

James Hanratty's trial evidence :-

James Hanratty's words in blue text.

Michael Sherrard's words in purple text.

Graham Swanwick's words in black text.

Wednesday February 7th 1962

Guardian Newspaper coverage.....(of 08-02-1962)

"At that stage I made up a lie and to cover that lie I made up other lies to cover up the the lies which I had already said."

"I did not commit this terrible murder."

"My lord, I didn't tell Supt Acott because at that point I did not know the name of the street, the number of the house, or even the name of the people in the house. At that stage I knew that I was only wanted for interviewing, not for the actual murder charge or the truth would have been told straight away."

"Because, my lord, I am a man with a prison record and I know that in such a trial as this it is very vital for a man once to change his evidence in such a serious trial. But I know inside of me somewhere in Rhyl this house does exist and by telling the truth these people will come to my assistance."

*Mr Sherrard -'Is what you have told my lord and the jury about this matter [Rhyl] just now the truth ?'
-"Every word sir."*

[paraphrasing] "I had inquired several times before finding it [Ingledene], it was dark at the time and a woman, middle aged, wearing glasses, and with greying hair answered the door. There was a coat rack in the hall and a green bath in a green bathroom in the attic."

[paraphrasing]... "I travelled to Liverpool from London on August 22nd with some articles from a break-in in the Stanmore area, including a solitaire diamond ring worth £350."..."On the train I met a man, smartly dressed in striped trousers and black jacket. He was making notes with a gold 'Biro' pen."

"I noticed he was very smartly dressed because I myself take notice of the appearance of people. This man had his sleeve cut short to show the white cuff and he had gold cufflinks and there was an initial on them, but I could only make out the letter 'E'."

[paraphrasing]..."The man had a pair of glasses with separate lenses to save him having two pairs. He wore his watch on his right wrist, which was unusual, because he wrote with his right hand."

[paraphrasing]..."At Liverpool I asked the way to Carlton or Tarleton Road in a sweetshop in Scotland Road. A woman behind the counter told me I was too far out and I walked back into town."

[paraphrasing]..."There [in town] I tried to sell a watch from a break-in in the Harrow area --a watch with 'To Tony, with love from Mum' inscribed on the back. As I could not find the man I was looking for [Aspinall] in Liverpool, I went by double-decker coach to Rhyl to see a man called Terry Evans."

[paraphrasing]..."On the Thursday I went back to Liverpool and that night caught a train which got me to London in the early hours of Friday morning."

[paraphrasing]..."I had my hair dyed dark in late July last year 'because it was summertime and I was doing business---my break-ins--- and I had to do it in the day and my hair is an auburn colour and it is very

outstanding'."

Swanwick -'Mr Hanratty, do you always hold your right eyebrow higher than your left ?'

"I don't know sir, because I cannot see it."

-/Did you end a telephone conversation with Supt Acott, from Liverpool on October 7th by saying "I am a bit fly, you know" ?'

-"That is what Supt Acott said. I did not say it."

-'You are a person who will tell any lie, I suggest, to get out of a jam ?'

"That is not right at all."

-'You have told a lot of lies to get out of this jam ?'

-"That was in different circumstances."

-' And those lies were by way of setting up a false alibi, weren't they ?'

"You can put it in words to that effect, yes."

-'Well it's true, isn't it ?'

"Yes."

'Until 4.30 yesterday afternoon you had deliberately deceived consistently the prosecution, had you not ?'

-"You are wrong sir."

'Do you suggest that the prosecution knew anything about your second so called alibi at Rhyl until 4.30 yesterday afternoon ?'

-"No, I am not saying that, no. But they knew in their minds there was some doubt about this."

'They knew your alibi about the three men was probably a pack of lies, but they did not know you were going to change it all and give a different story ?'

-"Sir, let me make this quite clear, that this story I have put forward is the truth. If it was not I would not put it forward."

'You had, until 4.30 yesterday afternoon led the prosecution on a wild goose chase ?'

-"Yes sir, yes."

'I suggest that you invented this alibi over the weekend.'

-"You will see in due course."

[paraphrasing] "I spent the night of August 24th at New Brighton."

"I mentioned New Brighton this morning to Mr Sherrard, if you had been listening carefully."

[paraphrasing] "I spent two nights in New Brighton, August 24th, the night of the boxing match, and in October when I had bed and breakfast in New Brighton at a boarding house."

- 'What date?'

-"The exact date I can't tell you, but it was a Saturday night, the night of the first phone call I made to Supt Acott."

'I suggest you are contradicting yourself because you are not telling the truth.'

-"That's to be seen, sir."

[Re. the story of three men living in flats in the Bull Ring off Scotland Road]

-"I know I caused a lot of trouble there, but in my circumstances I was too scared to make it quite clear, and to turn around and mention this other house which I had stayed at, but I was told by my solicitor that when I came into the witness box I must tell the truth and I made up my mind there and then that this was not the truth and that I would have to tell the truth and that, if I tell the truth I have nothing to fear."

-'Are you suggesting that a day or two ago is the first time you have ever realised that in a case of this nature you ought to tell the truth ?'

-"I want to make this quite clear ; it was put to me the other day that if I did not tell the names and addresses of

the three men at Liverpool my life was at stake."

'Of course no one would believe that cock and bull story.'

"I knew inside I did not commit this crime."

'Were you going to maintain it because you knew it was a good story and as good as any other ?'

"That is not true."

"How I put it was like this: I never knew the bearing about this house. I had already on the telephone mentioned to Mr Acott about Liverpool. I did not want to contradict myself. I told a lie and had to cover up, cover up, cover up until eventually I made things a lot worse for myself."

'Why switch your story to Gerrard Gardens ?'

"That was made on my solicitor's part, not mine."

'I suppose finally you realised that no one would believe this cock and bull story ?'

"Yes."

'Over the weekend you dreamed up this other alibi ?'

"Let me make this quite clear. My witnesses are to come."

'We shall hear your witnesses in due course. I am asking you about your evidence.'

"At this stage it is quite obvious to a man with a criminal record that to come into the witness box and change his alibi as I have done is ridiculous if it is not the truth. If I was lying I would keep to my old story. It is quite obvious to millions of people."

