

had patrolled that area before on public order duty and I cannot now recall if the area of Woodhouse, Market and Thomas Streets was a known flashpoint for sectarian violence, there were flashpoints everywhere.

6. On duty with me that night were Reserve Constables Atkinson and P40 and Constable Neill. We were in a Land Rover and I was seated in the front passenger seat, which is normally where the officer acting as the 'observer' would sit. In my capacity as observer, I was expected to respond to any situation that may have arisen, including manning the radio and putting calls through. The Land Rover had a radio and I had also signed out a personal radio. I am not sure if the other officers in the Land Rover had personal radios themselves. Constable Neill was the driver and the other two officers were seated in the back seat. In terms of visibility in the front passenger seat position, I could see clearly through the front windscreen and the window in the passenger door. I could not see clearly out of the driver's door window because Constable Neill blocked my view. The door windows on Land Rovers were sealed shut and could not be opened. Also the vehicles were armour plated which restricted the amount of noise you could hear coming from outside of the vehicle.
7. During our patrol of the town centre we made a stop outside the 'Instep' sports shop which was near the junction of Market Street and Woodhouse Street, on the West Street side of the road. I have marked this position 'LR1' on the map of the city centre produced and shown to me at page 73896. After a few minutes we then moved down Market Street into the High Street where I noticed a man walking across the road ahead of us wearing a blue shirt and dark trousers mouthing something at us. His demeanour was casual. Due to the heavy armour on the Land Rover I could not hear what the man said.
8. Constable Neill stopped the vehicle and I have marked this position on the map as 'LR2'. This was only a very short distance from 'LR1'. I opened the door and the man said to me "*My friends are coming down Thomas Street*". I replied "*Okay*". I was not concerned by this as I could not see many others on the street and the man walked on down Woodhouse Street without any bother. I assumed the friends he referred to were coming from St Patrick's' Hall because