

years and it was not uncommon for riot guns to be issued in public order incidents. I had whilst a member of the MSU dealt with 50 – 60 riots in Portadown town centre.

9. When I arrived at the junction, I found the situation was very hostile. There was a crowd of people – nearly 50 people and it was very noisy with a lot of shouting going on. From experience and the way they behaving, I knew the large crowd were Protestant. Certainly you wouldn't get a group of Nationalist people in the town centre like that. In addition to the large crowd, we had people coming up from Woodhouse Street and our concern was to move the crowd away from the town centre and from the people in Woodhouse Street. I note in my statement of 7 May 1997 [page 9213], I stated this group consisted of about 3-4 youths.
10. In terms of other police support, I have a vague recollection that when we arrived at the scene, we tried to get a section of the MSU to Portadown as it was clear we needed more support. I believe the MSU were at Banbridge at the time. There was some form of communication between Inspector McCrum and myself but I cannot now remember who made the request for the MSU.
11. To the best of my recollection, there was one Land Rover at the scene but I cannot recall where it was parked. I assume it was in the vicinity of Thomas and Woodhouse Streets. I think there was also a police car there which Reserve Constable Warnock and Constable Adams had been driving when they met us earlier on Edward Street.
12. At this stage I did not see any casualties at the scene. To the best of my recollection there was an ambulance there that may have just taken casualties on board and was about to move off. I believe that it was stationary when I arrived and there were officers and a crowd of people nearby. I did not see any of the crowd obstructing the ambulance but they were definitely hostile. In my statement 15 May 1997 [page 9216] I said, "*As I made my way to the scene along Edward Street an ambulance passed me travelling towards the town centre.*"