'You have said you have a long criminal record. You know very well that the test of a true alibi is whether it is set up in good time so that it can be tested by the prosecution don't you ?'

"I don't know much about court law."

'You know enough, don't you, to know that the hallmark of a false alibi is one that is set up at the last moment ?'

"If you put it like that, I don't know much about court justice. If I have committed a crime I plead guilty, because the punishment for that crime I have deserved. But this crime I did not commit. I am not guilty."

'I am asking you about your alibi. You appreciate that if you set up an alibi earlier on the police, the prosecution are able to check on it. You appreciate that ?'

"Yes, I appreciate that, now you have put it to me."

'And Supt acott was at pains to impress this on you throughout this investigation ?'

"That's right, yes, he did tell me."

'You knew that if the alibi was tested that would prove your innocence?'

"Yes, yes, that's right."

'You have not held back on the Rhyl alibi so that they could not check on it ?'

"You have got the same start on it as Mr Sherrard."

'What about the photographs of you which were taken on Monday ? Weren't they taken to hawk round the landladies of Rhyl ?'

"I don't know. I had some idea but he [Mr Sherrard] keeps his business to himself and carries on with the case."

[paraphrasing]...

'Is it right that you said you were at Rhyl one evening at a fairground with a Mr Webber or Webster towards the end of July ?'

"It had been at the beginning of July."

'You are dead sure ? It could be quite wrong to say it was Tuesday, July 25th ?'

"It would be quite wrong to say as far as I recall it. If you've got the correct date, that's it."

'You have been told that we are going to see Mr Terence Evans. Did you stay that night with him ?'

"I stayed at his house, yes."

'Have you told us everything you can remember about the boarding house ?'

"No, there are little bits more that I can remember."

'Oh, well let's have them.'

"I know at this stage that a lot depends on this boarding house. You are trying to suggest that it does not exist. My only hope is for a miracle and so I will try to put my mind back six months. That's what I have got to do, six months. Well, I remember there was no front garden to this house. In the morning I looked out the window and found a small courtyard."

'At the front or the back ?'

"At the back. They are the two items which I never told Mr Sherrard this morning."

'You have just remembered them ?'

"Sir, this is a bit of a strain on me, standing here like this."

'Anything more come to you in the witness box just now ?'

"About the house, sir, no. That's all I can remember."

"Do you remember, for instance, what the paper was like on the wall of the room in which you slept?"

"No, I will be quite fair with you, I can't."

"Do you remember the colour of the carpet?"

"No, I don't."

"Can you remember the name of the street?"

"No sir, I can't. If I could I would not have given Mr Acott the false alibi."

"When you stayed your night with Mr Evans in July, did you know the address where he was?"

"No sir, if I had known that I would have had no trouble in finding it."

"Are you sure you have not taken the details of Evans's house and pretended it was this boarding-house?"

"I make this quite clear. Evans's house is a council house and not a boarding-house. He lives on a council estate."

"Are you sure you have not transposed the details of Evans's house and the boarding-house?"

"The only way you can be sure is to check it yourself."

[paraphrasing] "I did not get a receipt at the boarding-house and did not sign a register. I went out at 9.30am and looked for Evans who worked at the fairground. I went to a cafe called Dixie's which was used by Evans. I could not find him. I had a midday meal there. Dixie's cafe was about 200 yards from the fairground at the back going towards the railway bridge."

[paraphrasing] "I had a shave during the morning at a hairdresser's in the High Street, where there were three or four barbers and three or four chairs. In the afternoon I spent some time on pin-tables. When it was getting dark I went to a fairground, but did not find Evans. I then went and had a cup of coffee at Dixie's before going back to the boarding-house."

"How did you find your way back to the boarding-house?"

"I know what you are going to say : 'How did you remember it then if you can't remember it now?'"

"You are a bit fly, aren't you?"

"No, I'm not being a bit fly."

"How did you find your way back to the boarding-house?"

"I found my way back in the normal way."

"But you cannot give directions now?"

"I have given directions. The boarding-house is at the back of Dixie's facing toward a railway."

[Paraphrasing]- 'Why did you tell Supt Acott that you had stayed at Liverpool when you had this information about the boarding-house in Rhyl.'

"Putting two and two together he would not believe me. I couldn't give the name of the street nor the name or number of the house and did not sign any register."

"With my knowledge of the police he would have said right away : 'That is not true.' I thought to myself I would put another little story up. I knew I had not committed this crime and I was not worried, but at this stage I am worried."

Thursday February 8th 1962

[Guardian Newspaper coverage..... \(of 09-02-1962\)](#)

"The man who committed this crime was a maniac, a savage. I am not a maniac of any kind.....I am decent. I try to live a respectable life, except for my housebreaking."

[paraphrasing] - 'I suggest that your great ambition was to become a "stick-up" man and that on August 22nd you went out and used your "new toy", a gun.'

"If I did, why did I go to a car parked in a cornfield? I would be looking for a bank or a shop or somewhere where there was some cash."

[Paraphrasing] "I've never had a gun but if I wanted to get one it would be quite easy."

"You can get a gun for £10 or £12 any day of the week anywhere in soho. Teenagers are buying them today."

[paraphrasing] - 'Did you tell a man named Fisher, of Ealing, that the jewellery business was now played out and that you would get a shooter and go into cash.'

-"Yes, but this was a manner of speech. It was not serious. It was one crook to another talking about business."

[paraphrasing]-'I suggest that when you were out as a "stick-up" man you had brushed your hair back.'

"If I was a 'stick-up' man I would not bother about my hair. I would have a mask or something. It is not your hair you have to worry about. It is your face. With my experience over the years I would say that a man who does 'stick-ups' would have a mask."

"In this case I have three friends. They are my counsel and my family. the rest of the world are against me."

[Paraphrasing]- 'You have been in prison for five of your 25 years ?'

-"Yes."

-'You have been a professional housebreaker since you were 16 ?'

-"Yes."

[Paraphrasing]- 'You have stolen with no conscience or regrets or regards to the sentimental value of what you had taken ?'

-"Yes."

-'We have now heard that there are some missing people you want to find. The man on the train with the gold "Biro", and the rest of it you are hoping to find by means of publicity ?'

-"Yes."

-'And the workman in the carriage with an upset stomach, you want to find him by publicity ?'

