

Bloody Sunday

One English observer of the events of Bloody Sunday was Simon Winchester, a journalist with the *Guardian* newspaper. Here he reports on what he saw when British paratroopers interrupted a protest meeting that began as the march ended.

Four or five armoured cars appeared at William Street, and raced into the Rossville Street square, and several thousand people began to run away

. . . Paratroopers piled out of their vehicles, many ran forward to make arrests, but others rushed to the street corners. It was these men, perhaps twenty in all, who opened the fire with their rifles. I saw three men fall to the ground. One was still obviously alive with blood pumping from his leg. The others, both apparently in their teens, seemed dead.

The meeting at Free Derry Corner broke up in hysteria as thousands of people either ran or dived for the ground.

Army snipers could be seen firing continuously towards the central Bogside streets and at one stage a lone army sniper fired two shots at me as I peered around a corner. One shot chipped a large chunk of masonry from a wall behind me.

Then people could be seen moving forward in Fahan Street, their hands above their heads. One man was carrying a white handkerchief. Gunfire was directed even at them and they fled or fell to the ground.

Witness to History. The Troubles in Northern Ireland by Tony Allan, Heinemann, 0-43227-067-3, p. 35



Mourners carry crosses commemorating some of the fourteen civilians killed by British troops on Bloody Sunday.