

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

SPECIAL REPORT.

Stoke Newington STATION.

N DIVISION.

SUBJECT

7th day of February 1909.

MURDER, ATTEMPTED MURDERS, SHOOTING AND ARREST OF
THE MURDERERS BY POLICE. "N" DIVISION.

REFERENCE TO PAPERS.

I beg to report that at 10 30 a.m 23rd ult Joseph Wilson, a chauffeur, age 29, of 22 West Hampstead Mews, Hampstead, accompanied by Albert Keyworth, age 17, an office boy, of 16 Seaford Road, South Tottenham, arrived at the factory of Mr Schnurmann, rubber merchant, Chestnut Road, Tottenham, in a motor car. The youth alighted carrying a canvas bag, containing about £80 gold, silver and bronze, which he had brought from the London and South Western Bank, South Hackney, for the wages of the men, a weekly custom.

Two men of foreign type, named Jacob and Helfeld stood at the entrance of the premises, one at each side, Jacob seized the boy and bag and shot at him but inflicted no injury. There was a momentary struggle, they both fell but the man got up with the money. The chauffeur went promptly to the boys assistance when he was seized by Jacob, he however laid hold of the bag and grasped Jacob by the throat, both fell and struggled desperately, Helfeld shot at the chauffeur repeatedly his overcoat was riddled with bullets and a slanting shot passed through every garment including his under vest, in the region of his stomach. Jacob released himself and discharged his revolver at him. In a miraculous and unaccountable way he escaped injury. The

chauffeur cried loudly for help and a man name George Smith, a gas stoker, of 17 Hartington Road, Tottenham went and gripped Jacob and threw him, the bag of money falling upon the pavement. Whilst struggling together Smith was shot in the chest by Helfeld. Jacob released himself and took the money at the same moment discharging his revolver at Smith. His escape from death was equally remarkable.

The assailants then ran off towards Tottenham marshes proceeding by way of Chestnut Grove, Scales Road and Mitchley Road.

The revolver shots were heard by Police at the Tottenham Police Station situated immediately opposite the rubber factory. P.Cs 403 N Tyler and 510 N Newman who were on reserve duty ran out. The chauffeur rapidly explained the position of things and with the latter P.C got into the car and followed them. P.C Tyler pursued on foot.

P.Cs 406 N Bond and 637 N Fraiser hearing the alarm jumped through the open boot room window into Chestnut Road, followed by other officers who were aroused from sleep and who hastily put on some clothing and ran out by the front entrance and took up the chase.

The car overtook the assailants at Mitchley Road and the occupants were met by a fusillade of shots, damaging the glass wind screen, hood and radiator of the car rendering it useless.

P.C Newman received a graze on the cheek and a small wound on the lobe of his right ear. A crowd of persons joined in the chase, among them was Ralph Joscelyne, age 10 years, a school boy of 3 Ragby House, Colsterworth Road, Tottenham, who was mortally wounded by a bullet wound in the right breast. He was conveyed to the Tottenham Hospital where he was found to be dead. He was subsequently identified by his mother.

After these incidents the murderers proceeded rapidly by way of the road to the Dust Destructor situated on the marshes in a north easterly direction. Constables Tyler and

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Newman crossed in a northerly direction with a view of heading them. When opposite the Dust Destructor Tyler was approaching them from the marsh land and called upon them to surrender but the man Helfeld, who is living, stood and took deliberate aim and shot him in the head which proved almost immediately fatal. Constable Newman remained with his fallen comrade. Sub Divisional Inspector Large arrived, Tyler was carried into a house near by an ambulance was sent for and he was conveyed with all speed to Tottenham Hospital and five minutes after admission died.

The chase which had now become most desperate was continued with a splendid determination. The murderers proceeded over the footbridge spanning the Great Eastern Railway, then in a north easterly direction to the west bank of the River Lea. Following this course to Chalk Bridge which spans the river just beyond the rifle butts, thence onto the Mill Stream Bridge where they held the crowd at bay for a considerable time. It was ~~at~~ here that P.C 313 N Nicod went a short distance ahead of the crowd, knelt down upon the banks with a view of shooting the murderers, but the revolver (a private one) which he had was found to be defective, before he could beat a retreat, both miscreants fired upon him and both shots took effect, he was wounded in the calf of his left leg and thigh and just previously a lad named Cyril Burgess of 65 Wycombe Road, Tottenham was wounded by a bullet, fired by one of the men, in the inner side of the right ankle.

They passed on through a footway at the ^{South} side of the Banbury Reservoir, thence northward through a narrow pathway towards Higham Hill. Here Sidney Charles Slater, age 30, a horse-keeper, out of work, of 6 Eaton Place Fore Street, Edmonton rather recklessly followed these men into this footpath when the murderers fired 6 or 7 shots at him. He was hit in the left

thigh and disabled? "First Aid" was rendered by Police and he was conveyed to Tottenham Hospital.

