

This interview is being tape recorded. The interview is being conducted in an interview room at Lurgan Police Station. I am Detective Inspector Michael Irwin of Portadown RUC Station, other police officer present is Detective Chief Superintendent McBurney. Other persons present in interview are.

[REDACTED], Independent Commission for Police Complaints.

SOLICITOR

[REDACTED], solicitor.

The date is the 2nd of October 1997, the time is 7.24 pm. What is your full name.

Denise CORNETT

And just to clear up at this time Denise you've recently got married your previous name was Denise Cornett your maiden name.

Yeah.

Right at the conclusion of the interview Denise I'll give you a notice explaining what will happen to the tape, it's a form PACE 21, OK. Now this interview is going to be conducted in relation to an allegation of criminal neglect of duty and it's in relation to the murder of Robert Hamill which took place at Portadown town centre on the 27th of April 1997 and in which an allegation has been made that, that whilst an attack was taking place on Robert Hamill police didn't take appropriate action, OK. So ehm I'm gonna caution you as follows, you do not have to say anything, but I must caution you that if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court it may harm your defence. If you do say anything it may be given in evidence. Do you understand that alright Denise.

Yeah.

OK before I start now I'd like to introduce a number of items which we will be referring to during the course of the interview and I'll start of with, you've already seen a copy of a witness statement which you made the morning following that incident, you were then questioned by Detective Sergeant Lawther who took notes of certain points in relation to that incident.

Yeah.

There's a notebook entry there as well and

what I'd also like to refer to in the interview will be a transcript of the pocket phone channel which took place between the base, Portadown Base and I believe yourself on the night of the incident.

Yeah.

OK I'll show you another few items here as well, there are 2 sets of maps or 2 sets of photographs which we may refer to and one are views of, taken in Portadown town centre and these were taken the following day in Portadown town centre.

Hhmm.

And you can go through them basically they're just from the different directions within the town centre Market Street and up Edward or Thomas Street, down Woodhouse Street, OK. We've another set of photographs here which these relate to what happened was that we had a reconstruction in Portadown town centre in which R/Con Atkinson and Constable Neill came back into the town centre and placed the landrover back in a location where they felt there, the locations were on the night and there was photographs taken off that as well. Again that's really from.

St Patrick's Hall.

St Patricks Hall that's right and down into the town centre. They're taken at night time roughly around the time of the incident had occurred and that's the police landrover being placed in a number of occasions, OK.

Hhmm.

I'll also refer you to, 3 maps here. The first map is a general picture of Portadown town centre so it is on a small scale, OK.

Hhmm.

And then again this is another map of the crossroads of Thomas Street, Woodhouse Street, Market Street and High Street.

Uh huh.

And them circles with the arrows pointing are really, they link to the photographs that are taken in the first set of photographs.

Right.

And then I'll point you to another map and this map here depicts again the town centre, and this is the case of when we put the reconstruction.

Uh huh.

Into place.

Uh huh.

And if I explain just a couple of points on this for you because you weren't there that night and it was Constable Neill and R/Constable Atkinson put them into place.

Uh huh.

And I'll point out to LR1 here and they pointed out, or put the landrover in location here initially where you were sitting.

Uh huh.

They then said that you moved to point 2.

Uh huh.

Which is marked LR2.

Uh huh.

And then you drove into the junction or the corner of Woodhouse Street and High Street and it's marked LR3.

Right.

OK.

Right.

Now on the other side of the page then is a picture of the landrover just a picture of, or a map of a landrover.

Yeah.

And what I'll do here to start off with is to ask you a number of questions on it. I'm going to refer to this map here.

Uh huh.

As M111. And what I'd first ask is would you indicate on the, in the landrover where each individual was sitting on the night of the

incident.

Uh huh. Well Alan Neill or Constable Neill was sitting there.

Just write his name.

Write on.

Yeah.

And I was sitting here, Now P40 was sitting there, I think P40 was sitting there. Now I don't know how far up or down but he was sitting on that side.

No that's alright. - That's OK. - You're quite right that's OK.

And R/Con Atkinson was here.

OK.

I don't know whereabouts just.

Now in relation to these 3 points.

Uh huh.

On the map, and it may be quite difficult for you to say from, from them.

Yeah.

But would you generally disagree or agree with those locations that.

Agree.

You would agree with those.

Yeah.

Locations on the map.

Yeah.

OK. Well I'll start off Denise to ask you what, was your brief in relation to that night, or what time did you start duty at.

Well I started duty 4 o'clock but then we'd to do public order duty from midnight to 3 in the morning.

