

THE BLOODY SUNDAY INQUIRY

I, Thomas McGlinchey of

will say that:

1. I come from a large, well-known republican family of five brothers and five sisters. My grandfather was the commander of the IRA in Derry and my father was the Operations Commander. My oldest brother was interned at the time of Bloody Sunday. I myself was interned for six months in 1973.
2. Four attempts have been made on my life. I lost my leg in the troubles. On 25 October 1975 a bomb was put under my car, which went up when I turned the key in the ignition. I was the only person in the car, but my wife and wee un could have been in it. The last bomb in Derry was about four to five years ago and it was outside my front door in
3. On 5 October ^{I WAS} 1968, at Omagh market, there was a demonstration in Duke Street. I was there. I saw the police batoning people and the gas. After the riot people were shouting "Where is the IRA?". There were only about six members of the Official IRA then. It grew as things started to get worse. I became a member of the Republican Army after those riots. At the time of Bloody Sunday there were very few members. It was just getting organised.
4. At the time of Bloody Sunday I ran a coal merchants business. I had a brown Bedford lorry. I was always called on to supply the lorry by organisers of demonstrations. On Bloody Sunday Barney McFadden, one of the organisers of the march, asked me to have the lorry at the shops in the Creggan for 2.30pm. My business was only about half a mile from the Creggan shops, at the Piggery. At the start of the march, there were many people there that I knew and I was talking to a lot of fellows who had been involved in all the marches. There were also a lot of people there from the Waterside, waiting for the march to go ahead.
5. My wife did not travel in the lorry with me. She walked along in the crowd with her friend, Mrs Kelly. There were at least three of us in the lorry. I drove; Joe Cullion was there and my brother's wee boy, Eamon McGlinchey (he was only about thirteen or fourteen at the time). There were many more on the back of the lorry, perhaps thirty or forty people and many more all around it. There was a big civil rights banner on top.
6. All the way down the route, there were maybe a couple of thousand people in front of the lorry, men, women, and young fellows. I think there was a loud speaker on the lorry but I don't recall anyone using it. The people in front of the lorry were singing "We shall overcome".
7. I was told the route before I set off. I honestly believe that I had been told to go to Free Derry Corner from the outset. I was driving dead slow all the way down the route. As I drove down William Street, the road was full of people. I don't recall seeing any soldiers. The mood along the march was 100%. When I got to the junction of William Street and Rossville Street, people around the lorry were saying that I should go on to the Guildhall. However, I said I had been told to go down to Free Derry Corner.