They crossed by the base of Higham Hill through some allotments. Frederick Easter, age 27, a single man, of 1 Billet Road, Higham Hill joined in the chase. When in Folly Lane the murderers turned and fired upon their pursuers and Easter was shot the bullet striking him on the left thigh and passed through the fleshy part of his left leg. They now entered a field where was a gipsy encampment in the same reckless way the miscreants fired amongst the gipsies, but fortunately without causing any hurt or damage. They now entered the premises of Salisbury Hall Farm and took temporary shelter behind a haystack. From either side of it they continuously fired upon the pursuers who were fully exposed to the deadly fire, many saving themselves by promptly lying down flat on the ground. It was during this severe ^{encounter} that William Roker, age 32, a labourer, married, ~~with~~ of 4 Cross Street, Edmonton, was very severely injured being shot in both legs. He was promptly attended to and conveyed to the Walthamstow Cottage Hospital where he now lies in a critical condition.

The murderers now passed through the farm yard to the Chingford Road. Without a moments hesitation they commandeered an electric tram car en route to the Bakers Arms, P.H. Lea Bridge Road. The driver and conductor were held up at the point of the revolver. The driver stopped the car and rushed upstairs leaving the conductor who was forced with the muzzle of the revolver at his head to go to the controller and drive them with all speed. Also at this point they were holding at bay a large crowd of pursuers. An old man named Edward Loveday, aged 63, of 2 Devonshire Villas, Hall Lane, Chingford, was a passenger. He made an attempt to leave the car when he was shot through the neck by one of the murderers. There was also a female passenger but she was unhurt. Loveday is an inmate of the Walthamstow Hospital and is progressing favourably. The conductor proceeded as far as the

Victory P.H St Johns Road where there is a loop line. He reduced speed to allow a car coming in an opposite direction to pass him and then put on full speed to Kites Corner. By a simple but ingenious ruse he got rid of his undesirable passengers by telling the man standing by him that the Police Station ~~was~~ was just round the corner. This was effectual for he was directed to pull up and the men hurriedly left the car. Just here they commandeered a milk cart which was stationary. George Conyard, age 19, of Roase Cottage, Chingford Road, who was inside a shop seeing the horse being driven off rushed out to stop it, but he was immediately shot down, the bullet passing through his right arm and chest. He too is in Walthamstow Hospital and progressing favourably. They drove up Farnam Avenue to Forest Road, Walthamstow. Here they were overtaken by a horse and van driven by Thomas White, greengrocer, Chingford Road, Walthamstow. One of the men pointed a revolver at White's head and he jumped off his seat which the men took possession of and drove rapidly towards Wood Street.

P.C 236 N Adams commandeered a motor car and followed, blowing his whistle and attracted the attention of P.S Jowitt and P.C 616 N Francis on duty at Hagger Bridge. These officers made an attempt to stop them when one of the men fired at them and the bullet passed between them and broke the glass panel of the side door of 849 Forest Road, occupied by Charles Pipe a greengrocer.

The action of the officers diverted their course, they turned into Kingsley Road driving across waste land to Fulbourne Road to Wadham Road, thence into Winchester Road where they deserted the van and ran to the River Ching, through this part of the route Jacob was driving Helfeld possessed both revolvers and kept up a continuous fire upon the pursuers.

They clambered down the narrow bank of the River Jacob succeeded in climbing the fence that bounds it Helfeld attempted to do so but failed. He turned round and saw that his ~~escape~~

position was hopeless, he cried out to Jacob "Go on, save your self, I've only got two left". He sank upon the ground and shot himself through the head. He was seized by Police disarmed and taken as soon as possible to the Tottenham Hospital in a van requisitioned on the spot and he is now detained there under strict Police supervision. He is progressing very favourably and in a few days will be well enough to be charged.

Jacob was hotly pursued by P.C 789 N Zeithing and was within a few yards of him when he turned and fired three shots at him, one of which passed over his left shoulder and entered the chest of Frederick John Mortimer, age 38, of 18 Palmerston Road Walthamstow and came out at the back of him. This man had just thrown a brick at Jacob. The P.C had a very narrow escape as one or more of the bullets passed through the lapels of his great coat. Mortimer is in Walthamstow Hospital and progressing very favourably.

Jacob had run on across Hale End Road into a field at the rear of Oak Cottage, Hale End, occupied by Charles Rolstone, a coal porter. Here he was lost sight of by everyone but as a matter of fact he had sought shelter in this small house, consisting of four rooms and a leanto. He first ran to the front room, where judging from the amount of soot which was found lying in the room he had made an attempt to climb into the chimney. I may say that on entering the kitchen of this house he had peered through a small window in the door of the leanto his face was covered with blood no doubt caused by the small shot from the fowling pieces of men who had shot at him when crossing the fields in the earlier part of the chase. Mrs Rolstone saw him screamed and ran out of the place, crying "Oh my children".