OK. Now you say you had to do public order duty to 3 o'clock in the morning.

Uh huh.

Could you just explain during that tour of duty.

Uh huh.

Were you, did you change vehicles or were you briefed in relation to public order duty.

Yeah we were briefed to do public order duty in the town centre.

And who briefed you.

I can't remember, I can't remember.

Was it Sergeant **P89**

I can't remember.

OK.

I can't remember.

That's alright. - That's OK. And what time would that have been about.

The brief.

Uh huh.

Well I finish at, usually about midnight.

Around midnight.

Quarter past midnight yeah.

Right. And what did that brief basically mean to you, public order duty in the town centre.

Well it means to me that if there's any, if you see any confrontation or anything you go and deal with it in the town centre. You know anything really.

Right. And you were detailed as front seat passenger.

Yeah.

Had you done public order duty in the town centre before.

I have yeah.

How long are you stationed in Portadown.

A year past there at the end of August.

OK. And how many times would you have done public order duty.

I don't know.

Right.

I don't know. Several.

Several.

Uh huh.

Would it be roughly when you're doing late on a Saturday night.

It's not always on a late Saturday night you know.

Right.

It depends how many they need.

Uh huh.

You know, if I, you could be asked if you want to do it you know if they have enough men or you could go and you could be detailed to do it you know.

OK. Right. And what did you do in public order duty, what specifically did you do in the town centre.

Well we go round the town you know, you usually go round the town centre and make sure that there's no, no fighting going on, there's nobody you know doing anything in the town centre at all you know, sort of keep it quiet you know.

Uh huh.

And are you aware of confrontations at that particular crossroads eh namely Thomas Street, Woodhouse Street, would that be a point where there would be confrontation.

Yes I think it would but like all what I've been told that usually there is confrontation as you know.

Uh huh.

'Cos I wasn't in Portadown really that long.

The point he's making is very simple really.

Yeah.

In Portadown itself.

Yeah.

Would you have seen any confrontations take place, in Portadown.

Any place no not before no.

Did you ever see any confrontation take place at this particular junction before.

No.

So really you've been out on many occasions previously.

Yeah.

But in essence you have never seen.

No.

Any fights or, what about disorderly behaviour things like that.

No.

Right no that's alright, that's OK. Were you aware of persons coming back from the Coach and park the buses at the bottom of the street.

No.

You don't, you weren't aware of that.

No. I know that people come from the Coach but I don't know where they're, you know where they're coming from, you know what I mean.

OK. Well then we'll move on here to point LR1.

Uh huh.

And can you tell us just basically what led you to park at LR1.

Well we were driving round the town and the town was quiet, there was nobody about the town at that stage so we pulled in you know.

Uh huh.

And we were just sitting just looking about at that point.

I wonder for the sake of completeness we're

SOLICITOR

CORNETT

now getting into what Constable [REDACTED] has covered in her statement if she wanted to just tender it at this stage, be done with it, she did indicate to me she wished to tender her statement.

Right.

Uh huh.

I thought it might be done at the outset but maybe.

Well that's quite alright I mean yes we're happy enough with that.

Yeah.

But we will still continue to, question you on that and on those particular issues. Now, sorry just before we move on then.

Uh huh.

Really things were quiet at this stage.

Uh huh.

No great fuss.

No.

And you're the front seat passenger as it were.

Uh huh.

What are your duties there, are you observer, are you officially regarded as the observer are you.

Well more or less yes.

Or do you just get that seat because you're a lady or whatever.

Oh no.

No.

No it's not because I'm a lady no.

So you, would it be right to say you were the observer.

Yeah.

And that it was your duty then to deal with all RT transmissions.

[REDACTED]  
SOLICITOR

Yes.

And that sort of thing.

That's right yeah.

OK. Now in this particular vehicle what was your callsign.

Eh Juliet Delta 81.

Juliet Delta 81.

Uh huh.

Right. I see here on these notes that I have.

Uh huh.

Pocket phone and, and this.

Yeah.

That one of the we get down here and it says Juliet, JC81.

81 that was.

From D. Now is that correct or should that be.

No.

Juliet Delta.

That should have been Juliet Delta, yeah that was a mistake.

That's a mistake so.

Yes.

Each one of these read correctly after that.

Yes uh huh they're all Juliet Delta.

Right I just wanted.

It should be Juliet Delta callsigns.

To make sure of that.

Yeah.

That they are Juliet Delta.

Uh huh.

And just as a matter of interest now.

Yeah.

Before we go into this particular issue we have Juliet Delta 81.

