

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2021/52/597
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

ROINN ANGLO IRISH

F.C.2

Fó-Roinn

NÁ CUI 834/953

Tá anseo, leis

An Uimhir

An Gnó

Bloody Sunday

An Uimhir ag Roinn Eile

STATEMENTS GIVEN TO TREASURY SOLICITOR

Do cuireadh chun	Dáta	Do cuireadh chun	Dáta	Do cuireadh chun	Dáta
	1-1-97				
	31-12-97				

National Archives
2021/52/597

TRANSFERABLE

©DFA/2021/52/597

STATEMENTS GIVEN TO TREASURY SOLICITOR

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

(H)

SA 27

H

Soldier H states:-

1. I am a private soldier in 1 Para. On 30 January the unit went to Londonderry. I understood that the Unit's duty would be to arrest as many rioters as possible. We were issued with a full bandolier of 50 rounds. I had a magazine of 20 on my SLR, a magazine of 20 in my ~~xxx~~ pocket and the remaining 10 rounds in the bandolier in my ~~xxx~~ pocket. We were given no orders on 30 January about firing. Orders about firing are in the yellow card. At Londonderry we formed up during the march in a side street. While we were there I heard a single shot and saw a drainpipe on a church break and fall down. I was in the first pig of my Platoon, the Platoon Commander's pig. I was in the back. We started to move off and shortly before we stopped I think I heard a shot strike the outside of the pig. The pig stopped and we immediately de-bussed. There was CS gas about and I put on my gas mask. We de-bussed in front of Columbcille Court on Rossville Street and we took up positions along its wall. We moved forward to two low walls at the end of that building and there we came under fire. I then cocked my weapon.

2. There was a barricade across Rossville Street in front of us. There were at least two gunmen at the barricade firing at us. There were people milling about behind them, some facing us. There were other people behind them moving away. The people moving away were mainly behind the barricade, though there may have been a few still on our side of it. Other members of my Platoon returned the fire of the gunmen on the barricade and they ceased firing. Led by F and G I moved along a low wall leading forward from the Columbcille Court building. In front of us was an alley-way leading into Columbcille Court. A group of lads appeared just at the end of this wall. One of them had an object in his hand which I thought was a nail bomb. This is because of its shape and colour. It was smooth and cylindrical, about the same size as a Coca-Cola tin. It was dark brown in colour.

©DFA/2021/52/597

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

I am positive it was not a rock or other missile of that kind. The lad threw the bomb in our direction and ~~it landed at our feet~~. It did not then explode. After it had landed I did not look at it again, but we chased these youths. They ran down the alley-way and turned left under an archway into Glenfadda Park. We chased after them.

3. Through the alley-way in Glenfadda Park there was a car parked. I stayed at one end, F and G at the other. I leaned on the bonnet in a firing position. F and G were there about two seconds in advance of me. I saw F fire. I saw a lad at the end of the line marked 2 on the photograph (marked Soldier H). He had an object like a Coca-Cola tin in his hand. He was drawn back in a throwing position. I fired two shots at him and he fell to the ground. I cannot remember now what he was wearing, though I was able to recall it shortly afterwards. The bomb just thudded to the ground without rolling or bouncing. I am still sure it was a bomb. It did not explode. There was an alley-way at the opposite corner of the square from which a youth ran. He picked up the bomb, I think with his right hand, and I thought he was about to throw it. I fired one round at him and think it hit him in the right shoulder or upper arm. He was able to stagger away. He did not drop the bomb.

4. I heard a shot and saw the muzzle of a rifle sticking out of a window at the end of the line marked 19. This was a single window with frosted glass and an upper pane which was open. The rifle was sticking out of this pane. I fired a total of 19 shots at this window, aiming at the centre of the window. I cannot remember whether the window was completely smashed, but I was aiming at the centre of it and not only at the open pane at the top.

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:- PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

I am positive it was not a rock or other missile of that kind. The lad threw the bomb in our direction and it landed at our feet. It did not then explode. After it had landed I did not look at it again, but we chased these youths. They ran down the alley-way and turned left under an archway into Glenfadda Park. We chased after them.

