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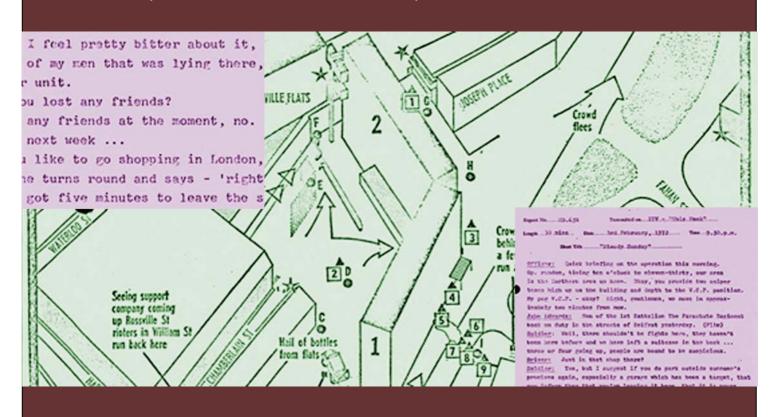


Learning Curve Education Service Workshops

Key Stage 4

# **Bloody Sunday**

Ireland, 1972 – Two Sides, Two Stories



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## Teacher's notes

#### Aims of the workshop

This workshop aims to help students investigate and understand the events of Bloody Sunday, and the different interpretations regarding what happened and who was responsible, through the study of original documents held at the National Archives.

#### **Documents**

- Document 1: Reference: CJ 4/252
   A transcript of the ITV 'This Week' programme, 3 February 1972
- Document 2: Reference: CJ 4/258
   Map showing the area, and the movements of the paratroopers and marchers on Bloody Sunday, 1972

#### Activity

This exercise is based on a transcript of the ITV "This Week" programme about the events of Bloody Sunday, broadcast on 3 February 1972.

Choose one student to read each part out, and give them time to familiarise themselves with their part before asking them to act out the TV programme in front of the class. Give the rest of the class a copy of the map of the area to look at as they listen to the 'programme,' so they can follow what happened, according to the witnesses, and plot the course of events.

The TV programme presents two very different interpretations about what happened, and why, on Bloody Sunday. When the students have finished reading the script through, clarify through discussion with the whole class what the 'two sides and the two stories' are: see if they can decide, or think it is possible to decide, which side is telling the truth. Discuss with the class what they think about the interpretations and evidence they have heard: how reliable and useful they think it is, and what additional evidence they think they would need to look at in order to help them decide.

Get the whole class to look at the map and see if they think this is a reliable piece of evidence for showing what actually happened on the day, and how useful it is for understanding who was responsible. The map may look like a fairly neutral record of events, but close examination will reveal some loaded language and suggestions as to what happened. See if they can detect the bias in it, and discuss how this might affect their use of it as a source for studying this event.

#### The workshop

The workshop will begin with a discussion based on the exercise materials to see what conclusions the students have already drawn from the script of the TV programme and their prior knowledge of the topic.

We then go on to develop students' research skills and knowledge of the subject through the following activities:

'Dear Mr Maudling, TWELVE DEAD! ...'

A study of letters, reflecting varied responses and reactions to the events of Bloody Sunday, sent by members of the public, official bodies and organisations to the Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling.

#### 'What Happened in Derry ...'

Students work on a selection of published documents, including press photographs, republican newspapers and official government reports to examine in more detail the two sides' own interpretation of the events.

#### • 'An Objective View of Events ...'

This activity concludes the workshop with a study of the original Widgery Report into the events of Bloody Sunday, and the alternative Dash Report that was produced in response to it.

#### Knowledge, skills and understanding

Students attending this workshop will develop their knowledge, skills and understanding by:

- Studying key events, people and issues appropriate to their course of study
- Making an in-depth study of key events
- Getting hands-on experience at studying history through a range of original sources, such as official reports, newspaper articles, correspondence and photographs
- Undertaking research activities to gain experience of using historical sources critically in their context by comprehending, analysing, evaluating and interpreting them
- Debating with the Education Officer leading the workshop, and amongst themselves to organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of the subject in question

#### **Examination board specification**

 Edexcel GCSE History A (Modern World and European) Section C: Coursework Unit 13: Northern Ireland since c. 1960. http://www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/25525.pdf