Uh huh.

Which is yourselves.

Uh huh.

And we have Juliet Delta 80.

Uh huh.

Who is that now is that another police vehicle.

Eh yes that's another police vehicle.

What is your control Juliet Delta, is this from Delta, Juliet Delta from.

81.

Delta, so it's Delta is your control.

Uh huh.

And they are the people.

Yes.

Who are issuing instructions.

Yes.

And providing you with either.

Yeah.

The back up or indeed getting ambulances as the case may be.

Yes.

It's just so that we cover that there.

Yeah, uh huh.

For anyone that's reading these.

Yes.

Particular documents.

OK.

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And for enlightenment as it were. Sorry just go on. - OK. We moved on here then from LR1.

Uh huh.

And we'll move onto LR2.

Yes.

Denise, could you tell us just in your own words what actually happened.

Well the point, when we got to there there was a man, I seen a man just walking across from the landrover and I could see his lips moving, and that's when I told Constable Neill to stop to see you know what was wrong.

Uh huh.

What was wrong with him. And I opened the door and your man sort of shouts, shouts that his friends are coming down Thomas Street, and I goes OK. Yeah I said OK yeah.

What, do you think he meant by that Denise.

Well more or less, I don't know he just said that my friends were coming down Thomas Street, more or less to stay there just in case they might, something happen or whatever.

Right. From where he was walking from and from where he was walking to did you know or did you assume that he was coming from the hall, did you know that there was a function in St Patrick's Hall.

I did know there was a function in St Patrick's Hall.

You did or you didn't.

No I didn't know.

Right.

No.

And where he was walking down to Woodhouse Street.

Uh huh.

Would that have indicated to you anything regarding.

Well it indicated to me that there must have been people follow, I, I take it when he said Thomas Street I took it it was St Patrick's Hall.

Right.

And that's why I said well there must be a couple more coming down after him.

Did you see them.

What, no I didn't see them no.

Did you look out up, because you would have had a view from here up Thomas Street.

Yeah, no we didn't see anybody coming at that stage.

There was nobody coming.

No.

And was this man agitated or anything, I mean was he.

Now, well there was 2 fellas actually was shout, started to shout at him, 2 young fellas.

Was this afterwards or before it.

No when he was walking across. When he walked across.

Is this before he spoke to you or afterwards.

I can't remember, I can't remember whether it was before or after.

Right.

I can't remember. But the 2, 2 young fellas shouted at him, now I can't remember what was said you know I can't remember what was said, and then we pulled you know we pulled.

Did this man then walk on.

Yes this boy walked on and then we moved you know parked the landrover there.

You're pointing to LR3.

Yes.

Just for the purpose of the tape.

Uh huh yeah.

Now, so this man walked on at LR2.

Uh huh.

Was there a confrontation between.

Well the 2 boys shouted, at the fella and that, you know shouted at him, now I can't remember whether it was there or there. I can't remember whether it was that point or that, no it was that point 'cos your guy walked over.

And you're,

And we stopped, when we heard shouting, you know we heard, a voice shouting at the man and that's when I opened the door and I seen 2 young fellas and I, I more or less says you know what are you doing you know.

Uh huh.

You know let him alone, he's doing no harm. And your guy just proceeded down and then the 2 fellas then came over to the landrover.

Right so you're saying, you're pointing out and for the purposes of the tape this.

Uh huh.

Happened around LR2.

Yes uh huh.

And then your landrover moved slightly into the position of LR3.

Yeah.

Now in relation to these 2 persons, did you know them.

No.

You didn't.

No.

Were they carrying anything.

One fella was carrying a cider bottle, a

green, cider bottle.

Were they in a threatening.

No.

Position.

No.

Right.

Not to me, not towards me.

OK. What about towards the gentleman that walked down.

Well they were shouting abuse at him now.

Right.

But like they had, you know for what I could see he didn't have the bottle and was ready to hit him with it or anything, he just more or less was just shouting you know.

Yeah have you any idea what he was shouting I mean.

I can't remember, I can't really, I can't remember that's being truthfully honest. I can't remember what he was shouting.

Well if it was really bad and really serious it's the sort of thing you would say to yourself crikey you know you would.

Well the only thing more or less clicked on me was that he you know shouted something like you know Fenian B and stuff like that there you know.

Aye.

It's just you know more or less bad language.

Uh huh. Did you eh know or did you believe then that these 2 persons were prods and.

Well I take it they must have been prods because when, you know shouting bad language at the man.

And you, did you assume that this man was a Catholic.

