

happening on the ground. I recall that there were fires which were visible to the naked eye. I later found out from my Aircraft Commander, Sergeant Swain, that the fires were in the Kilwilkie Estate. There also seemed to be some sort of riot taking place; I am not sure why. I could only glance over every now and again as I had to stay in position and maintain the helicopter's safety.

18. I did not come across anything else like the scene I saw that night for the rest of my tour in Northern Ireland. I had not seen that level of violence before and I have not seen anything like it since. It did not strike me at the time that there was any particular significance in the violence I observed, though I did not witness anything on that scale again.
19. I found out afterwards from my Aircraft Commander that a decision was being made about whether or not to send troops into the area. I think ultimately it was decided that the activity on the ground was a "come on" and a decision was made that there would be no intervention to restore order. As a result the troops were ultimately not used.
20. I am not sure what the Liaison Officer was looking for. You could see figures on the ground and it was possible to zoom in to see those figures in greater detail but you would not be able to see faces, at least not at night. I think we were there for around two hours and I also recall that at some point we had to return to Aldergrove to refuel. If this was the case, then we would probably have kept the Liaison Officer on board to maximise his time in the air.
21. I was initially uncertain why I had been asked to take the Liaison Officer that night. There would have been a Gazelle located in Aldergrove (Gazelle 6) which could have performed this duty. I later found out from my Aircraft Commander that the reason we had been asked was because we were a quick reaction helicopter and a helicopter which was more local would have taken longer to mobilise despite its presence in the locality.
22. I do not know where the Liaison Officer came from. I had not picked him up prior to that night or afterwards. I am not sure of his unit or role. My role was literally to pick him up