

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Davy Connery**

Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**

Date of interview: **23/07/2012**

Important

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

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Davy Connery Clip

Clip title: Writing essays on the bonnet of a Police Land Rover.

Duration: 00:01:03

Clip start point in full interview: 00:08:19

Clip end point in full interview: 00:09:22

Interview identifier: 087_O_01

Description:

Davy Connery, Open University student, describes his experiences of studying the course 'Running the Country' in the 1990s while working as a police officer attached to the Mobile Support Unit and, while waiting at public order events, writing his essays on the bonnet of, or in the back of, a Police Land Rover.

Transcript:

Well I did the course 'Running the Country'. As a Unit [in the Royal Ulster Constabulary] we would have been running the country, you know, one day you would be in Londonderry the next day you would be in Enniskillen, the next day you would have been in Belfast and sometimes you were working a sixteen hour day. Sometimes you were working straight through thirty, thirty five, forty, fifty hours on the trot. So trying to get the studying done at the same time, a lot of the studying that we were doing would have been sitting in the front of a Land Rover with the books open while everybody else would have been sort of you know, going between, from call to call as such. A lot of what you did in the MSU [Mobile Support Unit] was, it is what they say about Police work being sort of ten per cent action and ninety per cent boredom, a lot of it was waiting for something to happen. You would have gone to somewhere with the anticipation that some public order event was going to break out and you have, you were there to deal with it, so a lot of the time you were just sitting around waiting for something to happen, so you would try to write essays. That is how I have written many an essay on the bonnet of a Land Rover or in the back of a Land Rover or the front of a Land Rover, just anywhere you could get a bit of space to try and do it.