Yeah.

OK. And is that because he was walking down.

Yeah.

The High Street.

Uh huh. And also that he said that he was coming, you know that his friends were coming down Thomas Street.

Uh huh.

I just take it might, you know it was from St Patrick's Hall.

OK. Now when you opened the door and you talked to these 2 persons.

Uh huh.

What, happened then or.

They were just standing, they were just say you know standing talking to me you know young fellas just more or less chatting me up more, you know more or less. And then some, a guy came over and opened the landrover door.

Right.

You know opened and tried to pull Alan out of the landrover.

Well how long would you have been talking to the 2 boys before the landrover, Alan Neill's landrover door was pulled open.

I don't know a few minutes.

Would it have been.

It wasn't that long didn't, you know didn't seem that long.

You say a few minutes off the cuff but was it a few minutes or.

No it might have been about 3 minutes, it wouldn't even been that long you know it wasn't that long.

Right.

You know. It wouldn't have been you know 10 minutes, it wouldn't have been as long as 10 minutes.

Uh huh.

You know.

Right. Well during this time you're stopped here are you actually out of the landrover speaking to these people.

No.

At LR3.

No.

You're just.

I sat in the landrover yeah.

With the window down.

No I'd the door open.

You'd the door open.

Yeah.

Were you aware of people coming up this side of the road.

Yes we seen people walking up that side of the road but there was still nobody, Thomas Street was still clear.

Now you're indicating the side of the street at No.7 Home Bakery.

Uh huh yeah.

Just for the purpose of the tape I have to.

Yeah. They walked up alongside.

And you saw people coming up there. Was there any rowdyism from them.

No. You know there was no you know no shouting or any, you know there were talking among themselves, there was no shouting or anything bad going on.

Right. So you're talking away to these people here.

Uh huh.

And what about the people, your colleagues in the landrover what were they doing.

Well Alan, Alan was you know talking to him as well and then P40 from the back had said a few words you know and then.

Did, did any of them know them.

What, I think P40 did but and possibly Alan might have but P40 knew them.

Now when you say P40 and Alan.

Uh huh.

You must remember that everyone may not necessarily know.

Oh sorry right.

Who you refer to.

Right. It's sorry R/Con P40 that was sitting in the back of the landrover.

And he, is P40.

Uh huh that's P40 / yeah.

Yeah.

Sorry. P40 and he spoke to them by name but I didn't know them, I've never seen them before, never seen the 2 guys before.

Yeah. So this discussion's taking place here.

Uh huh.

And the next thing that happens is somebody comes to this door here.

Yes.

The drive.

The driver's door.

Yeah the driver's door.

Yeah.

Of the landrover.

Uh huh.

And what happened then.

This guy opened the door, the driver's door of the landrover and started to pull Alan and started shouting something like you, what are you doing sitting there letting this all happen, and we goes what you know. And then we all got out, all of us got out of the landrover and we just seen a clutter of

people just you know fight, you know sort of  
you know fighting and shouting and  
everything, we ran over, you know we left the  
landrover.

So you get out of the landrover, the 3 of  
youse, 4 of youse get out of the landrover.

Yeah.

And there are people fighting in the middle  
of the street.

Uh huh yeah.

OK.

Uh huh.

Now try and elaborate on really what you see,  
what you do or indeed even what your  
colleagues are doing.

Uh huh.

If you possibly can.

If I possibly can.

If it's, if it's necessary use your statement  
there.

Em.

If you'd want to mark on the map too even the  
general area where you saw the fighting.

Yeah.

Going on.

Well we all, ran out, and I got to there, I  
ran, and got to there.

Now just mark that DW 1.

Ran, over there and there's people you know  
was from like at the bottom of Thomas Street.

Just draw a circle even.

Circle.

Just right round, where it is.

Just you know round that area.

Uh huh.

There was just a lot of people. And I ran across to there and Alan and them uns all tried to push, you know trying to break everybody up. At this point I sort of patted round myself and I'd no radio on me and I ran back, I went back to the landrover and that's when I radioed assistance for, 'cos we had, you know a fight was taking place.

Uh huh.

That was the time I went and radioed for assistance. And some girl came running over to me with short hair and started really shouting abuse at me and I was just crying for to get assistance. And I ran from the landrover from there, back round, at that point 2 people were down and one was roughly there and the other one was about there.

Would you just mark them points DW2 and DW3. Now at this stage too I'll just introduce eh the transcript of the pocket phone radio, and I'm going to mark it here M112. Were those people there when you went initially.

Uh huh.

Lying here.

