

the letter. One will be interested, but the question is of marginal significance.

What is important is whether the army's plans for that day were part of over-all military strategy; and whether, to what extent, and as a result of what liaisons military activity resulted from the political needs and directions of the Stormont or Westminster governments, or both.

Lord Widgry has decided, judiciously, not to ask these questions. In other words he will not ask any questions the answers to which might expose the *politics* underlying the situation.

In one respect, however, the tribunal has already been a marked success. It has stopped the facts being brought before the British public. Lord Widgry would agree that this was a success easily achieved.

The Sunday Times and the Observer had each sent a team of journalists to Derry on 31 January. By Friday both papers had assembled exhaustive and fairly accurate accounts of what had happened. Both accounts demolished the army's and British government's version of the events.

On Friday, 4 February, Mr Harold Evans, editor of the Sunday Times, phoned Lord Widgry and asked for his Lordship's advice on the advisability of printing the material. Lord Widgry advised that it should not be printed. Mr Evans complied.

On Saturday, 5 February, Mr David Astor, editor of the Observer, decided to follow suit. So much, for the trendy, super-investigative Sunday Times. Likewise for the fearless, high-minded, liberalism of the Observer.

3

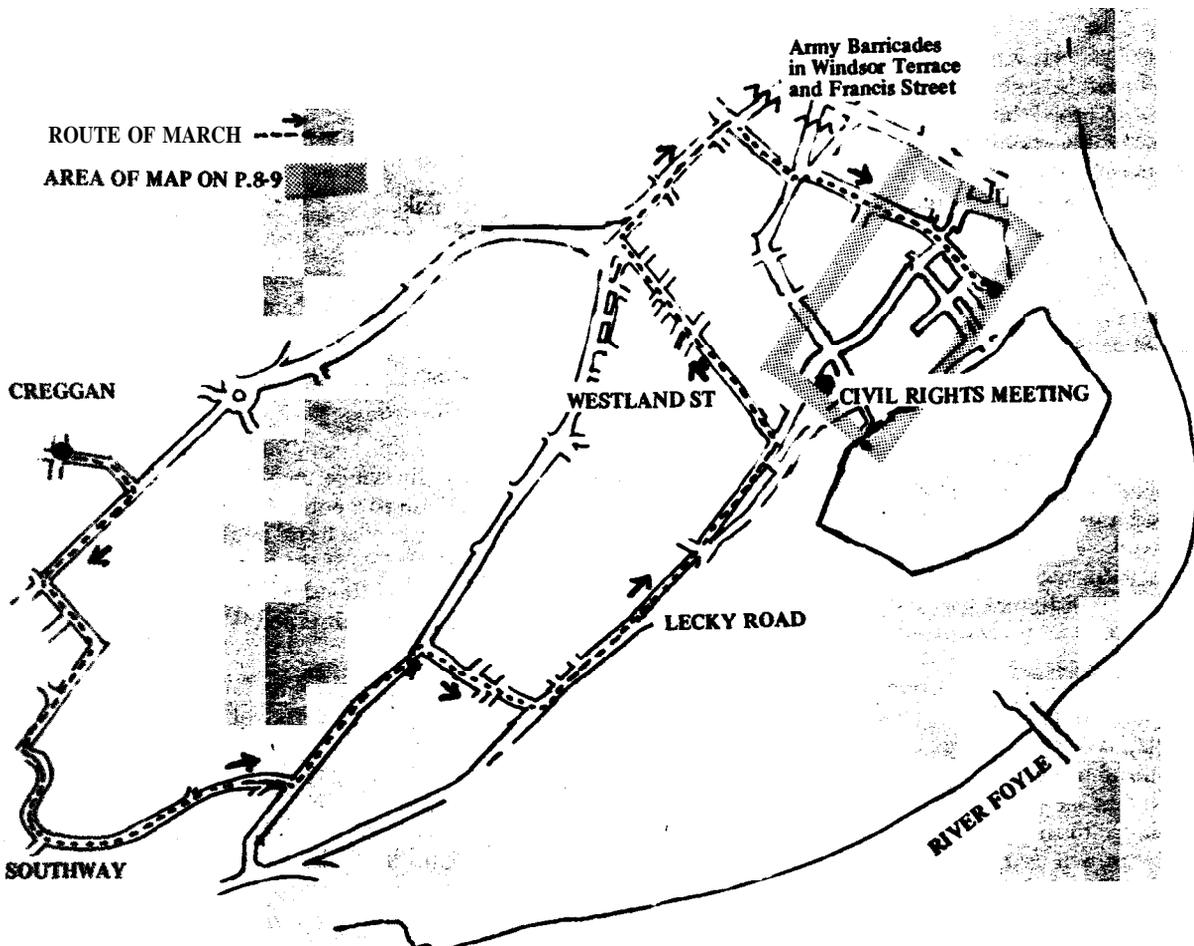
AT ABOUT 3.55pm a soldier positioned on the roof of Stevenson's Bakery shot into William Street and wounded 15-year-old Damian Donaghy. John Johnston, 57, ran to help him. He too was shot and wounded from the bakery roof.

