Canadian Riots in Surrey and the killing of Sergeant Green of the Metropolitan Police at Epsom

Wednesday 18th June 1919

"Found death in the path of duty".

“Gallant defenders”[1]

Robert Bartlett MA January 30 2013

Station Sergeant Green

[1] Magistrate’s tribute to Epsom police

Introduction

For the Metropolitan Police the small country town of Epsom was on the periphery of their police district'. Policing the town was something of an anomaly when in 1839, ten years after the formation of the Metropolitan Police; the force area was considerably enlarged to encompass the rural fringes of the metropolis. At this stage Epsom still relied on parish officials, local magistrates supported by police from Union Hall Magistrates Court and Bow Street. This system was retained in the remainder of rural Surrey as was no county police force until 1851 although the small towns of Guildford Godalming and Dorking had a local police since the 1830s.

Epsom expanded with the coming and growth of the railway making it possible to commute to the City and to work in central London. Policing the town would not have been too arduous compared with some of the postings within the Metropolitan Police District and many of the officers were there because they were senior in service. The First World War would bring dramatic change as it did in every community as young men were drawn away to fight many not coming home. The wide open spaces of Surrey were transformed into major army camps with large numbers of Canadians being based on Witley Common near Godalming and on the Downs and large house of Epsom and Ewell. Many wounded Canadian soldiers transited through the area from the Western Front to the military hospitals established in the area.

Epsom was famous not just for its salts but for the Derby and in 1919 the so called Peace Derby of the 4th June was to be the cause of a great deal of enjoyment and celebration. However the thousands of Canadian soldiers based in Surrey were unhappy at not being sent home so many months after the end of the war and with no transport likely in the near future. Boredom, sickness, frustration amongst large numbers men is a combination likely at any moment to lead to an explosion fed by the disappointment and dissatisfaction with their lot.

A number of low level disturbances occurred in Epsom town, the levels of violence increasing as local men were discharged from the forces and the Canadians became more bored and frustrated. On a late June evening in 1919 the fuse was lit following the arrest of two men in the Rifleman Pub in the town centre. Later that evening the stored frustration was to explode into a riot when the police station was attacked by hundreds of Canadians and Station Sergeant Green beaten to death. The heroism of the Metropolitan Police officers that evening was extraordinary, taking on a huge crowd of violent men out for blood.

Epsom was neither the first nor the last major riot involving Canadian troops. There was to be a large scale riot at Witley where lives were lost and considerable damage caused. Put bluntly the Canadian troops had mutinied as they had done in North Wales.

The following are extracts from the electronic history of the Surrey Constabulary showing a few incidents that indicated unrest was developing[2]:

1918, 20 December: Witley Common: Petition received by Captain Sant from shop keepers on the camp complaining they were repeatedly threatened by soldiers. The matter was passed to the military authorities. [3]

1919, 9 February: Witley Camp: Some soldiers had been arrested by military police. There had been rioting on Armistice Day and a good many other incidents which as a rule were not very serious. Those arrested were rescued who then wrecked the officer's quarters; the canteen was looted and all the drink stolen; then an attack was made on a number of shops known as "Tin Town". The police were mostly kept off the site by the military but this did not stop successful claims under the Riot Damages Act, much to the chagrin of the chief constable as his Police Authority had to pay. [4]

On 4 and 5 March 1919, Kinmel Park in Bodelwyddan, near Abergele, North Wales, experienced two days of riots in the Canadian sector of the military complex. The riots were believed to have been caused by delays in repatriation. The 15,000 Canadian troops had been stationed in Kinmel Camp for a period after the First World War, and were kept in undesirable conditions due to strikes.[5] "The mutineers were our own men, stuck in the mud of North Wales, waiting impatiently to get back to Canada – four months after the end of the war. The 15,000 Canadian troops that concentrated at Kinmel didn't know about the strikes that held up the fuelling ships and which had caused food shortages. The men were on half rations, there was no coal for the stove in the cold grey huts, and they hadn't been paid for over a month. Forty-two had slept in a hut meant for thirty, so they each took turns sleeping on the floor, with one blanket each."[6]

Colonel Nicholson briefly describes the Kinmel mutiny as part of a larger series of events that occurred during the post war redeployment of Canadian troops: "In all, between November 1918 and June 1919, there were thirteen instances or disturbances involving Canadian troops in England (sic). The most serious of these occurred in Kinmel Park on 4th and 5th March 1919, when dissatisfaction over delays in sailing resulted in five men being killed and 23 being wounded. Seventy eight men were arrested, of whom 25 were convicted of mutiny and given sentences varying from 90 days' detention to ten years' penal servitude."[7]

[2] **Part Two 1902-1950 Policing Wars and Consequences**
[3] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951
[4] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 48
[5] Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia
[6] Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

[7] Colonel G. W .L Nicholson, in the Official History Of The Canadian Army In The First World War

"Tin Town" after the rioting, March 5th, 1919

1919, May: YMCA Hut 4, Witley Camp: Letter to: Calgary Daily Herald: Dear Sir - It has been my great pleasure and privilege to have been associated with the Canadian YMCA in their work in this hut among the Canadian troops. Lately there has been a certain amount of rioting and disorder in some camps, but this has been greatly exaggerated, and though the men were not wise in doing what they did, they certainly had much provocation. What generally happened was that a very few men started in the riot and then many joined in just for amusement. Now I know that owing to the exaggerated reports which appeared in the newspapers a great many people both in England and in Canada have very mistaken ideas as to the discipline of the Canadian soldiers in camps. For three years I have lived in this hut, right in the midst of the men, and I can testify to the excellent order and discipline of the Canadian troops. In this country we have all greatly admired the magnificent bravery of the Canadian soldiers at the front, and it is greatly to be deplored that an utterly wrong impression as to their discipline and good behaviour in camps should have become prevalent. Maurice Acheson.[8]

1919, 16 June: Witley Camp, near Godalming, was the scene on Saturday night of a serious outbreak of violence among Canadian troops stationed there. Between thirty thousand and sixty thousand Canadian soldiers lived on Witley Common during the First World War with local police strength of a sergeant and three constables. Policing of the camp was by the military but on two hundred and thirty nine occasions in three years, prisoners were handed to the Surrey Constabulary. During the riot eighteen shops were looted and £9,000 worth of property stolen.

1919, Tuesday 17 June[9]: "The greater part of "Tintown" as it is called locally was burned to the ground, and a part of "Little Tintown" about half a mile away was also destroyed by fire.

[8] http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/transcripts/transcriptDisplay.asp?Type=L&transNo=557
[9] 17 June 1919 Calgary Daily Herald

Nearly twenty thousand Canadian soldiers occupy the camp. The trouble is believed to have arisen from irritation at delay in demobilising the men and shipping them home. The disturbance started when a large body of men assembled on one of the parade grounds to hold a demonstration against the delay. Whether the fire in Tintown was an accident is not yet determined. There seems no doubt however that the smaller fire was the result of a deliberate act of incendiarism. Many men strongly disapproved of the rioting and helped to extinguish the fires."

Nowhere in the documents and reports of the dreadful night in Epsom is there mention of the Surrey Constabulary becoming involved although the main camp was along the boundary between the two forces. On a practical level it would have been difficult to raise enough officers and get them to Epsom in time to make a difference although it is likely once the Chief Constable became aware of what was happening he most likely would gather his men as a precaution against a similar angry outburst at Witley.

Epsom, since 1914 had became a garrison town with the Downs used extensively to train and accommodate soldiers. Woodcote Park was a base and the Grandstand at the racecourse was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers during the early months of the war, as were in a number of the asylums in and around the town complex.

Woodcote Park Convalescent Hospital

Policing thousands of young men, far from home with little night life other than drink and if lucky a local girl, if not one of the many prostitutes encouraged into the area by the free spending and out of the ordinary Canadian soldier.

The police station was in Ashley Road, the lane leading from the Downs into the High Street. It was here that 51 year old Station Sergeant Thomas Green was posted from Putney eight years ago to act as the deputy to Inspector Pawley who lived with his family above the police station. Living on the job was quite normal until the growth in bureaucracy and the development of the Surrey towns, drove the families out to make way for more officers and office staff.

Epsom Police Station before the riot

Green had been born in Billingshurst, joining the Royal Horse Artillery for eight years before joining the Metropolitan Police in 1895 where he serving as a constable in the centre of London before gravitating to the outer fringes of the Metropolitan Police District. He married a country girl Lillian Card in Sussex. They were to have two daughters Lillian in 1901 and Nellie in 1902. Mrs Green was to suffer a stroke in 1916 and was to make a very slow recovery, being paralysed down one side necessitating a lengthy stay in hospital. Plans were being made to move Lillian from hospital to the police house in Epsom where the family would care for her. With 24 years service under his belt Thomas Green could retire in a year with a 25 year pension.

Thomas and Lillian Green on their wedding day in 1895

Police Constable Thomas Green

Epsom police force before the riot. Thomas Green is third from the left in the second row

Woodcote Park in Epsom is today the home of the RAC Club and before 2000 on the boundary with the Surrey Constabulary. (Now within the Surrey Police force area) As the war progressed, the club house and grounds became the main convalescent hospital for the Canadian Army. The Park is close to the town centre and well within walking distance or if in drink, staggering distance, from the town centre.

(Canadian) Woodcote Park 1915

Woodcote Park 1917

The scene is now set for the almost inevitable tragedy to run its course. Feeling between town and camp were running high and the police had been forced more and more to intervene in violent disputes. Canadian prisoners where civilians or civilian property were involved would

no doubt have been taken before the court. If only the soldiers the military police would be summoned to the police station to remove the prisoners back to camp. The following local newspaper report tells the story of Wednesday 18th June 1919 well.

Epsom military riot Canadians' savage attack on police station sergeant murdered: inspector wounded. Iron railings and stakes used as weapons. Police station wrecked: prisoners rescued[10]

The Epsom police and Canadian soldiers stationed at Woodcote Park Camp came into desperate collision on Tuesday evening as the result of which a police-sergeant was murdered, the Chief (sic) Inspector wounded, and several policemen injured, while the police station was completely wrecked. There has been friction between certain ex-service men of Epsom and the Canadian soldiers for some time, and Tuesday's affray was the climax of a series of quarrels among them. The Trouble on Tuesday arose over the arrest of two Canadians, whose release was demanded by their comrades, who finally obtained reinforcements to the strength of about 500 from the camp and made a murderous attack upon the police at the station shortly after eleven o'clock. For an hour the police battled against overwhelming odds, and when their small number is compared with the huge infuriated body of their opponents it is nothing short of a miracle that anyone of them is alive today. They faced the attack with a bold front and fought with courage and determination, and in absolute conformity with their duty; against these ruthless law-breakers. As a result of the affray the police have been strengthened and a magisterial order was issued for the closing of all public houses in Epsom and Ewell until Monday. The riot appears to have had a sobering effect all round, and in view of the improved conditions on Wednesday the Magistrates decided yesterday (Thursday) to rescind the closing order.

Trouble brewing

About half-past ten there were signs of serious trouble brewing, but no one anticipated such a sensational and tragic development. Disturbances have been witnesses in High Street lately when civilians (mostly returned soldiers belonging to the town) and members of the Canadian forces have quarrelled and the police have had to intervene. There was a similar outbreak on Tuesday evening and the police arrested a Canadian, which angered a crowd of soldiers, who were parading the town, apparently waiting for developments. Attempts were made to rescue the prisoner, but the police secured their man and arrested another soldier for having obstructed them in their duty. This naturally aggravated the crowd, which increased in size and the police and their prisoners were followed to the station. Here the excited followers commenced to demonstrate their resentment, but they did not show fight, and although few in number the police quickly dispersed them.

[10] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 20, 1919

The Rifleman pub where the two soldiers were arrested; close to the High Street and not far from the police station to where they were taken

Retreat for reinforcements

The soldiers made off through Rosebery Park to their camp, and at once spread the news of their two comrades in custody. There they planned an organised attack, and shortly before eleven o'clock between five and six hundred of them massed together and broke camp. They proceeded to the police station and, enraged over their comrades confined there, they made a brutal attack upon the police. Inspector Pawley went to the gate of the station and tried to persuade them to disperse and return quickly to camp, and persuasion was also attempted by two Canadian officers who had come upon the scene. But all attempts failed. The men wildly commenced their attack. They wrenched away the iron palings and wooden stakes in front of the station garden and on the opposite side of the road, outside the Wesleyan Soldiers' Recreation Room, and armed with these and stones they stormed the building. The bombardment was most wild. Not only were stones and lumps of iron thrown through the ground floor windows, but the first floor was subjected to a running fire of missiles. Some of the rooms are the private apartments of Inspector Pawley, and his wife and family were aroused by the heavy missiles crashing through the windows, and they were compelled to dash to the rear for safety. The rioters pressed forward into the garden and busting open the yard door gained access to the yard. Here they came

In to violent conflict with Inspector Pawley, Station-Sergeant Green, sergeants and constables – not more than fifteen in all – and the police realising the serious consequences that might result if the soldiers got inside the station offered every resistance.

