

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: BODMAN, GRAHAM ROY

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: ACCOUNTANT

This statement (consisting of 10 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 in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: G Bodman Date: 22/05/1991

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am a married man and I live at the address stated overleaf with my

wife Mrs Jennifer Susan BODMAN **Reason 2**

I am an accountant and at present I conduct my business from home.

My father is Stanley James BODMAN who is now deceased having died in the Birmingham pub bombing on Thursday 21st November 1974. (211174).

He was 51 years of age when he died his birthday being the 1st July 1926 (01071926).

My father I believe was registered disabled although I'm not too sure exactly what his ailment consisted of, he didn't have the physical appearance of a disabled person, but he was prone to coughing fits and blackouts.

At the time of his death my father was living alone at **Reason 2**

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Reason 2

He and my mother who has now remarried were divorced **Reason 2**

Reason 2

My mother's full name since she remarried is Mrs Iris CHILES born

Reason 2 She is now living at **Reason 2**

Reason 2

I also have one brother and one sister these are Mrs Kim CROSWELL (Brn

Reason 2 She's now living with her husband at **Reason 2**

Reason 2 and then there's my brother Mr Paul BODMAN **Reason 2**

Reason 2 he's also married and living at **Reason 2**

Reason 2 My father by trade was qualified as an electrician

at the time of his death and the day that he died (21.11.74) (211174)

he'd actually been working on my business premises which was a freezer

business which I owned at the time, this was called Deep Freeze Centre

and was situated at the Poolway Shopping Centre, Poolway, Stetchford.

He'd been working at my shop for a couple of weeks and on that

particular day (21.11.74) (211174) he left the shop at about 4.30pm

(1630). Whilst he was on the premises he used to wear a white overall

coat over his own clothes, which he would take off and leave at the

premises when he left.

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I can't remember what clothes he was wearing when he left but my father nearly always wore a collar and tie a suit, he was normally smartly dressed so I presume he would have been wearing one of his suits on this particular day.

I know that he was intending to go to the Mulberry Bush public house in the City Centre under the Rotunda, he was going to meet his girlfriend Marjorie **Reason 4** who used to be a Manageress in a dress shop round the B corner from the pub. I can't recall the name of the shop.

They'd been going out for approximately a year together maybe more Marjorie was a nice woman, but I don't know her present whereabouts other than she's moved to London, Marjorie was a white lady at the time of the incident. She was in her mid 40's, slim in build, 5 feet 8, with dark hair.

In respect of my father he was also white in appearance, aged 51 years, he was about 6 feet 1, 6 feet 2, and very heavily built about 16 to 18 stone in weight, he was going bald on top and had grey hair, he wore glasses, but for reading purposes only.

My father was a regular customer at the Mulberry Bush pub and he would go there maybe 5 to 7 days a week. He was well known in the pub both to the staff and the other customers and was known and liked by

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everyone.

He used to be licensee himself and owned 2 or 3 pubs so he knew alot of people.

He didn't tend to stay in the Mulberry Bush all night, he would have a drink or two there and then go to another pub normally he'd meet Marjorie at the Mulberry and go on to another pub from there.

I know that he would always stand in a certain spot in the pub with some other customers and I've met him there inside myself on occasions although I wasn't with him the night he died.

My father would always stand right at the end of the bar on the corner nearest the entrance door near to the Odeon Cinema.

He would normally be in the company of the gaffer and his wife the licensee but I don't know them or their names, I know the staff know him well, because every year on the anniversary of his death a woman by the name of Dot CLARKE puts an add in the local paper remembering my father and she mentions some of the other customers who were with him when he died. I understand that Dot CLARKE was a barmaid in the pub at the time of the bombings but I dont know anything else about her.

My father also used to stand with another man whose surname I recall being THRUPP, I can't remember his name but I had met him on the

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occasions that I went in myself. There were some other customers he would stand with but I can't recall much about them it was so long ago now it's difficult to remember. After my father left me that night at 4.30pm (1630) he travelled into town by bus on his own, although he was supposed to be meeting Marjorie she didn't turn up at the pub because she'd got the flu but my father didn't know that at the time, my father would normally go to the pub the Mulberry Bush of an evening, the only time he would go there during the day would perhaps be on a Sunday. He would also visit other pubs in the city known as the Tavern in the Town, and the Hole in the Wall.

I don't know if my father intended to go to either of those pubs that night, but I presume when he left me he went straight from work to the Mulberry because he was to meet Marjorie about 6pm (1800) and I would estimate he would have arrived at the pub just on opening time.

My father apart from his personal items such as wallet etc didn't carry or have the need to carry any bags or holdalls etc and I can say that he didn't have anything like that when he left for the pub on that Thursday.

The normal routine in relation to my father's drinking would be that he'd arrive at the Mulberry during a weekday about opening time and

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meet Marjorie when she finished work they'd have a drink together and then she'd go off home by herself and leave my father in the pub. He would then meet his friend Geoff I don't know his surname but at the time I think he was living above a Lloyds Bank, somewhere **Reason 2**

Reason 2

Geoff would nearly always meet my father in the pub about 6 (1800) or 7pm (1900), he actually worked **Reason 2** as a Courier so depending on what time his shift finished depended on the time he arrived at the pub.

Geoff would meet him inside and after a drink he would take my father to another pub somewhere in his car, and then he would drop my father home, I don't know what time they would get home, I suppose it varied. I don't know Geoff's whereabouts at present, but he was a white man 5 feet 8, roundish face, cleanshaven in his 40's early 40's, smartly dressed, he had dark hair which was receding. I didn't know what type of car Geoff had at the time or registration number, I know that he wasn't in the pub on that night or injured in anyway.

I wasn't aware that there had been an explosion in the pub that night until one of the locals from my pub where I was drinking at the time, came and told me.

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