

was there with a friend of mine called Colin Hull and about 10 others including 2 girls called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I arrived there quite early at 7 pm that evening having had a couple of pints in the Pergavon Inn on the Garvaghy Road. In the whole evening I estimate that I drank 8 or 9 pints and I was the worse for drink.

6. I left McKeever's bar with Colin Hull to get something to eat sometime after 12 midnight as I noticed the doors on the Royal Oak were closed. All the other friends that we were with us remained in McKeever's bar. Colin and I intended to go to Boss Hoggs which would take us up Woodhouse Street to the High Street, past the junction with Edwards Street on that side of the High Street. I have marked in green the locations of the "Royal Oak" and "Boss Hoggs" on the map [73913]. I spoke to a number of people outside McKeever's bar on Woodhouse Street but I cannot now recall their names nor can I say whether Colin stopped and spoke to anyone in the street.
7. When we had just passed the Royal Oak pub on Woodhouse Street, I saw a girl that I recognised getting into a police Land Rover. As far as I can recall the Land Rover was parked across the street at an angle at the top of the junction between Woodhouse Street and Market Street pointing towards Bridge Street and Castle Street. I have marked our location with a star in black biro and in blue pen drawn a cross to show the location of the police Land Rover on the map [73913]. I have also drawn an arrow in blue pen to show the direction the parked police Land Rover was facing.
8. The first thing I heard was screaming and banging as the girl was banging on the back of the Land Rover. I think the girl was related to Robert Hamill his cousin or something. She had short curly brown hair. I recognised her as she lived on the same street as my grandmother. The girl was really hysterical and was shouting for help, for the police to get out and help them.

9. We went up to the junction towards where Robert Hamill and D were lying unconscious on the road. There was another girl there with them on the opposite side of Market Street at the bottom of Thomas Street. I could not see them when I was walking up Woodhouse Street because there was a central reservation down the middle of Market Street. I have marked with crosses and initials in black on the map where Robert and D were lying [73913]. When we came to the top of Woodhouse Street we saw a crowd on the St Marks Church side of Market Street but we did not hear any noise from them before we saw them, the only thing we heard was the girl calling for help.
10. The Land Rover did not move while I was at the scene. As far as I can recall the police got out of the Land Rover when Colin and I arrived at the top of Woodhouse Street. I saw 2 police officers leave the vehicle, one male and one female I think, although I couldn't describe them. I cannot be 100% certain that it was only 2 officers or that they left from the rear of the vehicle. The girl was still screaming at this time when we got to the junction of Woodhouse Street and Market Street.
11. There was a crowd of about 30 people at the junction who were standing in a line across Market Street on the St Marks Church side of the junction. I have marked with a line of three crosses in blue on the map where we first saw the crowd [73913]. I cannot recall if anything was being said by the crowd - they could have been shouting. My principal focus was on Robert Hamill and D who were unconscious on the street. They were both lying flat on their backs about 7 to 8 yards apart with their feet pointing in the direction of St Mark's Church. I could not see any external injuries on either person but I assumed they had been given a kicking by the Loyalist crowd as it was a dangerous location. I did not see anyone being attacked.
12. I knew D well as we grew up on the same estate and played football together. I knew Robert Hamill from school where he was in a year or 2 below mine and seeing him around town. The second girl, D's wife was kneeling next to one of the

injured men but I can't remember which one. When the 2 police officers got out of the Land Rover they tried to put Colin and I back down Woodhouse Street out of the way. We did not do this but went over to where D and Robert were.