A murderous onslaught

Furious fighting proceeded, and soon the weight of numbers began to tell. Not one constable escaped without injury of some kind, but, despite their injuries, the police fought stubbornly until their opponents gained their object – the release of the prisoners – and retired. Although the Canadians were kept out of the administrative quarter, which in itself is a tribute to the determined resistance of the police, they managed to get into the cells area. The door of one of the cells was opened by smashing the lock and the prisoner rescued. The other prisoner was then released by the police themselves. This satisfied the rioters, and a bugle sounded the "Fall in." They responded, fell in, not in order, however, and returned to camp, shouting, hissing, and cheering alternately.

The following is a complete list of casualties among the police:-

KILLED

Station Sergeant Green

INJURED

Inspector Pawley blow to the head.

Sergeant Greenfield injured arm.

Sergeant Blayden, slightly lamed.

Sergeant Durham struck on the head.

Sergeant Kersey injured back.

PC Weeding blow on the head.

PC Berwick, injured arm.

PC Hook struck in the abdomen.

PC Barton damaged arm.

PC Monk cut eye.

PC Short bruised neck and struck in abdomen.

Station Sergeant Green was removed to the Infirmary in an unconscious condition. His injuries consisted of a fractured skull, and died the following morning. The greatest sympathy is felt with his widow, who is an invalid, and his two daughters, all living at 92 Lower Court Road. The more seriously injured were Inspector Pawley and PC Weeding. Both were violently struck on the head, and the police inspector's wound was so severe that stitches had to be inserted. He appeared the next day with his head enveloped in

bandages. PC Weeding had to be taken home immediately because of his delirious condition, which for a time was critical. Subsequently he regained consciousness and is now improving. Sergeant Durham is also suffering from a severe blow on the head, and has not been able to resume duty. As regards the injuries sustained by the soldiers the authorities at the camp were very reticent about them, but it is certain the men did not escape lightly, and the wonder is that some managed to stagger back to the camp. They were severely punished, and some had to be admitted to the military hospital, while quite a number were in need of first aid treatment on returning to the camp.

On Wednesday morning there was a full parade of soldiers, when their commanding officer, Col. Priest, addressed them. He was sure that they all regretted what had happened, and were sorry at the death of Sergeant Green. He advised them to keep away from the town in future.

A pitiable spectacle

Never has such a savage and dastardly affair been witnessed in Epsom, and the next morning the police station with its picturesque little garden admired by all passers by was a pitiable spectacle. Not a fragment of glass remained in any of the windows, and the size and weight of the missiles which were thrown may be gathered from the fact that the window frames and partitions themselves were broken into fragments. The brickwork showed indentations where stones had apparently missed their mark, and the evergreen on the lower part of the building was torn down. The garden was trampled over, and the floral archway over the pathway, to which Inspector Pawley has devoted his horticultural talents, was destroyed, as likewise were the beautiful roses which bordered the paths. The cells at the back were damaged, and every window was broken. Fortunately the soldiers were kept outside the station, and no documents, books, or papers were lost or damaged.

The next morning the Chairman of the Urban Council (Mr H B Longley), after consultation with other members of the Council, sent the following telegram to the Adjutant-General of the War Office and the Canadian Military Headquarters, London :-Serious riot of Canadian convalescent soldiers stationed at Woodcote Park Camp occurred last night, resulting in murder of Police sergeant, injury of several police and wrecking of police station. Strong action should be taken at once as the inhabitants have no security at night. Owing to its position the camp is difficult to effectively control except with large guard. All licensed houses and clubs should be at once placed out of bounds and camp evacuated as soon as possible. There are no military police in district. Immediate action is necessary for the safety of inhabitants.

Public houses closed

Before, two Magistrates Messrs W. Dorset (in the chair) and E B Jay in the police court on Wednesday afternoon Inspector Goodenough, deputising for Inspector Pawley, applied

that all public houses in the parishes of Epsom and Ewell should be closed for the sale of intoxicating 'liquors' until Monday. He made the order under the instructions of the Chief Constable under the Closing in Times of Riot Clause of the Intoxicating Liquors Act of 1910. The Chairman - I think it a very proper application. Inspector Goodenough said that he made the application owing to further anticipated trouble. There was very strong feeling in the town on the part of the civil population at the cause of death of Station Sergeant Green. There was a rumour that there was likely to be more trouble, and it was felt it would be better if the public houses were closed.

The Chairman – I quite agree. Mr Jay – it is a very serious step to take. We want evidence. The Chairman – You only have to go to the other side of the road to the police station to get evidence. Mr Jay - Have you any knowledge that there is going to be a riot?

Inspector Goodenough – We have no practical knowledge; there is only a rumour. The Chairman – If my friend on the Bench could have been in my house last night he would know all about it. (A garden separates Mr Dorset's residence from the station)

Mr Jay – We will do all in our power to maintain law and order. Are there any extra police? Inspector Goodenough – We have some extra police. Mr Jay – Have you asked for military help? Inspector Goodenough – We have made application.

Mr Jay – This riotous conduct must be put down.

The Magistrates granted the application and questioned whether all the clubs in the same districts would be closed. Inspector Goodenough said he had no instructions to do that. The Magistrates after considering the matter, decided that the sale of intoxicating liquors in clubs should be prohibited until Monday.

Police and soldiers guard the police station after the riot

The damage to the police station

Left said to be damage to the cell but that is unlikely given the glass window behind the grill. Looking at the right photograph this is the window into the cell passage

The day after

The Inquest is opened

A popular sergeant: twenty-four years in police force: inquest adjourned[11]

Widespread regret is caused by the death in such tragic circumstances of Station-Sergeant Thomas Green, who was one of the most popular officers in the force as well as the locality. He was in his 52nd year, and his service in the police force covered a period of 24 years, being within a year of his retirement. For eight years he had done duty at Epsom, and was held in the highest esteem by his colleagues and among the inhabitants generally. Prior to his police service he was for eight years in the Royal Horse Artillery.

The inquest was opened at the Infirmary yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, when the Coroner (Mr. Gilbert White) informed the jury that the reason he held the inquiry so soon after the affair was that a burial certificate could be given and arrangements made for the funeral. He therefore proposed to adjourn the inquest, and he would then call as the first witness Inspector Pawley, who was in charge of the police station at the time of the occurrence, as it was better for the jury to hear direct from him what happened than men who possibly were in possession of information not quite accurate.

The jurors were Messrs J. Chuter Ede (foreman), W. Cole, H. Skilton, H. Cook, W. Thompson, H. W. Martin, W. Sykes and F H Tarr, Lieut Commander H. Chamberlain.

Evidence of identification was given by Sergeant Kersey, who was still evidently suffering from the effects of his injury. Deceased, he said, was on duty at the police station on Tuesday night. Replying to the Coroner Mr. A. M. Barrack, Assistant clerk to the Urban Council, stated that the following letter was received from the War Office by Sir Rowland Blades, the Member for the Division:-

"With reference to your call here today Mr Churchill asks me to thank you for the information that you submitted to him as to the local conditions at Epsom. The whole matter will be the subject of searching investigation. Meanwhile he understands that prompt and adequate steps are being taken by the Canadian authorities to prevent any recurrence of the disorder. Mr Churchill desires to express the greatest sympathy with the relatives of Sergeant Green, who has died as a result of his injuries."

It was decided to adjourn the inquest until Wednesday next.

Mr Chuter Ede asked if he could take it that adequate precautions would be taken that the military witnesses who might be required would not be repatriated or removed from the Coroner's jurisdiction during the adjournment. It might be necessary to call

[11] The Epsom Advertiser - June 20, 1919. Page 4 of 4

certain officers, N.C.O.'s and men at the camp, and those proceedings would be prolonged and considerable difficulties would arise if nothing was done to prevent their repatriation. Inspector Pawley - We may take it for granted that any soldier who is known to have be implicated will be retained at Epsom, and if the jury think it necessary for any man to be called I feel sure that Colonel Guest will render every assistance.

Mr Beswick said that in a covering letter Sir Roland Blades wished to convey his regret to deceased's relatives. Inspector Pawley – On behalf of the family I wish to thank Sir Roland Blades for his kind expression of sympathy.

The funeral

Of the late Sergeant Green will take place at Epsom Cemetery on Monday afternoon. There will be a service beforehand in the Wesleyan Chapel, of which the sergeant and his wife were members. It was three years ago, while they were attending service at the chapel, that Mrs Green had a seizure, from which she has not yet recovered.

The funeral[12]

Epsom's gallant sergeant

Public funeral: impressive scenes

Eight hundred police in procession

Never have Epsom inhabitants witnessed a more impressive funeral than that of the late Station-Sergeant Thomas Green, which took place on Monday Afternoon Manifestations of widespread regret which the death of the town's brave police officer had occasioned were forthcoming from the multitude of people. Long. Before noon people took up their positions in High-street and. Lower Court-road, many of them having arrived from neighbouring towns and villages, and by three o'clock the main streets from the house in Lower Court-road to the cemetery were thickly lined with men, women and children. Every blind in the town was drawn and almost without exception all shops remained closed for one hour between three o'clock and four o'clock, the members of the Epsom Traders Association displaying announcements in the windows of their shops to that effect.

It is doubtful too if any member of the police force has been accorded a public funeral at which the force was so completely represented as on this occasion. Between seven and eight hundred police inspectors sergeants and constables arrived in the town to pay homage to a comrade who was popular not only locally but in the force generally. They represented

[12] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919

practically every division in the Metropolitan area, and in the absence of the Police Commissioner, Sir Nevil Macready, Major-General Harwood, the Assistant Commissioner, was there. Inspector Pawley, who was in charge of the station during the riot, and most of the injured constables, including PC Monk, whose eye was bandaged, were present, also Col. Maxwell, the Provost Marshal, Major Cornwallis West, Assistant Provost Marshal, Col. Guest, Commandant of the Woodcote Park' Camp and Sir Rowland Blades, MP, Firemen, ex-special constables, asylum attendants, discharged and demobilized soldiers and sailors of both organizations took part in the procession, and the local Bench, the Urban and Rural District Councils and the Traders' Association were represented. The Thames River Police and Woolwich Dockyard Police were also in the procession.

A solemn procession

The procession formed up at the house and extending for nearly half a mile was headed by the band of the “V” Police Division. All along the route the scenes were most impressive. How deeply moved were the inhabitants and those who had come from other towns at the tragic circumstances of Sergeant Green's death was demonstrated as the procession passed on its sad journey accompanied by the mournful music of the band. Men stood bare-headed, women shed tears, and there were instances of women fainting through the intense solemnity of the procession. A halt was made outside the wrecked police station, when the coffin was borne by eight stalwart sergeants who walked by the side of the hearse, into the Wesleyan Church Opposite, while the band played feelingly Chopin's "Funeral March." Here the service was held and as many people as possible were admitted, the minister, the Rev. G. W. Alway, officiating. In a brief address the Minister paid a tribute of love and respect to the memory of the late Sergeant Green. The representative character of the service showed how deeply they deplored the unhappy circumstances which brought about his death. They felt that a noble life had been snatched from them by the intemperate passions of some misguided men, but they must not allow their sorrow and indignation to carry them to blind and unreasoning judgement.

Those knew best the true spirit of Canada in her sons who had worshipped in that church, those who had been privileged to minister to them day and night in hospital and sometimes had been called upon to commit the dust of their dead to earth knew how sincerely the Canadians mourned with them that day and how earnestly they 1ameted the loss sustained. The late police sergeant was a loveable and helpful man, the memory of whose genial personality would abide with them forever. His spirit was the spirit of service, and no man found him aught but a brother. No woman was there but was treated with Christian courtesy and noble chivalry, and no child ever found his protection unavailing. Of late the shadow of illness had fallen upon his home life, and a few days before he died there was a prospect of its lifting. But he faced his sorrow as he faced his duty, and there was always dayspring in his heart. The service over, the procession continued on its journey to the cemetery. Immediately behind the last mourning carriage were four local Justices of the Peace.

Messrs. T. F. Squarey, H. Willock Pollen (who also represented the Rural Council). W. Dorset and E. B. Jay, following whom were Sir Rowland Blades, M.P. between Councillors H.B. Longley (Chairman of the Urban Council) and W. G. Langlands (Vice-Chairman), and Major General Harwood (Assistant Commissioner), Major Lafone, Major Tomblin, and Major Olive, all chief constables of different divisions. At the entrance of the cemetery six boys from Dr. Barnardo's Homes took up positions on each side of the roadway, and they reverently removed their hats as the cortege passed into the cemetery.

The graveside was thronged with people, and it was impossible for many of those taking part in the procession to get anywhere near. A pathetic spectacle was presented by deceased's two young daughters, who bravely bore up through their great grief until the final rites were being performed, when one of them had to be assisted because of her fainting condition. The coffin bore the following inscription:

THOMAS GREEN.

Died 18th June 1919

Aged 51 years

And was interred in a new grave close to the church

A noble husband

There was a magnificent display of wreaths. At the house they over flowed the room in which the coffin lay and covered the garden outside. They could not all be contained in the hearse and one carriage was used exclusively for that purpose, some having to be placed on the sides

of each carriage. On the head of the coffin was a beautiful wreath of roses, lilies, carnations and stocks from the invalid widow, who had written the following message with her left hand in consequence of paralysis of the other.