3. Through the alley-way in Glenfadda Park there was a car parked. I stayed at one end, F and G at the other. I leaned on the bonnet in a firing position. F and G were there about two seconds in advance of me. I saw F fire. I saw a lad at the end of the line marked 2 on the photograph (marked Soldier H). He had an object like a Coca-Cola tin in his hand. He was drawn back in a throwing position. I fired two shots at him and he fell to the ground. I cannot remember now what he was wearing, though I was able to recall it shortly afterwards. The bomb just thudded to the ground without rolling or bouncing. I am still sure it was a bomb. It did not explode. There was an alley-way at the opposite corner of the square from which a youth ran. He picked up the bomb, I think with his right hand, and I thought he was about to throw it. I fired one round at him and think it hit him in the right shoulder or upper arm. He was able to stagger away. He did not drop the bomb.

4. I heard a shot and saw the muzzle of a rifle sticking out of a window at the end of the line marked 19. This was a single window with frosted glass and an upper pane which was open. The rifle was sticking out of this pane. I fired a total of 19 shots at this window, aiming at the centre of the window. I cannot remember whether the window was completely smashed, but I was aiming at the centre of it and not only at the open pane at the top.

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
H O 219/58
27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

I emptied my magazine, replaced it and fired two further shots. With my last shot I believe I saw him fall. I could see the shape of him through the frosted glass window.

5. I then received the order to cease fire and we moved back to our vehicles in Rossville Street. Sitting in the back of the leading vehicle I heard firing again and saw P engaging a target out of my sight.

[Soldier H]

Statement taken by J.L. Hewitson in the presence of 236 on 2nd March 1972.

Signature witnessed 5th March 1972.

©DFA/2021/52/597

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

I emptied my magazine, replaced it and fired two further shots. With my last shot I believe I saw him fall. I could see the shape of him through the frosted glass window.

5. I then received the order to cease fire and we moved back to our vehicles in Rossville Street. Sitting in the back of the leading vehicle I heard firing again and saw F engaging a target out of my sight.

[Soldier H]

Statement taken by J.L. Heritage in the presence of 236 on 2nd March 1972.

Signature witnessed 5th March 1972.

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

SA 31

(G)

Soldier G states as follows:-

1. I am a private soldier in one of the Platoons of 1 Para. On Sunday, 30 January, we were given orders that we would be moving down to Londonderry. I understood that 1 Para were in reserve, and that we might have to mount an arrest operation. My Platoon Commander gave these orders to us. If we did have to make arrests I assumed it would be of rioters throwing stones and anything like that. These things are decided when we are on the ground and you cannot tell what will happen until you get there.

2. When we got to Londonderry we formed up in a street and as far as I remember I was in the second pig of my Platoon in the back. I remember that we started to move and when we stopped we immediately de-bussed according to the usual drill. To the best of my recollection when we de-bused we were just on the Little James Street side of the William Street/Rossville Street crossroads, probably halfway across the junction. I say this because I remember running across a road to get cover against the wall of an old building at the top of Rossville Street and I remember working my way down to the new building (Columbcille Court).

3. While I was against the wall of the old building we were fired on. I am not sure of the direction of firing, though I think it might have been from the high flats in Rossville Street. The sound came from that direction and I could hear the bullets pass over the top of us. There were no rioters in our immediate area, they were all running back to get to the barricade. As we were under fire we moved down the new building of Columbcille Court to the low wall at its far end. When we got to the wall I covered left, but identified no targets and did not fire, but I heard quite a bit of firing at that time coming from the flats and from the barricade area and one of them was definitely an automatic. I thought it was a Thompson, because I had heard one before and knew the sound. I could definitely hear the sound but I could not pick out a target or I would have engaged it. There was a lot of noise at this time from a large crowd behind the barricade. They were throwing bricks and bottles, though these were not reaching us at that time. Members of my Platoon were firing back from our

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

SA 31

(G)

Soldier G states as follows:-

1. I am a private soldier in one of the Platoons of 1 Para. On Sunday, 30 January, we were given orders that we would be moving down to Londonderry. I understood that 1 Para were in reserve, and that we might have to mount an arrest operation. My Platoon Commander gave these orders to us. If we did have to make arrests I assumed it would be of rioters throwing stones and anything like that. There things are decided when we are on the ground and you cannot tell what will happen until you get there.