#### Useful links

- For online activities and information on the background to British rule in Ireland go to: <a href="http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/empire/g3/cs4/default.htm">http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/empire/g3/cs4/default.htm</a>
- To book a workshop: <u>http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/educationserviceform.asp?id=7&action=1</u>
- For more information about onsite workshops:
   http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/educationservice/

## Document 1: Transcript of "This Week," 1972, ref: CJ 4/252

#### Transcript page 1

Report No.: MD. 634 Transmitted on: TV – "This Week"

Length: 30 mins Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1972 Time: 9.30pm

Short Title: "Bloody Sunday"

**Officer:** Quick briefing on the operation this morning. Op. random, timing ten o'clock to eleven-thirty,

our area is the Northern area up here. Okay, you provide two sniper teams high up on the building and depth to the V.C.P position. My peg V.C.P. - okay? Right, gentlemen, we move

in approximately two minutes from now.

John Edwards: Men of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment back on duty in the streets of Belfast

yesterday. (Film)

**Soldier:** Well, there shouldn't be fights here, they haven't been here before and we have left a suitcase

in the back ... three or four going up, people are bound to be suspicious.

**Driver:** Just in that shop there?

**Soldier:** Yes, but I suggest if you do park outside someone's premises again, especially a garage

which has been a target, that you inform them that you're leaving it here, that it is yours, okay.

Soldier: Okay, fine.

**J. Edwards:** It was the first time these Paratroopers have been on the

streets since they were in action in the Bogside of Londonderry last Sunday. Last week the Paratroopers were sent to Derry to help deal with an illegal Civil Rights march. The marchers confronted the Army across the barricades and then stoning and rioting broke out. The

Army then moved into the crowd to arrest the

demonstrators and shooting started. At the end of the day, thirteen people lay dead in the streets. How those men died is the subject of bitter dispute. The soldiers

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claim that they fired at carefully selected targets and only after they had come under fire themselves.

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**Soldier:** They're on about the 'bloody Sunday' and they're on about our discipline and our unit. If our

unit hadn't been so well disciplined and so well trained troops, there would have been a lot more than thirteen laying out there in the morgue, an awful lot more. It's because they're so bloody professional in this unit that there's only thirteen and every one of that thirteen was a rebel, he either had a nail bomb, a weapon, of some sort, otherwise he wouldn't be up there

dead.

**J. Edwards:** Many people in the Bogside say that the soldiers fired first and fired indiscriminately into the

crowd.

**Mr. James** Well, I am stating categorically now that the Army opened fire indiscriminately, there were no

**Chapman:** shots previous to the Army entering the area, none.

**J. Edwards:** But were you in the best position to judge, I mean it's your word against the British Army's?

Mr. Chapman: Well, I was standing in my window, my window was open as a matter of fact and I heard

everything that went on and I saw everything that went on.

**J. Edwards:** The same night as the shooting, there were calls for a full-scale inquiry into the deaths. On

Tuesday the British Government announced it was setting up a judicial court of inquiry into what happened last Sunday in Londonderry. It will be conducted by one man, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Widgery, it will be his job to sift the mass of highly conflicting evidence of

Sunday's events, to hear witnesses and establish what really took place.

There were many eye witnesses of Sunday's events, both soldiers and civilians. "This Week", of course, can neither present a thorough inquiry of the evidence available nor presume to arrive at any conclusion. What we can do is to show how

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/er in '69?

Well, when the troops first were received with open arms to thout any doubt whatsoever, the after the riot Police had done caused when they came in and under the British troops came in the carnage would have been the

widely the two sides disagree on what happened. We're going to show you two accounts, chosen from several interviews the "This Week" reporters have conducted in the past three days. Those interviews were agreed to and both were filmed before the instrument setting up Lord Widgery's tribunal of inquiry came into effect. We present them to you as they were filmed, so don't adjust your sets when you see unusual things happening on camera. Each interview has film clapper-boards on it and runs for the length of an ordinary film roll, ten minutes. The entire film is, of course, available to Lord Widgery. So first the accusations against the British Army: Mr. James Chapman lives in a block of flats in the Bogside, from his window

he saw last Sunday's gun battle. He talks to Peter Taylor.