"With deepest love to my dear noble husband, who was killed doing his duty

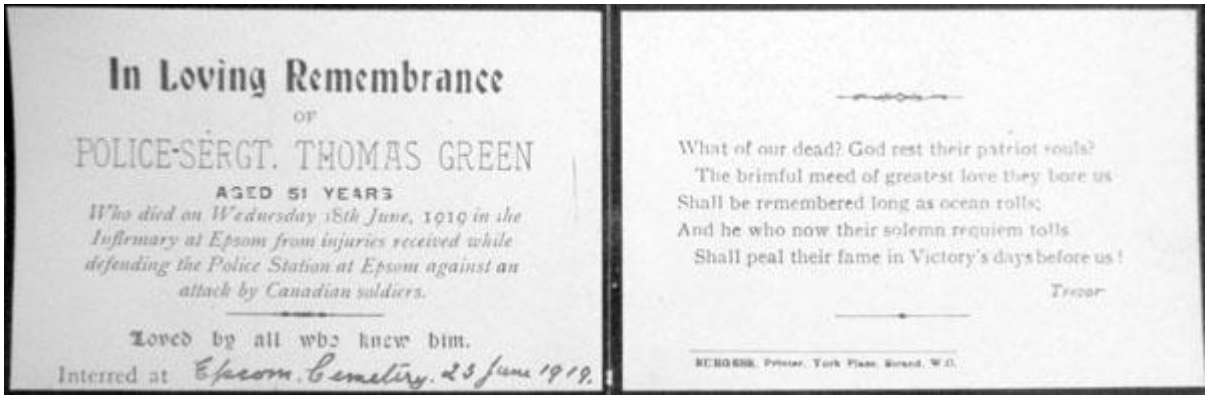
From his broken hearted wife and daughters, Lily and Nellie"

Conspicuous among the host of others was a splendid one from the officers, W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and men of the Canadian Record Office, London, which was brought down from London in the morning by an officer and two men. Lord Rosebery's wreath bore the message- "Honour and Regret. Lord Rosebery" and similar tributes were paid by most of the police divisions "in memory of our gallant comrade."' Two boys, with whom the 1ate Sergeant Green used to go fishing sent a wreath, likewise did the children and adults residing in Lower Court-road. The Epsom Magistrates' tribute as sent "With deep sympathy grateful remembrance of loyal services faithfully rendered." Floral tributes were also received from the following :- Members and congregation of the Epsom Wesleyan Church, Comrades of the Great War, the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers, officers and men patients of the County of London War Hospital, officers and men of the Epsom ex-Special Constabulary, the different local political and social clubs, local Fire Brigade, Epsom Traders' Association, Lady and Sir Rowland Blades, Inspector McRae, Mr. and Mrs. George Denman, "Freddie and Wally" (two fishing boys), Char1es Foster, "Patients in the Mothers' Ward," Mr. R. Chamberlain and employees, Mr. and Mrs. J. Card and two daughters, Mrs. Truelove and family, Miss Crouch, Mrs. Clifford, and Bennetts' children, J. Crisp, Mr. And Mrs. S Edwards and Family, Dr. Thornley, Divisional Police Surgeon, Inspector and Mrs Pawley, Woolwich Dockyard Police, Mr. and Mrs J. Whitten, Mr. and Mrs. Swanston , Mr. Church, Mr. A. W. Wootten, Mr. Odell, Mrs. Smart, wives of the sergeants and men of Epsom and Ewell police, Mr. H. Willock Pollen, Criminal Investigation Department, Doris Ison, Mr. and Mrs. Foulgerer, Sidney Gage, Mr. And Mrs. Mason and family.

MOURNERS

The principal mourners were the Misses Lily Lund, Nellie Green (daughters), Mr. E. Green (brother), Misses W. and H. Green (sisters), Mr. Robert Green (nephew), Mr. M. Truelove (brother-in-law), Mr. W. Card (brother-in-law), Mrs. S. Edwards (sister in law), Miss Truelove (niece), Miss M Truelove, Misses M. and B. Edwards (nieces), Mr. S. Truelove (nephew), Misses Lilly and Agnes Card (nieces), Mr. J. Sands, Miss Crouch and Miss Cancell.

The funeral arrangements were carried out entirely free of cost by Messrs. G and J Furness, undertakers, members of whom belonged to the Special Constabulary, and at times did duty with the late Sergeant Green. No charge is to be made for the grave space.



In Loving Remembrance

OF

POLICE-SERGT. THOMAS GREEN

AGED 51 YEARS

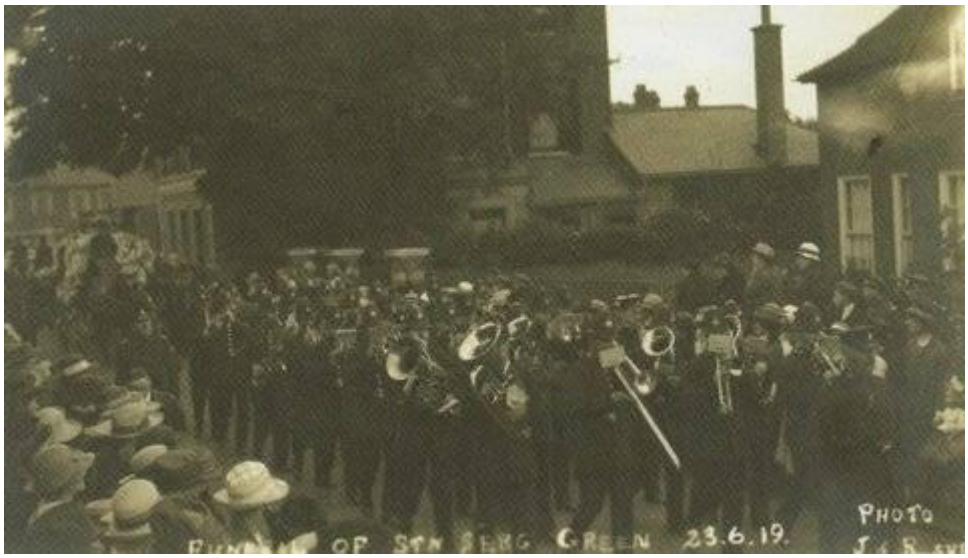
Who died on Wednesday 18th June, 1919 in the Infirmary at Epsom from injuries received while defending the Police Station at Epsom against an attack by Canadian soldiers.

Loved by all who knew him.

Interred at Epsom Cemetery. 23 June 1919.

What of our dead? God rest their patriot souls?
The brimful meed of greatest love they bore us
Shall be remembered long as ocean rolls;
And he who now their solemn requiem tolls
Shall peal their fame in Victory's days before us!

Trevor



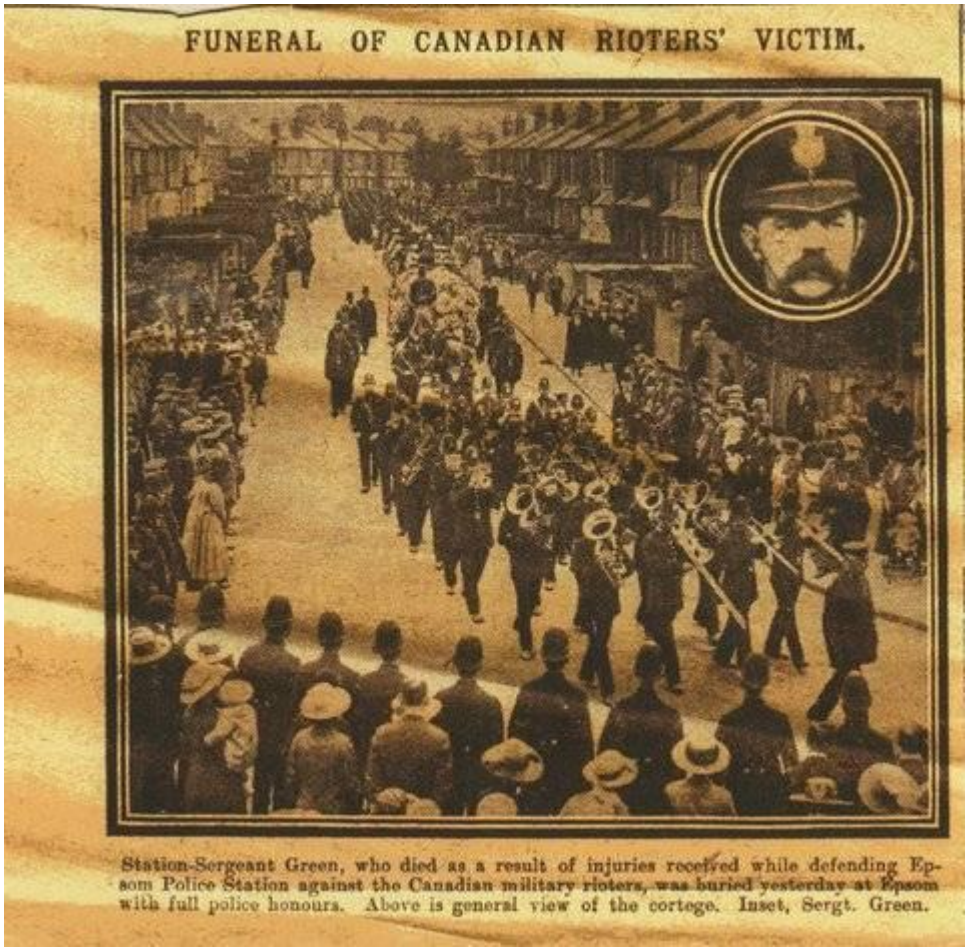
The Metropolitan Police band leads the cortege 23 June 1919

Funeral procession leaving Lower Court Road[13]

[13] Epsom Herald 27 June 1919


ROOM
FUNERAL OF LATE STATION SERGEANT GREEN 23.6.19
PHOTO
J&R.
SUTTON


FUNERAL OF LATE STATION SERGEANT GREEN. 23.6.19
PHOTO
J&R.
SUTTON



Gallant defenders

Magistrate's tribute to Epsom police[14]

The gallant defence which the Epsom police put up against the overwhelming odds in the recent riot was commented upon in the Epsom Police Court on Monday. On taking his seat as Chairman of the Bench, Mr. A. H. Tritton said that the members of the Bench desired to take that opportunity of placing on record their sense of the gallant behaviour of the men of the Epsom Station of the Metropolitan Police under the command of Inspector Pawley during the recent attack on the Police Station, and to say how deeply they regretted the loss sustained by the force and his family through the death of Station-Sergeant Green. They also wished to express their sympathy with other members of the force who unfortunately were injured in the execution of their duty. They felt confident that all the inhabitants of Epsom would desire to join the Bench in that expression of their admiration of the conduct of the police under difficult and trying circumstances. Inspector Pawley - On behalf of myself and the Epsom police I sincerely thank you for your kind expression of sympathy and appreciation. We feel as the police force that what we did was a very small effort in preserving order, and we did

[14] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919

our best so far as our abilities and the number we had there permitted us to do. It is a matter of gratification and pride to all of us to know we have the praise and appreciation of the British public in the small efforts we did. I thank you.

The Chairman signed a copy of the magisterial tribute to send to the Commissioner of Police.

The members of Epsom Urban Council at their meeting on Tuesday endorsed the magisterial tribute to the gallant conduct of the police, and passed a resolution of appreciation and praise, copies of which have been forwarded to Inspector Pawley and the Commissioner of Police.

The police services

a public recognition fund

To the Editor of the "Advertiser"[15]

Sir, - The wish has been generally expressed that the signal bravery of the EPSOM police, under circumstances fully reported in the papers last week, should be publicly recognised by opening a fund in Epsom and neighbourhood. The proceeds would be devoted, firstly, to supplementing, if necessary, the provision for the wife and family of Station Sergeant Green, who lost his life in gallant performance of his duty; and secondly, to presenting a memento to each of the police who took part in the fight, not one whom escaped without more or less serious injury. police than in this heroic defence of order against disorder and it is thought that many beyond the immediate neighbourhood would like to join in this tribute of appreciation of fidelity in the face of great personal risk.

In the absence of the Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner (General Horwood) has seen and fully approved this letter. Subscriptions will be gladly received by the treasurer to the fund.

Rosebery. G. Rowland Blades, M.P. for the Epsom Division. Henry B. Longley, Chairman Epsom Urban District Council, Hon. Treasurer.

The widow has been granted £200 from the Canadian Red Cross Fund and a pension of £67 from the Metropolitan Police Fund.

Police complaint[16]

On previous days the Magistrates have dealt with cases arising from street quarrels and have fined both soldiers and civilians. During the hearing of one case Inspector Pawley complained of the military not providing police in the town to keep their soldiers

[15] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919

[16] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919

in order, and an officer from the camp on that occasion said it was not the duty of the camp authorities to do that, although he promised to make representation to the APM (Provost Marshal) in the matter.

Authorities' statement[17]

The Canadian Headquarters Overseas Military Forces of Canada has issued the following statement:- "It has not been possible as yet to ascertain how the occurrence arose, but according to some of the men a Canadian soldier who was walking with his wife was insulted by a gang of civilians. A disturbance arose and several Canadians were placed in the police station. Several Canadians returned to the camp with this news, and a large number of men, resenting this treatment of their comrades, went down to Epsom with the idea of securing the release of the prisoners. The officer of the day having failed to prevent the men leaving the camp went down to the town with them in the hope of averting a disturbance. The officer entered the police station to make inquiries, and as he did not appear for some time the Canadian soldiers, being under the impression that this officer had also been arrested, rushed the police station. After the affair at the police station the men returned in groups to camp and went quietly to bed."