Donaghy and Johnston were carried into a nearby house and treated by a doctor. Neither was seriously injured. In the chaos and confusion, as thousands milled around and helped one another through the gas, few realised that two people had been shot.

By 4.10pm the overwhelming majority of the people were gathered around the platform at Free Derry Corner. Lord Brockway had been introduced to the crowd, to loud applause. The chairman handed the mike to the first speaker, Bernadette Devlin. Hearing the meeting get under way, the few people remaining in the William Street area started walking back.

About this time the army fired again. The shots came from near the junction of Chamberlain Street and William Street. One killed Jack Duddy, 17, who was standing in Chamberlain Street near the Rossville car park. This was the first body, seen on BBC television being carried away by a priest waving a handkerchief soaked in the boy's blood. The second shot wounded Peggy Derry, 37, also in Chamberlain Street.

These shots were heard by the crowd gathered for the meeting and for a few moments there was panic. Nobody knew who was shooting at whom or whether anyone had been hit. Bernadette Devlin and Ivan Cooper appealed from the platform for calm, and told people to 'Stand your ground'. Those still streaming back began to hurry, some to run.



Immediately after the shooting of Jack Duddy and Peggy Derry, a Whippet armoured car and seven Saracen armoured troop carriers came at high speed from Sackville Street, drove up Little James Street, across the William Street junction and into Rossville Street. Three of the Saracens drove into the car park behind the Rossville Flats. The others stopped outside the flats in Rossville Street, just short of a makeshift barricade.

Simultaneously, soldiers ran from the Upper William Street and Little Diamond area, through Colmcille Court and Kells Walk, into Glenfada Park. Almost before the Saracens came to a halt, soldiers armed with self-loading rifles were leaping out. The people who were walking towards the meeting, the last few stragglers, began running, panic-stricken, for the safety of the crowd.

The soldiers from the Saracens began shooting as soon as they hit the ground. Michael Kelly, 17, William Nash, 19, John Young, 17, were shot dead as they crossed the barricade outside the Rossville Flats. Soldiers then stationed themselves behind a low wall beside the barricade, opposite the flats.

In the Rossville car park one of the Saracens pinned Alana Burke, 18, against a wall, seriously injuring her. Soldiers emerging from the carriers immediately shot dead Kevin McElhinney. Seeing McElhinney fall, Micky Bridge, 25, ran out screaming 'Murderers!'. He was shot and wounded. Patrick McDaid, 24, and Michael Bradley, 22, were shot and wounded.

Those who were in Glenfada Park tried to flee into Abbey Park when soldiers, who had come on foot from the William Street area, appeared. At the narrow exit from Glenfada Park to Abbey Park, James Wray, 23, Gerald Donaghy, 17, Gerald McKinney, 35, and William McKinney, 27, were killed. Joseph Friel, 20, and Patrick O'Donnell, 40, were wounded.

The soldiers who had killed Michael Kelly, William Nash, and John Young stationed themselves at the low wall in Rossville Street and set up a line of fire across the narrow exit from the Rossville car park. Patrick Doherty, 21, and Hugh Gilmour, 17, were two of those who ran into this line of fire. Both were shot dead.

Bernard McGuigan, 41, went to the assistance of Doherty. He too was shot dead. Alex Nash, 52, father of William Nash, ran to his son when he saw him fall. He was shot and wounded. Patrick Campbell, 53, was shot and wounded about half-way between the Rossville Street barricade and Free Derry Corner. Michael McDaid, 17, was also killed in the same line of fire.

4

A FEW HOURS after the shooting the following statement was issued by British Army headquarters in Lisburn: 'After the Civil Rights demonstrators had moved down Rossville Street and were well clear of the William Street area, separate rioting crowds of 200 and 300 were heavily stoning troops manning a number of road barricades in the William Street area.

'Three companies of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment were called forward to disperse the rioters and make arrests.

