

got to know other regulars and some of the staff in there.

At the time of the bombings in 1974 (000074) I was employed at Lawrence Cabinets in Fazeley Street. Previous to this I worked on a part time basis at The Rendezvous Dance Studio which was next to the Mulberry Bush in the alleyway at the back. I usually worked there on a Saturday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night and would be on the door, not as a bouncer, more ticket collecting and other such things. Obviously because of working so close to the Mulberry Bush I used to pop in there regularly.

I started going out with my wife Penny in 1972 (000072) and we would regularly go to the Mulberry Bush together. We would normally meet at the Midland Hotel, go to the Mulberry Bush because we knew a lot of the people and then more often than not go onto the Dolce Vita Night Club.

The Mulberry Bush attracted quite a wide age group of people, people from the post office and the Railway Station would quite often pop in there for a drink. It would usually be busy in the evening and it was a nice pub to drink in with a good atmosphere.

At the time of the bombings I knew the licensee Dave JONES and his wife Moira. They had a little lad, as I remember and usually one of

Signature: R E Phillips
2010/11

Signature witnessed by: GAYNOR MOORE

them would have been in the pub whilst the other was at home looking after their child. I also knew most of the bar staff, in particular Roy and Clive, I do not know where they are now or what their surnames are. I only know that one of them worked about two years ago at Michael ELPHICKS pub, the White Swan in Henley.

The main people that I knew from the pub were Stan BODMAN, who at the time lived somewhere near the **DPA**, Mick BEASLEY who lived in **DPA** Cliff who was a postman but I cannot remember his surname, and two people called John, one of them worked down the markets and the other worked at the Rover company but again I cannot remember their surnames. I also knew a lot of other people in there, from working in town but only to say hello and have a chat with and I cannot remember their names after this length of time.

When in the Mulberry Bush I would always stand at the bar near to the hatch with the above crowd. This became our 'spot' and we would always be around there, probably talking to Dave or Moira. There would have been some bar stools at this location and some of the group would have sat on them whilst the others would have stood up.

With regards to the day of the bombings Thursday 21 November 1974 (211174) I would have been at work at Lawrence Cabinet. We were on

Signature: R E Phillips
2010/11

Signature witnessed by: GAYNOR MOORE

short time at the time and I would have finished at about 4.30pm

(1630) I then went home, had something to eat and got changed. It was my intention to go over to Penny's in Sutton Coldfield and I had arranged to meet her at her house and just spend the evening together there.

On this night I would have caught the number 145 bus from by my house into town and this dropped me off in the bus station. I seem to remember that I would have caught the twenty to eight (1940) bus which would have dropped me in town at about 5 minutes to eight. (1955) I then walked past the Market Hotel up into New Street Station and then across to the Mulberry Bush. It was normal for me to pop in there and have a quick drink before walking around onto New Street and catching the bus over to Penny's.

I went into the pub by the entrance in Worcester Street and went to my normal position by the hatch in the bar. I have indicated this position on the plan (Exh No) (Ref No REP/1) which I have handed to WDC MOORE. At this time the pub was busy, and people were queuing at the bar to be served. When I went to our spot there was Stan BODMAN, Mick BEASLEY, and one of the John's, whose surname I now remember was ROWLANDS. I also seem to remember that Cliff was there

Signature: R E Phillips
2010/11

Signature witnessed by: GAYNOR MOORE

with us but I cannot be sure of this.

As I approached the group I took my coat off and hung it on a hook on the wall, which was next to the serving flap on the bar. There was about eight hooks on the wall at this location and it was normal for people to hang coats there. Stan would normally hang his bag on there as well. Stan normally had some sort of carrier bag with him with some of his belongings in there. On this night there was a carrier bag hung on one of the pegs. I thought that it was Stan's bag so I hung my coat over the top of it. I was wearing a red nylon heavy duty anorak which had the words 'JIFFY' written on one of the breast pockets. The carrier bag I remember was a white plastic one which had a basket of fruit on the side. I cannot remember if there was any writing on it or not. The handles of the bag as far as I can remember were cut out of the actual bag and not attached to it. The bag seemed to contain something bulky as the weight of it pulled down on the handles. The other hooks were taken up with coats and the hook that had the bag on was the only one free so I hung my coat over the top of it.

When I went to the group Stan was sat on a stool and I said to him that I had hung my coat over his bag and not to let me forget it when

Signature: R E Phillips
2010/11

Signature witnessed by: GAYNOR MOORE

I left. Stan told me that it was not his bag because he had got his with him but I cannot remember if I saw that he had one with him or not.

Somebody from the group bought me a drink and we just stood there having a general conversation. Stan then asked me if I wanted a drink and I refused and said that I must be going. In the end he bought me a half and I drank that. When I had finished the drink I got my coat and started to walk out of the front entrance of the pub.

When I took my coat the carrier bag was still there and I had not seen anybody approach it whilst I had been in there.

As I was leaving the pub I saw two people walk in who I knew and I acknowledged them. One of them I think was called Bob who worked at Lloyds Bank in Colmore Row and I cannot remember the name of the other one.

I saw the bus approaching that I wanted to catch and so I ran around onto New Street and reached the stop, outside the Tavern in the Town, as it was pulling up.

I have a recollection of hearing a bang as I was running around to New Street but it did not register what it was because I was just interested in getting over to Penny's to see her.

Signature: R E Phillips
2010/11

Signature witnessed by: GAYNOR MOORE