It is understood that a military inquiry will be held and there is a possibility of police court developments. Major Lafone, a Metropolitan Chief Constable, was in the town on Wednesday, and in addition to a large number of extra constables having been drafted to the town several detectives from Scotland Yard were at work in the neighbourhood. On Thursday two Canadian soldiers were detained, but no charge was preferred against them. They were conducted from the camp by two plain clothes officers, and later in the day they were conveyed to Bow Street Police Station.

Closing order rescinded[18]

Since the Canadians returned to Woodcote Park the town has been placed out of bounds to all troops stationed at the camp. Military police were stationed in different parts, and about five hundred picked Canadian troops were drafted to the town to deal with any emergency that might arise. However, the fatal sequel to the riot seems to have had a sobering effect all round, and there have been no further signs of disturbance. Because of the improved conditions the magistrates decided on Thursday morning to rescind the order that had been made the previous day to close all public houses in the district. Inspector Pawey remarking that the police asked for this course to be adopted as the situation was well in hand, and it was not desired to inflict unnecessary hardship on the public. Lord Rosebery drove from the Durdans on Thursday morning to the police station and had a chat with Inspector Pawley concerning the riot.

A Gold watch

[17] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919
[18] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919

A ceremony was held at Epsom Court House to make presentations to the police officers who had taken part in the defence of the police station. The 24 presentations were made by Lord Rosebery. Some of the officers were in mufti having retired from the force since the riot. Lord Rosebery gave each a gold watch or gold chain with medallions inscribed "As a token of public appreciation of the gallant fight by the Epsom Police 17th. June 1919." Inspector Pawley was presented with a clock and his son Harry Pawley with a silver cigarette case given by Sir Roland Blade MP for the help he gave that night. A cheque for £310 was also given for Mrs. Green who was unable to attend because she was in hospital.[19]

Those on duty were awarded a gold watch

PC Rose and Inspector Pawley attending Bow Street

Adjourned Inquest Epsom military riot[20]

Inspector Pawley's dramatic narrative

"Come on! Let's fetch them out!"

Mystery of a telephone message

A dramatic story from the lips of the officer in charge of the gallant defenders of the Epsom Police Station against the brutal attack last week of a body of Canadian soldiers was told by Inspector Charles Pawley at the adjourned inquest at the Court House on Wednesday

[19] http://www.epsommethodistchurch.org.uk/about-us/church-history/130-the-epsom-riots-1919-and-emc.html
[20] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919

afternoon on Station Sergeant Green, aged 51 years, who succumbed the following morning to severe injuries. In command of the police station at the time of the riot the inspector, who has now recovered from 'his wound on the head, described how he was aroused by the "Assembly" being sounded and accompanied by loud shouting and cheering, and. his efforts to reinforce the 'small body of police on night duty before the siege began. The riotous mob armed with all kinds of missiles was quickly there, and nothing was left for him and his brave subordinates but to meet the attack. For one hour they battled valiantly and in total darkness against their wild adversaries, every one of them being injured. After hearing evidence of officers from the camp and other witnesses the Coroner (Mr. Gilbert White) further adjourned the inquest for a fortnight until after the Bow-street Court proceeding against the Canadian soldiers who are charged with the manslaughter of Station-Sergeant Green.

Two Canadians - Frank Harold Wilkie and James Connors - remanded at Bow-street, were present in custody at the resumed inquest, one whose forehead was scarred, wearing hospital blues, and the other being in khaki.

The Epsom Urban Council was represented by Mr. C. M. Kohan, and Col. Guest. Commandant of Woodcote Park Convalescent Camp was present with a number of other Canadian officers. Mr J. Chuter Ede was the foreman of the jury. Evidence of identification, given by S. Kersey at the previous sitting, having been read over, Inspector Pawley was called.

A quiet camp but

He stated that at about 9.45 p.m. on June 17 he was on duty in Ashley-road when he saw P.-s Shuttleworth and P.c. Orchard taking a Canadian soldier to the police station. Several soldiers followed, and outside the station they began to use threatening language, apparently with the desire to effect the release of the prisoner. Another soldier was then arrested for disorderly conduct, and he heard one soldier say “Come on boys, let us go in and fetch them out” (meaning the prisoners). He called the police together and they dispersed the soldiers, who went in the direction of Woodcote Park Camp. All the trouble appeared to be at an end and as things became quite quiet he dismissed his day duty relief. As he was returning to the police station he heard a bugle sounding “Assembly.”

The sound came from the direction of the camp and was accompanied by considerable shouting and yelling. On enquiring from the camp by ‘phone if all was right he was informed by an officer that everything was quiet in the camp, although there was a noisy mob down the road. In view of this witness ‘phoned to the surrounding police stations for assistance, went into Ashley-road, collected his men and waited. Between 11.15 and 11.30 a large crowd of soldiers arrived opposite the police station, many of them were armed with sticks and pieces of wood fencing. They were shouting and yelling. He tried to tell them that an ambulance was on the way from the camp and that on arrival the prisoners would be handed over – that was the regular procedure. It was impossible for him to make himself heard owing to the noise, and Major Ross, an officer from the camp, got in front of his men and did his best to reason

with them. Sticks and stones then began to fly across the station garden. He called his police up and they held back the crowd which attempted to rush the station, preventing them coming on to the station premises for some time. The police – only 12 in number – were subsequently overpowered, and he ordered them to retreat into the station. Except for the cell passage they succeeded in keeping the soldiers outside the premises; several had gained entrance to the cell passage through the side window. All the front windows were smashed out, including the frames, and the front door was beginning to give way owing to it being battered by large stones and pieces of timber.

Sergeant Green suggests charge

Witness was assisting some of his men to hold that part of the building when Station-Sergeant Green came in from the back way and suggested that they should charge the soldiers from the rear of the station. Witness replied, "I don't think we are strong enough but we will try it." In company with Station-Sergeant Green and other officers he rushed round the back of the station and succeeded in clearing them off that part of the premises. Witness received a blow to the head and did not see anything of Station-Sergeant Green after that. The crowd threw stones, brickbats and all kinds of missiles, but they did not make any further attack on the station from the time they were charged. He succeeded in getting into the cell passage, when he found one prisoner had been released, the cell door having been forced open. He unlocked the other cell and let out the other prisoner, who he believed, was taken way by Major Ross. Shortly afterwards the soldiers all cleared away, and he learned for the first time that Sergeant Green had been knocked down and carried across to the house opposite, where witness saw him lying unconscious in the front hall.

By the Coroner – The affair lasted quite an hour. When the charge was made the passage was crowded with Canadians. About eight or nine police took part in the charge, and practically every one was injured. The others were left to guard the windows and door. Sergeant Green was in plain clothes and wearing a soft tweed cap. It was the usual custom when a soldier was brought in to inform the camp immediately, and until recently an ambulance was sent down straightway, but lately that had not been done. During the last few months he believed there had been only four military police, one of whom was a married man living in the town. The whole of the lights were knocked out at the beginning, including the big lamp outside. They were in total darkness the whole time. Witness produced Sergeant Green's cap.

By Divisional Detective-Inspector Ferrier -- To gain access to the cell iron bars had to be removed. They were of substantial nature, the bases being set in stone, and the top being held by a cross bar. They were wrenched out from their stone settings and considerable force must have been used. The lock of the cell door had been forced with a jemmy as one was afterwards found in the passage.

By Mr. Ede – There was no message received from the camp to warn him that a body of men was marching down into the town. Bugles were constantly being blown. On the morning of the raid he spoke to Major Cornwallis- West about the question of military police.

Mr. Kohan – Did the men use their truncheons? Witness – Yes. Did they inflict heavy casualties? – I hope so. Did you see any men fall? – No. They were using proper energy? – It was the only thing to do or go under. I was not going under if I could help it. The blow I received on the head did not knock me out so I kept going.

The two Canadian prisoners had no questions to ask.

Canadian officer's story

Major Ross, late 4th Battalion Canadians, said he was on duty at the camp on the night of the riot. About 10.45 p.m. he heard a noise of rattling of sticks against corrugated iron in the centre of the camp. He saw 50 men there; they were talking loudly and calling out to others in the huts. He ask them the meaning of the disturbance, and someone answered that some of their pals had been detained by the police and that they were going to get them out. He appealed to them to let headquarters look after the matter, and promised their case should be inquired into. By this time the crowd amounted to 150. Unfortunately a number of men would not listen to what he said and this influenced the majority. Finding the men would not listen to reason he went to the station, having notified headquarters of his decision, and arrived there in front of the crowd which had become augmented. They became rowdy and missiles of all descriptions were thrown into the police station garden. He saw Inspector Pawley at the gate, who told him if the men would only discontinue the rioting in a few minutes he would release the prisoners. They managed to get the men quiet long enough to advise them of this decision, and he would go into the station and bring the prisoners out. The men immediately around him agreed to this, but no sooner had he entered the station with the Inspector than a missile was thrown through the front window, followed by several others. As his efforts to quieten the men had failed he found his way out at the back, and after scaling several walls and fences he found himself in South-street. He went through High-street and up to the front of the police station again. By this time considerable damage had been done, and he managed at last to keep the men patient for a few minutes while he went into the station were inspector Pawley handed him over the remaining prisoner. He went back to the men, some of whom appeared to be turning towards the High-street, and told them they had done enough damage for one night and that there were women and children in the town. A couple of minutes afterwards all the men were on their way back to the camp. He returned to the station to see what he could do for the injured. Sergeant Green was lying in the hall of a house opposite and Col. McDermott, Medical Officer, was there.

Witness could not recognise any of the men outside the station. He saw a bugler at the camp, but did not know if he was outside the station.

By Mr. Chuter Ede – He told the men in camp in general, not individually, to desist, and the order was disobeyed. A number of men were the worse for liquor as he told by their actions and he sound of their voices. The undertaking to wait until he fetched the prisoners out of the station was broken by the men at the back, who would rather do dirty work behind than be in front.

An emphatic denial

Mr. Kohan – I put it to you that in the crowd, not controlling but agitating them, there were officers. Witness - That is a distinct falsehood. Mr. Kohan - You deny it? Witness – Absolutely. Major Bird, adjutant at the camp, said that he heard a noise in the camp at 11 o'clock. There was a good deal of loud talking, and as this continued he left his quarters. He was told by some officers that the men had started to go to the town, and he immediately rang up Inspector Pawley and told him that a disorderly number of men had broken out of camp. Witness also rang up the Canadian Headquarters in London and informed them of the disturbance. He also received a message that Col. McDermott had collected a picket and had proceeded down town with an ambulance. Eight or, ten men were brought back by the ambulance and were transferred to hospital. These men, he now understood, were under arrest. No message was received by Major Ross or himself that any men were detained at the police station, nor did his telephone operator tell him he had received a message asking that the prisoners, should be sent for. The police sometimes asked for an escort, and if one could be sent that was done. On June 17th there were 1,500 patients and 700 staff at the camp. Special cases wore hospital blue and others wore khaki with a blue band. On June 14th he wrote to the A.P.M. asking for more military police, and he had previously asked for the public houses to be put out of bounds between 8 and 10 o'clock.

The police submitted the following quotation from their official records :- Telephoned to the camp and informed the orderly room that there were two soldiers in custody and asking for escort to be sent."

Replying to Mr. Kohan witness said there were now 362 armed men at the camp, making total camp strength of 2,100, and he was informed by headquarters that an armed force would be retained as long as was necessary. He never asked for the town to be put out of bounds.

The fatal charge

PS. Greenfield, who was on duty at the police station on the night of the occurrence, said that one of the prisoners was brought in by PS Shuttleworth; the other, for obstructing police by PC Weeding. About 10.45 he rang up the camp and told them the police had two men in custody and asked for an escort to be sent. The person to whom he spoke said “Have you had some trouble?”

Witness replied “Not much,” and the operator said “we have some trouble right here now. Hang on.” Some minutes later the telephone bell rang and Inspector Pawley was asked for and was fetched. Witness understood that that was a message to say all was quiet at the camp. Witness was in charge when Sergeant Green was injured, but did not see him fall. There was a bugle sounded outside the station. The soldiers did not get into the station except through the side window into the cell. He heard men in the crowd threatening to burn down the police station. The charge made by the police was considered to be the only thing that would save

them. They went in line with Sergeant Green on the right, and they drove the soldiers into the road. Witness did not see deceased struck.

The Coroner said it was a question whether the inquest should be adjourned until after the proceedings at Bow-street or whether they shou1d return an open verdict and leave the matter in the hands of the police authorities. He pointed out that they had been no evidence by which they could identify the men who actually struck Sergeant Green.

Dr Thornely, who arrived at the house where Sergeant Green was lying, said his injuries were severe, and witness advised his removal to the infirmary, where he died. The post mortem examination showed that there was a severe contusion over the right eye and minor injuries. Deceased had been struck more than once, there being evidence of one severe blow. There was extensive haemorrhage of the skull and a fracture of the skull which was the cause of death. Some heavy blunt instrument must have been used with considerable force.

The Foreman - Were there any signs of his being kicked?

Witness - No. It is difficult to say how the blows were given.

On this evidence the inquest was adorned for a fortnight until after the police court proceedings at Bow Street.

