

THOMAS GIVING EVIDENCE

- Q. I want to refer to the origin of the struggle with Dr. Bowden. You say he appeared to be attempting to block the doorway to stop students leaving. It might be difficult to distinguish between preventing others leaving and pushing a way out for himself?
- A. In this particular case I recognise, when trying to get through the door you had to move people out of the way. He put his left arm around me and tried to push me back and I observed him trying to push other people back, but everyone was very close.
- Q. Were you trying to get out of the door?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You say he grabbed your glasses from your face. Again the difference between grabbing glasses from someone's face and putting your hand up in a struggle and knocking off glasses, is a different one.
- A. Not really, owing to the gesture of his hand on my face. I was very close to him, then he reached his hand and wrapped his hand round my glasses and pulled them off, sticking his finger in my eye.
- Q. What happened to the glasses afterwards?
- A. He had them flat on the palm of his hand. I observed him close his palm, then he moved his hand down towards his pocket and I assume he was putting them into his pocket. I assume he put them in his pocket.

- Q. Did they fall on the floor?
- A. If he had dropped them; I don't know whether he did or not. I did not see for sure.
- Q. Other witnesses said that after he took them from your face they fell to the floor.
- A. After they had fallen to the floor?
- Q. After they had left your face.
- A. If this occurred it must have been after the point he had them in his hand.
- Q. Did you see Dr. Bowden near the floor at any time?
- A. No.
- Q. I imagine that the words you used "crushed in his hand" are to some extent influenced by the fact that they were later found crushed or squashed?
- A. No, because I saw this account of folding his palm and I informed people immediately afterwards that I had seen him crush them and there is evidence of this in so far as the Wyvern article that came out shortly afterwards which reported them as crushed. It was as I reported it to the editor of Wyvern, John Bull.
- Q. Could you demonstrate the angle of the glasses when they were returned to you?
- A. Certainly. The centre bridge was bent about 45° off centre, the lenses looking at each other.

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- Q. We are a bit puzzled as how it came about that you didn't manage to get your glasses back immediately. You put something in your evidence about this. Perhaps you can just tell us about this again.
- A. Basically, there are two causes. The first was that at the time I was tightly packed round with people and my arms were jammed. My first reaction to his taking them off, as well as swearing, was I thought of hitting him, but I was prevented from doing this. I can see just as well without my glasses as with them, so I was in no way incapacitated. I was much more concerned with catching up to Dr. Inch and continuing enquiries of the dialogue. I knew Dr. Bowden. I know him by name and had spoken to him before the incident. I was convinced that I would get them back and if they were damaged beyond repair, get him personally to pay for them.
- Q. Did you, in fact, go to see him and ask for them back?
- A. My fiancée, who is a chemistry student, asked him. He had passed them onto the porters, and the porters say they passed them onto the Maintenance Officer, so she went to the Maintenance Officer.
- Q. Was it Mr. Wyatt?
- A. I am not sure whether it was Mr. Wyatt or Mr. Lilly.
- Q. It is said that you were in the front cordon?
- A. That is correct.

- Q. You must have been quite close behind ~~him~~ ^{each}?
- A. I was. When I got through the door, I ran after him. I believe some people tried to get help to clear the confusion in the doorway. I caught up with him at the bottom of the main staircase at Wivenhoe House, where he was conversing with Colin Rogers, but he was the only other person there.
- Q. You caught up with him before he went to the lobby?
- A. The staircase and lobby are right next to each other. During that space of time after people arrived, we were talking to him. He moved into the lobby by the time everyone else arrived.
- Q. Did you have a copy of the indictment?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Were you involved in the discussions over the weekend about the demonstration?
- A. I was notified but I didn't go.
- Q. When did you first hear about it?
- A. When everybody else did, when it appeared in the news letter and we decided we ought to get together.
- Q. Did you know discussions were going on?
- A. Yes but I was feeling unwell so I didn't go.
- Q. Did Dr. Bowden say anything to you during the struggle?
- A. As far as I recollect, Dr. Bowden did not say much at all.

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CONCLUSION OF ORAL EVIDENCE