2. When we got to Londonderry we formed up in a street and as far as I remember I was in the second pig of my Platoon in the back. I remember that we started to move and when we stopped we immediately de-bussed according to the usual drill. To the best of my recollection when we de-bused we were just on the Little James Street side of the William Street/Rossville Street crossroads, probably halfway across the junction. I say this because I remember running across a road to get cover against the wall of an old building at the top of Rossville Street and I remember working my way down to the new building (Columbcille Court).

3. While I was against the wall of the old building we were fired on. I am not sure of the direction of firing, though I think it might have been from the high flats in Rossville Street. The sound came from that direction and I could hear the bullets pass over the top of us. There were no rioters in our immediate area, they were all running back to get to the barricade. As we were under fire we moved down the new building of Columbcille Court to the low wall at its far end. When we got to the wall I covered left, but identified no targets and did not fire, but I heard quite a bit of firing at that time coming from the flats and from the barricade area and one of them was definitely an automatic. I thought it was a Thompson, because I had heard one before and knew the sound. I could definitely hear the sound but I could not pick out a target or I would have engaged it. There was a lot of noise at this time from a large crowd behind the barricade. They were throwing bricks and bottles, though these were not reaching us at that time. Members of my Platoon were firing back from our

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

position but I could not myself see identified targets to engage. I was observing left and they would have been looking somewhere else.

4. When we are operating I usually work with a senior soldier (F). For example, when it is necessary we move alternately, taking it in turn to cover one another. I saw F start to move forward, so, as it was a short distance to the next cover, I moved with him. I think F might have stopped on the way to cover me and I went to the end of the wall which runs to the alleyway. I refer to the photograph marked "Soldier G". When I got to the end of that wall, just before I got to the opening, someone shouted, "Look out, there's a gunman up there", or words like that. I do not know where the shout came from. I got down at the corner in an aim position on one knee. When I looked round I saw a man dodging in and out of an alleyway at the far end of the wall (at the other end of the line marked 2 on my photograph). I caught a glimpse of what might have been a weapon. After being warned to look out for a gunman I am satisfied that that is what I saw. From the way he moved and the manner in which he carried the object in his hands I was sure he was a gunman. One of the others had to get across the alleyway and to keep this man's head down I fired two shots at him on the line shown, marked 2. I was aiming at him, though I thought it was unlikely I would hit him, but anyway it served the purpose of keeping his head down.

5. We waited a couple of seconds to make sure he did not re-appear, but we could not wait long because of the risk of fire from the high flats. We moved quickly into the alleyway and I remember looking round for F who was just behind me. There is an archway into the courtyard of Glenfada Park. There was a car parked close to the mouth of the archway and I went round to the right-hand side of the car with F close beside me. As I got round to the end of the car two men attracted my attention in the opposite corner of Glenfada Park at the end of the line marked 3 on my photograph.

6. These men were armed. I cannot identify their weapons exactly but I think they were short rifles like an M.1 carbine. They both had some weapon of this sort. I immediately dropped to one knee and fired three aimed shots at one of the men. F was firing beside me and I saw both the men fall.

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

position but I could not myself see identified targets to engage. I was observing left and they would have been looking somewhere else.

4. When we are operating I usually work with a senior soldier (F). For example, when it is necessary we move alternately, taking it in turn to cover one another. I saw F start to move forward, so, as it was a short distance to the next cover, I moved with him. I think F might have stopped on the way to cover me and I went to the end of the wall which runs to the alleyway. I refer to the photograph marked "Soldier G". When I got to the end of that wall, just before I got to the opening, someone shouted, "Look out, there's a gunman up there", or words like that. I do not know where the shout came from. I got down at the corner in an aim position on one knee. When I looked round I saw a man dodging in and out of an alleyway at the far end of the wall (at the other end of the line marked 2 on my photograph). I caught a glimpse of what might have been a weapon. After being warned to look out for a gunman I am satisfied that that is what I saw. From the way he moved and the manner in which he carried the object in his hands I was sure he was a gunman. One of the others had to get across the alleyway and to keep this man's head down I fired two shots at him on the line shown, marked 2. I was aiming at him, though I thought it was unlikely I would hit him, but anyway it served the purpose of keeping his head down.

