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Title: Statement by an eyewitness to the shooting dead of 13 civilians by the British Army in Derry on 31 January 1972, given to Irish Army Commandant Liam A Clancy

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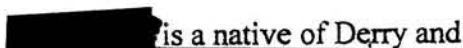


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DERRY MARCH 30/1/72

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1. Herewith eye witness account of above by member of 

 is a native of Derry and 
 I interviewed him for the purpose of getting his account of the proceedings on that day.
2. He was in the march in a position about halfway in the procession. He states:-
3. The procession was well organised and well stewarded. It went down William St and stopped about 150 yards from the barricade which was manned by British tps. Some of the leaders of the march went fwd and spoke to the tps. He does not know what transpired between them but thinks that the tps said the marchers would **NOT** be allowed to go any further. He says that the marchers were then told by stewards to go back to Free Derry corner where it was intended to hold a meeting. Most of the marchers began to move back towards Free D.C. but a crowd of about 60 youths started to throw stones and other objects at the tps. The stewards moved fwd to get the youths to move back and were succeeding in doing so when the water-canon opened up with dye coloured water. Gas projectiles also came over the rooftops from tps behind the houses and rubber bullets were fired by the tps at the barricades towards the crowd.

The crowd began to panic and run towards Rossville St and Chamberlain St into the Bogside. Stewards at this stage were appealing over loudspeakers to move back to Free D. C. to the meeting. Most of the crowd were moving back and as they were moving the tps fired a volley of C.S gas and rubber bullets. The wind however blew the gas back on the soldiers who were in Little James' St. The tps then laid down a smoke screen and moved back under cover of it. They were jeered by the crowd who were continuing to move back to Free D.C. At this stage he heard girls screaming and saying that a girl was shot. The crowd did **NOT** take much notice as it was thought that it was probably a rubber bullet. He next heard screams and the roars of engines revving up. He was past the barricade at the upper end of Rossville St at this time and as he looked back he saw 2 A Cars at the j of Rossville St and William St and also tps coming from side streets. He then heard a shot which he states he is positive came from the British tps. He says it came from behind an A. bar at the J of Rossville St &

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William St. He heard people shouting "get down" and he states he distinctly heard a fire order being given. It sounded like "open fire" & he thinks it came from a British officer in one of the side streets. He saw about 5 British tps taking up a lying position on a piece of waste ground at Rossville St. He saw them opening fire at the crowd. He dropped to the ground & estimates they fired from 15-20 rounds. He got up and began to run zig-zag and a fellow near him who was also running said "O Jasus I'm shot" and fell. He went to the man to see if he could give him assistance & was attempting to put a rough tourniquet on the man's leg (he was shot in the thigh) when bullets began to hit the ground all around him. The man was hit again in the chest & blood spurted out of him. [REDACTED] then ran to take cover and ran behind the Rossville flats. As he was running he saw another man hit at least twice. This was a young man who was trying to get into the flats & actually had his hand on the door when he was hit. [REDACTED] kept going on behind the small flats & heard automatic fire coming from the Walls. The Walls are manned by British tps. He then succeeded in getting into a safe area.

Further INFO

1. A short time after the shooting had occurred a car containing 3 masked men arrived in the area & enquired what was going on as they had heard shooting. Some of the people said to them "Where were you fellows the British tps are shooting the people". One of the men said "Is that right" or words to that effect. He had a revolver. He got out of the car and the car then reversed and went away but the man with the revolver went in the direction of the British troops. Within a few minutes the car arrived back with another car. There were about 6 or 7 men in the cars & they were all armed - Thompsons - Revs. - and a Rifle. One of the men said "We will give covering fire to the people in order to let them get out". They went off in the direction of the Brit tps. [REDACTED] heard more shooting after this but is NOT sure who fired them and at this stage people were dispersing & he went home. I questioned him as to why the armed men were NOT on the March and [REDACTED] thinks that they were left behind to protect the vacated houses in the Creggan and Brandywell and also to protect the marchers from the rear from British tps who might attack them from that direction.

2. "Tps were throwing bodies into A. Cars like butchers meat and laughing in the process".

3. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was shot while trying to go to the assistance of a wounded man and he was carrying a white flag. McGuigan was a moderate and was never on a march before.

Sig Liam AClancy
Comdt

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