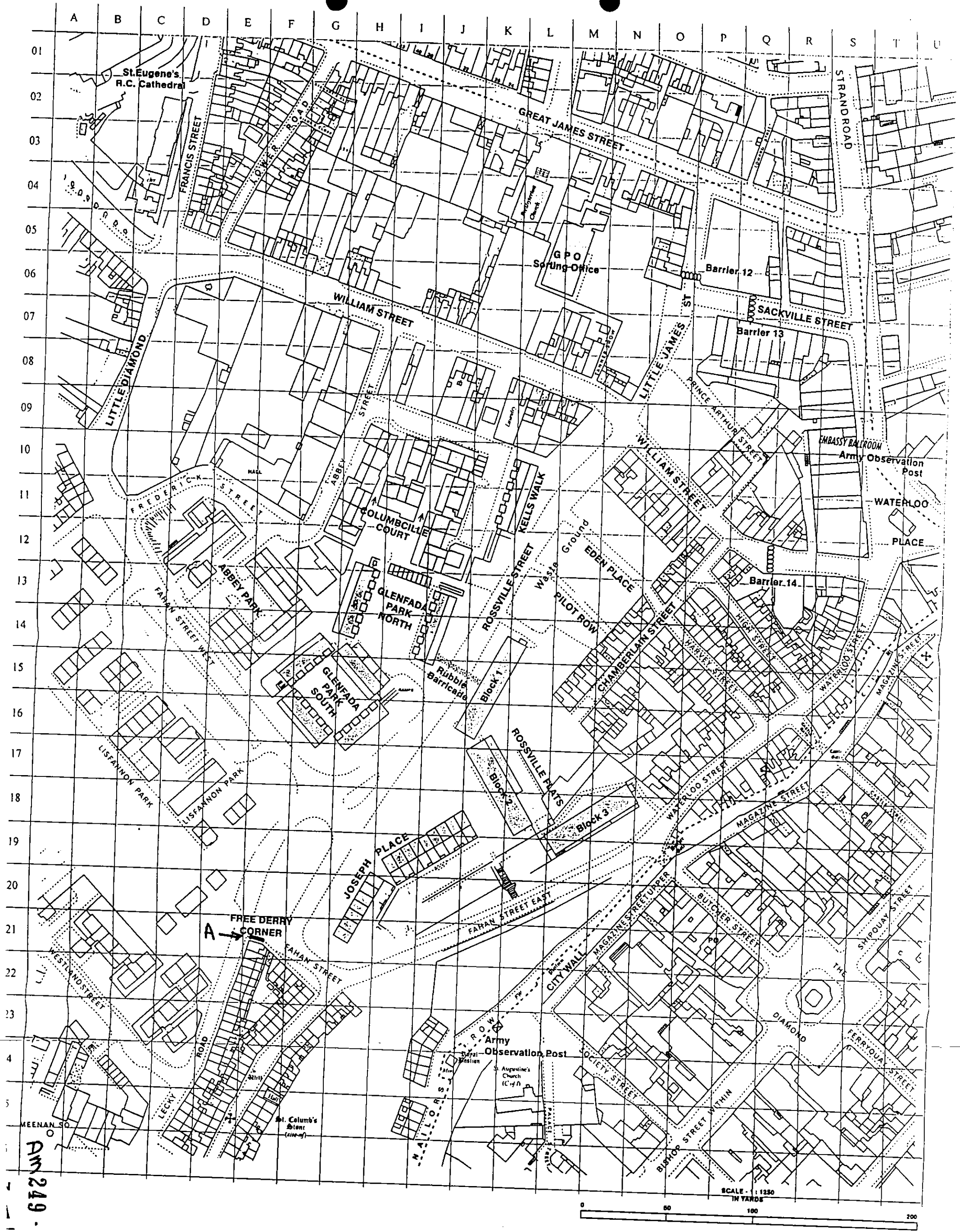
8. I did not stop as I turned into Rossville Street, but we were just crawling because there were that many people. I saw no disturbance at all in William Street and there was no sign of any trouble. The majority of people followed me down Rossville Street. No announcement was made from the lorry for the marchers to go to Free Derry Corner. There was still a large number of people ahead of the lorry at that stage and the road was packed.
9. I drove the lorry down Rossville Street, past the Rubble Barricade. I parked at Free Derry Corner, at the point marked X on the map attached (grid reference P21). The cab was pointing east. As far as I was concerned, as soon as I parked at Free Derry Corner, my work was done. I could not say who was speaking at the meeting.
10. I was still sitting in the driver's seat when suddenly the shooting started. I knew immediately that it was gunfire. I think the speakers were just getting on to the lorry when it started. There were roars and shouts from the crowd of people around the lorry. I got out of the lorry immediately and found my wife and the woman Kelly. There was a panic. Other people were heading up to the Wells to get away. I took my wife and Mrs Kelly to St Columb's Wells, where I knew they would be OK.
11. I do not recall where the shooting came from. I was more interested in getting hold of a rifle to shoot back at the soldiers and to defend the people in the crowd. I wasn't the only one looking for a gun. I went to a place near ~~St. Peter's~~^{St. Peter's} Street, where I thought I would have been able to get a gun, but there were none around ~~(at that time, arms were tightly controlled by a few people).~~^{CABLE}
12. There were new flats being built around that area, near the Bogside Inn, which is now known as Meenan Square. I hung around that area for about an hour with some people I knew well. There were other fellows there, looking at the Derry Walls. By then the shooting had almost stopped.
13. I went home and then on to Gerard McKinney's house, which was very close to where I live. I knew that he had been killed. That evening I went to a meeting at the City Hotel in the Waterside. I got my lorry from Free Derry Corner the next day. It was not damaged.

SIGNED

Thomas McGlinchey
Thomas McGlinchey

DATED

12 January 99



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Name	THOMAS MCGLINCHY
Date Completed	9.11.98

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