriage Rank outside the Richmond Arms Pub it was deserted.

matches
Daniela
Rostivo
description on
night of murder.