

4. On the night of 26 – 27 April 1997, my section comprised Constable Orr, Constable Cooke and Reserve Constables Silcock and Warnock, with Sergeant McLean in charge. Our section was perhaps large enough to get a couple of cars out. My standing order for that night was to be the detailed observer in an ordinary response car. The response car contains the officers who, if any calls came in, would be detailed to attend. We would deal with any incidents that might happen outside of the town centre. Upon attending any assaults or incidents, I would take statements and any details of people at the scene. At the police station, I would then put together a file and forward the information to my Sergeant or Inspector. The two officers in the response car would alternate our roles, so that I was not always dealing with the paperwork.
5. I was detailed to patrol the Portadown area in a response car with Constable Orr. This area did not include the town centre but included the general area of Portadown outside the town centre. My shift was from midnight to 08.00 the following day, and I was responsible for taking details and statements from people that night. As far as I recall, everything outside of the barriers around the town was our responsibility up to 03.00. Everything inside the barriers was the responsibility of a Land Rover crew containing Reserve Constables Atkinson, **P40** , Cornett and Constable Neill.
6. At approximately 01.47 on the morning of the 27 April 1997 I recall receiving a call for back up on the radio transmission from JD 81. Reserve Constable Cornett was basically screaming down the radio that she needed help. She was screaming “they’re killing each other”. We were expecting to see some public disorder, but at that stage we did not know the precise extent.
7. I cannot remember how soon we arrived at the scene after receiving the call. Nor can I remember exactly what route we took once we entered the town. However, I remember that the barriers were definitely closed except for the barrier at Edward Street, so this was the only way in. We started driving through Edward Street, up Market Street and turned right to go down Market Street again, and around the central reservation so that we drove up the other