13. I have seen the police do this a hundred times, bypass a Loyalist crowd to push the Catholic crowd back down Woodhouse Street. Woodhouse Street was the Catholic street in Portadown. I have seen the police putting dogs on people to push them back. Around this time there used to be a lot of sectarian fighting at the weekends in Portadown. The normal pattern of events at the weekend would be for a fight to start, often with a Catholic crowd from the Royal Oak public house coming out and meeting a Loyalist crowd from the bars on Thomas Street then the police would send in a number of vehicles, sometimes as many as 5 or 6 Land Rovers, to push the Catholics back. They would say to you 'just go back home, go away and the lads (Loyalist men) will go back home'. Usually you would not see the police until the trouble had started although there may have been a patrol every hour or two which drove down Woodhouse Street and around the back of McKeevers to ensure everything was quiet.
14. I do not recall seeing any police officers other than the 2 from the Land Rover that night but I was not focused on them or on the crowd. After I got there the only person by the Land Rover was the girl until one or two people started to come down Thomas Street from St Patrick's Hall. I don't know their names but there was one big fella and there was one about the same size as me. One of them was older than us, at least 40 years old. The girl by the Land Rover came over to where Robert and D were lying and was trying to comfort them with us. I took off my jacket and put it under D's head; I don't remember removing the jacket from under his head at any stage or what happened to it in the end. None of us tried to give either of the men first aid.
15. I did not approach or speak to any of the police officers and I do not remember if any of them approached us. At no stage did I look in the Land Rover. I cannot

recall whether other back up policemen arrived or whether there were any other police vehicles at the scene. From what I recall the crowd were just standing there when the ambulance arrived. I do not know who called the ambulance. I do not recall if the police were doing anything to control the crowd as I was not paying any attention to them.

16. I am uncertain as to the specific time when the ambulance arrived it could have been 2 minutes after I arrived, it could have been 30 minutes but it felt like about 10 minutes after I got there. I do not know what time I got there but it was certainly well after 12 midnight and may have been after 1 am, possibly 1.30 am. The ambulance came from the Edward Street side of the junction drove down the High Street and stopped near the 2 boys on the ground on the Edward Street side of the junction between Market Street and Thomas Street. I have marked with a cross in green on the map where I think it stopped [73913]. There were 2 or 3 ambulance men who jumped out wearing riot gear, they had helmets on. They took the 2 injured people to the Land Rover and Colin Hull and I went with them to hospital. Both Robert Hamill and D were unconscious when they were taken to the Land Rover.

17. At the time the ambulance came the only people I remember being near the injured were the 2 girls who had been trying to comfort them, Colin Hull, the couple of fellas who had come down from St Patrick's Hall and myself. There could have been others from St Patrick's Hall but I do not recall seeing anyone else. I cannot remember whether Colin Hull had any injuries but he got in the ambulance with me, probably just to get out of the way. I went with D just to make sure he was alright. I cannot remember whether we spoke to the ambulance crew or gave them any information, we had had quite a bit to drink. I remember that Robert Hamill was still unconscious in the ambulance but I don't know whether he was given any treatment. I cannot recall whether D was unconscious when we arrived at hospital.

18. On arrival at Craigavon Area Hospital I just waited in the waiting area in Accident and Emergency. I do not recall speaking to anyone at the hospital about what happened but it is possible that I did. We were there for a few hours. We spoke to Robert's sister Fiona. I cannot remember when I left the hospital and whether I was with Colin Hull.
19. I did not give the police a statement. I went to see [REDACTED] because the police had been knocking on my door a lot of times, may be 5 or 6 times, but I would not open it to them. I would not speak to them because I did not trust them as I consider that they were sectarian at that time. It may be different now but then I saw a lot of one-sided behaviour by the police at incidents in Woodhouse Street where they were anti-Catholic.
20. I went to [REDACTED] because she knew how corrupt the RUC was, she was the obvious one to go to. As far as I can recall, Colin and I decided to go to her together and we did not speak to anyone else about seeing her. The handwriting on the written statement [page 43024] is [REDACTED]'s but it is my signature. I cannot remember anything else other than what is in my statement made on 19 May 1997 as I had had a lot to drink that night. At no stage did I contact or cooperate with the police.

SIGNED: *Dermot M McNeice*
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VINCENT DERMOT MCNEICE

DATED: *17/3/08*
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