

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF DENISE CORNETT

AGE OF WITNESS[If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 3 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 27 day of April 1997

GEORGE LAWTHOR
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

DENISE CORNETT
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am a Full-Time Reserve Constable in the Royal Ulster Constabulary presently stationed at Portadown RUC Station. On Sunday 27 April 1997 I was on duty and in uniform. I was accompanied by Constable Neill, as driver, R/Constable Atkinson and P40 as crew. Our duties were to patrol the town centre, public order duties within the town barriers. We were stationary outside Instep Sports. I observed a number of youths walking from Wellworths, High Street heading towards Market Street. We proceeded then to travel down High Street when I observed a male in his late 30's, early 40's wearing a blue shirt and dark trousers looking at me and moving his lips. I told Constable Neill to stop the landrover. Our landrover stopped at the entrance at Woodhouse Street and I opened the door. The male said, "My friends are coming down Thomas Street." I replied, "Ok." The man then proceeded down Woodhouse Street. Two young youths both in their late teens early 20's came over to me at the landrover and started talking. One male was wearing a blue Ralph Lauren shirt, brown short hair. He had a green glass bottle of cider in his right hand. The other male was wearing a light cream shirt, dark trousers and brown short hair. The youths had local accents. Constable Neill had his driver's door

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open by a man in late 30's wearing a blue shirt, dark trousers, brown short hair approached Constable Neill's door and was shouting at him. We all alighted from the landrover. I could see different groups fighting and women screaming. I ran back to the landrover to call for assistance and also an ambulance as two people had been injured. At this time a female wearing a white jumper, brown short hair came to me at the Police landrover and was shouting abuse at me and screaming. I then left the landrover and I could see two people lying on the ground. I ran over to a male who was wearing a blue shirt, dark jeans and short dark hair to see if he was breathing. There were two females at his side. I reassured the females that there was an ambulance on its way. One female was wearing a black leather jacket, dark trousers and long streaked hair. The other female had short brown hair. I then immediately went over to the other male. He was unconscious. A female came over to me and she was very distressed. She was wearing a blue jacket and dark trousers and short dark auburn hair. I then went back to the landrover, I observed Constable Neill struggling with a young male at the landrover. I tried to assist Constable Neill but a male early 20's, wearing white top and brown wavy hair, trying to kick the young male who was struggling with Constable Neill. I tried to restrain the male wearing white jumper from kicking. A male wearing a blue shirt pulled this male away towards Alliance & Leicester Building Society. I left the landrover and I was approached by a female wearing a blue jacket, dark trousers and shoulder length hair and she was very distressed and crying. I tried to comfort her. I observed Police arriving to assist us. The ambulance then arrived and the officers put

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the two males inside the vehicle and took them to Craigavon Area Hospital. We were requested to move the crowd. Police formed a line and moved approximately 50 youths (Protestants) up to West Street barrier. We remained there until the crowd dispersed. At the time of the incident there was approximately 50 Protestants and 10 Catholics.

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

DENISE CORNETT

CHECKED AND CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNED

Derek Braden.

Notes taken down from Denise Cornett re incident

Observed a number of youths walking from Wellworths heading to Market St. How many. (Don't know).

Two youths came over and started talking. (Talked to Cornett)

What was talking. Was it friendly. (Yes friendly).

Green glass bottle in right hand. Carried by neck or as weapon of offence. (By neck, not threatening).

Description 30s, blue shirt, dark trousers etc. Was that the same man coming down from St Pats. (Don't know).

Was this the same man who was mouthing at the Police. (No).

Different groups fighting. Where. (Junction Thomas St/Market St on roadway).

Ran back to landrover. Only alighted, why run back. (Radioed for assistance).

Two people injured so must have been injured when got out of landrover. (After radio for assistance and got out of landrover, saw injured).

Female came over to landrover and shouted abuse - what was abuse and what was shouted.

(Not doing nothing and swearing. Cornett radioing for assistance at the time).

Two people lying on ground, were they same 2 who were injured. (Yes).

Where did women who shouted abuse go to. (Don't know).

Reassured females, ambulance on way. Was this the same female or different females.

(Two different females and 2 who were giving assistance).

18(a)

06344

Male, early 20s, wearing white top etc. Where did he come from.

(Don't know).

How many females at this stage. (Wearing blue jacket etc).

(4 other females in Catholic side).

Officers put 2 inside ambulance. Who were Officers (Ambulance people)

Begin to move the crowd. How many in crowd. (50 Prods).

Where were Catholic crowds. (Behind Police at junction of Thomas St/
Woodhouse St).

181(b)

06345