**P. Taylor:** How long have you been in the Bogside, Mr. Chapman?

Mr. Chapman: Well, let me make it quite clear, I'm a Welshman who has been in the Bogside for thirty-six

years. I came over here in 1935, met my wife over here when my Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Wales, was stationed over here, met her and married her and then I served, I left

Northern Ireland in 1939 to serve with my Regiment during the War.

**P. Taylor:** How did you view the role of the troops when they first came over in '69?

**Mr. Chapman:** Well, when the troops first came into the Bogside in '69, they were received with open arms

by all the Catholic community, without any doubt whatsoever, they were very pleased to see them after the riot Police had done the damage that they had already caused when they came in and undoubtedly it was a good thing that the British troops came in to Londonderry at that

date, otherwise carnage would have been the result if they had not come in.

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**P. Taylor:** What was the turning point? When did attitudes in the Bogside begin to change towards the

troops?

**Mr. Chapman:** Well, to my mind about twelve months ago, when the policy seemed to harden towards the

Catholic community of Derry. The reason for the policy hardening I cannot say. But relations with the troops even at that stage were not too bad. They were not good but they were not

too bad, that's about all I can say about that.

**P. Taylor:** What was it like here when the troops first moved in?

Mr. Chapman: Well, when the troops first moved in, there was complete freedom, they moved about the area

themselves, they were quite happy to move about - excuse me - they were quite happy to move about, everybody accepted them as a necessity and I think that's all that can be said about that. It's just one of those things, this thing happened and it just happened. I can't give any definite reason why the complete turnover from not so much love, to hatred, as one sees in the present circumstances. Because now it's complete alienation against the troops in the area, there's no doubt whatsoever about that, and it stems up from the fact of the carnage that happened on Sunday last in this area under my very nose. I was watching it all from the

window of my sittingroom and I feel very strongly about it.

**P. Taylor:** What did you see happen?

**Mr. Chapman:** The civil march itself proceeded down William Street in quite an orderly fashion, I thought, a

gay sort of fashion. They were stopped obviously by an insurmountable barricade at William Street which they obviously couldn't overcome and they turned back under barrages of C.S. gas and rubber bullets and entered Rossville Street in their thousands, right up to the door of my house here. C.S, gas was being thrown about in large quantities and the people were

absolutely saturated with it and

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didn't know whether they were going or coming for quite a long time. Eventually at about four o'clock, I happened to look down Rossville Street and I saw seven Saracen armoured cars proceeded by a Ferret scout car corning up Rossville Street at about forty miles an hour and firing out over the West area over there, just in front of the flats there. And over on my side of the <u>Glenfarra</u> Park here. I thought at the time that it was going to be the usual C.S. gas and rubber bullet attack by the troops which nobody sort of minded, they had got quite used to that over the years now and there probably would have been a few broken bones and that would have been all, the crowd would have been dispersed and that would have been the end of the matter, but it was not to be so. The troops immediately got out of their armoured cars, followed by about a hundred Paratroopers, which I recognised from their red berets and know them very well and they immediately got down into firing positions and fired indiscriminately into the fleeing crowd who were running past my house.

**P. Taylor:** You saw them fire?

**Mr. Chapman:** I actually saw them firing from the flats over there and from this .. just this corner here of the

entrance to my house. And I watched them shooting indiscriminately into a fleeing crowd of several thousand people, not just – as some people say - a few hundred hooligans, they

weren't, there were several thousand people trying to get through this barricade here, which was physically impossible practically from there, you can see yourself, and I saw three bodies fall after being shot from that corner there, saw them fall behind the barricade with an old man of about sixty-five years of age. I stood and I watched them for quite a while, nothing happened and nobody came along to pick them up to see what was happening, so I still watched on and eventually an armoured car came from down this

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area here, straight through the barricade, up to that red car there and backed up into the barricade and an N.C.O. - I think he was an N.C.O. - in charge of the armoured car, ordered his men out of the armoured car and they grabbed the bodies like sheep, dead sheep and that's all one can describe it as and chucked them, throw them, into the back of the armoured car. And threatened the people round the corner of Glenfarra Park to get off the streets, or

else.

**P. Taylor:** These are not just allegations you're making?

**Mr. Chapman:** These are not allegations, these are actual statements of fact.

P. Taylor: You're a military man –

Mr. Chapman: Yes.

