

and he said that it had. We were of the opinion ourselves that the Landrover being on the tapes was important and that they should have been retained. The police had after all accepted that someone had opened the Landrover door and asked them to help Robert. We thought, "He's just not going to help us here, they're trying to cover this up." We thought there was no further point in talking now. We drew back totally.

29. We were never brought up as a Republican family. We were very middle of the road. I would have said "hello" to a policeman on the street before this. It wasn't until this happened to my brother that I realised what was going on around here. We didn't suffer the wrath of the police until my brother had the cheek to die. Then I realised that if don't abide by their rules you suffer at their hands. We have since suffered for years at the hands of the police. I explain this in more detail at paragraph 41 below.
30. What I mean by that is that we said they were wrong, that they let my brother die, that they didn't get out. We didn't go away and grieve for Robert in a corner and forget about it. We decided we were not going to let it pass, that they were wrong in what they had done and had not done. All they had to do was wind the window down, put their hand out of the Landrover and fire a bullet in the air to disperse the crowd, that is if the crowd didn't already believe they were safe to do that, but I believe they did. I believe the crowd felt safe when they attacked Robert. Two of the police have acknowledged speaking to people before the attack on Robert. One of them, Stacey Bridgett was actually arrested for the attack. All of a sudden all of these people, from 30 to 100 according to Constable P103, felt safe to do that within 20 yards of four armed police officers.
31. This particular crossroads was a known flashpoint. That is why there was a dedicated observer in the Landrover that night. This was 1997 during the run up to the Drumcree marches. For a month before July the place would have been really tense. A Catholic in Portadown would only have gone to pubs in Woodhouse