5. We waited a couple of seconds to make sure he did not re-appear, but we could not wait long because of the risk of fire from the high flats. We moved quickly into the alleyway and I remember looking round for F who was just behind me. There is an archway into the courtyard of Glenfada Park. There was a car parked close to the mouth of the archway and I went round to the right-hand side of the car with F close beside me. As I got round to the end of the car two men attracted my attention in the opposite corner of Glenfada Park at the end of the line marked 3 on my photograph.

6. These men were armed. I cannot identify their weapons exactly but I think they were short rifles like an M-1 carbine. They both had some weapon of this sort. I immediately dropped to one knee and fired three aimed shots at one of the men. F was firing beside me and I saw both the men fall.

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

7. There were a fair number of people on the opposite side of the courtyard. When the men fell a small crowd gathered round quickly. I could not actually see anyone pick up a weapon because there were too many people in front. I did not fire at them. The crowd ran off quickly up a little alleyway only a couple of yards behind them. F moved down the wall of the eastern building to the big opening by the barricade and I worked round the other two walls. We could not run straight across the courtyard because it is open on a number of sides and we could have been fired on. By the time I reached the far corner the crowd had completely vanished. There was nobody there at all, just the two bodies and another body a few yards further down towards the opening.

8. Our Platoon Commander then recalled us. I heard F shout "There's a gunman" or something like that. I saw him down on one knee at the south east corner of Glenfada Park aiming in an easterly direction. I saw him fire one or two shots in a direction out of my sight.

9. At this point a party of about 20 people where F was were ferried back by F and some others. I went quickly across the courtyard to join them. I went back through the alleyway we had come in by, and went with the party into Columbcille Court where the civilians were handed over to another party from our unit. From there we moved to our vehicles, which had come up Rossville Street.

10. The vehicles were then in the area of the Glenfeda Park east building in the position shown at the end of line No 1 on the second photograph. I got in the back and while I was in there we came under fire again. I got out and ran round the vehicle to the right of the driver. I said to the driver, "Where from?" and he indicated an open window - I think it was on the second floor about three windows in from the southern end. I heard more shots fired and saw the window move. I made out someone standing slightly back from the window which had been pointed out to me and fired one round at him. I cannot recall any further firing and I fired no more rounds. I had fired a total of six rounds during the afternoon.

11. In the statement I made at 02.15 on 31 January I said that we had de-bussed near Eden Place. I have now been shown a number of aerial photographs from which I can judge our position more accurately and, in particular, the wall of the

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

7. There were a fair number of people on the opposite side of the courtyard. When the men fell a small crowd gathered round quickly. I could not actually see anyone pick up a weapon because there were too many people in front. I did not fire at them. The crowd ran off quickly up a little alleyway only a couple of yards behind them. F moved down the wall of the eastern building to the big opening by the barricade and I worked round the other two walls. We could not run straight across the courtyard because it is open on a number of sides and we could have been fired on. By the time I reached the far corner the crowd had completely vanished. There was nobody there at all, just the two bodies and another body a few yards further down towards the opening.

8. Our Platoon Commander then recalled us. I heard F shout "There's a gunman" or something like that. I saw him down on one knee at the south east corner of Glenfada Park aiming in an easterly direction. I saw him fire one or two shots in a direction out of my sight.

9. At this point a party of about 20 people where F was were ferried back by F and some others. I went quickly across the courtyard to join them. I went back through the alleyway we had come in by, and went with the party into Columbcille Court where the civilians were handed over to another party from our unit. From there we moved to our vehicles, which had come up Rossville Street.

10. The vehicles were then in the area of the Glenfada Park east building in the position shown at the end of line No 1 on the second photograph. I got in the back and while I was in there we came under fire again. I got out and ran round the vehicle to the right of the driver. I said to the driver, "Where from?" and he indicated an open window - I think it was on the second floor about three windows in from the southern end. I heard more shots fired and saw the window move. I made out someone standing slightly back from the window which had been pointed out to me and fired one round at him. I cannot recall any further firing and I fired no more rounds. I had fired a total of six rounds during the afternoon.