**P. Taylor:** What was your reaction to what you saw the Paratroopers do?

**Mr. Chapman:** My first reaction was one of horror, that such a dastardly action could be done because

dastardly is an understatement to my mind, for it, it was completely uncalled for. The people were completely defenceless. I would further say that there were no shots fired under any conditions by any snipers in the area at all. All the shooting was done by the Army, every bit of it, no doubt whatsoever at all, none. Now when I say this, I'm speaking as an ex-Warrant Officer Class One of the Army who has had a varied amount of experience over forty years in the Army and the Civil Service and I, therefore, I think that I can speak with authority and I know what I'm talking about. And the Paratroops to my mind should not ... should not have been in the area at all, the Army Officers making the statements to say that they were fired on by snipers and nail bombers and petrol bombers is a complete fabrication, nothing else.

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**P. Taylor:** What sort; of reputation have the Paras got?- What sort of reputation did they have before the

shooting?

**Mr. Chapman:** Before Sunday the Paratroopers never bothered us, they were in the area, we knew they

were in the area, but as far as I'm personally aware, they never bothered us. But Sunday it could obviously be seen when they came in the way they did, that there was a pre-arranged exercise that they would come in in that order into the Bogside to really go to town on the

population.

**P. Taylor:** What's the normal rule - sorry, I'll ask you that one again - what's the normal role of

Paratroopers?

**Mr. Chapman:** The normal role of Paratroopers is not, to my mind and never has been in this country

anyway, to ... duties in aid of a civil power, they are used normally in places such as they were used in the Second World War and in Aden and Cyprus and various places like that to quell civil disturbances which are of a different nature to what they are in Northern Ireland.

#### J. Edwards:

That was part of one side of the story, from someone who lives in the Bogside. Part of the other side comes from the soldiers who were facing the crowds last Sunday. Once again this interview is presented with only story we were briefed on Saturday the minimum of editing.

Peter Williams went to Hollywood Barracks in Belfast to talk to N.C.Os. of the Parachute Regiment in the Sergeants' Mess. All of them were in action last Sunday.

action in which your troops were described as a 'bloody massacre'. on Sunday?

an operation in Londonderry. The inderry in the early hours of Sunday pre-determined positions. My perso ready to be called for with my Prov

#### P. Williams:

R.S.M., the action in which your troops were involved on Sunday has been described as a 'bloody massacre', what in your eyes happened on Sunday?

R.S.M:

Well, to start the story we were briefed on Saturday that we were taking part in an operation in Londonderry. The Battalion moved up to Londonderry in the early hours of Sunday morning and we took up the pre-determined positions. My personal job was in the Attack H.Q. ready to be called for with my Provost

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> Sergeant and my team who carried ... to take forward the prisoners, these were the people who were captured and extracted from the crowd and taken back for questioning. During the course of the morning ... the afternoon rather, we were told there had been an involvement at one of the barriers and we wore required to take people back for interrogation. Myself, my Provost Sergeant and my team moved forward and were committed behind the barricade at William Street. The people for interrogation were being brought back by mainly support Company. We had these people lined against the wall, preliminary search and then put them on the four-tonner and removed them to Port George. Our part of the operation then, as far as we were concerned, was finished. It was then left to the Ulster Constabulary to question the civilians as they were and ascertain whether they in fact were subversive elements of the I.R.A. This we done.

P. Williams:

When did the shooting start?

R.S.M.:

On the Attack H.Q. net the Battalion was committed to the barrier and as they went through the barrier, we were told shots had been fired from the high flats to the front. This is as near as I can tell you at the moment.

P. Williams:

Now did any one of you here see anybody fire shots at British troops, at the Paratroops?

N.C.O.:

Yes, quite a few,

N.C.O.:

P. Williams:

Can I ask you then what you saw?

N.C.O:

Coming through the barricades I was in the second vehicle through. The first vehicle containing the Platoon Commander and half the Platoon, they moved left of Rossville Street on to some open ground, I then swung round beyond them and into the entrance to Rossville

flats and to the entrance to the car

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park. We drew in there, dispersed, and started making arrests in' the crowd. As we started moving the arrestees back to the PIG, the armoured vehicle, we come under fairly heavy fire from Rossville flats itself. We got the prisoners into the back of the PIG, my men then took up fire positions, they'd started to locate the gunmen and returned the fire.

