

RESTRICTED**STATEMENT****Number: S416**

Age	[018]
Statement Date	[25/JAN/2006]
Signed Name	[Dorothy Beresford]
Telephone No	[Code A]
Postcode	[Code A]
Date Of Birth	[Code A]
Occupation	[RETIRED]
Address	[Code A]
Forename 1	[DOROTHY]
Surname	[BERESFORD]

I am Dorothy BERESFORD and I live with my husband, Elliott/N1689 /S417 , at an address known to the Police.

I am a close friend of Betty PACKMAN/N344 /S419 who was the wife of Geoffrey PACKMAN/N346 who I called Mick.

This statement is about Mick and the visits that I made to him whilst he was a patient in the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Hampshire./L42 shortly before he died.

I have known Betty since I was eleven and when she met Mick, Elliott and I would go out with them.

We were close friends, we played tennis together and Elliott and Mick would play golf.

When Mick and Betty got married Elliott was Mick's best man, and when Betty and Mick adopted their son, Mark/N1686 /S413 , I drove them to collect him and Elliott and I are his godparents. Betty and Mick went on to adopt Vicky,/N731 /S418 their daughter.

Mick was a funny and entertaining man. He had a sarcastic wit. Classical music was his passion and he introduced me to it. We would all go to the theatre together and spend time in each other's houses, we were good friends and we had lots of fun together.

Mick worked in insurance and he and Betty originally lived just outside of Nottingham. They then moved to Swanleigh in Kent when Mick worked for Zurich Insurance and then onto Emsworth in Hampshire.

Although they moved so far away, we would meet up in Oxford and Claire,/N1697 my daughter, and Vicky would spend holidays together. Betty would come up to visit her mother regularly so I would see her then. I didn't see Mick as often because he would be working.

When they lived in Emsworth, Mick changed his job and became a taxi driver. I think he had an argument with someone at Zurich.

I have been asked if I know anything about Mick's health. Over the years he began putting on weight. He seemed to get larger when he was driving the taxi. He wouldn't diet and he liked his food.

He suffered from oedema in his legs. They were very swollen and always weeping.

He never complained about this. He had nurses who came to the house to change the bandages on his legs.

I have been asked about when Mick was in hospital.

Betty rang us to tell us that Mick had been admitted into hospital whilst she was in hospital having a lumpectomy.

He had not been able to get off the toilet at home and Vicky had to call someone to come and help. Mick had been taken into hospital and I assumed it was his oedema.

I know that Betty came out of hospital and Mick ended up in a hospital in Gosport, The Gosport War Memorial Hospital./L42

Elliott and I went to stay with Betty and together we all visited Mick every evening. Betty drove us all as she knew the way. I believe that we visited Mick on three occasions in all.

On the first occasion Mick seemed his usual jovial, lively self. He was chatting about what we had been doing during the day. He seemed normal and was hoping to get his legs seen to. We thought that he was getting better and that he was just convalescing.

We visited him the following night and he seemed exactly the same cheerful, chatty and in good spirits. Because he seemed so well, we decided that we wouldn't visit him the following night. The next day we had no plans to visit Mick, this included Betty, and we were at Betty's home about to have our tea when the phone rang.

Betty went and answered it and returned to tell us that the hospital had rung to say that she should come in as Mick may have had a heart attack. They might have even said 'slight heart attack'.

Betty drove us all to the hospital. Mick was in the same room on his own as he had been for all of our visits. He was in bed propped up and seemed like he had the night before, normal. He was chatting and didn't complain of any pain. He wasn't wired up to anything and there were no machines around him.

As we sat there a lady doctor came in. She said "Mrs PACKMAN?" And Betty replied "Yes." The doctor said "I want to see you." She spoke in a very abrupt way. Betty went out and came back about ten minutes later.

Mick said to her "What did she want?" Betty told him that was something about his medication.

When we left Mick and had gone outside Betty became very upset. She told us that the doctor had told her that Mick was going to die.

I was very shocked, people had heart attacks and lived and Mick wasn't on any medicine. We sat in the car whilst Betty wept. Elliott and I tried to comfort her. We didn't know how long Mick was going to live and Betty wanted us to come back to Emsworth after she had her operation for cancer. We left Hampshire intending to return shortly afterwards.

Prior to us leaving Barbara N1698 /A2183 /F2, Mick's sister, came to visit Mick and next day as she was in the area. She came to Betty's house after seeing Mick at the hospital and told us that she didn't think that Mick was dying.

Elliott and I went home to Chesterfield and shortly afterwards I believe it was the day after her operation Betty rang us from hospital to tell us that Mick had died.

Dorothy Beresford

Statement taken **Code A**