

The story of what happened came from the other two journalists - Humphrey Tyler of Drum magazine and photographer Ian Berry. They also found people in the crowd friendly and wanting to tell them why they were there, and that they were demonstrating peacefully. Tyler's vivid account (2) tells of hearing a single sound like a shot, and while he was still wondering what it was ...

"Then the shooting started. A gun opened up toc-toc-toc-toc and another and another. The shots had a deep sound ... The first rush (of people) was upon us, and then past. There were hundreds of women. Some of these people were laughing, probably thinking the police were firing blanks. But they were not.

"Bodies were falling behind them and among them. One woman was hit about ten yards from our car. Her companion, a young man, went back when she fell. He thought she had stumbled. He turned her over in the grass. Then he saw that her chest was shot away. He looked at his hand. There was blood on it. He said: 'My God, she's gone'.

"There were hundreds of kids running too. One had on an old black coat and he held it behind his head as he ran, to save his head from bullets, I suppose. Some of the children were leaping like rabbits, hardly as tall as the grass. Some of them were hit too.

"Still there was shooting. One policeman was standing on the top of a Saracen and it looked as if he was firing his sten gun into the fleeing crowd. He was moving slowly from side to side. It looked as if he was panning a movie camera - from the hip. Two other policemen were on the Saracen with him. It looked as if they were firing pistols, but I could not hear pistol shots separately from the toc-toc-toc of the automatic guns.

"Most of the bodies were strewn in the road which runs alongside the field we were in. I saw one man who had been lying still get up, dazed, and walk a few paces. Then he fell in a heap. A woman sat with her head cupped in her hands.

"One by one the guns stopped shooting. There was nobody moving in our field except Berry. The rest were wounded or dead. There was no crowd any more. It was very quiet."

Benjamin Pogrund has my permission to quote, for purposes of a book, the above extract from my report in Contact of April 2, 1960.

Humphrey Tyler
Sent 8 1987

Please, Ben. Read back with
the book. H.

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