

CONFIDENTIAL

HMP Maze
Cellular
Co Antrim

18 May 1981

Sir,

I was Night Guard Hospital Officer on Saturday, 17 May.

When I came on duty I was detailed Hospital Wards. Dr Emerson was in the hospital and when I arrived on duty I was told 354/77 McCreesh was considering ending his hunger strike, and wished his life to be saved if possible. I was detailed hospital wing with Mr Lennon HO. At approximately 2100 hours, Drs Bill and Emerson visited Inmate 354/77 McCreesh. Dr Bill asked him if he would like to have medical treatment etc in order to save his life - McCreesh replied "I never wanted to die in the first place." Dr Bill asked him would he take some food. McCreesh replied "Aye" (I took this to mean yes). "I would take food if I could".

Both doctors then left. Mr Lennon and myself were present during the doctors' visit. At approximately 2100 hours also the McCreesh family arrived at the Prison Hospital having been sent for by Dr Emerson in light of what was happening. At 2115 I offered in the presence of Mr Lennon, the prisoner a drink of water, he drank a sip then asked me "Is this milk?". I told him it was not but asked him would he like milk - he then asked if his family had yet arrived. I told him they were with the doctors and would be in to see him soon, he then replied "then I'll wait to see them". I took this to mean whether or not he would drink milk etc. At 2120 McCreesh's visitors entered the wing. His mother, sister and two brothers (one a priest). I was instructed by Mr Nolan S/O to place 4 chairs in prisoner's ward for visitors and close the door with the observation flap up and remain outside. Myself and Mr Lennon did this. Probably because the prisoner's hearing is affected, the visitors spoke rather loudly and we could easily overhear some of the conversation. We heard the brother of McCreesh, Fr McCreesh, tell his brother to be strong and remember where he was "In Long Kesh Concentration Camp, being looked after by Prison Warders".

"You are doing this for a cause".

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"Remember O'Hara, he is strong and on hunger strike with you for the same amount of time".

The prisoner asked his family where Francis Hughes was, to which the brother (priest) replied, "He is in Heaven with Bobby Sands".

Both brothers went on to say about the funerals of Sands and Hughes and how proud everyone was of them.

We overheard his mother say "Now Raymond you are going back on your word". But I don't know what she meant by this.

The prisoner was repeatedly told to remember where he was in Long Kesh and to listen only to his family and not the medical or prison staff.

He was told that they would be in to see him tomorrow (Sunday) and to be strong and listen to them and everyone was proud of him and asking for him.

At 2155 approximately Dr Bill asked to see the family. At 2200 hours the 4 members of the family left the hospital wing, and spoke to the doctors. As she was leaving, his mother asked me to help him drink some water especially that he could not see very well. I replied that we would and had been doing that.

A short time after the family left the hospital complex and I learned that the family believed the prisoner had made up his mind to remain on hunger strike several weeks ago and this decision still stood.

I am, Sir,

J McAleavey 747
Hospital Officer

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