

THE BLOODY SUNDAY INQUIRY

I, DANIEL GERALD PORTER of

will say that:

1. At the time of Bloody Sunday I lived in _____ England. The reason for me giving a statement is to give details of conversations I had with soldiers in England prior to Bloody Sunday.
2. In 1961 I moved to ^{in P. near} _____ England with my new wife. We bought a maisonette in Old _____ (This was a "army village") There were barracks close by and many of the locals worked in the barracks; it was a small community. By 1966 we had two children and still lived in England. My wife used to return to Ireland two or three times a year and stay with my sister in Derry.
3. In September/October 1971 she returned to _____ with the children, to nurse her father who was ill and she visited my sister in Derry. She decided to stay in Ireland and she wanted me to return. As I had been living in England for many years, the only information I had about the situation in Northern Ireland was what I heard on the news. I had not been in the Bog.
4. In about mid-January 1972 I recall conversations I had with soldiers in the Tudor Rose pub in _____. It was one of three pubs in the village and I used to see soldiers a lot when they came in for a drink and a game of darts. The fact that I was Irish wasn't an issue. I remember one night they started talking, saying that they would be going to Derry to "clear the Bog" by which I understood that they would be clearing away the barricades. They said they would be landing with tanks. I got the impression that they would be going to Northern Ireland pretty shortly. The comments were part of a general conversation and were not just a comment of one soldier. I would say that the soldiers were in their mid-twenties. They never came into the pub in uniform and I do not know which regiments they were from. I did not see the soldiers again.
5. From what I had seen on the news the situation in Derry was pretty bad and I thought it would be a good thing if the barricades were cleared. I had the impression that there were a number of barricades across the road and that people were not able to move about freely. If these were cleared they would get their freedom back. I was, however, worried because of the mention of tanks. I also knew that the soldiers would have guns with them as I had seen pictures on the television. My wife and two children were still in Derry ^{in P.} visiting my sister in the ~~Carrigan~~. I decided to telephone to tell her to get out of Derry. However, if it hadn't have been for the fact that my family was there, I would not have been concerned.
6. That night I tried to phone home. I went into a public telephone kiosk in the village and I still remember the number, it was _____. At that time you had to be _____

connected to Ireland via the local exchange. The telephone kiosk was outside the Tudor Rose, about three quarters of a mile from the Barracks. I dialled to speak to the local operator. I was told that calls were not going through to Northern Ireland but was not given any explanation. I got angry when I was told this. I told the operator that I just wanted to ring my wife as there were things happening in Ireland and I wanted to talk to her. The operator then said "Is that you Danny?" I think his name was either Fred or Terry, but I cannot remember. I told him it was and he said he would put me through providing I didn't talk about anything to do with security.

7. When I got through to my wife we talked about things generally. I then told her to take the two children out of Derry. I said that the army would be clearing the Bog. The line was then cut off. I tried to get a reconnection but couldn't. I don't remember any problems getting through before or after this. I cannot remember if I spoke to my wife again before Bloody Sunday.
8. I heard about what happened on Bloody Sunday immediately it happened from the news reports. I wasn't concerned for my wife and children because I knew they had left the area. I can't remember how I knew, it was probably just that once I had told my wife to leave she would have done so. That's how things were then. I didn't connect what happened in Derry on Bloody Sunday with the conversation I had with the soldiers. It was only a few years later when I mentioned to someone in a pub that I had been playing darts and talking to soldiers who were going to Derry that I made the connection. I remember being punched in the face after telling them that I had been talking to the soldiers.
9. I think I tried to phone my wife the day after Bloody Sunday in both Derry and Northern Ireland. I didn't manage to speak to her but I spoke to my brother. I returned to Northern Ireland the second or third week of February 1972. It took me about seven or eight years to get back into the Irish way of doing things. I regret coming back here because of things that have happened to my children.

Signed : Le J. Foster

Dated : 21/9/99

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