-"Yes."

-'Why is it only yesterday that these details are given for publication in the press, why not a long time ago ?'

-"That is up to my counsel."

-'Or is it because it is an invention and you know it ?'

-"It is not an invention. If it was I would not waste my time saying it."

-'Either some of these people will turn up and they may recollect an incident, perhaps not being sure of the date to support your alibi or they won't turn up and you will be able to say, "Look at all the effort I have made. It's bad luck I can't find them." Is it not so ?'

-"No sir, and I don't think it is fair on your behalf to put that to the Court."

-'You accept that the police have never been asked to make inquiries about these two people on the train ?'

-"My counsel knew previous before. It is up to them to put it to the Court. It is not up to me to tell them what to do."

[Paraphrasing] "The facts of my Rhyl alibi might have been 'saved' for the prosecution." (in response to a question from Swanwick)

-'Until it is too late to check it ?'

-"You will be able to check it."

-'Why do you remember so much about other unimportant matters and so little about the boarding-house ?'

-"So little ? I gave the best description of that house that I could have possibly put to the Court."

[Paraphrasing] -'Would I be right in saying that 75% of small boarding-houses had a coatstand in the hall and an aspidistra somewhere ?'

-"I would not say so."

-'And a middle-aged landlady with grey hair ?'

-"Very probably lots of landladies with that description, but I gave the Court the truth."

[Paraphrasing, and pointing to a street map of Rhyl] -'Would the boarding-house be on the seaward side of the railway ?'

- "Yes."

- 'There would be very few streets to search ?'

- "There is quite a large number there."

- 'What there would be to search would largely be semi-detached houses and shops ?'

- "No, all joined together."

[Paraphrasing] - "Looking at the map it looks easy but if one was to go there and try to pinpoint the place it's more difficult."

- 'You had from October 7th to 11th when you were in Liverpool, Blackpool, or that area when you could have gone along and tried to find this boarding-house. If you had found it then your troubles would have been over ?'

- "Yes, you can put it in that sense, sir, but in the state I was in at that time I was very depressed . . . I was a wanted man by Mr Acott. He was putting my name all over the papers. He wanted to interview me. The police were looking for me. I couldn't go and knock at houses in Rhyl and ask if I had stayed there. I was a wanted man. I had to pick and choose my houses I could go to."

- 'Just before this murder you decided to achieve your great ambition and become a stick-up man ?'

- "No sir, you are wrong sir and I can prove it."

- 'I am not suggesting you had this gun very long before the murder. I am suggesting it was a new toy.'

- "A toy ? A gun a toy ?"

- 'And that after the murder you could not use it and you dumped it on a bus within 24 hours ?'

- "Do you want an answer to that sir ?"

- 'Yes.'

- "Well, all I can say is that what you have just put to the Court is not true."

[Paraphrasing, re telegram sent from Liverpool]- "It was sent on a Tuesday not a Thursday. Mr Acott had made a mistake."

- 'If it was sent on a Thursday it could not establish your alibi for the Tuesday ?'

- "It could not quite obviously."

- 'Why did you tell Mr Acott it would establish your alibi ?'

- "No. You cannot put a matter of such importance as that in that way. I am not illiterate and I know that this telegram is registered and that there is a copy of it and I would not make such a silly mistake if I wanted to make up an alibi."

[Paraphrasing] - 'I suggest that you dashed back to Liverpool having committed the murder, wondered what to do for 24 hours and sent the telegram in a desperate effort to pretend you had been in Liverpool at the time.'

- "I put it to you quite frankly, Mr Swanwick, that your suggestions are wrong in every way and I only hope in this next week I will be able to prove to you that your suggestions are outrageous."

[Referring to police station interviews with Supt Acott]...

"In the interview the questions was coming so fast. Mr Acott has said about pausing for minutes, etc., and about me being weird, and that is a load of nonsense and half his evidence is nonsense as well."

- 'Did you hear your counsel ask why the interview took so long ?'

- "Yes."

- 'That was because you took so long to answer ?'

- "It was him doing the pausing not me."

- 'I thought you said the questions were coming so quickly ?'

- "He could not give the questions as quick as I could answer them. The questions he put to me I was answering with the truth quickly. I know you can't beat the truth and the truth comes so quickly. It is when you lie that you have to think about what you are going to say."

[Paraphrasing] - 'If your jacket had only been split along the stitching under the arm it could have been repaired ?'

- "Yes."

[Paraphrasing] - 'I put it to you that there was blood on that jacket ?'

- "Are you suggesting that there was blood from this terrible crime for which I am standing here, on my check jacket ?"

[Paraphrasing] -'Why did you say check jacket ?'

-"Well striped jacket then. I do not want to get confused here because it is a very serious matter."

[Paraphrasing] -'Did you say on Wednesday that your hair was dyed first in late July and that Carol France was the first person to dye it ?'

-"Yes."

[Paraphrasing] -'Do you remember Miss France saying in evidence that it was August Bank Holiday when she first dyed your hair ?'

-"I understand that. Her dates were not up to my standard. My dates had to be accurate. Her dates she can pick and choose. But my dates I know. I have got to be accurate. I have a lot at stake."

[Re. evidence given at the trial by Langdale about a conversation in prison]. . . .

"I will put it straight to you as I put it to my counsel. Langdale has walked with me on two or three occasions. Langdale came to me on his own free will and he asked me facts about this case which hundreds of other people have also asked me."

"I remember quite clearly and quite plainly him asking me what I was in for or to that effect. I told him quite plainly that I was a suspect for the A6. This is the only dealing I have ever had with that man."

"Every word this man [Langdale] has put to the Court is a complete pack of lies."

This completes the Guardian's coverage of James Hanratty's trial evidence.

James Hanratty's trial evidence (cont) :-

Wednesday February 7th 1962

Daily Mirror coverage.....(of 08-02-1962)

[that's not mentioned in Guardian]

"It was impossible for me to commit this crime. I can only hope I can prove it."

[Paraphrasing, re the five people he saw or spoke with in Liverpool/Rhyl on August 22nd 1961]

"A man I sat next to on the midday train from Euston to Liverpool. This man was smartly dressed in a black jacket and striped trousers. He wore a watch on his right wrist and made notes on a pad with a gold ball-point pen."