Uh huh.

Now what I'm saying is this, when you went out at the very outset were there 2 people lying there.

At the first.

Yeah.

No.

So you say that you realised you had no radio, they weren't lying there at that stage were they.

No. At that stage no I don't think they were.

So you ran back to the landrover.

Uh huh.

And you got your radio.

Yes.

And it was when you ran back again is that

when you're saying.

No, no. When I got to the landrover I got my radio and I actually used my pocket phone radio plus the main set in the landrover, which trying to get people to answer me, you know it just seemed that long you know for people to answer me.

Aye.

And that's when I put my pocket radio back on, back on at that stage and still you know radioed for assistance and they said there was people on their way. And then when I got into the end of the landrover I noticed that the 2 guys were down when I got to the back of the landrover. And then I used my radio again to say for an ambulance and I also used the main pocket phone as well and that's when a girl came round and started shouting abuse at me that I wasn't doing anything and everything else and I was trying to get you know assistance and an ambulance to come.

Right. And I'll just point you here to the comms log that went through.

Yeah.

Juliet Delta 80 from Delta say again, over. So that would, would have been the comms man.

Yeah.

And that was marked at 1.45.51.

Uh huh.

Juliet Charlie 81 from Delta, roger, out to you. 80 from Delta over. And that's Juliet Charlie you're saying.

Should be Juliet Delta yeah.

Juliet Delta. And then there was an inaudible transmission.

Uh huh.

Roger out. And then at 1.46.15 Juliet Delta from 81.

Uh huh.

81 from Delta send, over. And that would have been the comms person saying that.

Yeah send over yeah.

Roger, we need back-up urgently in the town over. And that is you saying that.

Uh huh, yes.

Roger, there are other mobiles they're already on their way over.

Uh huh.

Roger, tell all we're in the middle of the town. That would have been you again.

Yes.

Juliet Delta from 81, 8, 81 from Delta send, that would have been you Juliet Delta.

Yes.

From 81.

Yeah.

Roger we need you urgent.

Uh huh.

Roger they can only get there when they can get there; that's the comms man saying that to you.

Yes.

81 over.

Uh huh.

81 from 70, and then there's an inaudible part.

Uh huh.

And that's obviously another mobile, we are at the Gilford Road roundabout and we're going as quick as we can.

Uh huh.

Then we have roger out. 81 from 80 roger be with you shortly. That's again another callsign contacting yourself.

Uh huh.

Roger. And then we've got Delta from Juliet Delta 70.

Uh huh.

And again that's a different mobile. Then we have Juliet Delta from 81 and this is at 1.48.

Uh huh.

We need a couple of ambulances over.

Uh huh.

Roger ambulances 2 victims, and that's you saying that.

Yes that's me yeah.

So in-between that time.

Uh huh.

You had actually come back, made a request for.

Uh huh.

Back-up.

Yeah.

Then went out saw the 2 victims.

Yes, and came back again.

Right. How at that stage did you know that you needed 2 ambulances.

Well it's just that 2 ambulances.

Or sorry ambulance, ambulances.

An ambulances yeah.

Ambulances, 2 victims sorry.

Two well at that point I ran over and I seen the 2 people lying down, down on the ground and there's still fighting, there's still fighting in progress. There's still, there's just people everywhere you know.

Uh huh.

Eh you know round that there.

What were your colleagues doing at this time.

Well they were trying to you know fight the people you know off, they're trying to fight you know and I couldn't tell each specifically one where they were 'cos I don't

know but I could see them you know in the distance that they were trying to you know stop as much as they could, you know the fighting you know.

Uh huh.

Like there was a lot when there was just 3 and plus me 4, you know so many people.

Right. And did your colleagues ask you to task ambulances as well.

They could have I don't know they could have, though I'd already done it, they could have I'm not too sure.

Right.

They could have.

What, was your state at that particular time.

What I was feeling.

Uh huh.

Well my knees were shaking, I was just really really scared because I didn't know what was going to happen next 'cos there was just so many people, and there was only 4 of us, and we tried the best to push, you know to push people away you know. Well the boys mostly trying to get people pushed away. I was trying to make radio transmissions you know, I, for ambulances, and this girl coming round shouting abuse and everything at me.

Uh huh.

You know as if I wasn't doing anything.

Right. And did you personally see any of these 2 persons getting injured.

No I didn't.

And when you tasked the ambulances and went back, were there still people attacking these 2 persons.

Sorry.

When you tasked the ambulances.

Uh huh.

Were there still people in, in that area attacking the 2 injured parties, or was

there, what, was the scene at that stage.

