On Saturday, 16 May, Raymond McCreesh was on day 56 of his hunger strike. He was confined to bed and was described by the doctors as in a confused and disorientated state of mind as to time, place and person.

At around 6 pm he had a conversation with the Prison Hospital Officer, SO Nolan, and in the course of that conversation, said that he would take a drink of milk. Mr Nolan contacted the doctor on call (Dr Emerson) and asked him to come in to the prison to see McCreesh.

On arrival Dr Emerson found McCreesh in a confused state of mind but despite this gave an affirmative answer to the question from the doctor "Do you want me to save your life?"

Dr Emerson did not regard this answer as sufficient to authorise medical intervention in view of the mental state of the patient and took two steps to have the matter clarified. He asked for the family to be brought to the prison and also contacted Dr Bill in the absence of Professor Love in England.

The family (mother, sister, brother and priest/brother) arrived at about the same time as Dr Bill (around 9 pm).

Dr Emerson explained to the family that McCreesh was very confused but had asked for milk and medical resuscitation.

The family then saw McCreesh and the following conversation between the priest/brother and McCreesh was overheard.

"Q. Where are you?  
A. I am in hospital in Scotland.

You are not in hospital in Scotland you are in Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

(Later) Your brother and I were proud to carry the coffins of Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes - they are in heaven now waiting for you."