Epsom: our observatory[21]

The outstanding event in Epsom has been the tragic death and remarkable public funeral of Station Sergeant Green. His death was a lamentable event because it meant a useful life unnecessarily sacrificed. A comparatively few wild spirits, in an endeavour to overcome, the salutary forces which restrain disorder, took the life of a man who was merely doing his duty, and in the act they have degraded their countrymen and stained the honour of their own land. It is possible to judge too harshly in matters of this kind and before judgment is passed on Canadian's as a race it is only fair to look at all the factors which go to make up this tragedy. In the first place it is possible that we Britishers have erred in making too much of the Canadians. We were grateful to them for the manner in which they came to the aid of the Mother Country. We are indebted to them for many a gallant stand, and more than once they helped the Empire out of a very critical and perilous position. In our gratitude we were apt to make the utmost of the work of our Colonials. Over and over again they were extolled while our own lads, whose exploits were just as glorious and. who individually did just as heroic deeds, were given little praise. That was a mistake because it gave to the Colonials an exaggerated idea of their part in the war, and it also left a grievance rankling in the minds of our own soldiers. That may be one of the predisposing causes for the unfriendliness which has been seen between the two sets of men in Epsom and elsewhere.

[21] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919

Again the Canadians and Australians were made much of when they came in our midst to recuperate and rest. The laudation and the friendliness shown had the effect of making some of the men unduly sensible of any slight and quick to resent a grievance, real or imaginary. Perhaps the chief cause of the culminating disturbance was the fact that in the Colonies life is more free of restraint. Many of these men have come from thinly populated areas where a man is very largely his own policeman and where law and order are of a primitive nature. Discipline in their armies is slack and they have found the restraint of camp in Epsom irksome. Coming as they have done into contact with our ordered conditions, under which they have not been able to run riot as they would do at home without interference, their exaggerated ideas of the meaning of the word freedom led to a revolt. When passions were aroused freedom turned to revolt, and the sturdy resistance of the police fed the flames and made the men do what they must now be heartily ashamed of. We do not seek to palliate their offence. They acted as savages and must have lost all sense of fair play: At the same time the Englishman's sense of justice prompts him to look facts squarely in. the face, and there is a disposition already among the thinking population to temper the first hot indignation with which they viewed the riot and its consequences. The event has shown us the difference between the silent discipline of our older civilization and the newer, less apparent moral restraint imposed upon the people in our great colonies. It has shown that our policemen are as ready as ever to protect the public from assault and to do their duty whatever the risks may be. It has also shown the perils of "mob law," a very salutary lesson in these critical times.

Epsom gossip[22]

The explanation advanced by the Canadian military authorities on the deplorable event in Epsom last week was not readily accepted, and the Urban Council has rightly protested, in justice to the inhabitants, against the suggestion that the riot was the outcome of hostility of civilians towards Canadian soldiers.

* * *

The can be no attempt to defend the dastardly attack of the riotous soldiers upon a handful of police, and if there is any manliness left in the individuals who took part in this savage onslaught every one of them must feel utterly ashamed of his cowardly and brutal behaviour.

* * *

During the week I have had the opportunity of talking with some of the constables who were injured, and their narratives, as thrilling as any war stories, fill one with pride and admiration of their gallant conduct throughout the terrific battle.

* * *

[22] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer June 27, 1919

The magnificent funeral of Station-Sergeant Green was a striking tribute not only to the sacrifice which the brave officer made but also to the noble courage of his comrades who survived. Most of them walked in the procession, and bearing marks of their injuries, they were easily singled out by people lining the streets who thought them fine brave fellows.

* * *

The control of certain patients at the Woodcote Park Convalescent Camp has been the subject of correspondence between the Urban Council and the authorities there. The freedom which these soldiers appear to have had troubled the inhabitants, not that they wished them to be imprisoned at the camp, but that, in view of their condition, they should not be allowed in the town.

* * *

The Canadian authorities have replied that the men are under proper control; that they are not allowed to leave the camp, and to enforce this regulation they are dressed in hospital blue clothing, while all other patients are dressed on khaki with a blue band.

* * *

On the face of that letter none of these men should appear in the streets of Epsom until, absolutely cured of their complaint, if only the men that can be trusted not to abuse the efforts of their officers to allay the fears of the townspeople.

* * *

Unfortunately there are ways which they can evade compliance with this regulation without being detected. More than one soldier has found it as easy to hide his hospital blues by a great coat and puttees, as other soldiers have slipped off their blue armlets to gain admission to public houses.

The Epsom riot[23]

A parade at Bow Street; Canadians sent for trial

Charged with riot and manslaughter, eight Canadian soldiers appeared at Bow Street Police Court on Friday:

James Connors 19 private, 13th Canadian Highlanders

Robert Alexander McAllan 45 C.A.M.C

[23] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer July 4, 1919

Allen McMaster; 30, private, 3rd Canadians 26th Battalion, CEF[24]

A1phonse Masse, 27, C.A.M.C

Gervase Porier, 24 C.A.M.C

Herbert Tait, 29, gunner, 11th Division Canadians

Frank Harold Wilkie, 21, private, 102nd Battalion Canadians

David Verex, 32, Private, Canadian Forestry Corps

Sir Richard Muir, who prosecuted, told Sir John Dickinson, the magistrate, the story of the Epsom riot and the death of Sergeant Green. He said Connors was not in camp at roll call on the night in question, but at 1.30 the next morning the sergeant in charge of his hut heard him shouting that he had been mixed up in a row and that he had "chucked a policeman over the hedge." The next morning it was noticed that he had, blood on the back of his tunic. McAllan was a camp po1iceman. He reported for duty at 11.30 p.m. on June 17th, and had no business to leave the camp afterwards but at 12.30 he was seen with his head injured. When arrested he said he was in the crowd at Epsom and was struck on the back of the head by someone.

McMaster was in his hut at "Lights Out," but on the following morning he was reported absent and was afterwards found to have been injured. On his arrest he professed to be unable to account for his injuries, but said all he wanted was fair play and that they were not the ringleaders.

[24] http://www.cefresearch.ca/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=4893

Masse, who was also wounded in the head, would be shown to have been in bed at roll call, but his statement was as follows: - "I know nothing about it. I was coming from the train. There was a crowd. I was there about two minutes. I said to myself, 'It is dangerous here. I had better go.' Just then I received a blow on the head and fel1."

With regard to Porier there was some difficulty about proving his presence in camp overnight, but the next day he was found to be injured and he said he was hit in the dark at Epsom. He complained that it was only those who where hit who had been arrested and that it was not fair because there were others. "It must be admitted," said counsel, "that it is only those who have been hit who have been taken, but that is a grievance which the prosecution are not in a position to remove. The prosecution can only act upon evidence, and the evidence of obviously recent injuries to the head immediately after the riot is, in our submission, evidence that these men took part in the riot. There they are like so many marked sixpences, with the evidence clearly impressed upon them."

Going on to deal with the remaining prisoners Sir Richard said Tait had injuries to his head and his story was that he was returning to camp after a visit to London when he was struck close to the park. Wilkie had a nasty cut over the eye and his statement was as follows:- "I was in front of the police station at Epsom when I was hit – I believe with a sharp stone. As soon as I was hit I went back to camp. That is all I done."

Verex admitted that he received his injuries on the Tuesday night when he was in the crowd at Epsom. Evidence was given by Major Sandys Bird, Major James Ross, Inspector Pawley, Regimental Sergeant Major Parsons and Sergeant Dower, of the Canadian Engineers, who said that when he heard Connors say he had thrown a policeman over the hedge he looked· at the man and did not think he was capable of doing it. (Laughter)

On Saturday, when the hearing was resumed, Mr. Abinger, who defended, said that all the defendants pleaded "Not Guilty." but they would reserve their defence, expect in the cases of Porier and Tait. Porier, in evidence, said he heard a bugle blown and followed a crowd of soldiers going "down town," thinking that there was a fire. He took no part in the attack on the police station. The injury to his head was caused by a brick thrown by a soldier in Rosebery Park. Tait said that he had been to Olympia and returned by a late train. On his way to camp he came across a big crowd of soldiers. When in the thickest part of the crowd he was struck down and became dazed. He knew nothing about the attack. Porier and Tait were discharged, and the other defendants were committed for trial on charges of manslaughter, malicious damage and riot.

The inquest: bugler sent for and arrested. Jury's searching questions[25]

There was a dramatic conclusion to the resumed inquest on Monday on Station-Sergeant Tomas Green, who succumbed to severe injuries received during the attack on Epsom Police

[25] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer July 4, 1919

Station on June 17th. At the request of the jury, the bugler, Robert Todd, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the bugle calls at the camp and along the road, was sent for, and, although he said he could give no evidence, the jury, after nearly an hour's deliberation returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against him and the six Canadian soldiers - Ptes. McMaster, Wilkie, Masse, McAllan, Connors and Verex - who were committed for trial from Bow Street on Saturday. He was accordingly arrested by the civil police and committed for trial on the Coroner's inquisition.

The inquest at the previous sitting was adjourned for a fortnight, and the Coroner (Mr. Gilbert White) explained to the jury the reason they were summoned again before that time was that it was necessary to conclude the inquiry before the accused stood their trial at the Assizes. Mr. G. D. Young represented the Epsom Urban Council, and those who watched the proceedings included Messrs. W. Dorset, H. Willcock-Pollen and E. B. Jay.

Major P. Bird, adjutant at the camp; recalled, said he was at Bow-street Police Court proceedings on the previous Friday when he saw the prisoners, all of whom belonged to the camp, two of them being staff men. Their medical documents showed that none of the men had, any injuries whilst at the camp prior to June 17th.

By the Jury-The bugler was not among the prisoners, and was detained in camp pending inquiries. Mr. Ede - Could he be got here this afternoon? Major Bird - Yes. I will send for, him. Mr. Ede - Are these six men the only men who the authorities know were in this riot? - Yes. How many do the authorities compute were outside the station that evening? - Roughly speaking 'between 300 and 400 left the camp and some of those returned to camp without having gone as far as the police station. There were considerably more than six? - Yes.

PC Rose, a new witness, said that at 11.5 p.m. on June 17th he was summoned from his house to parade for duty at once at the police station. On the way to the station he heard a lot of shouting and cheering and the sounding of a bugle coming from the direction of Woodcote Camp. On his arrival at the station at 11.20 p.m. there was a large crowd of soldiers approaching from the direction of the camp. When they arrived outside the station witness noticed the majority were armed with sticks, railings and posts, and they were demanding the release of two prisoners detained in the station. Inspector Pawley endeavoured to quiet them, but they would not listen to him and commenced to throw stones and pieces of timber. He did not see any Canadian officer among them. The police managed to keep them outside the station for about 20 minutes when the side doors gave way under the pressure of the crowd outside. A determined attack was then made on the station, and the police were ordered inside by Inspector Pawley.

The fatal blow[26]

At midnight the police charged, and Station-sergeant Green was standing on witness's right side when a rush was made in which Sergeant Green was struck across the forehead by a soldier with a large piece of wood resembling a post. He fell to the ground. Witness was surrounded and had to fight his way back to the corner of the station. He reported this to Inspector Pawley. On June 19th he attended a parade at Woodcote Park Camp and identified prisoner Connors as being in front of the crowd near the spot where Sergeant Green was struck down. Connors was armed with a long railing.

By the Jury - The crowd was entirely composed of soldiers in khaki and blue. Witness did not see any civilian there.

Mr. Ede - Can you identify the man who struck the blow which knocked Sergeant Green down? Witness - I did identify the man who to the best of my belief was the man, but owing to the weight of evidence there was no charge against him.

James Parsons, regimental sergeant-major of the C.A.M.C. at Woodcote, who was aroused by several bugle calls at the camp on the night of June 17th, said he left his quarters and steps were taken to stop the men leaving the camp, but they were of no avail. He went to the police station with Major Ross, who endeavoured to reason with the men, who were armed with sticks, stones, and other missiles, which they began to throw. When witness appealed the crowd the men immediately in front of him stopped, but when he got to the police station door stones were thrown again. When the prisoners were released the crowd was quite willing to return to camp. He saw the bugler at different times on the road down, but he did, not see him outside the station. He could not say whether he sounded the bugle on the way to the station. He had the bugle with him. The man Connors he identified was in Ashley-road, but he did not see him on the station premises. He also recognised McAllan, who was behind witness, but he could not say if he took any part in the affair. Connors had no cap on, and so far as witness could see neither he nor McAllan had anything in their hands. McAllan was a staff man and the other was a patient, the former having been at the camp for about two years.

By the Jury - It was strictly against orders for any man in blue to be out of camp without a pass. He estimated the crowd as between 300 and. 400. Witness had been at the camp three years.

Bugler's appearance[27]

By Detective Inspector Ferrier: On the way down some of the men pulled up fences. Major Ross gave instructions for the order to be passed to the bugler to desist blowing. A piece of brick knocked off witness's cap. The bugler in questioned arrived from the camp and went

[26] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer July 4, 1919

[27] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer July 4, 1919

into the witness box. He was cautioned by the Coroner that his name had been mentioned in connection with the riot, and although he was not bound to give evidence then, whatever he might say would be given in evidence against him if occasion arose.

The Coroner - Do you desire to give evidence? The Bugler: I have no evidence to give. The Coroner: Very well. I'll take that as no evidence. Divisional Detective Inspector Ferrier having repeated his evidence given at Bow-street.

The Coroner told the jury that was the extent of the evidence he proposed to call.