Well when I got from the landrover round police had arrived but I ran over and gave first aid to the first boy and the second boy.

Right.

There was no people round them then 'cos I'd sort of, when more, when a few people, police came.

Uh huh.

They got the crowd mostly away and

You talk about first aid.

Yes.

Right. And who was the first one that you attended here if you indicate on.

The first one I actually attended to was this guy here.

And that's DW2.

DW2 yeah.

And what did you.

What did I do. Well the first thing I did was check his pulse, checked if he was breathing. I noticed he had a slight cut in his head but it wasn't that, it looked to me that it wasn't that bad and it wasn't bleeding profusely.

Uh huh.

So he was still breathing and now I can't remember, I can't remember whether I put him in the recovery position or somebody else did, I can't, I couldn't remember.

Right. Was there anybody with him, sorry for interrupting.

No there was nobody with him, at that point there was nobody with him when I went to him. There was a lot of women shouting and screaming behind me you know sort of eh, well behind me when I was at, at this fella.

Did you see ladies near this fella at any stage, or indeed near this fella here.

Yes well there was 2 ladies at that fella so there was, there was 2 girls at that, that last DW3.

DW3.

Yes.

But there was nobody at this one here.

No.

And this is the one almost opposite that you've mentioned, Eastwoods.

Opposite Eastwoods yeah.

Yeah.

Uh huh.

OK.

At that point when I went over to him there was nobody there.

Now how was he breathing can you recall how he was breathing.

Well he, was breathing but he, was unconscious but you could, you know, it was quite shallow you know what I mean, but he still had a pulse and I checked it 3 or 4 times, 'cos I went to him first DW2, then I went to DW3, now he had hustly breathing, it was very hustly and I actually thought that he could have had a punctured lung and I was, I sort of worried, and that's why I kept screaming for ambulances.

You mean a rasping or.

Yeah a real hustly noise in his throat, but he had a pulse as well, but you know I was sort of glad that both of them were breathing and both of them you know.

Uh huh.

Like both of them seemed, they both were unconscious.

Aye.

'Cos I kept speaking to both of them you know saying, I didn't know their names but trying to speak to see if they could hear me or anything.

When you were pursuing.

Yes.

These activities here.

Uh huh.

Were you aware did anyone attack or abuse you or was it, can you remember did anyone attack or abuse the police that were there. This is initially. Your, colleagues.

Everybody, well, well there was a lot of abuse coming now 'cos the fellas were doing their best trying to hold the crowd back and there was a lot of abuse and everything else. A lot of abuse from both sides, both sides were just like, it was like you know somebody would shout something, then somebody would answer back you know it was just going hammer tong, back and forth you know.

Well what about abuse towards police now.

Yes well police got a, got abuse actually, well.

Anybody strike them or, or try to strike them.

I don't know, to be honest I don't know whether somebody else was striked or not now, I can't remember.

You can't recall.

No.

Any of the remarks that were addressed towards either party or any of the parties.

Well I noticed sorry, I noticed from, from there when I went back to make, make another transmission for the ambulance, at this point Alan Constable Neill, which was the driver of, of the vehicle he was trying to pull somebody away. Now I don't know if he was a Catholic, I don't know whether he was on the Protestant side, I don't know, but he was trying to get your guy and you know pull him out of the crowd.

Aye.

And at this point.

You're, you're indicating towards LR3.

Yes.

At this.

Yeah. And and this other guy from Wood, was standing roughly around Woodhouse Street came and just jumped on Alan. And at that point I was trying to.

Is this the person you're saying that was, went down the road initially.

No this was just a group, you know the group of like, as you can put it this way you know Catholics more or less was this side and Protestants were at this side.

Uh huh.

You know, they didn't go.

Now when you say this side and this side you mean the.

When the police were here you know they were behind us.

So the police you reckon were in the middle as it were.

Yes we were, yeah in the middle.

And you have Prods on this top side, of the town.

Yes.

Towards the church.

Yeah.

Eastwood's side.

Uh huh.

And on the lower side you would say.

Uh huh.

You have, on the side of the LR3 and down that particular side you would have.

The.

The Catholics.

Yeah uh huh.

OK.

Yeah.

Police possibly in the middle.

Yes.

You reckon.

Yeah.

Trying to keep them all apart.

Yeah, uh huh.

And then you have Constable Neill coming over here.

Uh huh.

With an arrest, had he a person arrested or was.

No he was trying, he was trying to you know, just, I, I don't know why.

Drag a person away.

