

involved, whether the fights were between Nationalists and Loyalists or were between Loyalist factions. Although we were trying to push the crowd back up the town they kept running down towards the junction. I don't know whether they were trying to get at the officers who were at the junction or whether they were trying to get to the two guys. There were also a number of guys coming up out of Woodhouse Street, which is the Nationalist end of the junction. We kept pushing them back down Woodhouse Street.

10. There had been numerous incidents at the Woodhouse Street/Thomas Street junction in the past, for example when the bars would empty and there might be half a dozen people on each side squaring up with each other. The junction had always been known to be a flashpoint for sectarian violence during my time in Portadown and that is why there would be a police Land Rover positioned at that junction. However, those incidents had never involved the numbers that there were that night. The numbers that night were just impossible to handle. The crowd had no fear of the police. We were totally outnumbered. There were just too few police officers to deal with the disturbance. I felt scared as well as threatened by the crowd although I was not actually assaulted. I would not say that we dealt with the incident as a unit though. We were all separate for most of the time, scattered all over the place and trying to watch our own backs. I was even separated from Constable Cooke and Reserve Constable Warnock.
11. It is fair to say that there was no clear strategy although it was fairly obvious what we needed to do. In my view, our priority was to control the crowd. It was a matter of everyone mucking in to try and push the crowd back. We all had our batons drawn to try to put some fear into the crowd but I did not strike anyone. It did not make any sense to use the baton on one or two people given the size of the crowd. I believe that there may have been one or two Federal Riot Guns available but I do not believe they were fired. Given the size of the crowd I am not sure that it would have made a difference anyway if they had been fired.