

7. There were already at least four officers, possibly six, on the street when we arrived on the scene: the four from the Land Rover crew and then the officers from the other police vehicle. There was a crowd of about forty, possibly fifty people and they were all over the place. The majority of the crowd, I would say in the region of 95 to 99 percent, was Loyalist. The rest were Nationalists. They were all shouting and running about like madmen. It was quite evident that they were high on drink. In my notebook entry [9973] I described the crowd as “rioting”. There were minor fights taking place all around us, across the breadth of Market Street near the Woodhouse Street/ Thomas Street junction. Each of the officers who had been on the scene appeared to be surrounded by a number of persons and a number of persons were fighting with police officers. There were a lot of small particles of broken glass all around the junction of Thomas Street. I presumed it was broken bottles. The officers had their batons drawn and were trying to push the crowd back away from the junction and up the town.

8. Constable Cooke, Reserve Constable Warnock and I got out of our vehicle and went towards the crowd. There was no time to speak to the other officers. Initially I was standing in Market Street, near the central reservation. I recall seeing two men lying motionless on the street not far from where I stood. They appeared to be unconscious. One was at the entrance to Thomas Street and the other was lying in Market Street itself, just a short distance from the junction of Thomas and Market Streets. I have denoted their respective positions with a small circle on the map of Portadown. There were at least two females, possibly three, around them. One or two of the females was going back and forth from one man to the next. I presume those women were with the men on the ground. As the men appeared to be receiving comfort from these women I did not go to assist the men nor did I see any other officers provide any assistance. As I said, our main focus was trying to keep the crowd back from the junction.

9. Indeed, our efforts to control the crowd were quite unsuccessful initially. There were a number of scuffles taking place all over the junction. I am not sure who was