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→CONFIDENTIALFor : CHIEF OF STAFFFrom : MILITARY INTELLIGENCEDate : 10 February 1972SUBJECT : Shooting of 13 Civilians by British Army in Derry - 30.1.72
Statement by [REDACTED]

I was standing at the junction of WILLIAM STREET and ROSSE VILLA STREET in the company of two (2) friends from 1535 approx. to 1545 approx. During that time I observed the following incidents. Firstly, two (2) BRITISH soldiers observing the parade, which had halted, from skylights in the rear of SACKVILLE STREET. They were 120 yards approx. from the parade. Also, I noticed that a hole had been punched through the top storey wall (of a 3 storey house). This was the same building as the afore mentioned BRITISH soldiers were observing from. I did NOT see any weapons at this position.

After a few minutes, I heard crowd noises at the front of the parade, which was around the corner from the old CITY CINEMA in WILLIAM STREET. Immediately afterwards I heard a volley of bangs, which I assumed to be rubber bullets and C.S. Gas. On the firing of this volley the crowd surged backwards to where I was standing, a large number of people at the front of the parade were panicking. At the same time I saw a cloud of WHITISH/GREY smoke (which I knew to be C.S. Gas) rising cross the street at the old CITY CINEMA. Approx. 20 seconds later, my eyes began to smart and my nose and throat felt as if they were burning. I then turned around and moved approx. 20 yards back into ROSSE VILLA STREET. Before I moved back, I saw a crowd of approx 200 moving towards the old CITY CINEMA. Then I saw a RUSTY/PURPLE coloured spray being sprayed across the street at the crowd, which had moved forward. This spraying lasted approx 1 minute. When I had moved back, I saw 20-30 youths making for the BRITISH ARMY barricade at the junction of SACKVILLE STREET and LITTLE GREAT JAMES' STREET. Rubber bullets were fired from this barricade, at the youths, who were stoning the barricade.

At this stage I heard a report that two (2) men had been wounded by live ammunition and I went to the side of COLUMCILLE COURT, facing WILLIAM STREET. Whilst I was standing there, a live bullet hit COLUMCILLE COURT and I left my position and walked towards GLENFADA PARK. At the corner of GLENFADA PARK I saw a young man running past, who had been shot in the RIGHT side of his face. Then I entered a house No. 7 at the slipway to the rear of GLENFADA PARK, facing ABBEY STREET, where I saw the following.

Two (2) paratroopers, armed with SLRs, came up GLENFADA COURT and fired three (3) shots towards the RIGHT of ROSSEVILLE HIGH FLATS. The two (2) paratroopers then moved forward and arrested 12-15 people and marched them back in the direction from which they, the paratroopers, came. During this march a number of people were kicked by the paratroopers. One woman, however, refused to move from where she stood and was kicked twice, in the back of the legs, by a paratrooper.

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At this stage two (2) more paratroopers appears on the scene and one fired four (4) shots from the hip and the other fired two (2) shots at the houses in front of them. Then another paratrooper appeared, fired one shot and went back in the direction which those arrested, had been taken. The other paratroopers then moved out of sight.

For some time a young man had been lying injured in the roadway, about 30 yards from the house I was in, at the junction of the slipway. I then saw this man's coat jump twice in the air, saw two (2) puffs of smoke at his back and also heard two (2) shot reports. All of this happened in quick succession. Then I saw a paratrooper moving back in the direction he came from.

I waited 2 or 3 minutes, and in the company of others, left the house to render assistance to the wounded. After some time I left the area to visit relatives in [REDACTED]. When I reached the side of FAHAN STREET I heard a shot being fired from the direction of the BOGSIDE INN towards the City Walls, at the Army Observation Post in the vicinity of GOVERNOR WALKER'S PILLAR. Four (4) shots were then fired, in reply, from different positions on the walls towards the general area, between FAHAN STREET and the BOGSIDE INN. These were the last shots I heard being fired and I then entered the house of my relatives.

I did not at any time, hear the explosion of a NAIL or GELIGNITE bomb, nor did I see any civilians in possession of arms, of any type.

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