

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

SPECIAL REPORT.

Leman Street STATION

" H. " DIVISION.

SUBJECT Shooting

10th day of January 1911.

of P, S, Leeson &

With further reference to the attached:-

his removal to

the hospital.

REFERENCE TO PAPERS.

I beg to report that at 7-30 a.m, 3rd inst, with the concurrence of the three Superintendents I threw a few pebbles up to the 2nd floor front window of No 100 Sidney Street, E, with a view to attract the attention of two men, Fritz Svaars and Joseph -----, who were suspected of being concerned in the Houndsditch murders and believed to be sleeping in that room.

At the time I threw the pebbles there were about a dozen officers of the Metropolitan and City Police standing just about and inside a yard adjoining No 109 Sidney Street and opposite No 100. I went a few paces into the yard for the purpose of getting some more pebbles, when six shots were fired in rapid succession, from the first floor window of the house in question, one of the bullets entered-striking Sergt Leeson, entering his chest on the left side and passing out at the right, one bullet struck the rim of the hat of Detective Insp Hallam, City Police, making a hole through it. Many of us narrowly escaped being hit by the other bullets.

Sergt Leeson called out: " I am shot," and staggered up the yard, Sergt Richardson assisted him to the back of a van, I went up almost immediately when Leeson said: " Mr Wensley I am dying, they have shot me through the heart, Good bye, give my love to the children, Bury me at Putney." We embraced each other and I said: " We will be with you till the last." He said: " I know that"

We carried him into the back room of No 109 Sidney Street.

In the meantime Louis Levy, of 16 Buckeridge Street, E, a coffee stall keeper, who keeps his stall in the yard, climbed over the roofs of a number of houses into Oxford Street and called Dr Nelson Johnstone, of 78 Mile End Road, who came immediately, passing through the Police cordon, entering a yard opposite Hawkins Street and by the aid of a ladder he got on to the roof of an outhouse, then passing over the roofs of about half a dozen other outhouses into the yard at the rear of 109 Sidney Street.

While this was taking place I got on to a wall of Messrs Mann & Crossman's brewery, which is adjacent, and called out to a number of men employed at the brewery, to fetch their ambulance. I then returned into the house and the Doctor having examined Leeson, stated he was suffering from two bullet wounds in the chest, probably the entrance and exit of the same bullet. He plugged the wounds, and then Leeson who appeared to be sinking, asked for some stimulants and the Doctor requested someone to fetch some brandy. Sergt Boreham thereupon climbed over the roofs of various outhouses and obtained some brandy from a public house. The ambulance arrived and was lifted over into the yard of 109 Sidney Street. During the whole of this time firing at short intervals from the house in question was taking place, but so far as I know there was no serious personal risk to any particular individual.

It was impossible to take Sergt Leeson out on the ambulance into Sidney Street without considerable personal risk to all concerned, and after surveying the place I concluded that the only way would be by getting him on the ambulance and over into the brewery yard. To do this we pushed a van within four feet of a wall of a stable, some twelve feet high, then placed a ladder in a slanting dir-

direction from the van to the wall. The ambulance bearing Sergt Leeson was lifted into the van and then on to the ladder. We had nearly got him on to the wall when a City constable, who was in uniform, mounted a ladder from the brewery yard and evidently attracted the attention of the two suspects, who immediately commenced to fire upon us, many of the bullets passing close to our heads, this continued for nearly ten minutes, during the whole time we were endeavouring to get Leeson into the brewery yard. It was bitterly cold and a blinding sleet was falling at the time. Leeson who was evidently suffering from the effects of the weather as well as the wounds, seeing our difficulties, rolled off the ambulance and was assisted down the ladder into the brewery yard, when he was again placed on the ambulance and taken to the London Hospital by Sergt Boreham.

I remained on the wall until all those that were engaged in removing Leeson had got under cover. I then found it impossible for me to leave owing to their rapid and well directed fire, and I laid in the gutter for upwards of half an hour, leaving as soon as they had directed their fire in another direction.

The officers and private individuals engaged in the removal of Sergt Leeson and their respective positions are as follows:-

On the wall:- D,D, Inspr Wensley, Sergt Boreham, Louis Levy, and Frank Gascoyne, of 196 Fleming Road, Walthamstow, a labourer in the employ of Messrs Mann & Crossman's.

On the front of the van:- Sergt Richardson, Sergt Weston and Dr Johnstone.

At rear of van and on the ground:- Detective Inspr Hallam, Collison and Thompson, City Police.

Submitted, it will be seen that
all concerned run considerable risk
particularly those on the wall & the
front of the van. Dr. Johnstone had a
narrow escape a bullet grazing and
scorching his forehead, also S. D. Inspr
Drenslay who had to lie in the gutter
for about half an hour (not through) to
avoid the shots.

Serj. Bouham # & Louis Lery were on
the wall, but each had prior to this point
material assistance, the P.T. in climbing over
roofs to obtain brandy & Lery in doing
likewise to fetch Dr. Johnstone.

J. Mulhany