Dragging a person away, trying to break up you know you know. Now I'm trying to think I can't think whether, I'm trying to think you know when, when this, when it took place you know.

Oh I realise, yes I realise that.

When it took place. After I'd give those 2 first, first aid, you know there was still hammer and tonging here you know. And now I was, at this stage I was still back at the landrover 'cos the girls had shouted at me you know request for assistance, when's the ambulance coming, the 2 girls that were at DW3. And and I says I'm doing the best I can and I still radioed you know for, you know an ambulance, and then I was afraid of my radio not working so I went back to the landrover to use the main set to make sure you know that they were getting.

That they'd got you.

That they were getting my transmissions, and that's when Constable Neill had brought somebody round the back of the landrover, out of the way because they were just know, it was just still you know fighting you know. And the next thing was some guy, now he was about here somewhere now. He, he was.

And you're indicating there just at the

junction.

Right, uh huh.

Of Woodhouse Street at LR3.

Yeah.

Around that junction.

Round this side, and this guy just jumped on Constable Neill when he had pulled somebody from the, from the fight, and at this point I pulled your guy, tried to pull, pull him off you know, off, off Constable Neill and, and then the next thing was I went then, went round to see if they're OK again, you know just sort of.

Can you recall what that person was wearing that jumped on Constable Neill. And you can refer to your statement there, it might take you a bit of time to find it.

He was a male, a male early 20's, wearing a white top and he had sort of brown wavy hair. He was trying to kick the guy that Alan Neill had.

Uh huh.

You know (inaudible)

And, and did he, do you think he come down from St Pats or he come up Woodhouse Street.

Well I, to be honest I don't know, I just take it he was with the people that must have came down Thomas Street.

Uh huh.

You know from St Patrick's Hall.

OK. And then what happened at that stage. - Sorry I was.

You're.

Can you recall at any stage.

Uh huh.

Here in this fracas.

Uh huh.

Any of the police initially.

Uh huh.

This is your party.

Yeah.

Producing a baton, batons or indeed had you a riot gun in this vehicle here, can you remember.

No we hadn't a riot gun. They had, they had batons and they did take them out because they were just coming, actually they were firing bottles at us as well you know.

Who was firing bottles now.

I don't know where it came from, you know I could see bottles being thrown, you know you could see you know, I can visually see them but it was, it was must have been, I think it was coming up that way.

You're saying it.

Because if I can remember when I went to DW2 there was glass had break, broken here, was broken here.

Around DW2.

Around yeah.

Can you remember at what stage the glass now, the bottles were being thrown, was this initially.

No when we, when we bottles started throwing when we first got out of the landrover at the very beginning when we.

At the very beginning there were bottles being thrown.

Yes yeah, uh huh.

OK.

Yeah.

Very good. And this is before these 2 people.

Yes.

Ended up here.

Uh huh.

Right. At points 2, one and 2.

Uh huh.

Or 2 and 3 rather.

Yeah, uh huh.

Very good. Now when you say police had their batons drawn can you remember which of the police had actually batons drawn. Did you see them use their batons, I mean your party.

Yeah, you know from a distance yes but I couldn't tell you which, who was doing what.

No that's alright.

Uh huh.

No that's fine.

Yes aye they all had their batons drawn yeah, and they were using them.

Uh huh. OK. Right now where are we at now. - Em at this stage then could you tell us when additional police arrived roughly how, at what stage then more police arrived, was it long after.

It seemed like hours but to be honest I can't recall 'cos, well I can recall sort of well I know, I know aye there was a car came and I think there was at least 2 in it first of all, there was 2 because they came and they were helping us to push the, the crowd back.

Crowd back.

Yeah. And that was you know there was no, that's how the crowd got back 'cos there were more people came and pushed them back.

So youse really pushed the crowd up the street beyond the injured parties.

Yeah, uh huh.

And that's what youse were intending to do.

Yes, uh huh.

OK. And what do you feel or what is your reply to the accusation levelled against police to the effect that eh they were negligent in that they failed to intervene as promptly as possible in the assault of Robert Hamill.

Well we'd done everything the best we can, eh

like it's hard to do to a push, push so many people up the street, there was only 4 of us, and we tried our best, we tried to get people you know away from you know each other and everything, we just tried our best and I gave 2 of them first aid and everything. We done everything. We got out, as soon as we knew, you know when your fella came over to the landrover your first out and straight in, you know.

Did you, did you hear any shouting or any noise before youse got out of that landrover.

No, I didn't.

Is there any reason why you wouldn't have heard it.