Jacob then shut and bolted that door also the front street door. Charles Schaffer, a baker, of 22 Carlton Road, Walthamstow, who had chased these men throughout went to the door of the leanto and with the assistance of P.C 336 N Dewhurst burst it

open both ~~passage~~ passed into the kitchen and brought the children out safely.

After failing in his attempt to hide in the parlour chimney, Jacob went upstairs into the front bedroom. He gave a stealthy look through the window which was seen by his pursuers who had now arrived in large numbers and some of whom were armed. They at once poured a volley in the direction shattering most of the contents of the room.

At this juncture P.C 636 J Charles Eagles and P.C Charles Dixon C.I.D N and P.C 714 N John Cater rendered good service. The former obtained a ladder from adjoining premises and placed it against the back bedroom window. He obtained a loaded gun from a bystander, climbed the ladder opened the window and looked in. P.C Dixon had sent a dog up into this room which Eagles encouraged to go under the bed. At that moment he turned round and saw Jacob with the door of the front bedroom ajar, pointing the revolver at him. He found that the gun was unworkable through a safety catch which he did not understand and rapidly descended the ladder. He changed the weapon for a Police revolver which P.C Dixon was carrying. The three officers then climbed this very narrow staircase Eagles being in front, Dixon in the centre and Cater behind. It was perfectly clear that if the miscreant secured the first shot that these men would have been seriously hurt or killed, because it will be seen by the history of this case that Jacob was a dead shot. Eagles fired twice and Cater once through the panel of the door. Now there was a shot heard in the room by most people though these men though Eagles asserts that Jacob opened the door slightly and presented his revolver at him, but in the fearful excitement of the moment the P.C could have believed this. Evidence has since proved that a Police shot did not despatch this man. He shot himself. Upon Police entering the room Jacob was found upon a small bed in the corner in the throes of death and immediately afterwards expired. The body

was carried down into the yard and subsequently seen by Dr Alcock of Castle Avenue, Highams Park and Dr Wainwright, Divl Surgeon of Tottenham. It was then conveyed on Police ambulance to the Walthamstow Mortuary, Queens Road.

It has been identified as that of a Russian known as "Jacob" who has been employed at a furniture factory at Tottenham, owned by Messrs Lebus and Co. Helfeld was formerly employed by Mr Schnurmann but only for a few days. Enquiries as to their antecedents are in progress by the officers of Special Branch.

In addition to the injured persons named above the following also sustained personal injury :-

William Devine, age 13, of 145 Welbourne Road, Tottenham
Shot in right leg.

George Harwood, age 26, of 6 Park Lane, Tottenham.

Wound of fore finger right hand, inflicted at the railway bridge supposed by Jacob, as he was making his escape.

George Rawson, age 40, of 9 Havelock Road, Tottenham.

Received a slight bullet wound on inner side of right wrist, when the murderers were firing from the bridge spanning the Mill Stream.

Joseph William Ayley, age 30, of 113 Love Lane, Tottenham,

A slight wound on left knee when rendering assistance to P.C Tyler.

George Cousins, age 29, of 14 Asplins Road, Tottenham,

Received a bullet in thick part of left shoulder, after lying down for a short time renewed the chase

William Stephen Thomas Edwards, age 28, 4 Leeds Street,

Edmonton. Received a shot in the left elbow near where P.C Tyler fell.

P.C 50-NR Hawkings graze over left eye and leg but how caused is not clear, he was following the murderers in an advertisement cart. One of the murderers shot the pony causing it to fall and Hawkings and the

through the leg and seat of his trousers. He was armed with a gun but did not use it.

LIST OF POLICE INJURED FROM OTHER CAUSES.

CLIMBING FENCES ETC.

P.C 513 N Forde sprain of left thigh.

" 238 N Woadden lacerated thumb of right hand

" 534 N Brown jagged wound of left hand.

" 406 N Bond contracted a chill through taking up
the chase partly dressed.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASUALTIES 25.

The weapons used by these men were powerful up to date magazines and the bullets used were "expanding".

They had but few left when captured. I am glad to say that with the exception of Roker all the civilian patients who are of the labouring class are progressing favourably.

Upon Jacob there were found two paper bank bags, one of which contained £5 silver the other being empty. This would be the property of Mr Schnurmann .

This extraordinary man hunt was carried on over a course extending about six miles.

It would be impossible for me to speak too highly of the splendid conduct of the Police of N and J Divisions. In response to my call to duty they were most prompt and in action cool, tactful and fearless.

The conduct of the Public engaged was equally brave and praiseworthy.

The concluding observations I have to make are brief, simply that immediately on receiving the news and sending out directions to all stations on the division and Supt Dearn J which I afterwards found had been already done by officers at different

on their initiative I drove to scene with my groom and a P.C. in plain clothes armed with a revolver and ammunition, taking a direct course to Woodford that being the last place where I heard the murderers were making for. When I reached the Napier Arms P.H. Woodford I was informed by Police scouts of the death Jacob at the cottage near by and the arrest of Hefeld.

I proceeded there and took general charge.

Sgd. W. Jenkins

Superintendent.