11. In the statement I made at 02.15 on 31 January I said that we had de-bussed near Eden Place. I have now been shown a number of aerial photographs from which I can judge our position more accurately and, in particular, the wall of the

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

house where we first took up positions. After seeing these photographs I am satisfied in my own mind that we de-bussed at the junction of Rossville Street and William Street. When I made my earlier statement I had no photographs and we had to work from a small scale map.

12. With regard to the men in Glenfada Park I assumed at the time I had made my earlier statement that I had shot one and F had shot the other of the two I was observing. As they were right together it is quite possible that I shot them both, while F shot a third man whom I was not observing. This is the reason why I was asked to make a supplementary statement on 14 February explaining this point. This statement has been read to me and I do not now think it is an accurate record of what happened. I did not have a third man under close observation near the two identified targets that I mentioned earlier. I know I may have shot these two , but I certainly could not have shot the third man. If F was firing at the same time it is possible he may have shot the third man, but I do not know. In particular, the last two sentences of my statement have been read over to me and I am quite certain that I could not have meant that I hit both the men and the third man who was with them. The statement of 14 February was read over to me at the time before I signed it, but I certainly did not understand it to read as I am now told it does.

13. I confirm that I saw weapons after shooting at the men across the courtyard and seeing both men fall and that a crowd then surrounded them and that when the crowd had gone the weapons had gone too. This is why I said in my statement of 31 January that the group of people standing near to the gunmen had picked up the weapons and run off. I confirm that on 31 January I was shown photographs of a man called Young and identified him as the man I was reasonably sure I had shot. When I say I am reasonably sure of this I do not mean that I am certain; I mean that I think it could be Young. It is quite wrong to say that the man I shot was throwing nail bombs. I cannot recall saying this to the Investigating Officer. I think there was a mix-up when this statement was taken with a number of others. I do not recall hearing it read over to me and I am quite certain I did not say that the man I shot at was throwing nail bombs. The only thing I heard that day was a bang, but I would not like to say what it was.

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
H 0 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

house where we first took up positions. After seeing these photographs I am satisfied in my own mind that we de-bussed at the junction of Rossville Street and William Street. When I made my earlier statement I had no photographs and we had to work from a small scale map.

12. With regard to the men in Glenfada Park I assumed at the time I had made my earlier statement that I had shot one and F had shot the other of the two I was observing. As they were right together it is quite possible that I shot them both, while F shot a third man whom I was not observing. This is the reason why I was asked to make a supplementary statement on 14 February explaining this point. This statement has been read to me and I do not now think it is an accurate record of what happened. I did not have a third man under close observation near the two identified targets that I mentioned earlier. I know I may have shot these two, but I certainly could not have shot the third man. If F was firing at the same time it is possible he may have shot the third man, but I do not know. In particular, the last two sentences of my statement have been read over to me and I am quite certain that I could not have meant that I hit both the men and the third man who was with them. The statement of 14 February was read over to me at the time before I signed it, but I certainly did not understand it to read as I am now told it does.

13. I confirm that I saw weapons after shooting at the men across the courtyard and seeing both men fall and that a crowd then surrounded them and that when the crowd had gone the weapons had gone too. This is why I said in my statement of 31 January that the group of people standing near to the gunmen had picked up the weapons and run off. I confirm that on 31 January I was shown photographs of a man called Young and identified him as the man I was reasonably sure I had shot. When I say I am reasonably sure of this I do not mean that I am certain; I mean that I think it could be Young. It is quite wrong to say that the man I shot was throwing nail bombs. I cannot recall saying this to the Investigating Officer. I think there was a mix-up when this statement was taken with a number of others. I do not recall hearing it read over to me and I am quite certain I did not say that the man I shot at was throwing nail bombs. The only thing I heard that day was a bang, but I would not like to say what it was.

©DFA/2021/52/597

Reference:-
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
H O 219/58
27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

SA.30

(F)

Soldier "F" will state as follows:-

1. I am with 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment and I was a member of an anti-tank platoon on the afternoon of the 30 January 1972.