"An attendant in the left-luggage office at Lime Street Station, Liverpool. He had something wrong with his hand. 'I am not saying it was withered.' "

"A woman behind the counter in a sweetshop in Scotland Road, Liverpool. I asked her the way to a street where I hoped to see a man I had met in prison."

"A man standing at the entrance to a billiards saloon. I tried unsuccessfully to sell this man a stolen gold wrist watch."

"A woman at a Bed and Breakfast house in Rhyl where I went by motor coach on the evening of August 22nd. The woman was aged about fifty, grey-haired and wearing glasses. I slept in an upstairs back room and paid 25s for a two night stay."

[paraphrasing] "Yes, I have a criminal record but I have never been charged with any crime of violence or any sexual offence."

[paraphrasing] "Yes, last summer I committed burglaries and housebreaking - looking mainly for jewellery or cash."

[paraphrasing] "Yes, I used the name of James Ryan."

[paraphrasing] "Yes, Last July I had my auburn hair dyed black by 16 year old Carol France, the daughter of my friend Dixie France."

Mr Sherrard - 'Did you meet a Mrs Anderson last summer ?'

- "Yes, I did sir, towards the end of July."

- 'Did she have an antiques shop somewhere in Soho ?'

- "That's right, sir. Greek Street."

- 'Is it right that she gave you various sums of money ?'

- "That's right, sir, yes."

- 'You mean you were selling her the proceeds of your thefts ?'

- "Well, bits and pieces. What she wanted. . . . The big stuff she did not want, but smaller stuff she took."

[paraphrasing] "Mrs Anderson introduced me to a girl named Mary Meaden. I grew to be quite fond of Mary."

[paraphrasing] "Before going to Liverpool I stayed the night of August 21st at the Vienna Hotel, Maida Vale, London. I signed the register as 'J.Ryan' and left the next morning about 9.30 am."

[paraphrasing] "The reason I went to Liverpool was because I wanted to sell a solitaire diamond worth about £350. I got it from a break-in in the Stanmore-Harrow area."

[paraphrasing] "I was hoping to see in Liverpool a man named Aspinall, a friend I had met in jail. But I did not know his exact address and did not find him."

[paraphrasing] "The reason I went to Rhyl was to see a man named Terry Evans with whom I once worked on a fairground."

[paraphrasing] "I did not find Terry Evans and after two nights spent at the boarding-house I returned to Liverpool. then I went back to London."

[Hanratty went on to describe five passengers who were on the London bound train with him - a woman and two girls who were going on holiday and two London plumbers who had been working in Stafford.

"One of the plumbers said he was suffering from food poisoning."

[paraphrasing] "Last October I discovered I was wanted by the police in connection with the A6 murder. I then phoned Supt Acott twice. I also phoned the Daily Mirror and was advised to go to Supt Acott. The day after the phone calls to Supt Acott I stole a Jaguar car from Portland Place, London and drove it to the outskirts of Manchester, where I abandoned it. I then went by train to Liverpool. I phoned Supt Acott from Liverpool and told him I had been staying with three men in Liverpool on August 22nd when in fact I was at the boarding-house in Rhyl."

"At that stage I made up a lie, and to cover that lie I made up other lies to cover up the lies which I had already said."

[paraphrasing] **- 'Why did you persist in telling Supt Acott that you had stayed in Liverpool with three men ?'**

- "I know I made a terrible mistake. . . . But I know inside of me, somewhere in Rhyl this house does exist; and that, by telling the truth now, these people will come to my assistance."

[paraphrasing] **- 'Did you ever make a confession to the A6 murder to a man named Roy Langdale who was on remand with you in Brixton Prison ?'**

- "Not a word. It is all false. Every word."

Swanwick - 'You are a man who will tell any lie to get out of a jam --isn't that right ?'

- "No. that isn't right at all."

- 'You told a lot of lies to get out of this jam ?'

- "That was in different circumstances."

- 'You told a lot of lies to Supt Acott, didn't you ?'

- "I did."

- 'And those lies were by way of setting up a false alibi ?'

- "You can put it in words to that effect."

[re. Hanratty recalling the small courtyard at the back of Ingledene and no front garden]...-'Have you just remembered this ?'

- "Yes it has just come to me."

- 'Unless this is equally a false alibi.'

- "We will just have to wait and see."

- 'Are you sure there is such a house ?'

- "I am dead sure."

"I have so much at stake in this trial. I have for 20 days sat in that box. This is the only chance I have had to explain, and now you are trying to pull me to pieces."

[Swanwick referred to the three men in Liverpool when James Hanratty interrupted]....."I know you are going to keep rubbing this in. I must be frank, I have made a terrible mistake, I am sorry."

"My word is as good as anyone's in this court."

[Re. the 'intensive' inquiries by the police to check on the story of the three men]....."I know I caused a lot of trouble there. But, in the circumstances, I was too scared to make it quite clear, and to turn around and mention this other house which I had stayed at. I was told by my solicitor that when I came into the witness-box I must tell the truth. I made up my mind there and then that this was not the truth and that I would have to tell the truth and that, if I tell the truth I have nothing to fear."

Thursday February 8th 1962

[Daily Mirror coverage...\(of 09-02-1962\)](#)
[\[that's not mentioned in Guardian\]](#)

"I am not a man of good character, but I am not a murderer -- and this is a murder trial, not a housebreaking trial."

This completes the Daily Mirror's coverage of James Hanratty's trial evidence.

[James Hanratty's trial evidence \(cont\) :-](#)

Wednesday February 7th 1962

[Times newspaper coverage....\(of 08-02-1962\)](#)

-'Why didn't you tell him [Supt Acott] you had been to Rhyl ?'

"My Lord, I didn't tell Supt Acott because at that point I did not know the name of the street, the number of the house, or even the name of the people in the house. At that stage I knew that I was only wanted for interviewing, not for the actual A6 murder charge, which I found out later, or the truth would have been told straight away. I know I made a terrible mistake by telling Supt Acott about these three men, but I have been advised that the truth only counts in this matter, and might I say here every word of that is the truth."

-'Have you ever been charged with any crime of violence or any sexual offence of any kind ?'

-"No, sir."

