

I Colin Martin Hall of [REDACTED] 15/5/97
S. all as follows -

On 27th April 1997 I was in [REDACTED]'s
pub in Woodhouse Street Pontefract. I left at about
1-30 am and headed for the top of Woodhouse Street
to see if Boss Hoggs fast food bar was open as I
wanted something to eat. As I approached the Royal
Oak bar in Woodhouse Street I could hear screaming
and shouting coming from the centre of the town.

I then walked to the top of Woodhouse Street and
turned right towards the centre of the road and went
towards Eastwoods clothes shop. I walked past an
RUC landrover which was parked outside the Halifax
Building Society. None of the police personnel were outside
the landrover.

I saw two people lying on the ground about ten
yards from the landrover. There was a crowd of about
thirty people and they were kicking and beating the two
people on the ground. Two girls threw themselves on top
of the people who were being beaten. I went over to see
could I help and I was attacked and punched and kicked
I fell to the ground. These people were shouting "F*****
Bastard" and "This is our town. You shouldn't be here".
This happened so quickly that I couldn't describe any
of the attackers. I managed to get up and run to the
far end of the street.

I went back over to [REDACTED]. The crowd
had stopped beating him but remained at the scene.

I went over to see how Robert Hemall was and he was
unconscious. I stayed with him for about ten minutes
as the crowd was only about ten yards away from him.
The crowd kept calling us Lemon Basters. One
man made another run at Robert and I grabbed him
and threw him away. He returned to the crowd. At
no stage did the RUC leave their landrover - nor
did reinforcements come while the attack was happening.
The episode lasted about fifteen minutes. One
girl banged the back of the RUC landrover pleading
for help. The RUC ignored her.

An ambulance eventually arrived and I helped
the ambulance crew to lift Robert onto the stretcher.
The RUC left their jeep when the ambulance arrived and
stood in front of the gang of youths.

In my view the RUC could have left their landrover
or called reinforcements as the RUC station is only
about two minutes walk from the scene of the attack.
Instead they did nothing. At no stage did the RUC
come under attack.

Dated the 15th day of May 1997

Signed *John Hemall*

Witness -


S. D. [Redacted]