N.C.O: The first one I fired at was standin coloured Cortina which was sitting half-left a as I was looking at it, he was using a pistol.

P. Williams: Did you hit him?

N.C.O: I fired three rounds at him, the man as I'm concerned I did get him, I'm sure I hit P. Williams: And the second man?

N.C.O: The second man was firing from the f balcony between blocks two and three, I believe the was using something similar to an M.1. carbilight though obviously a weapon.

P. Williams: Did you shoot him?

N.C.O: I fired at him.

P. Williams: Did you hit him?

**P. Williams:** Now what do you mean - you came under fairly heavy fire? What do you mean by that?

**N.C.O:** I should think we come under fire from at least five positions, four to five positions on that

flats, from a multiple of different types of weapons.

**P. Williams:** Did you see men firing at you?

**N.C.O:** Yes. I returned the fire, at least three men who were firing at me.

**P. Williams:** Now what sort of men were they? Where were they and what sort of weapons were they

using?

N.C.O: The first one I fired at was standing behind a maroon-coloured Cortina which was sitting half-

left across the car park as I was looking at it, he was using a pistol.

**P. Williams:** Did you hit him?

**N.C.O:** I fired three rounds at him, the man went down. As far 'as I'm concerned I did get him, I'm

sure I hit him.

**P. Williams:** And the second man?

**N.C.O:** The second man was firing from the first floor balcony between blocks two and three, I believe

they are. He was using something similar to an M.1. carbine, fairly light though obviously a

weapon.

**P. Williams:** Did you shoot him?

N.C.O: I fired at him.

P. Williams: Did you hit him?

**N.C.O:** Again he went down, again the body was taken away .. I should say the first body was taken

away by friends, or people

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within that area. The second body again was taken away. They came down the stairs, which was obviously out of our view and appeared again directly below the verandah, where I'd fired at the second man, to take the body away. At this stage a man stopped round the corner of the stairs, within that area, and again fired at me with an M.1-type carbine. I assumed this was the same weapon that come from the first man, went down with the body and was then

being fired by a colleague or a friend to the man who I'd initially shot.

P. Williams: That this man had picked up the gun from the man you'd already shot?

**N.C.O:** Yes, this is my assumption.

**P. Williams:** Did you fire at the third man?

N.C.O: Again I fired at him.

P. Williams: Did you hit him?

N.C.O: I couldn't say, quite honestly.

P. Williams: And what happened then?

**N.C.O:** Well, there was quite a lot of firing going on round about me, not only did I see the people

firing but I seen the strength of their fire as well, because they were firing particularly against one soldier in my Platoon, he took quite a bit of stick at one time, but came through it. We'd

also acid bombs thrown at us off the top of the flats which burned two of my Platoon.

**P. Williams:** Now of the two men that you hit, was any weapon found on the body?

**N.C.O:** I wasn't daft enough to go across fifty yards open ground to try and pick up a weapon.

**P. Williams:** But you were satisfied that these were people who were armed?

**N.C.O:** Completely satisfied. I'm also satisfied that when my Platoon fired, they located gunmen or

bombers and they fired at

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gunners or bombers, they did not fire indiscriminately into the crowd at any time.

**P. Williams:** Did any other of you hare in fact come under-fire?

**N.C.O:** Yes. Ten minutes to four we went into the Rossville flats

.. the Presbyterian Church, the crowd were on the other side of the wall and we were cutting wire to go over the wall, the far side of the wall, nearside to the crowd itself and the men who were cutting the wire on top of the wall at the Church, they came under fire. One round, high velocity round, struck a drain pipe going up the side of

the Church, we took cover then.

was ten minutes before any

nooting, no-one's spoke about had nail bombs thrown at them he process of throwing a nail bota, before the actual main carted. They're talking about

P. Williams: Did you fire back?

**N.C.O:** No, we never fired back.

**P. Williams:** Why not?

**N.C.O:** Well, it's difficult in a built-up area to tell where the people are firing from. At that time we

were in the churchyard itself, so we never returned the fire.

**P. Williams:** You see, the Catholics say, the people, the Civil Rights marchers say, that no shots were fired

and that the British troops, particularly the Paratroops, fired indiscriminately into the crowd

**N.C.O:** This is a fib, the Catholics weren't standing where I was standing.

N.C.O: Where's all the women and kiddies that's killed, there wasn't any women and kids killed.