Em probably because I might have been engrossed in a, you know talking more than anything else, you know the way you're sitting talking to somebody, you know your mind's more or less focussing on what you're talking about not what's going on around you.

Well of course that just also might mean that there may not have been any shouting or yelling, I mean if there had of been shouting or yelling most likely you'd have heard it.

Yeah more, eh.

Because I'm assuming the landrover was switched on.

Yeah.

Issues such as that, but you would still hear people shouting over and above that.

Uh huh, yeah. We didn't hear you know any shouting or, well I didn't anyway.

Now in the middle of all this fracas.

Yeah.

Eh we have police sitting here.

Uh huh.

And the next thing really all hell breaks loose.

Uh huh.

Of the police that are there was there any discussion as to who should do what, had they any opportunity to assess or decide what

action they should take, or was it a question of getting out and one man, 2 men or whatever, or one man leading the way as it were from the front and say, without any discussion, this is and, and the rest followed suit as it were. Was there.

I don't know, em.

Because quite obviously we have Constable Neill.

Uh huh.

Who really seems to have got out and it would appear as if everybody followed him.

Uh huh yes.

Rather than there was a great deal of discussion.

Well there was no discussion, we just all got out.

Yeah.

And just got in.

And, and quite obviously someone had to lead.

Yeah.

To show what was being attempted.

Uh huh.

Can you remember who would have tried, started separating the 2 groups, which policeman. I mean somebody had to lead from the front.

Probably, I think it's probably Constable Neill, he was the first and then, well more or less 3, you know the 3 men.

Yeah, no I realise.

The 3 men went before I did.

Yeah.

You know so 'cos they protect, you know they more or less were trying to protect me as well because I have nothing to protect myself with.

The point I'm trying to make is this.

Uh huh.

You had no opportunity for discussion.

No.

There was, there were no opportunity for tactics to be discussed.

No.

It happened like that there.

It happened just like that.

Consequently somebody had to get out and decide in their head or verbally or whatever, this is what we're doing.

We didn't, uh huh, we didn't.

And you're saying you tried to get the Prods on this side, and we tried to separate the Catholics down that side.

Yeah.

Look that didn't happen just by accident, somebody had to do it, physically lead from the front or else say that's what we're going to do. So we have to assume then that one man was leading from the front and everybody else could see what was being done and the rest follow. Would you say that was right.

No I, I, I would more or less say that the 3 of them just went in and just separated, trying to separate.

And, and they saw what they had to do.

Yes.

Right.

It's immediate reaction, you know anything like that.

Yeah.

You're just straight in and try to do the best you can and get them separated.

No I appreciate that because that, that does explain.

Yeah.

Really.

Uh huh.

What, what I'm trying to find out.

Yeah. Well the 3 of them went in, just went in and tried to break up.

Yeah, OK. - In the point and just clear up about the first aid that you rendered, you probably didn't go into that indepth.

No.

In the statement.

In the statement.

Uh huh.

Well first aid well all I did was you know checked their breathing to see if they were breathing, also that you know, that they had a pulse, and also that they were, they're meant to be in a recovery position, and both of them were in recovery position. And then I think somebody got, one of them was wearing a leather jacket, right enough both of them could have been wear, or wearing leather jackets and it was stuffed underneath their heads to give them support so that they weren't swallowing their tongue or anything, to make sure that there was nothing in their mouth or anything that they could choke on or whatever.

Right. Did, did you see at any stage any one of the injured parties lying with his head in the lap of any of the injured girl, or any, any of the girls that were beside him.

No.

You didn't see that.

No did not.

Are you from Portadown.

No.

You live some distance outside it do you or.

I live 17 mile from it.

So as far as identification is concerned you didn't really know, did you know any of these people.

No not one.

Right. Afterwards was it, did you consider on your duties, trying to identify any of the people that you saw at this fracas.

No 'cos I, well I knew what they were wearing but I didn't know their names.

Yeah, but you must have got a look at their faces and things like that there.

Yeah. I would you know, yeah I looked at their faces you know.

Aye.

That's when I was putting them, you know trying to push them up the street.

In essence really you did not identify anyone, either during it or after this.

Uh huh.

Is that right.

No.

No, OK. I think that. - OK. We've now finished this interview with you, I've already handed over the notice, the PACE 21 that explains that I told you about at the beginning of the tape. Before I switch off the tape recorder do you wish to clarify anything you've said.

No.

Do you wish to add anything.

No.

Do you wish to make a written statement.

NO.

I'M NOW SWITCHING OFF THE RECORDER. THE TIME IS 8.08 pm