Mr. Ede expressed the jury desire to hear reliable evidence from a medical officer at camp that no man was medically treated at the camp after the riot other than those in custody.

Inspector-Ferrier replied that he had gone fully into the matter, having been working night and day, and as far as he could ascertain those were the only persons who were injured in the riot. He could find no persons other than PC Rose and RSM Parsons who could identify a single man present during the riot.

Summing up[28]

In his summing up the Coroner, having expressed deep sympathy upon the efficient conduct of the police during the riot, reviewed the evidence and said that it struck him that the motor fire engine would have been an excellent thing to have used to disperse the crowd. A surprising fact was that there were only four military police in the town, but Major Cornwallis was approached in the matter, although it was too late now as the camp, he understood, was to be removed. One question before the jury was "Is this a riot within the meaning of the Act?" If so all the men concerned were responsible. If the man who actually struck the blow which killed Sergeant Green had been identified he (the Coroner) would have advised them to return a verdict of "Wilful murder." No doubt the men were working for one end, namely, the release of two prisoners detained there, and if one had committed manslaughter all those who participated in the affair were guilty of manslaughter as well as the man who actually struck the fatal blow. Therefore, if they agreed that these six men, who were in arrest, took part in the riot, his instruction to them was that they were guilty of manslaughter. The bugle was sounded, but while there was no evidence that Todd was present at the time, it was for the jury to consider how far he anticipated the riot. There were no marks on him.

Verdict[29]

The jury retired, and on returning after fifty minutes the foreman said they were agreed that the death of Station-Sergeant Green was caused by a blow or blows on the head received while on duly during the riot at the police station in Ashley-road, Epsom, on the night of June

[28] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer July 4, 1919
[29] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer July 4, 1919

17th and 18th. The six Canadian soldiers committed for trial at Bow-street Police Court and the bugler Todd participated in that riot with others of the Canadian forces unknown, all of whom they found, guilty of manslaughter. They were of opinion that the police acted with discretion and great valour during the whole of the proceedings. They were further of opinion that the management of the inquires by

Divisional Detective Inspector Ferrier was worthy of commendation. They also desired to express their deepest sympathy with the invalid widow and daughters of the deceased officer, whose ready response in plain clothes to the call of duty deprived him in some measure of protection from such an attack as was made, and added to the high tradition of the force to which he belonged.

Todd, who is 20 years of age, was warned by the Coroner that he would have to take his trial with the other men at the Assizes, and was taken into custody by the civil police.

The jury's fees were given to deceased's 'wife and family.

Riot Damages Act is on the Agenda

Inspector Pawley wrote a statement some weeks after the affair covering the facts for what was probably a claim under Riot Damages against the police.

Inspector Pawley's statement:

Epsom Station

V [Wandsworth] Division

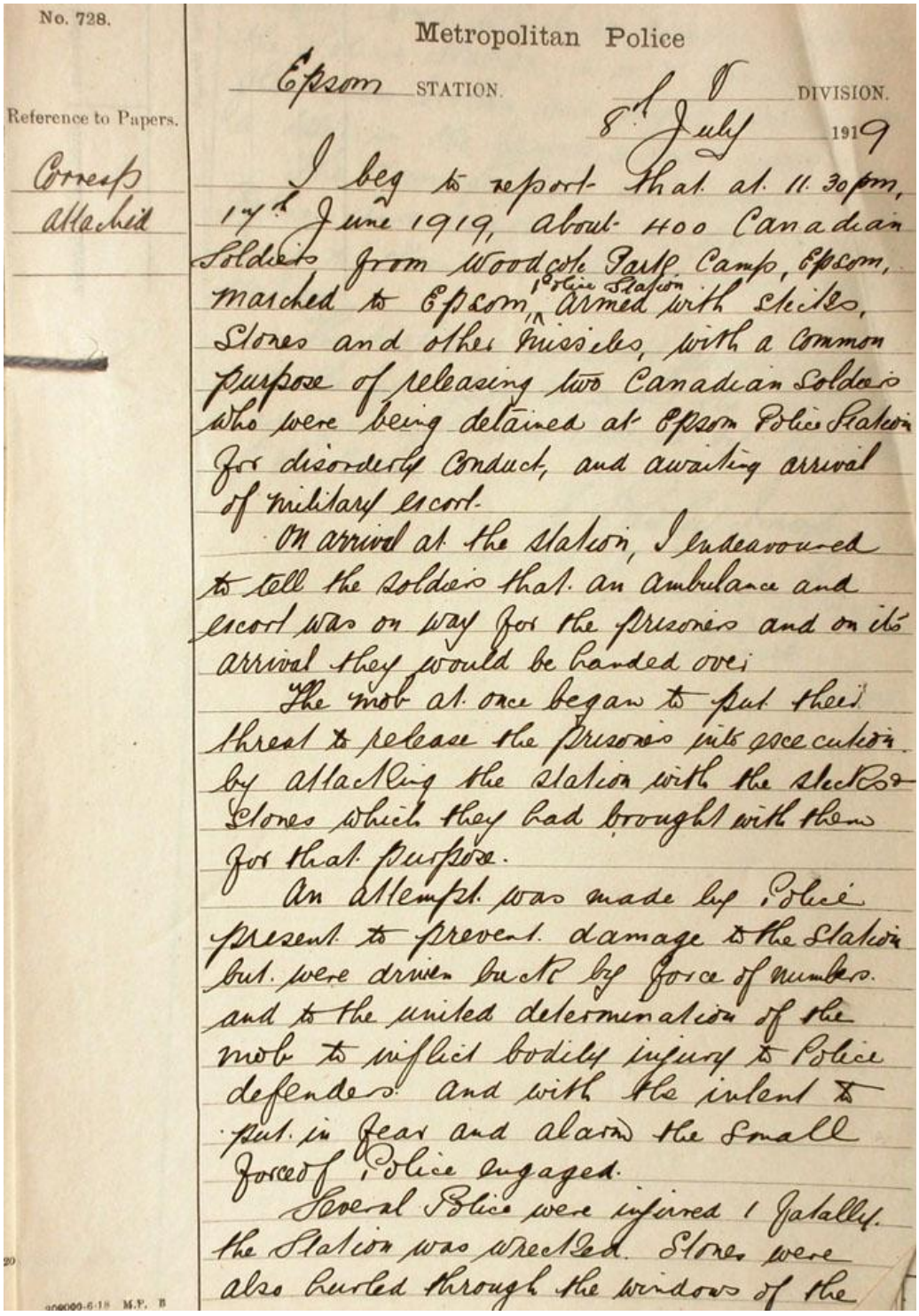
8 July 1919

I beg to report that at 11.30pm, 17th June 1919, about 400 Canadian soldiers from Woodcote Park Camp, Epsom, marched to Epsom Police Station, armed with sticks, stones and other missiles, with a common purpose of releasing two Canadian soldiers who were being detained at Epsom Police Station for disorderly conduct, and awaiting arrival of military escort.

On arrival at the station, I endeavoured to tell the soldiers that an ambulance and escort was on way for the prisoners and on its arrival they would be handed over.

The mob at once began to put their threat to release the prisoners into execution by attacking the station with the sticks & stones which they had brought with them for that purpose.

An attempt was made by Police present to prevent damage to the station but were driven back by force of numbers and to the united determination of the mob to inflict bodily injury to



No. 728.

Reference to Papers.

Corresp attached

Metropolitan Police

Epsom STATION. L DIVISION.

8th July 1919

I beg to report that at 11.30pm, 17th June 1919, about 400 Canadian Soldiers from Woodcote Park Camp, Epsom, marched to Epsom Police Station armed with sticks, Stones and other missiles, with a common purpose of releasing two Canadian Soldiers who were being detained at Epsom Police Station for disorderly Conduct, and awaiting arrival of military escort.

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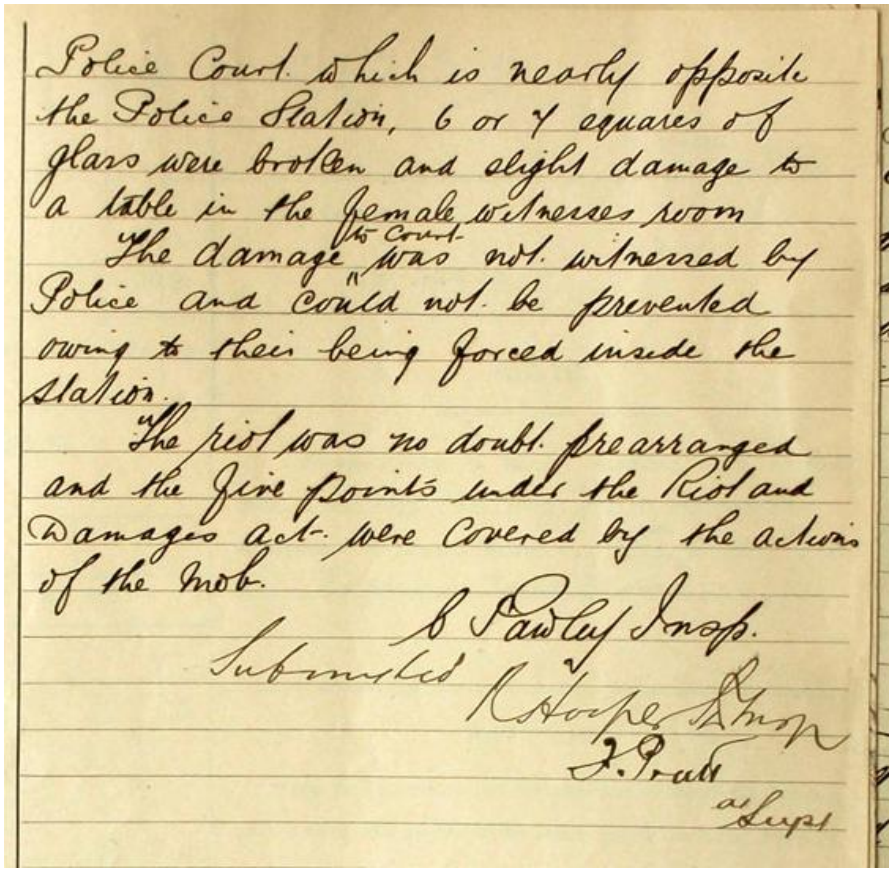
The mob at once began to put their threat to release the prisoners into execution by attacking the Station with the sticks & Stones which they had brought with them for that purpose.

An attempt was made by Police present to prevent damage to the Station but were driven back by force of numbers and to the united determination of the mob to inflict bodily injury to Police defenders and with the intent to put in fear and alarm the small force of Police engaged.

Several Police were injured & fatally. the Station was wrecked. Stones were also hurled through the windows of the



Police defenders and with the intent to put in fear and alarm the small force of Police engaged.

Several Police were injured 1 fatally, the station was wrecked. Stones were also hurled through the windows of the

[page 2]

Police Court which is nearly opposite the Police Station, 6 or 7 squares of glass were broken and slight damage to a table in the female witness room.

The damage to the Court was not witnessed by Police and could not be prevented owing to their being forced inside the station.

The riot was no doubt prearranged and the five points under the Riot and Damages Act were covered by the action of the mob.

C. Pawley Insp

Submitted R Hooper S.D. Insp

J Pratt as Sup[30]

The Epsom riot seven Canadians at the Assizes[31]

Five prisoners sentenced – two discharged. “A position of great difficulty”

Mr. Justice Darling sat specially at Guildford on Tuesday and Wednesday to hear the charge against the seven Canadian soldiers committed for trial in connection with the riot and attack on the Police Station at Epsom at about 11 o’clock on June 17th, when Station Sergeant Green was so badly injured that he died the following day. The accused men were Robert Alexandra MacAllan (45), Allan McMaster (30), A1phonse Masse (27), Frank Harold Wilkie (2l), David Yerex (32), and Robert Todd (19), all of the Canadian Army. They were all charged with the manslaughter of Station Sergeant Green and, with the exception of Todd, who was committed for trial on the Coroner's warrant, they were further charged with riotous assembling with others to disturb the peace with doing damage to property.

Sir Ernest Wild, KC. Mr. Cecil Whiteley and Mr. R E. Otter prosecuted; Mr. Harold Benjamin defended Connors and McAllan, and Mr. Bernard Abinger defended the other prisoners, all of whom pleaded not guilty.

Case opened

Sir Ernest Wild, KC., in opening the case for the prosecution, told the jury that prisoners were charged with three offences, viz., ' manslaughter, riotous damage and rioting. The charge of manslaughter concerned Station Sergeant Thomas Green, of the Metropolitan Police Force, who had been stationed at Epsom for eight years, was 51 years of age, and, therefore, in the prime of life. On the evening of the evening of June 17th the Epsom Police had occasion to arrest two Canadian soldiers. The practice was to detain such soldiers till a military escort arrived from the camp. A number of Canadian soldiers used threats against the police for not liberating their two comrades, but they were dispersed and returned to the camp and spread the news among their comrades. Shortly before 10 o’clock considerable noise was heard in the direction of the camp and Major Ross, coming across a party of about 50, asked them what was the trouble and they replied, "Two of our pals have been detained by the civil police.”

His Lordship asked if either of the prisoners were present when the statement was made. Sir Ernest Wild replied in the negative, but that he was entitled to use it to show how the riot commenced.

