



## **Eyewitness to the riot**

*K101Lennox4*

### **Howard Mitchell**

I believe there was some sort of riot at one point Colin

### **Colin**

Yes, Dr Curran was the superintendent then and he got patients who had been very troublesome in different hospitals and he brought them into the castle and put them all in the one place and that was just a powder keg you know and all of us knew something would happen and it did happen. They transferred them up to our ward. I mean they get into the ward they started right away, broke, they broke every pane of glass in the place, urinals, everything in the way, and the staff, they had nothing, they had no way of getting in. They finished up, when they did get in, holding a bin lid in front of them to overpower them. They had open razors as well you know.

### **Howard**

The patients...

### **Colin**

The patients broke in and took the open razors that we used for shaving them. And the fire brigade were sent for and they hosed them down. There was no trouble getting through the window because there was no glass.

### **Howard**

There must have been a fair amount of windows...

### **Colin**

Oh, terrible damage.

### **Howard**

So what was the outcome then?

### **Colin**

The outcome of that was that seven of them got transferred to Carstairs.

### **Howard**

And the rest of them?

### **Colin**

The rest of them were just dispersed around the wards. There was, I think there was twenty in that ward, twenty.

### **Howard**

So was it publicised?

### **Colin**

It was in the papers yes aye. The press got it. But nothing much was in it, no.

### **Howard**

So the idea of rehabilitating them, did that die down from Dr Curran's point of view.

### **Colin**

No He was actually more progressive. He tried to get them out. I mean, Chislett, he'd been a superintendent since before the first world war and that was how he ran the place and he never moved with the times. But Dr Curran did. He set up concert parties for the patients – it was all males and he had them over at Kirkintilloch Town hall, packed it for three nights with a patients' concert. He was really good with them.

**Howard**

After the riot, was there a feeling of tightening up?

**Colin**

No, they realised that crowding them all that had started it, and once the seven of them were away it was back to normal.