-'Did you in the summer of 1961 in fact commit burglaries, housebreaking ?'

-"Yes, i did, sir."

-'What was the main thing for which you were looking in these houses ?'

-"Mainly for jewellery or cash."

-'Did you use the name of James Ryan ?'

-"I did, sir."

[paraphrasing] "Last July I went to stay with Mr France. I had my hair dyed dark because it was summer time. I was doing business - my breakings - and I had to do it in the day, and my hair is auburn colour and it is very outstanding, so I had it dyed dark."

-'Is it right that on Sunday, August 20th last year you took some of your shirts and other washing to Mrs France and asked her to do it for you ?'

-"That's quite correct, sir."

-'Is it right you told them you were going to Liverpool ?'

-"That's right, sir, yes."

-'Were you indeed going to Liverpool ?'

-"I was, sir, yes."

-'Did you, in fact, go ?'

-"I did go."

-'What was the reason for your going to Liverpool ?'

-"I had some diamonds, sir."

-'In what form ?'

-"A solitaire diamond worth £350."

-'Where did you get that ?'

-"I got it in a break-in in the Stanmore-Harrow area. There were other articles with it."

-'Why were you going to Liverpool ?'

-"I was going to see a friend of mine who I knew as a past prisoner. I knew he was in the grocery business, my Lord."

-'What was his name ?'

-"Aspinall."

[paraphrasing] "I spent the night of August 21st at the Vienna Hotel. I went to Paddington the next day, realised I had made a mistake and then went to Euston."

-'I want you to describe this part of your journey with great care because I want the description of a certain man. Remember, I said yesterday we hope that he may recognise himself. Give as much detail as you can remember.'.....

[paraphrasing] "In the train a man whom I had noticed was sitting making notes. the man had a gold Biro, and was wearing striped trousers and a black jacket to match. I would say that the jacket was a baratheia. The man was very smartly dressed and he had a brief case and a pad which could be turned over at the top."

"This man had his sleeve cut short to show the white cuff and he had gold cufflinks and there was an initial on them, but I could only make out an 'E'."

[paraphrasing] "The man was wearing black shoes which were shinier at the toe than on the upper part and he had black nylon socks. he was sitting with his legs crossed. The man had a pair of glasses and he also had a separate lens which could be joined on to the first pair to save him having to have two completely separate pairs of glasses."

[paraphrasing] "The train arrived in Liverpool about 4.30pm. I went down some stairs for a wash and brush up

and then had a cup of tea. I put my case in the left luggage office. the man in the left luggage office had a hand with which there was something wrong."

"I am not saying that it was withered."

[paraphrasing] "I went into a sweet shop and spoke to a woman behind the counter. A little girl was also in the shop. The woman told me that I had gone too far out of town for Carlton or Tarleton Road. I returned to the centre of the city and there asked a man if he was interested in buying a watch. the watch was a gold Omega with a gold strap with the inscription on the back 'To Tony with love from Mum'. The man was not interested."
[paraphrasing] "That night I went to Rhyl by coach and stayed the night there. I went to see a man called Terry Evans."

[paraphrasing] " The woman who answered the door was about 50, of average build, and wore glasses. A coat rack in the hall was a big one. there was a green plant in a bowl and a green bath in the attic."

[paraphrasing] "I knew Evans as John and after working that night at a seafront fairground I stayed with John."

[paraphrasing] "I arrived back in Liverpool about midday on the Thursday. I returned to London in the early hours of Friday. A woman and two teenage girls had been in the compartment and two workmen had got on at Stafford."

-Early in October did you discover that you were wanted by the police in connection with the A6 murder ?

"Yes, sir."

-Had you anything to do with this murder at all ?

"I had nothing to do with it whatsoever, my Lord."

[re. his telephone conversation with Supt Acott on October 6th]...

"I did not want to give myself up because I knew in my heart and soul that I didn't commit this crime and there was no need to do so."

[paraphrasing] "The Daily Mirror asked me at that time if I would like to have one of their solicitors and go to Mr Acott. They also said they would do everything in their power to help him."

"I explained it was impossible for me to come forward because of my housebreaking charges."

[paraphrasing] "I had told Mr Acott in a further conversation that I was going to Liverpool 'because in the previous conversation he asked me where I was on the night of the 22nd and 23rd and I told him I was in Liverpool, which was not correct'."

-What did you say to him at the end of that conversation about what you were going to do ?

"I said I was going to Liverpool to interview and see if these people would stand by my alibi. That was on the Friday night."

-Did you get to Liverpool ?

"Yes."

[paraphrasing] "I broke into a Mark VII Jaguar saloon and drove to Manchester and then went to Liverpool by train."

[paraphrasing] 'After your arrest did you say anything about your feelings about an identity parade with regards to your hair.'

"Yes, I remember this quite plainly. There were three officers present, Supt Acott, Supt Barron and Mr. (Detective Chief Inspector) Whiffen who was putting the cuffs on me. They read the charge to me and said I would go to Bedford and I would be put on an identification parade, and I explained to Mr Acott was it fair to put me on an identification parade with my hair being like it was. His reply was to the effect 'I did not ask you to get your hair dyed, Jimmy. If you have any complaint you can tell the judge'."

[paraphrasing] 'Do you remember seeing Langdale at Brixton Prison ?'

"Yes, I did. I must be fair about it."

-Did you ever say to Langdale the things he has attributed to you, this complete confession, anything along those lines at all ?

"Nothing at all. It is all false, every word."

-Have you ever obtained a gun ?

- "Never."

- 'Or ever indulged in target practice ?'

- "Never."

- 'Did you have anything at all to do with this murder ?'

- "I had nothing to do with it. It was impossible for me to have committed this crime and I only hope I can prove it."

Thursday February 8th 1962

Times newspaper coverage....(of 09-02-1962)

"The man who committed this crime was a maniac, a savage. I am not a maniac of any kind. I can prove it with my past girl friends. I am decent. I try to live a respectable life, except for my housebreaking."

"The public would not be asked to come here and stand alibi for a man on a murder charge if it was not true. In this case I have three friends. They are my counsel and my family. The rest of the world are against me."

Swanwick - 'The rest of the world are trying to find the truth ?'

- "They are against me."

- 'If you had found the boarding-house it would have cleared you completely ?'