2. Just before 4 o'clock on that afternoon my platoon received the order to move off from the Presbyterian Church in Great James Street. There are 16 soldiers in my platoon and we were in two armoured vehicles eight apiece. We debussed at the junction of William Street Little James Street and Rossville Street. I was armed with an SLR with 20 rounds. As soon as we left the vehicles the first thing I heard was shots coming from the direction of Rossville Flats. I then cocked my rifle which is the normal procedure on hearing firing. We took cover in front of a wall on the west side of Rossville Street near the William Street junction to weigh up the position. I saw explosions in Rossville Street near the north end of Rossville Flats.

3. Together with "G" I moved off in the direction of the barricade in Rossville Street in order to make arrests. We work in pairs one to cover the other. There was a big crowd of up to 200 people running away from us, some towards the barricade. Firing was taking place from Rossville Flats and I am reasonably sure this was small automatic fire. This fire was directed to my left. We took cover behind the wall at the south end of the low rise flats on the west side of Rossville Street in front of Columbcille Court.

4. I then observed a number of people behind the barricade. One of them was attempting to throw what looked like a bomb which was in his hand. It was fizzing. I have seen nail bombs before and I am in no doubt that this was one. I fired one aimed shot and he fell. The bomb did not explode. I did not see what happened to it. Then I saw three men leave the barricade. One was carrying a rifle, and they moved to the right in the direction of Glenfada Park.

5. Myself and "G" moved round the side of the wall to the right and into Glenfada Park in order to cut their retreat off. As we entered Glenfada Park the three men became were directly in front of us on the far side. One of them turned and was about to throw what appeared to be a bomb (because it was fizzing) in our direction. Myself and "G" dropped down on one knee. I took an aimed shot. The first shot seemed to hit the man with the bomb in the shoulder, the second in the chest. The man fell to the ground.

I saw G hit one of the others, I don't know

 about the 3rd.

©DFA/2021/52/597

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:-
H O 219/59
27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

SA.30

(F)

Soldier "F" will state as follows:-

1. I am with 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment and I was a member of an anti-tank platoon on the afternoon of the 30 January 1972.

2. Just before 4 o'clock on that afternoon my platoon received the order to move off from the Presbyterian Church in Great James Street. There are 16 soldiers in my platoon and we were in two armoured vehicles eight apiece. We debussed at the junction of William Street Little James Street and Rossville Street. I was armed with an SLR with 20 rounds. As soon as we left the vehicles the first thing I heard was shots coming from the direction of Rossville Flats. I then cocked my rifle which is the normal procedure on hearing firing. We took cover in front of a wall on the west side of Rossville Street near the William Street junction to weigh up the position. I saw explosions in Rossville Street near the north end of Rossville Flats.

3. Together with "G" I moved off in the direction of the barricade in Rossville Street in order to make arrests. We work in pairs one to cover the other. There was a big crowd of up to 200 people running away from us, some towards the barricade. Firing was taking place from Rossville Flats and I am reasonably sure this was small automatic fire. This fire was directed to my left. We took cover behind the wall at the south end of the low rise flats on the west side of Rossville Street in front of Columbcille Court.

4. I then observed a number of people behind the barricade. One of them was attempting to throw what looked like a bomb which was in his hand. It was fizzing. I have seen nail bombs before and I am in no doubt that this was one. I fired one aimed shot and he fell. The bomb did not explode. I did not see what happened to it. Then I saw three men leave the barricade. One was carrying a rifle, and they moved to the right in the direction of Glenfada Park.

5. Myself and "G" moved round the side of the wall to the right and into Glenfada Park in order to cut their retreat off. As we entered Glenfada Park the three men were directly in front of us on the far side. One of them turned and was about to throw what appeared to be a bomb (because it was fizzing) in our direction. Myself and "G" dropped down on one knee. I took an aimed shot. The first shot seemed to hit the man with the bomb in the shoulder, the second in the chest. The man fell to the ground.

I saw G hit one of the others, I don't know about the 3rd.

©DFA/2021/52/597

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

6. I then asked "C" to cover me as I heard pistol shots in the direction of Rossville Flats. I approached the south-east corner of Glenfada Park. I got down on one knee. I observed a man with a pistol at the far end of Rossville Flats. I think he was wearing darkish clothes. He had a black object which looked like a pistol in his hand. I then shouted to "C" "There's a gunman down here" and then took two aimed shots and he fell to the ground. He was in a half crouching position moving to the right as I shot him.

