



*Photo credit: © Peter Gray, 1971*

This photo was taken in the light cast by the head lamp of a motor scooter on the night of Thursday, 22nd July, 1971. It shows one of the many casualties after the police charged the demonstration outside the Tower Mill motel during the *State of Emergency* imposed by the Queensland State Government.

Earlier that day, the South African Springbok rugby team had arrived in Brisbane and were accommodated in the Tower Mill motel on Wickham Terrace. That evening, approximately 300 demonstrators assembled to protest against racism and South Africa's apartheid laws. The protestors faced about the same number of police lined up in front of the Tower Mill. Police in plain clothes mingled with the demonstrators and acted as agents provocateurs.

Then without warning, the line of uniformed police marched forward. The demonstrators were forced down the steep hill into Wickham Park across the road from the Tower Mill. The police followed on mass attacking with fists, batons and boots. Not only was the park steeply sloping, but it also had very little lighting so many areas were completely dark especially towards the bottom of the park.

Where the south-west edge of Wickham park borders with Albert Street, there is a steep cliff face which is quite high in places (up to 8 meters). Under the veil of darkness and the chaos of the charge, police unceremoniously pushed some of the demonstrators over this cliff onto the footpath below. Other demonstrators were left with little choice but to try and jump to safety down this cliff into Albert Street.

The protestor seen in this photo was one of several people who were "forced" over the cliff where sloping Wickham Park ends abruptly as a sheer drop. The demonstrator (Luke Swan) is seen lying injured at the bottom of that cliff, surrounded by concerned friends and onlookers.