- "That is quite correct."

- 'The truth of this matter is that the boarding-house and the visit to the boarding-house from August 22nd to 24th is just another lie, isn't it ?'

- "That is what you say, sir. You are wrong and I only hope I shall prove you wrong in due time."

"You say that I went to Liverpool to make up an alibi. Now I did not have to tell anybody I was going to Liverpool. If I wanted to commit this murder I would have just gone out and done it. I don't have to go to Liverpool."

- 'I suggest that after the murder you dumped the gun on the bus on August 24th, you shot off to Liverpool, and then you sent a telegram to pretend you had been there all the time, that is what I'm suggesting.'

- "You are wrong."

- 'You are very testy about your character.'

- "Of course I am. There is a lot of difference between a thief and a murderer."

- 'You wanted to be a stick-up man ?'

- "That was just talk."

- 'You needed a good deal of money to get a gun ?'

- "You can go to the West End and get a gun for £12 any day of the week."

[re. Det-Supt Acott] "There is more lies in his evidence than there is truth, and I would not say this if I could not prove it. You will hear in due time about his evidence."

[re. Roy Langdale] "Every word this man has put to the court is a complete pack of lies."

- 'Unluckily for you Valerie Storie survived and identified you ?'

- "I understand what you say."

- 'And that you concocted the false alibi about three men in Liverpool ?'

- "That's quite correct."

- 'And that you maintained it until 4 pm last Tuesday ?'

- "Yes, that's right."

- 'And that you have concocted another false alibi ?'

-"No, not false this time. I thought when I got in this box I must tell the truth. But I say now, as I have said all the way through, what I am saying is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

This completes The Times's coverage of James Hanratty's trial evidence.

James Hanratty's trial evidence (cont) :-

Thursday February 8th 1962

[Daily Express coverage.....\(of 09-02-1962\)](#)

"I ain't a maniac, as I can prove with my past girlfriends. I know that I am not a man the court would approve of, but I am a decent - I can't say honest - citizen. I try to live a good, respectable life apart from my housebreakings."

[paraphrasing] -'I suggest you had three motives for the crime : sex, cash robbery, and a practice "stick-up" with "the thrill of holding somebody up with a gun.'
-"I have not got that instinct in me. I have more pride."

[paraphrasing, -scorning the sex motive]...."If I had such a thought I could have gone to the West End and found a woman friend for a fortnight."
[scorning the cash robbery motive]...."I had all the money I wanted. Why, I gave Mrs France £15 that day."

"I ain't the kind of person who could frighten anybody with a gun, because I haven't that appearance. I would be more frightened holding the gun than the person I was sticking up."

[Reminding Hanratty of Valerie Storie's evidence that the gunman said "he frightened me, he moved suddenly"].....

-'You are a person who would be frightened with a gun ?'

-(raising his voice) "Sir, I don't like it a bit the way you are putting this question. It is embarrassing me very much. You are making a big mistake about this. That is all I can say, sir."

[re. his visit to a receiver in Ealing (Fisher) in March 1961 about getting a 'shooter' to go into the 'stick-up business'].....

-"It was all just talk. Just like a man saying he would win the football pools this week but he never does. It was just one crook to another, talking about business. A formal matter of speech."

[paraphrasing] "I had no intention nor ambition to become a stick-up man. In prison men talked a lot about jobs they would do when they came out but it was all talk. I have never had a gun or any bullets."

"Every man is cut out for his own actual business. I was not made for that kind of business. It is not my line."

"I am a thief. I deal with the underworld. I must be frank about this. If I wanted a gun I know I could have got a gun. you can go into the West End, to Soho, and get a gun any day of the week for about £10 or £12. Teenagers get guns there many days of the week."

[paraphrasing, re. Langdale's allegations]....."It would have been'suicide' for me to have said the things I'm alleged to have said to a man of Langdale's calibre."

"I have had no gun, no bullets of any kind. I can give that as frankness from the bottom of my heart."

This completes the Daily Express's coverage of James Hanratty's trial evidence.

James Hanratty's trial evidence (cont) :--

Wednesday February 7th 1962

Glasgow Herald coverage.....(of 08-02-1962)

[paraphrasing] "Carol France dyed my hair on the August Bank Holiday. She was the first person to dye it."

"We sat in the back seat and I explained to Mr France that if I had a large amount of jewellery in my pocket I used to sort it out upstairs on the bus. I used to put the good stuff in one pocket and I explained to Mr France the rubbish I used to put under the back seat because if I was to put it on the floor people would notice it."

*-'Is that practice of putting stuff in that sort of place common or uncommon in that sort of world ?'
-"It is a very common hiding-place for a man in my position."*

[paraphrasing] "On Sunday, August 20th, I took some shirts and other washing to Mrs France and told them I was going to Liverpool. I went back on Monday, August 21st, to collect the laundry, and stayed there six or seven hours."

*-'Had you been able to dis[pose of that ring [the solitaire diamond ring worth £350] in London ?'
-"Yes sir, eventually when I came back from Liverpool."*

*[paraphrasing] "I spent the night of August 21st at the Vienna Hotel in Sutherland Avenue, London. I arrived at about midnight and signed the register in the name 'J.Ryan'. I did not give my correct address."
"Mr Nudds was present with Mrs Glickberg."*

[paraphrasing] "I paid £1 7s 6d in advance and was given a receipt. I was taken to a room in the basement which had, I think, four beds. I occupied the one in the alcove. I slept there that night, and after having breakfast there I shaved, put my luggage together and left the hotel about 9.30am. At Euston Station I bought a return ticket to Liverpool and toothpaste and toothbrush and some magazines and papers for the journey."

[paraphrasing] "I inquired on five or six occasions to get bed and breakfast in the area before eventually coming to a small private house with a sign 'bed and breakfast'."

"It was dark at this time and I had travelled in and out of other streets. I knocked at this door and a woman answered."

-'What did she look like ?'

-"She was middle-aged, about 50, average build, and wore glasses and had greyish hair. I remember quite plainly in the morning leaving the premises. There was a coat rack in the hall, a big article which was on the right hand side, going in the door."