7. I then observed in the position where I was about twenty people (19 men and one woman) huddled against the side of a wall at the south end of the western block of Glenfada Park. I shouted to "C" to assist me in arresting these people. We then ushered them back through the rear of Glenfada Park into Columbcille Court and I saw soldiers taking them off.

8. We were then ordered to withdraw back to the vehicles and we went back to the vehicles in Rossville Street. Our vehicles had moved to Rossville Street level to the end of Rossville Flats on the west side of the street. We got into the vehicles. We were checking that nobody was missing and then awaited further orders. By this time the radio operator was observing the Rossville Flats out of one of the windows of the vehicle and observed a gunman in the flats.

9. I jumped out of the vehicle and ran to the front of the vehicle and asked the radio operator where the gunman was. He indicated where the gunman was and I fired three rounds in the direction of the window he pointed out where I saw a movement. I saw all of my shots strike a window. It was a second floor window, 3rd window from far end.

10. I then moved forward to the front vehicle and observed the flats. I spotted a man with a rifle at a third floor window and I fired three rounds at this window. Second window in third block

11. I then saw a gunman appearing on the top floor of Rossville Flats. He had a rifle. I saw his rifle fire. I then fired two rounds at the window. I could not see whether I had hit him or not.

12. After this time everything went quiet and we moved round the side of Rossville Flats. I then checked my magazine, and found I had seven rounds left. My platoon waited around for ten minutes for further orders and then we were ordered to move back to the waste ground between William Street and Prince Arthur Street which we did. We then left the area.

©DFA/2021/52/597

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:-
HO 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

6. I then asked "C" to cover me as I heard pistol shots in the direction of Rossville Flats. I approached the south-east corner of Glenfada Park. I got down on one knee. I observed a man with a pistol at the far end of Rossville Flats. I think he was wearing darkish clothes. He had a black object which looked like a pistol in his hand. I then shouted to "C" "There's a gunman down here" and then took two aimed shots and he fell to the ground. He was in a half crouching position moving to the right as I shot him.

7. I then observed in the position where I was about twenty people (19 men and one woman) huddled against the side of a wall at the south end of the western block of Glenfada Park. I shouted to "C" to assist me in arresting these people. We then ushered them back through the rear of Glenfada Park into Columbcille Court and I saw soldiers taking them off.

8. We were then ordered to withdraw back to the vehicles and we went back to the vehicles in Rossville Street. Our vehicles had moved to Rossville Street level to the end of Rossville Flats on the west side of the street. We got into the vehicles. We were checking that nobody was missing and then awaited further orders. By this time the radio operator was observing the Rossville Flats out of one of the windows of the vehicle and observed a gunman in the flats.

9. I jumped out of the vehicle and ran to the front of the vehicle and asked the radio operator where the gunman was. He indicated where the gunman was and I fired three rounds in the direction of the window he pointed out where I saw a movement. I saw all of my shots strike a window. It was a second floor window, 3rd window from left end.

10. I then moved forward to the front vehicle and observed the flats. I spotted a man with a rifle at a third floor window and I fired three rounds at this window. Same window as I had fired at

11. I then saw a gunman appearing on the top floor of Rossville Flats. He had a rifle. I saw his rifle fire. I then fired two rounds at the window. I could not see whether I had hit him or not.

12. After this time everything went quiet and we moved round the side of Rossville Flats. I then checked my magazine, and found I had seven rounds left. My platoon waited around for ten minutes for further orders and then we were ordered to move back to the waste ground between William Street and Prince Arthur Street which we did. We then left the area.

©DFA/2021/52/597

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:-
H O 219/58 27915
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

13. I made two statements on the 31 January 1972 regarding the events of the 30 January 1972. These statements were taken in the early hours of the morning and furthermore this was my first operation in this area. Having seen aerial photographs of the area I now realise some of the positions I gave in these statements were not accurate. I am now satisfied that I have a clear understanding of the positions I took up that afternoon.

14. I also made a statement in which I said that I was reasonably sure I had shot a person whose photograph was shown to me called Donaghy. I stated that I shot this person in Glenfada Park. Having seen further photographs of Donaghy I am still reasonably satisfied that he is the person I shot because he bears a close resemblence.

©DFA/2021/52/597