

Section 6 The role of the supervisors on duty that night and other key personnel

6.1 Police Inspector McCrum was the senior officer on duty overnight on 26th / 27th April 1997. He provided 2 statements (Appendices 22 and 23) (728 and 11301). Appendix 24 (9960 – 9961) refers to his pocket note book and Appendix 25 (12365 – 12367) refers to his journal entry. Inspector McCrum had supervisory responsibility for the Division.

6.2 I have briefly outlined the contents of Inspector McCrum's statement at paragraph 5.14 above. My first observation regarding this statement is that, despite it being dated 7th May 1997, when it was known that Robert Hamill had been seriously assaulted it is so vague and lacking in detail as to render it worthless.

6.3 One has to consider whether that disregard to detail was indicative of the policing style of Inspector McCrum which in my opinion led to a number of omissions on the night of 26th / 27th April 1997. Those omissions led to missed investigative opportunities, which contributed to the failure of the murder investigation.

6.4 In dealing with the pocket note book entry of Inspector McCrum it is to be noted that, quite properly, this is similar in content to the statement provided.

6.5 It adds detail in that he reported two men had been assaulted by a group of Protestant youths and had been taken to hospital. Following the dispersal of the crowd Inspector McCrum commenced supervision of Lurgan and Banbridge sub divisions in company with Constable Adams.

6.6 Apart from directing Sergeant **P89** to ascertain the injuries sustained by the 2 injured parties Inspector McCrum did nothing in respect of the assaults. The disturbance in the town centre was later to be described by various officers as a riot and it is therefore surprising that once the crowd was dispersed Inspector McCrum directed no further police action.

6.7 Upon returning to Portadown sub division the Inspector made contact with the Craigavon Area Hospital (CAH). He was informed that one of the two injured parties had sustained a serious head injury and was being transferred to the Neurological Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH), Belfast.

6.8 As a consequence of this, he arranged for the call out of the night duty CID on call officer namely Detective Constable Keys. Inspector McCrum's pocket note book recorded:

“Instructed Con Cook in consultation with other section officers who had been at the scene to draw up a list of those persons who had been positively identified at the scene...”

“...Directed Con Cooke and Con Orr's mobiles to go to CAH and obtain the clothing of the two IP's.”