[paraphrasing] "I remember a green plant in a bowl in the house and there was a green bath. The green bathroom was in the attic. I paid 25 shillings for two nights and there was no register or book to sign. It was dark when I entered the house and I could hear trains shunting but did not see the trains the following morning."

"I was a little bit confused myself with seeing my name in the papers knowing that my mother, father, and brother were looking for me. I knew in myself that I did not commit this crime so I tried to help in every way I could to help Supt Acott when he asked me where I was on the 22nd and 23rd of August."

[paraphrasing]-'Why, when you knew the police were looking for you did you not go to Rhyl to see whether or not you could locate the house ?'

-"Because when I went to Liverpool I did not have the right bearings of Rhyl and I have only been there on two occasions, although I stayed there two nights. I have some idea of the house I stayed in and some description."

[paraphrasing] "The boarding-house in Rhyl was a terraced house towards the back end of the town. I did not sign the register. It was at the back of a cafe called Dixie's and faced the railway."

Thursday February 8th 1962

[Glasgow Herald coverage.....\(of 09-02-1962\)](#)

-'You shot the man as Valerie Storie has described and raped the girl. You decided to murder the girl and take the car and abscond.'

-"Not a word of that is true."

[paraphrasing] 'After dumping the car you holed up for 24 hours before deciding to dump the gun on a bus and go to Liverpool to buy or invent an alibi and send a telegram.'

-"That's not true. If I had wanted an alibi I would have done something more outstanding than that. I would have committed some offence like being drunk and disorderly and proved I was in Liverpool on August 24th."

"I must put this quite clearly. I ain't a man of good character but I am not a murderer and this is a murder trial not a housebreaking trial."

-'Do you remember Valerie Storie, the witness when this murderer shot Gregsten ? She said :- "You bastard, why did you do that ?" '

-"I remember that."

-'Do you remember his reply ?'

-"Who's reply ?"

-'The gunman's reply.'

-"I don't know."

-'Something like, "He frightened me. He moved suddenly"?''

-"I remember that."

-'You are the person behind the gun and are apt to be frightened ?'

-"Sir, I don't like the way you are putting this question. It is embarrassing me very much. I want to make it quite

clear that you are making a very big mistake about this point. That is all I can suggest and that is all I can say."

[re Langdale who had tried to get information about the case]....

"I would not tell a man that I had gone and committed this crime so that he could get a release from the Home Office. I am not as silly as that."

- 'You made a confession to Langdale ?'

- "I did not, sir."

- 'And was it true ?'

- "It was not and I shall prove it in future evidence. It would be suicide for me to go and say things like this to a man of his calibre."

This completes The Glasgow Herald's coverage of James Hanratty's trial evidence

James Hanratty's trial evidence (cont) :-

Wednesday February 7th 1962

Evening Times coverage(of 07-02-1962)

- 'It was stated that you had said "I know I have left my fingerprints at different places and done different things and the police want me, but I want to tell you, Mr Acott, that I did not do that A6 murder. I am so upset I don't know what I am doing and what I am saying. I have got a very bad head and I suffer from blackouts and lose my memory.'

- "This is not correct. I said to Mr Acott at this stage that I was wanted by the police for other interviews and if I was to give myself up at this stage it would be very vital that I be detained and charged with housebreaking because I know the police wanted to interview me on housebreaking charges, and I put it quite clearly to Mr Acott that I did not commit this crime and that I would help him in every way I could."

- 'Were you prepared to go in and give yourself up at that time ?'

- "I did not want to do that because I knew, in my heart and soul, that I didn't commit this crime and there was no need to do so."

- 'Did you say anything at all about your head being bad and black-outs or loss of memory ?'

- "I didn't mention either one or two or three of these articles to Mr Acott because if I did I would have been trying to impress Mr Acott that I was an ill man."

- 'Did you say anything about your head being bad and that you had got to think ?'

- "No it was not said at all."

[paraphrasing, re. the second of his phone conversations to Acott in October] "This took place at night after I had come from the cinema, but I had never mentioned a car at all. The only conversation on that was in the interview at Blackpool."

[paraphrasing] - 'Is it correct to say that Mr Acott asked you to send some flowers to your mother and that she was worried about you ?'

- "Yes, that's correct."

- 'Is it correct to say that Mr Acott said that you had seen in the newspapers in the morning that the police were looking for someone called "Louise" ?'

- "Yes, that's correct, sir."

-*'Mr Acott said that they had said you could not remember her full name?'*

-*"That would not be right."*

[re. trip to Liverpool in October]...

-*'What did you say to him [Acott] at the end of that conversation about what you were going to do ?'*

-*"I said I was going to Liverpool to interview and see if these people would stand by my alibi. That was on the Friday night."*

-*'Did you get to Liverpool ?'*

-*"Yes. - I told Mr Acott I was going to Liverpool and knew that he would be watching the stations so I went to Portland Place where I broke into a Jaguar saloon."*

-*'Where did you go in that car ?'*

-*"I went to Manchester."*

-*'Did you do anything with that car when you got to Manchester ?'*

-*"Yes, I abandoned it on the outskirts of Manchester -- that was on the Saturday morning. Then I went to the centre of the town and had a shave and then I went to Liverpool by train."*

-*'Was there any conversation that you can remember as to where you had been from the 21st of August ?'*

-*"I had a conversation on three occasions in Liverpool and I am inclined to get muddled up."*

-*'During the conversation did you say anything to Mr Acott about staying at the Vienna Hotel ?'*

-*"I did not volunteer. He asked me."*

-*'Can you remember what it was that you told him ?'*

-*"He asked me where I stayed and I told him. He asked me if I shared a room with anyone."*

-*'Did you say anything in that conversation about going to Liverpool ?'*

-*"Only on the Friday evening."*

-*'I want you to deal now, not with any particular conversation but I want to have from you the reasons why you were telling Mr Acott that you had, in fact, spent those days in Liverpool with three men. Was the story you were telling Mr Acott about the three men true ?'*

-*"No sir, it wasn't."*

-*'Tell my Lord and the jury why it was that you told Mr Acott lies about that. Just explain it in your own words.'*

