




 [Email @ireland.com](mailto:ireland.com)
 [Find your ancestors](#)
 [The Irish Times Dating Service](#)

- « Prev
- Next »

# IRISHTIMES.com

Friday, January 23, 2009

3 °C Dublin » 

- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Comment](#)
- [Life & Culture](#)
- [Shop](#)
- [Classified](#)

Search  

- [Ireland](#)
- [World](#)
- [Supplements](#)
- [In Depth](#)
- [Other](#)
- [Today's Paper](#)
- **Sport**
- [Soccer](#)
- [GAA](#)
- [Rugby](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Other](#)
- [irish-racing.com](#)
- **Business**
- [Latest](#)
- [Markets](#)
- [Exchange Rates](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [The Economy](#)
- [Management](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- [Diary](#)
- **Comment**
- [Opinion & Analysis](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [On the record](#)
- [Pricewatch](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Outside In](#)
- [Pursued by a Bear](#)
- [Today's news poll](#)
- **Life & Culture**
- [Features](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Weekend](#)
- [Magazine](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Pricewatch](#)
- [Education](#)

- [Crossword Club](#)
- [Sudoku](#)
- [Competitions](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Weather](#)
  
- **Shop**
- [Page Sales](#)
- [Photo Sales](#)
- [DVD Club](#)
- [Readers' Offers](#)
  
- **Classified**
- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Family Notices](#)
  
- **Other**
- [Search this site](#)
- [Premium Email](#)
- [Digital edition](#)
- [Print on demand](#)
- [Irish Ancestors](#)
- [Irish Times Training](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)
  
- **About us**
- [Company information](#)
- [Terms & conditions](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Help](#)
  
- [Home »](#)
- [Ireland »](#)
- [In the North »](#)
  
- [Email to a friend](#)
- [Email to Author](#)
- [Print](#)
- [RSS](#)
- Text Size:
- 
- 

Friday, January 23, 2009

## Sisters deny Hamill provoked assault

### [In this section »](#)

- [Dodds urges economic link with Scottish and Welsh assemblies](#)
- [SDLP insists party still relevant](#)

GERRY MORIARTY, Northern Editor

TWO SISTERS who were with Robert Hamill the night he was fatally assaulted in Portadown have denied suggestions he was part of a group of Catholics who uttered sectarian comments that may have provoked the assault, the Robert Hamill Inquiry has heard.

The sisters, Witness E and Witness F, said 25-year-old Mr Hamill and his friend – the husband of Witness E – were beaten in a totally unprovoked attack in the centre of Portadown, Co Armagh in late April 1997.

Witness F said a crowd of up to 30 loyalists were involved in the attack on Mr Hamill and her brother-in-law, known as Witness D. “I remember them kicking at his head and shouting, ‘Die you Fenian bastard’,” she said. Mr Hamill died 11 days later.

The inquiry is investigating a range of allegations, including a claim that RUC officers who were close to the scene failed in their duty to intervene, that one officer colluded with one of the suspects, that suspects were not detained on the night, and that the crime scene was not properly maintained by investigating officers.

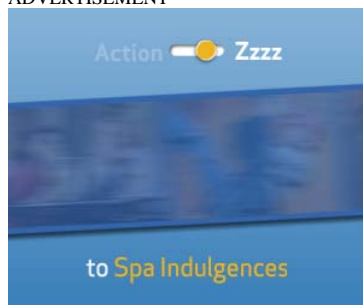
Mr Hamill and the other three were returning from a night out early in the morning of Sunday April 27th, 1997, when they were attacked in Portadown.

Ashley Underwood, QC, chief lawyer for the inquiry, referred to contradictory evidence that is to be given to the inquiry in which it will be claimed that one of a small group of nationalists allegedly assaulted a loyalist on the night, that a fight erupted between nationalists and loyalists which was broken up by police, and that earlier some nationalists shouted sectarian slogans, “You Orange bastard” and “Up the IRA” close to the general scene.

Both sisters insisted that neither Mr Hamill nor any of the group of four who were heading home early that Sunday morning made any such comments or were involved in any such incidents.

This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times

ADVERTISEMENT



## Latest »

- [11:04Ikea to open Dublin store on Monday July 27th](#)
- [10:45Two killed in Norway shooting](#)
- [10:38Armed raid on Kilkenny post office](#)
- [10:35Five killed in Belgian knife attack - report](#)
- [10:31Euro zone purchasing data hints at stabilisation](#)
- [10:25Garrard denies nightclub assault charges](#)
- [10:17Government, social partners to discuss public finances](#)
- [10:14Scuffles mar Australian Open](#)

## Popular Stories

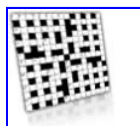
- [Most Read](#)
- [Most Emailed](#)
- [1Luxury hotels close with loss of 72 jobs](#)
- [2HSE given 48 hours to explain handling of incest case](#)
- [3Mother jailed for seven years for incest and abuse](#)
- [4State now set to accelerate AIB and BoI recapitalisation](#)
- [5President escapes disaster on the dancefloor](#)
- [1Ikea to open Dublin store on Monday July 27th](#)
- [2Getting to grips with life on the dole](#)
- [3State now set to accelerate AIB and BoI recapitalisation](#)
- [4Rent reviews must consider recession](#)
- [5Solicitors considering Anglo damages action](#)

## Your Vote »

[« Yes](#)  
[No »](#)  
[Results](#)

Do you think entering coalition with Fianna Fáil has damaged the Green Party?

## Crossword Club »



[Today's Interactive Irish Times Crosaire and Simplex crosswords, plus 10 years of crossword archive.](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Ads by Google

### True Story - Anxiety Cure

I Suffered Anxiety For Years This Is My Method For Cure  
 Anxiety.TakeMyPanicAway.com

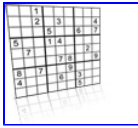
### Life & Business Coaching

Achieve your goals - enjoy life Professional, affordable  
 life coach  
 www.wiser-mind.com

### Need to talk?

approachable & professional clinic Chelsea -  
 appointments within 48hrs  
 www.maplepsychology.com

## Sudoku »



[Download and print the daily Irish Times sudoku grid](#)



• [Frost/Nixon, Milk, Rachel Getting Married](#) Three Oscar-nominated movies open today. [Read the reviews here.](#)



• [Video Archive](#) Historic addresses to the Houses of the Oireachtas



• [Getting to grips with life on the dole](#) Signing on can be a daunting experience for those new to the dole queue, writes Róisín Ingle



• [Doomed dreamers in the suburbs](#) Revolution Road should draw readers to the novels of Richard Yates



• [Fantasy Six Nations](#) Sign up and be in with a chance to win a holiday worth €5000 in our free Six Nations fantasy game

Collection available nationwide



Order online now!

[irishtimes.com](http://irishtimes.com)

- ADVERTISEMENT
- CLASSIFIED

### Homes



[44 Abington, Malahide, Co. Dublin](#) Price: €3,800,000

[Bedrooms: 7](#) [See More](#) »

### Jobs

Select your categories

- Accountancy
- Architecture / Design
- Banking & Financial Services
- Construction
- Customer Service, Call Centres & Languages

[Next](#) »

### Cars



[A brilliant all-rounder from Opel arrives at exactly the wrong time](#)

[Find](#) »

### Dating

I am a  Man  Looking for a  Woman  Located  All  Only with photos:  [Next](#) »

© 2009 [irishtimes.com](http://irishtimes.com)

- [Company information](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)

- [Help](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Terms & Conditions](#)