

Watson Street to collect Judith's car and drove up to Herron's chip shop via Bridge Street and Castle Street. It would have taken us less than five minutes to drive up to Herron's. We would have been there by 1 am.

5. Herron's was one of the only chippies open that late at night so everyone would go there, although you would not get any Catholics going in there. There would not have been anyone from the Coach Inn bus there when we got there though because it was too early. The Coach Inn closes at 1am and it usually takes half an hour to get back into Portadown.
6. I did not plan to meet anyone at Herron's. However, I see in the note of my interview that I told the police that I saw [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] there. The note says [REDACTED] but I believe his name is spelt [REDACTED] I went to school with [REDACTED] he is a friend of mine. [REDACTED] hung around with [REDACTED] He was a year below me in school. [REDACTED] is a nickname but I do not know what his real first name is. I cannot remember what we talked about but they did not mention anything about a fight or commotion in the town centre.
7. After we left Herron's, Judith and I drove down to the car park in West Street, opposite the Call-a-Cab so that we could eat our take-away before heading home. The town centre would have been closed off so we would have had to drive down Castle Street, then go on to the North Way and then down to West Street. I am not sure what time this would have been but the drive from Herron's to the car park would have taken us only about two minutes. At the car park we saw a few girls we knew. I cannot remember now how many of them there were or who they were, except that one of them was Tracey McAlpine. Tracey lived on the Brownstown Estate. We stopped to ask them whether they needed a lift home. They told us that there was a fight going on down the street.
8. Almost every Saturday night, particularly between Easter and about September, there was a fight in the town centre. I had witnessed fights in the past although I

had never been involved in any myself. If you were looking to have a fight you could go to the town centre and have one. It would be easy to predict where and when the fight would take place. I would have assumed that this fight was sectarian in nature, involving Catholics and Protestants, and that it was right in the town centre, exactly where Robert Hamill died. There were always police in the town centre on a Saturday night, usually in their Land Rover. Most times the police were able to control the fights but sometimes they would not be able to, depending on the size of the crowd. Sometimes the police would not get out of their Land Rover but would wait for the fight to finish, for things to calm down, before getting out of the Land Rover.

9. I decided to go down to the town centre to see what was going on, just out of curiosity. Judith walked down to the Intersport shop with me and, as I told the police in my interview, she stopped there. Perhaps she was scared. I don't know. I was not concerned for my own safety nor did I have any plans to get involved. If there was a fight going on it was not uncommon for a crowd to gather and look on.

10. As I was walking into town towards St Mark's Church, I saw Wayne Lunt near to the Benetton shop on West Street. I know Wayne from around the Estate although I would not say that he was a friend of mine. When I saw him, Wayne was by himself and having difficulty breathing. He was drunk. I asked him if he was okay. A few minutes later, I saw him again, this time at the Allied Irish Bank in the centre of town on Market Street, between the Church and Woodhouse Street. He was staggering along but when a police car arrived he ran away towards the town centre. I think he ran away because he was drunk and he was under-age for drinking, but I can't be sure. The second page of the interview, page **13320**, states that I said that Wayne was arrested later and then released. I cannot remember now how I knew that he had been arrested and been released. I may have seen him being arrested or the police or someone else may have told me, but I am not sure now.


11. From the front of the Church I could see a crowd of people in the town centre, near the junction of Thomas, Woodhouse and Market Streets. I saw a young fellow, whom I now know was Robert Hamill, lying on the High Street near to Thomas Street, in front of Eastwoods and the traffic light to be precise, with a couple of girls around him. I don't know if this fellow was unconscious. It has been pointed out to me that in my interview, page **13320** that I said that I saw two fellows on the ground but now, after all these years, I can only remember Robert Hamill being on the ground. There was a police Land Rover on the corner by the Halifax Bank, facing down towards the bottom of the town (towards Herron's) and there were a couple of police officers, maybe four of them, standing outside the Land Rover.
12. Initially I would have been maybe a couple of yards away from the crowd. There were actually two crowds. There was a crowd of Catholics, maybe five of them, on the Woodhouse Street side of the High Street near the Alliance & Leicester, and a crowd of Protestants, maybe five or a bit more, on the Thomas Street side near Eastwoods, not far from where Robert Hamill was. I joined the crowd of Protestants. I saw Rory Robinson and Mark Currie in the Protestant crowd. I cannot remember now if I recognised anyone else or if they would have come off from the Coach Inn bus, although they could have done. They could have come off the bus at Herron's and then walked through the town, stopping when they saw there was a fight going on. The size of the Protestant crowd certainly grew while I was there. By the end there were maybe twenty or thirty in the crowd. A crowd of people also gathered in front of the Church
13. Everyone was just standing about, watching, and shouting. Both sides would have been shouting, your usual sectarian chants. There would have been some scuffles as well between the two crowds as the Protestant crowd got bigger. Someone from the Protestant crowd, Rory I think but it could have been somebody else, may have run through the police lines and had a swing at someone on the Catholic side. The police tried to separate the crowds but people were being aggressive towards the police as well.

14. I have been told that Reserve Constable Murphy observed me in the crowd trying to calm the situation down and to get people to go home. I cannot remember this now but if he said so then it must be true. To be honest though it is not really something that I would do. With sectarian fights in Portadown you don't tell anybody to go home. In my police interview, page **13320** I said that Mark Currie was trying to get people to go home. Mark is a sensible fellow and if he saw a fight starting he would try to break it up. The police were also trying to get people to move on but people did not want to leave; they wanted to see what was going on. Eventually more police arrived and people started going home.

15. I did not actually witness the assault on Robert Hamill, nor did I see anyone try to kick or attack Robert Hamill while he was on the ground. By the time I got there he had already been assaulted. In my police interview at page number **13320** I said that I had heard that the people who assaulted Robert Hamill were talking to the police shortly before the assault. I do not know now where I would have heard that or who would have told me that. There would have been lots of talk about the assault. It was a big deal. I did not know either who was supposed to have committed the assault. I would not have gone to the police with this information in any case. You just don't grass on anything like that because if you were found out then you would probably end up in the same place as Robert Hamill. I have been told that I was invited to attend another interview with the police on 6 May 1997 but that I did not attend. I cannot recall being asked for another interview. However, if the police had asked me to make a formal statement I would not have wanted to because I would not want to get involved.

16. I have been asked about various people who are connected with this and I can say that at the time I knew Dean Forbes, Stacey Bridgett, Marc Hobson, Allister Hanvey, Jonathan Wright, David Woods, Timothy Jameson, my cousin Paul Currie, and my brother Gregory. However, I do not recall seeing any of them in the crowd or at the scene that night. I did not visit Allister while he was in prison in

connection with this in 1997. If any member of the Blevins family would have visited him it most likely would have been Gregory, but I am not sure. At the time I did not know Reserve Constable Murphy, nor did I know Reserve Constable Atkinson, although I had heard of Reserve Constable Atkinson. He had a bit of a bad reputation, and was known as a 'cunt'. We used to say "he would arrest his own mother".

SIGNED: 
DONALD BLEVINS

DATED: 17 FEB 09