His Lordship did not think so. Riot cases were like conspiracy cases - easy enough to go on with but difficult to commence. Continuing, Sir Ernest said the result was that the bugle was

[30] http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/history-from-police-archives/Met6Kt/PublicOrder/poAlyKnd.html
[31] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer July 25, 1919

sounded and nearly 300 men left the camp for the Police Station. There was considerable shouting and it was evident their object was to release the two men in custody.

Inspector Pawley, who acted with considerable courage and discretion, went out into the yard, held up his hand and told the men that an ambulance was on the way from the camp and the prisoners would be released. This did not satisfy the men, who armed themselves with sticks and fencing. The police had held them at bay for about a quarter of an hour and then the rails in front were torn down. Inspector Pawley withdrew his men to the station and locked the door, which was eventually forced. It was not till the station was in danger of falling absolutely into the hands of the rioters that Inspector Pawley ordered a baton charge. Although there were only 24 of them they managed to drive the soldiers back into the street. Inspector Pawley was struck on the head and one witness would tell them that Green was seen to be knocked down by a heavy post which at one stage of the assault was seen to be in the hands of the prisoner Connors. Meanwhile the door at one of the cells had been forced and a prisoner was released, and then Inspector Pawley took Major Ross, who had been doing all he could to prevent the riot, into the station and released the other prisoner. The bugle then sounded "the retreat," and the men marched back to camp. Some soldiers took Sergeant Green to the house of Mr. Polhill close by and did all they could for him. He was seen by a doctor and removed to the hospital, where he died the following day from the effects of a severe injury to the left eye and an extensive fracture of the skull. Counsel dealt with the evidence which would implicate each man in the dock, and submitted that the legal position was this: the prosecution said there was a riot and all the men took part in it. They had to prove five things:

(1) That there were not less than three men present and there were in fact about 300;

(2) a common purpose must be clearly proved, it was the liberation of two soldiers;

(3) that the common purpose was attempted or executed;

(4) that men helped one another, by force if necessary, against anyone who opposed them in the execution of their common purpose;

(5) that such force was used as to cause alarm to at least one person of reasonable firmness.

The evidence

PC Thomas Moore produced plans of the Police Station and PC McKenzie produced a plan of the district showing the camp and the Police Station. The distance between the station and Farm Camp Gate was 1 mile 544 yards. PC McBride put in a number of photographs showing the condition of the Police Station and the surrounding property after the riot. Inspector Pawley said he was at Epsom Police Station about 9 o'clock on the evening of June 17th, when two private Canadian soldiers were brought in and charged with being drunk and disorderly.

The camp authorities were communicated with so that an escort could be sent. About a dozen soldiers were outside and used threatening language, and after going towards the town they returned to the station and had to be moved off by force. A little later he heard cheering in the direction of the camp. The noise grew nearer and eventually a crowd of about 400 men appeared outside the station. They were practically all armed with sticks, palings, etc., and amidst the shouting he heard someone say, "We are going to get those soldiers out." Mr. Abinger objected unless the prosecution proved first of all that his clients were actually present.

His Lordship said statements made by the mob were evidence of riot, though they did not necessarily implicate any particular individual. Mr. Abinger remarked that he raised the point as his defence was that his clients were not present".

Mr. Benjamin said that would be his defence. Continuing, witness said he went out and shouted to the men, "An ambulance is coming from the camp and on its arrival I shall release the two men."

Samples of palings, posts, bars, etc., used in the assault were then produced, and Inspector Pawley went on to say that the police held the station for about one hour, and during the whole of the time the soldiers were trying to break in. Statements to the effect that they would burn the place down if they could get in were made by the soldiers, and the quantity of wood and paper thrown inside gave colour to the threat. The station was held for about one hour and then the panels of the front door gave way. He and Sergeant Green led the charge from the back of the station. Did any police, from first to last, leave the precincts of the station? - No. His Lordship - You mean they never left the station yard? "No, my lord". Sir Ernest Wild - And they never went into the road? - No. And any damage done by the police was done in the garden at the police station?

His Lordship – What you mean is this: If anyone was hit by the police he was hit while on the police premises? - That is so. Proceeding witness said the truncheons were used pretty freely, and the soldiers fought with all kinds of weapons. Seeing that the police were overpowered he ordered his men back to the police station. When did you last see Green? - Just before I was struck. After that I lost sight of him. After the riot had subsided I went to the house opposite and saw him in a unconscious condition. He was taken to the Infirmary and died the next day. Answering further questions witness stated that the following morning he found several of the fences on the way to the camp pulled up. The police station was practically wrecked.

Cross-examined by Mr. Abinger - There could have been about 200 in the garden at the time of the assault, though as the door was shut he could not say how many there were. Why didn't you succeed in getting hold of one or two of the Soldiers in the garden? It would have been easy to have opened the door and pulled one or two of them inside. – What, with a murderous attack on and 300 against 12. It would have been very foolish. I suppose they had run amok? - They had murder in their hearts.

Mr. Abinger assured Inspector Pawley that his questions were not intended to cast any reflection on the courage shown by the police. He had the greatest admiration for their conduct right the way through.

Major Bird, of the Canadian Army, said he heard the bugle blown at the camp at about 10 o'clock and heard it being blown further down the road. Between 300 and 400 men left camp.

Mr. Abinger - Why were not the gates shut so as to keep the men in camp? - Because one side or the camp is abso1utely open. His Lordship - We are not holding an inquiry into the culpability of those in charge of the camp or as to how the camp is conducted. Mr. Abinger - If the men heard the bugle sound the general assembly they would fall in? – It would be their duty to do so as quickly as possible. Witness added that the camp had been disbanded as a result of the riot.

The Judge and Major Ross: Major Ross, who was orderly officer at the camp on the night in question, deposed that on hearing the bugle sound he went to where the men were assembling and asked a party of about 50 what the trouble was about. Having received an answer he addressed them. He knew the prisoner Todd as bugler at the camp, and he was among them. Witness gave instructions that the bugle was not to be blown again and tried to persuade the men not to go to Epsom but without success. At the station he again addressed the men, and, seeing Mr. Pawley, agreed with him that the best course to adopt was to release the two prisoners. On going to one of the cells the door was found to have been wrenched open and the iron bars at the window pulled down. The other prisoner was handed over to him.

Before Major Ross left the witness box the Judge told him there was not the slightest suggestion that he did not behave extremely well and did other than his very best to stop the riot. Regimental Sergeant Major Parsons said he was present when the police station was attacked and saw Connors and McAllen. He heard such remarks as "Let us get them out." He noticed Connor had no cap on. Cross-examined by Mr. Benjamin - He was trying to stop the men and noticed Connors looking on as interested in the proceedings. Witness was positive McAllan was also there though he did not see him do anything. Missiles were flying in all directions, and it was possible for anyone to get hit.

Cross-examined by Mr. Abinger – He gave no orders to Bugler Todd to blow his bugle. Any non-commissioned officer could give orders for it to be blown, but he could not say who gave Todd the orders on the evening in question.

Re-examined – Neither Connors nor McAllen were doing anything to stop the rioting.

Attempt to fire the station

PC Rose deposed that he took part in the baton charge and was close to Green. One soldier said, "Let's burn it down now," and the crowd answered, "Yes, that's it." A considerable quantity of wood and lighted paper was thrown through the window into the charge room, and it was then that Inspector Pawley decided to charge. Green was on his right and he saw

him knocked on the head with a piece of wood resembling a post. On the following day he went to Woodcote Camp and saw a number of men paraded. He picked out Connors as one who was armed with a wooden railing and close to witness and Sergeant Green. He would not say that Connors struck Green, though he was using his weapon to the best of his ability. Only four police officers succeeded in reaching the gate, all the others having been too badly injured to persist in the charge. By Mr. Benjamin - There was a number of men trying to strike Sergeant Green. He was looking at Connors for about half a minute and was sure he was there. He also identified a man named Lloyd, whose explanation that he was somewhere else at the time was accepted by the prosecution.

Charles Polhill, butcher, living in Ashley-road, opposite the police station, stated that he was standing at his front garden gate about 11.15 on the evening in question and heard the bugle sound at the camp. Shortly afterwards about 500 Canadian soldiers came by. One of them said, "Here we are, boys." They immediately began to pull up the fence in front of the station and with the railings and bricks attacked the police station. At about a quarter to twelve there was a rush back and several of the soldiers jumped over his fence into his garden. A little later six Canadian soldiers brought Sergeant Green to the house.

Dr Thornley said he saw Green in the house of the last witness, where he was lying in the front hall in an unconscious condition. He died the next day and a post-mortem examination showed an extensive fracture of the skull, and if was that blow which caused death. The injury could have been caused by one of the pieces of wood produced.

Sergeant Kersey, Coroner's Officer, gave formal evidence of identification of the body of Green.

Sergeant Dowers of the Canadian Army in charge of Hut 83, said he could swear Connors was not in before 11 o'clock. Witness was woke up about 1.30 by Connors entering the hut. He appeared to be very excited, saying he lost his cap in the struggle down the town and that he threw a policeman over the hedge. The man also said he had some ribs broken. There was blood on his tunic, which he explained was the outcome of the struggle.

By Mr. Benjamin - It was a sort of a muddle up what he was saying, and witness did not take much notice. You thought he was talking a lot of rot? – Yes. By his Lordship- He certainly thought the stains on the tunic were blood stains. He was certain of the words he used. Are you sure Connors did not say something about having hit a policeman over the head? – I took it that he said "over the hedge."

Corporal Edwards deposed that McAllan was in the camp police and had no right to leave the camp. He had no bandage on his head at 11.30, but when witness saw him in the guard room at 12.30 there was a bandage round his head and he said he did not feel like doing duty.

By Mr. Benjamin – It was some time after the bugle blew and the men had left the camp that McAllan reported for duty at 11.30.

By his Lordship – Witness knew there was - something up, but he did not ask McAllan to account for the bandage round his head. Why not? - It was not my business. Corporal. Newman, who was in charge of the hut in which McMaster slept, said there was a roll call at 9.30 and McMaster was then present. He went to bed, but was missing next morning.

Sergeant Nunn said Massey was in his hut, but he did not see him on the night of the 17th of June. On the morning of the 18th he saw him and noticed a bandage round his head which was not there the previous day when witness saw him. Capt. Mills, of the C.A.M.C., said he dressed Massey's wound in the morning and asked him what struck him. His re1ply was, "I don't know. I was knocked out" On being asked if he was sufficiently near the front to have been struck by a policeman he said he did not know. Another Canadian soldier deposed to seeing Massey after the raid on the station and saw blood on his face and his handkerchief up to his forehead.

Private W. Rowe proved that Wilkie had a head wound on the morning of the 18th which he had not on the previous evening. By Mr. Abinger - He heard the bugle sound the "Fall in." Then why didn't you fall in? – Convalescents are not supposed to fall in at that time of the night. His Lordship - You are confusing the "Fall in" with the "Turn in," Mr Abinger. (Laughter)

Private Cowley gave similar evidence with regard to Wilkie and like the previous witness said he did not make any inquiries about the wounds and bandages. Wilkie was a brave soldier and well behaved. His Lordship – Why didn't you ask him how it all happened? – Well I was only in charge of the hut. But didn't you ask him how it was he became injured?- No, I thought perhaps he had hurt himself in a game. What in the middle of the night? - No. What did you think? – I thought he might, have hurt himself playing leap-frog or something. Yes or marbles. (Laughter) private Carrol1 spoke of' Yerex "contracting" injuries during the night of June 17th, and on being asked why he did not go down to Epsom that evening replied, "I was asleep." Further evidence was called to the effect that the accused men arrived back in camp in the early morning of the 18th ult. suffering from wounds in the head.

Detective Ferrier gave evidence of arrest and produced the statements made by prisoners at the time they were taken into custody. So far as he could ascertain only nine men were wounded and six were in the dock. By Mr. Abinger – So far as he could say there was no roll call at the camp that night, though one would have been very helpful. His Lordship remarked that after the evidence of Major Rose he did not think a roll call would gave served any useful purpose.

Mr. Abinger – thought if the men had been placed on their honour and asked if they were in the unlawful assembly the guilty ones would have said "Yes." He had known that done at Court Martia1s. His Lordship - I have known people not only on their honour but on oath who have not told the truth.

Mr. Abinger- Yes, no doubt you would, sitting as a judge. His Lordship - And you have been in court at the time, Mr. Abinger. (Laughter)

This concluded the case for the prosecution. Mr. Benjamin submitted there was no case against McAllan to go to the jury as it had been proved that he was in camp after the other men had left and reported to his corporal at 11.30.

His Lordship - If he joined in the assembly or mob that is sufficient. It is not necessary to prove that he joined it at the commencement. There are those, you know, who labour in the vineyard during the last hour and receive the same award as those who have toiled all day.

Mr. Benjamin - There is no evidence that he took part in the riot and there is only one witness who saw him near the police station. Mr. Abinger also submitted there was no case against his clients to go before the jury. Not a single witness had sworn that either of them struck Station Sergeant Green, and the only evidence before the court was that the men received injuries, and the Magistrate at Bow-street discharged two men who received injuries without going anywhere near the police station.

His Lordship said the law being what it was he would not be justified in withdrawing the case from the jury on either of the counts in the indictment.

The court then adjourned.