N.C.O: This shot was fired, it was ten minutes before any Paratroopers were put near the crowd.

N.C.O: They're talking about shooting, no-one's spoke about nail bombs. My particular Platoon has a property of the property

They're talking about shooting, no-one's spoke about nail bombs. My particular Platoon had nail bombs thrown at them and one of my men shot a man in the process of throwing a nail

bomb. This was in the William Street area, before the actual main onslaught that they talk

about, started. They're talking about

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us firing indiscriminately, where does the say come in what they can do. As far as I'm concerned if a man throws a nail bomb at my Platoon or at me, he deserves all that I can hit him back with and a rubber bullet will not stop a nail bomber, so the only thing you can stop

him with is with a bullet, as far as I'm concerned.

P. Williams: Can I ask you again - you in fact feel that you shot two men who you were satisfied were

shooting at; you or your men?

N.C.O: Yes.

**P. Williams:** Have you any compunction at all about this? Have you any regrets about what happened on

Sunday?

**N.C.O:** A man tried to kill me, why should I worry about killing him? I've got regrets that people have

got to die because of the situation that is out here, but not regrets of the fact that I killed a

man who was trying to kill me.

**P. Williams:** And you are satisfied in your own mind that this was the situation, despite all the allegations

that have taken place, despite the eye witnesses who have come forward to say that the

British troops fired first?

**N.C.O:** I'm perfectly satisfied, I was the man who was receiving it.

**N.C.O:** These enquiries that are going on now, I think it's the 47th man in Belfast, in Northern Ireland

was shot today, wasn't it? Tonight as we were sitting here talking,

**P. Williams:** 47th soldier.

**N.C.O:** 47th soldier was shot, well, where's the inquiry into them doing that? We're here, we've got to

take their bullets and because we hit back at people who're actually onslaught against us,

there's got to be an inquiry against us as British soldiers.

**P. Williams:** How do you feel about that?

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**N.C.O:** At the moment I feel pretty bitter about it, because it could have been one of my men that was

lying there, instead it's a man from another unit.

**P. Williams:** Have you lost any friends?

**N.C.O:** I've not lost any friends at the moment, no. But what's going to happen next week...

**N.C.O:** How would you like to go shopping in London, going into a store and someone turns round

and says - 'right, there's a bomb in here, you've got five minutes to leave the store'. And this

is part of the U.K. but this happens here every day.

**P. Williams:** It's been said to me that in a way, it's almost as if in this posting now you feel as if you're not

dealing with British people.

**N.C.O:** That's not true, no.

R.S.M:

A large percentage of our Army at present is Northern Irish citizens, Ulstermen, and we're very happy with that, they're good soldiers, so why should we think they're foreigners? We feel the people from South - Eire, are foreigners, and should be treated as such. Because it's obvious to us that the I.R.A. are succoured by the people in the South, they're fed explosives and weapons, this is beyond a shadow of a doubt and when they have trouble, let's face it the I.R.A. are pretty cowardly anyway, when they go South, they go down there to

I feel pretty bitter about it, of my men that was lying there, r unit. ou lost any friends?

any friends at the moment, no. next week ...

l like to go shopping in London, ne turns round and says - 'right got five minutes to leave the s

Dublin, they have Press conferences, they do what they want, nobody puts them anywhere.

P. Williams:

Can I ask you, R.S.M. whether you have any regrets over what happened on Sunday?

R.S.M:

No regrets whatsoever. I've been in the Army nineteen years now, I've seen this situation many times, where a soldier is put on the front line, when the chips are down, we are the men who've got to decide legality, whether to fire or not.

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J. Edwards:

Two sides, two stories. All they have in common is that they agree that thirteen people died in Londonderry last Sunday. On Tuesday another British soldier, Corporal Ian Bramley, was shot dead in Belfast. He was the 47th soldier to die since the Army intervened in Northern Ireland. In all 235 people have died in the Province since the troubles began. Lord Widgery now begins his inquiry, but this morning a spokesman for the Bogside said the local people would not co-operate or give evidence before him. That's all from "This Week" - goodnight,

...00000...

## Document 2: Map of Derry, ref: CJ 4/258