-*"My Lord, at this stage I read in the papers that the police wanted to interview me in a murder which took place. One article I remember reading stated that this man Ryan might have shared the same hotel as the murderer for that trial. That was in one paper. that was before I went to Liverpool, my Lord. On the first occasion when I rang Supt Acott he was thoroughly interested to know my whereabouts on the 22nd and 23rd of August. I was a little bit confused myself with seeing my name in the papers knowing that my mother, father and brother were looking for me. I knew in myself that I did not commit this crime so I tried to help in every way I could to help Supt Acott when he asked me where I was on the 22nd and 23rd of August. At that stage I knew I was only wanted for interviewing, not for the actual A6 murder charge which I eventually found out later or the truth would have been told straightaway. I know I made a terrible mistake by telling Supt Acott about these three men, but I have been advised that the truth only counts in this matter, and might I say here every word of that is the truth."*

-*'I want you to be completely frank about your past record. Is it right that you have had four previous convictions ?'*

-*"Yes, that's right."*

*[paraphrasing]..-**'On September 7th 1954 you were placed on probation for 12 months and disqualified from driving for 12 months for taking away a motor car without the owner's permission and for driving while uninsured ?'*

-*"Yes, sir."*

-*'On October 6th 1955 at Middlesex Sessions you were sentenced to two and two years' imprisonment, sentences to run concurrently, for housebreaking and stealing. Four other cases of housebreaking were considered ?'*

-*"Yes, sir."*

-*'On July 3rd 1957, at Brighton Magistrates Court you were sentenced to six months' and three months', and disqualified from driving for two years for stealing a motor car and for driving without insurance or driving licence. One case of taking, and driving away a motor car without the owner's permission was taken into consideration ?'*

-*"Yes, sir."*

-*'In March 1958 you were sentenced to three years corrective training for stealing a motor car and driving while disqualified. One case of stealing was considered ?'*

-*"Yes, sir."*

[paraphrasing] "After I had left home in the middle of July 1961 I met a Mr France whom I knew as 'Dixie'."

-'He [France] has told us you were generous and you bought flowers for his wife and chocolates and left money for them and so forth ?'

-"That is correct."

-'When did you first have anything done with regard to the colour of your hair ?'

-"It was in late July of 1961."

-'What did you have done ?'

-"I had it dyed dark."

-'Why ?'

-"Because at that time it was summertime and I was doing business -- my breakings -- and I had to do it in the day and my hair is an auburn colour and it is very outstanding, so I had it dyed dark."

-'Tell us whether the style you are wearing at the moment is it's ordinary style and shape ?'

-"Yes, it has always been like that."

-'Would you sweep it back ?'

-"My Lord [turning towards Mr Justice Gorman], I have a small patch underneath and I push my hair forward so that the patch will be covered."

-'Is it right that on the August Bank Holiday Carol France dyed your hair for you at your request ?'

-"Yes."

-'What colour was it ?'

-"Dark."

-'Was that the first time or the second time it was dyed by anyone ?'

-"I will go as far as to say this, that Carol France was the first one to dye my hair for me. It was not August. It was late July."

Thursday February 8th 1962

Evening Times coverage.....(of 08-02-1962)

"I have got three friends ...my counsel and my parents. All the rest of the world are against me. The papers have seen to that. I have got to prove my innocence and that is what I am trying to do. I know I made a mistake but that was not my fault."

-'Hanratty, you, at the age of 25 have been in prison in all for something over five years ?'

-"I would say about that."

-'And you know very well, don't you, that the easiest false alibi is one for the wrong day or the wrong train or the wrong boarding-house ?'

-"Yes, sir, I know that."

[re. Hanratty saying that Mr Swanwick would have a chance to check Rhyll alibi]....

-'Oh yes, ample chance, having been told about it yesterday by you in the witness-box for the first time. Is that what you call a good chance of checking it ?'

-"Well the public are not going to come here and stand by an alibi for a man on a murder charge if it was not true. In this case now I have got three friends, and that is my counsel and my family, and the rest of the world are against me."

-'The rest of the world are trying to find the truth.'

-"They are against me."

-'They are against you ?'

-"Yes, sir, the papers have seen to that."

-'You described in detail yesterday in the witness-box the houses in Dennis Lane that you broke into ?'

-"I had photos, it was quite easy. It was just a matter of looking at the photos."

[re. why he did not go back and try to pinpoint the boarding-house in Rhyl].....

"It was quite obvious to me inside I had never committed this crime and I had nothing to fear. But as this case eventually went along I got so frightened with the evidence that was brought forward, with the lies and such things as had happened in this witness-box, it is disgraceful to talk about. [rapping the witness-box with his knuckles]....At this stage I told Mr Acott I didn't fear any danger because I knew in my heart and soul I didn't commit this crime."

"How about Mrs France ? I did not leave there until seven o' clock. I thought you had more intelligence." [Mr Justice Gorman, interrupting at this point]...."I don't want to interrupt but don't say things like that."

Swanwick -'I don't mind, my Lord.' [and turning to Hanratty]...'You are not cocky are you ?'

-"My Lord, it has been said that I was with the Frances on the Monday evening. Why is this put to the court to allow the press to print it and upset my character ?"

-'You are very testy about your character.'

-"Of course I am. There is a lot of difference between a thief and a murderer."

-'On July 25th you were on your uppers weren't you, down and out ?'

[Hanratty asked the judge if he could explain what Swanwick meant by this. The judge spoke for several minutes on this]

[paraphrasing] "I left London with another gentleman and we made for the Midlands. We parked in Shrewsbury and we had a puncture in the car. A police constable came over to us and he was suspicious. He asked us what we were doing and asked me for my driving licence."

-"The car was stolen. We was on the run. There was a description put out. At this stage I had 12 shillings or 15 shillings in my pocket."

-'I put it to you that at that time you were very badly off ?'

-Yes, sir."

-'And you said you were on the run ?'

-"Yes, sir, that's quite right."

-'And then there came this chance in August. You were in the money again ?'

-"Yes, sir."

-'And just before this murder you decided to achieve your great ambition and become a stick-up man ?'

-"No sir, you are wrong sir, and I can prove it."

[paraphrasing] "Mr Acott told me that the police had found the jacket." [the one he had torn and thrown away after the Stanmore burglaries of September 30th]

-'He told you he had found the jacket. He must have been telling a pointless lie ?'

-"That's quite correct."

This completes the Evening Times coverage of James Hanratty's trial evidence.