'Soon after they deployed at 4.10pm they came under nail bomb attack and a fusillade of fire of 50 to 80 shots from the area of Rossville Flats and Glenfada Flats. Fire was returned at seen gunmen and nail bombers.'

'Subsequently, as the troops deployed to get at the gunmen, the latter continued to fire.

'In all, a total of well over 200 rounds was fired indiscrimi-

nately in the general direction of the soldiers. Fire continued to be returned only at identified targets.

'The companies regrouped in William Street at 4.50pm.'

Speaking on BBC television the same night Major-General Robert Ford, Commander of Land Forces in Northern Ireland, said: 'Most certainly there is no doubt that the Parachute Battalion opened up only after they had been fired upon.'

A further statement issued by army headquarters in Lisburn said that four of the dead men were on the 'wanted' list and that two of those wounded and in hospital had admitted to carrying arms.

Two days later in the House of Commons, Lord Balniel, Minister of Defence, said: 'It is not right that the Army's case should go by default when bitter, intemperate, and, to the best of my belief, inaccurate or untrue statements have been made against it. It would be grossly unfair to the forces who are in Northern Ireland.

'At 3.55 a high-velocity round was fired across William Street from the direction of the Rossville Flats, striking a drainpipe four feet above the heads of a party of soldiers. A few moments later, a man was seen preparing to light a nail bomb in William Street; he was shot as he prepared to throw, was seen to fall, and was dragged away by his fellows.'

(Anyone who believes that Balniel is more than a parliamentary parrot for army officers should compare the last sentence with the following statement from Colonel Harry Dalzell-Payne of the Directorate of Military Operations. It was made the previous day, and quoted in the Daily Telegraph: 'The men of a machine-gun platoon observed a man preparing to light a nail bomb. The order was given to open fire as the bomber prepared to throw it. The man was seen to fall but was dragged away by comrades.')

'At 4.15,' Balniel's House of Commons statement went on, 'three companies of the Parachute Regiment came through the barricades in an attempt to arrest the handful of rioters who were throwing stones in William Street.

'They arrested about 28 in a matter of a few minutes. At the same time, they came under fire from gunmen, nail bombers and petrol bombers, some in the flats, some at ground level. Between 4.17 and 4.35pm, a number of these men were engaged. Some gunmen were almost certainly hit, and some almost certainly killed.

'In each case, soldiers fired aimed shots at men identified as gunmen or bombers. They fired in self-defence or in defence of their comrades who were threatened. I reject entirely the suggestion that they fired indiscriminately or that they fired into a peaceful or innocent crowd.'

Under examination the army's and Lord Balniel's version of the events collapses.

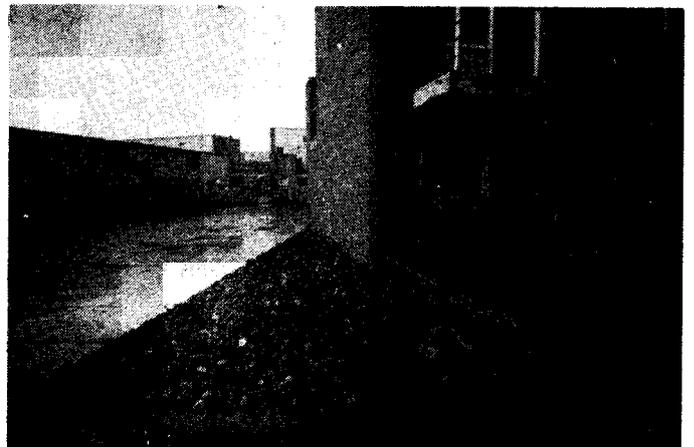
- The army and Balniel claim that an unspecified number of nail bombs were thrown before soldiers opened fire. A nail bomb consists of up to a pound of gelignite encased in six-inch nails. Its explosion can be heard at a distance of half a mile. Within half a mile radius of the area where shooting took place there were many thousands of people including many British and foreign journalists and television personnel. None heard nail bombs.

- The army and Balniel claim that more than 200 shots were fired by the IRA at the soldiers. Nobody but the army spokesman heard these shots. Some journalists, for instance, Simon Winchester of The Guardian, claim that a few shots were fired by the IRA during the 'battle'. No one heard a barrage of IRA shots before the army opened up.

- The army claims that four of the dead men were on the



Photograph 1 shows the Rosville car park. The six foot exit into Joseph Place, through which people tried to flee, is bottom right.



Photograph 2 shows Glenfada Park. The fatal exit into Abbey Park is in the centre of the picture.