

throw anything at the officers but a number of them did behave aggressively towards them and tried to goad the officers in to conflict. It was certainly a worrying few minutes because it could have gone any number of ways. People were drunk, aggressive and very much 'in your face'. This was particularly concerning because there was a history in Northern Ireland of police officers being attacked. My recollection of all the youths at that time is a very blurred recollection. None of them stand out as such and I did not know or recognise anyone by name. Allister Hanvey, Marc Hobson, Wayne Lunt, Dean Forbes, Andrew Allen, Rory Robinson and Christopher Henderson were not known to me at that time.

13. I recall seeing Reserve Constable Atkinson at the scene and I approached him at one point. I recall this because I remember he produced his baton to me and indicated he had used it to assuage some of the disorder and I recall the baton's strap was broken. I assumed it had been broken during the course of the disorder. **[Statement Page 11301]**
  
14. I requested assistance from the Mobile Support Unit but I cannot remember exactly when they arrived at the scene but it was fairly early after my initial assessment of the situation. However, by the time they arrived the situation had calmed down significantly. I was still concerned that there was still potential for further disorder from people coming back in to town and briefed Sergeants Shaw and Lutton of 'J2' Mobile Support Unit directed them to position the members of the unit through the town covering in particular West Street, Market Street and Woodhouse Street.
  
15. When I finished briefing the Mobile Support Unit I directed Sergeant **P89** to go to the Craigavon Area Hospital to make enquiries about the injured people. In 1997, that type of sectarian disorder was a regular feature of Friday and Saturday nights in Portadown, especially in the lead up to the Marching season. Policing in Portadown was extraordinarily difficult at the time. I needed to know if the incident fitted into that category or was more serious and this would allow me to determine what follow-up action was needed.