Wednesday's proceedings

Prisoners give evidence

When the court resumed on Wednesday Mr. Benjamin immediately put Connors in the box. In reply to counsel he said he enlisted in the Canadian Army when he was 16 years of age - he was now 19 years - and. proceeded to France, where he was wounded. On Tuesday, June l7th, he had leave till 11 p.m. and left the camp at 7.30, going to Epsom and commencing the return journey between 10.15 and 10.30. He was sitting on a bench by the Ladas Hotel smoking a cigarette when he heard cheering and then about 150 or 200 soldiers passed him. He followed the crowd for curiosity's sake and stopped outside the station for about 10 minutes, and during that time nothing particular happened, only a good deal of shouting . After that he went home. At no time during the evening did he handle a wooden post or use one, and he had no knowledge of the fact that two Canadian soldiers had been taken into custody.

Cross-examined - For about three-quarters of an hour - till 10 o'clock - he was with a girl who lived near Horton Asylum, and whom he only knew as "Lil" After leaving her he went back to the town, waited at a street corner for a few minutes, commenced the homeward journey, and it was while sitting on the bench near the Ladas Hotel that the soldiers passed him. On arriving at the police station he took up a position about 8 or 10 feet from the gate, and it was

while he was there that he was seen by Sergeant Major Parsons. He made no inquiries as to what the row was about.

His Lordship - What did you think it was all about? - I could not say. Did you think it was a prayer meeting? (Laughter) What did you think all those men were there for? –A little jollification, I suppose. In reply to further questions by Sir Ernest Wild, Connors denied saying he lost has cap in the struggle down the town or that PC Rose saw him with a post in his hand. McAllan gave evidence, saying he was attached to the Military Police and reported for duty at 11.30. He was not supposed to leave the camp, but thought he would go down the town to see what the matter was. When at the station he asked an officer what was the matter and the reply was, "There are two men in there and they are going to get them out." Thinking "this was no place for me" he went back to camp, and on the way was struck by a stone on the back of the head. Cross-examined - He had his police badge on at the time and went down to the station in the execution of his duty. He saw no sticks being used and the crowd was fairly orderly. Just as he was turning from the station he was hit with a stone. He was not there more than two minutes.

MacMasters, who saw considerable service in France, said he went to bed at about 9.30 on the evening in question and got up again on hearing what he took to be the first part of the fire call. In company with about 15 other men he went down the town, but at no time was he near the police station where the officer was killed. He never armed himself at all, and neither saw nor struck a policeman. On the way home he received a blow on the side of the head which rendered him insensible. It was an unprovoked assault. Re-examined - To have been hit with a truncheon he must have been in the police garden and he had never been anywhere near the police station.

Massey said he had been to Dorking on June 17th and returned to camp, reporting at the guard room at about 11 o'clock. Just then a crowd of men were leaving the camp and he followed them to the police station. After being there a few minutes a considerable quantity of stones and bricks began to fly about, and saying to himself, "This is dangerous," he turned round to go home. Before he had gone far he was struck by a brick. The crowd was excited.

By his Lordship - He did not see any of the soldiers with sticks or posts, neither did he see

Sergeant Green struck. Wilkie's evidence was to the effect that he was asleep when the commotion started and the bugle sounded. He dressed and joined the procession, but had no idea of rescuing two Canadian soldiers from the custody of the police, and when he entered the police station yard it was only for the purpose of seeing what the other soldiers were going to do. He only saw one policeman, and he was talking to Major Ross. On his oath he never struck a police officer or had a weapon in his hand. The wound on the forehead was not caused by a truncheon. Cross-examined – He did not know what the sticks and other things were for. Some of the men were excited, but he wasn't. His Lordship – You have been in France and seen some fighting? – Yes. When you saw guns and swords being brandished about what did you think they were for? – For fighting purposes. And when you saw sticks,

posts and iron bars being brandished what did you think those were for? - For breaking things up. Sir Ernest Wild: For breaking up the police station? I do not know about that.

Yerex stated that he was awakened by the disturbance in the camp and the sounding of the "fall in" and dressed. On reaching a crowd of other men he could not obtain any explanation and was about to go back to bed when someone told him he had better stay with the boys. He did so and marched off, but his eyesight being so bad he could not see where he was going to and did not realise he was in Epsom close to the police station. He turned round to head for home when he received three blows on the back of the head. Cross-examined - He did not know where the police station was. Sir Ernest Wild - Did you see it? - No. And although you have been in Epsom some time you do not know where the police station is? His Lordship - A great many respectable people do not know where the police station is. (Laughter)

The bugler's story

Bugler Todd a diminutive soldier born in Dublin and an old Dr. Barnardo boy, who emigrated to Canada said a threatening mob shouted to him to blow the bugle and he thought he had better blow it. He did not blow the bugle of his own free will. The men went round to the huts calling out the other soldiers, saying they were going down to the police station to rescue two comrades. Major Ross tried to quieten the men but failed, and then consented to go at the head of the men to see if he could get the two men handed over. On hearing that the Major Ross was going to Epsom he thought he would go and take his bugle in case he was wanted. After describing what took place at the police station he said the two men were released and he then heard others saying they were going to raid the town. On hearing that, he found Major Ross who said: "For God's sake blow something on the bugle to head the men towards camp." He blew the "Fall in" twice and headed towards camp with a large mob behind him. Sir Ernest Wild, in reviewing the evidence for the prosecution, said there was no doubt that Todd was bullied into blowing the bugle, and it might be added that he told more truth in the witness box than the other six men put together. Everyone must regret that men who had come over to help us in the cause of order and right for which we had been fighting for the past five years should now find themselves in the dock. There was a very grave danger if people took the law into their own hands at a time when lawlessness was rampant and direct action was being preached and his submission was that the men in the dock had taken the law into their own hands with the result that the death had occurred of one officer. If he had proved the facts to the satisfaction of the jury it would be their duty to return a verdict accordingly.

Mr. Benjamin addressed the jury on behalf of Connors and MacAllan, and said there was no evidence that they took any part in the rioting, and if they took no part in the rioting the charge of manslaughter against them could not be sustained. Mr. Abinger, addressing the jury for the other prisoners, remarked that Sir Ernest Wild represented that rare and refreshing fruit in counsel for prosecutions, in that he was perfectly fair in the way he put the case. The suggestion that men must be convicted just because they had wounds was perfectly

monstrous, and for this reason. It was urged that the prisoners must have been in the forefront of the riot because they were wounded but windows were broken at the Ladas Hotel, half a mile away, so anyone could have been hit by a stone without going to the station. The case for the prosecution broke down immediately Todd went into the witness box, as he stated he was bul1ied into sounding the call - by whom? Not by the men in the dock, as they were in bed when the bugle sounded, but by those who were the real perpetrators of the riot. The jury could not convict the prisoners unless they found they were committed to a common purpose. Major Ross was outside the po1ice station at the time of the assault, but he was never asked by the prosecution if he could identify any of the men now charged. The case had been presented in a chaotic condition and the proper steps had not been taken to discover the real miscreants.

Judge's summing up

The Judge, in summing up said it had to be proved that the defendants, either of them or all of them, were guilty of manslaughter. There was not the slightest evidence that either of them struck the blow which killed Sergeant Green, but if it was proved to the satisfaction of the jury that the prisoners or either of them were actively engaged in the unlawful riot in the course of which Green was killed then it was manslaughter against all those engaged in that unlawful riot in the direct execution of which Green came by his death. It might be a shock to them to know that it was legally possible for 400 men to be guilty of manslaughter. The men in the dock might not have seen Green and yet might be legally guilty as participators in the riotous assembly, but the jury would shrink from giving their verdict against them unless they were satisfied that the prosecution had thorough1y proved the case. The Canadian authorities were as anxious as anybody in the country that the guilty parties should be brought to justice, and the complaint of the counsel for the defence that the officer in charge of the camp had not been called to say there were no more wounded men in the camp must not be taken seriously. If, as Mr. Abinger had suggested, a roll call had been taken was it not too much to expect of human nature that a man who broke away from camp and took part in a riot would, when placed on his honour, come forward and say, “I killed Sergeant Green, and, in fact, I am such an honourable man that if you had not been in such a hurry I was just coming up to tell you about it"? (Laughter) The jury must consider carefully the charge of manslaughter, whether any of the defendants were gui1ty of riotous conduct, and of riotously assembling together and injuring by force the police house at Epsom and attempting to secure the release of two persons in lawful custody. He strongly advised them to consider the case carefully against each prisoner and discriminate between them in any manner suggested by the evidence and the facts placed before the court.

Verdict and sentence

The jury, having deliberated in private for over half an hour, found Todd and McAllan not guilty on all the charges, the other five not guilty on the charge of manslaughter and guilty on the charges relating to rioting. The foreman the jury said he had been asked to bring to his

Lordship's notice the fact that the men were not used to our laws and, coming from abroad, were probably not aware of the offences they were committing.

His Lordship told McAllan and Todd they had been acquitted by the jury and were therefore discharged, but not of course into military custody. As to you others, proceeded the Judge, the jury have found you not guilty of the very serious offence of manslaughter, and for that I am very glad, because had they found you guilty it would have been my duty to sentence you to long terms of imprisonment, but they have taken a merciful view and acquitted you of the grave offence. They have, however, found you guilty on evidence which permitted of no possible doubt of having taken part in a riot for the purpose of releasing from legal custody two comrades who had been arrested for resisting the police in the execution of their duty. You formed part of a huge and dangerous mob of hundreds of soldiers assaulting a small body of men, at the first only 12 and never even at the last more than 24, and you assailed a small body of men like that with such violence, some more than others, and actually killed one policeman, who was merely doing his duty as a servant of the State. I shall treat you exactly as I should men who had been bred and born in this country in so far as the sentence I am about to impose on you is concerned. There is no distinction between the way in which you behaved and the way many people are behaving at this moment. Their conduct may in some respects be worse than yours and they may have been soldiers. The law must be observed, and if necessary, it must be enforced by punishment. I regret more that I can tell you the position in which you now stand. You are men, who have come over here, not as volunteers, but in obedience to the law passed in your own country, to fight for the same cause which was fought for by the whole of the British Empire. You have no real grievance, but you banded yourselves together with others to re1ease two men who were very soon to have been handed over by the civil police had you not interfered to be punished, if they had deserved to be punished, by the officers commanding your own troops. I regret extremely that men who are not criminals in the ordinary sense, men who have never committed any criminal offence, should stand where you do convicted of a grave offence against society. I cannot help noticing that the result of your riot was that a considerable amount of damage to property was done, injury was inflicted on a number of men loyally serving the State, and one was killed against whom nothing could have been alleged except that he did not give way to the violence of the mob. The attack on the police station was such that women and children were placed in grave danger, and there was an attempt to burn the place. You were accomplices in all this.

The jury has recommended me to take a lenient view of your offence, because you may not have realized how serious it was. I shall take into consideration the fact that you have been wounded or invalided for the time, and excuse you the hard labour which would otherwise accompany the sentence. The sentence of the court is that you be imprisoned for 12 calendar months. All the prisoners were charged on the Coroner's warrant with the manslaughter of Sergeant Green, and Sir Ernest Wild said in view of the finding of the jury he would not offer

any evidence on that charge. Acting on the Judge's instructions the jury formally returned a verdict of not guilty against the men.

Sir Ernest Wild referred to the fact that the Coroner's jury recommended Detective Ferrier - - His Lordship - The man whose conduct and bravery I should specially commend is Inspector Pawley. Sir Ernest Wild - He was mentioned as well my lord. His Lordship – He was placed in a position of great difficulty, with very little assistance and an army of enemies.

THE EPSOM RIOT[32]

Five Canadian soldiers to be released

In response to the petition presented by Mr Bernard Abinger, solicitor, for the release of the Canadians imprisoned through the Epsom Riot, the Home Secretary has replied that, after consultation with the Canadian Authorities he had seen his way to decide that the men shall be released on December 15th and handed over to a Canadian military escort, to be returned to Canada.

A final confession: A cable from Canada

Winnipeg, Aug. 1st I929 to Handcuffs, London

Am detaining Allan McMaster, who admits being murderer of Police Sergeant Green at Epsom on June seventeenth nineteen nineteen

Do you want him. Wire instructions.

Newton. Winnipeg Police

City Police Chg Attorney General's Dept

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY'S TELEGRAPH

TELEGRAM

Aug. 1st I929

The Commissioner of Police, Of the Metropolis, New Scotland Yard, London, SW1

Dear Sir,

Re Allan McMaster

Murder of Police Sergeant Green at Epsom. I have the honor to advise for your information that a man named Allan McMaster, 39 years, came to Police Headquarters in this City on the

[32] The Epsom Advertiser incorporating the Epsom Observer December 5, 1919

evening of July 3Ist, I929, and stated that he desired to confess to being the murderer of Police Sergeant Green of Epsom, England on June I7th, I9I9. McMaster stated he was connected with the 26th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary force and that his Regimental number was 7I6I44. The story he told in short is as follows:- "Two of our men got arrested and locked up. As soon as we heard about it we all went down town to take them out of the lockup. We made a rush at the building. Sergt. Green tried to stop me. So I picked up an iron bar and hit him over the head with it. He died the following day. Two other me and I were arrested for it and tried before Mr Justice Darling and sentenced to one year's imprisonment for rioting. We served 5 months and were pardoned by the Prince of Wales. The Police never found out who was the murderer of Green. This matter has worried me for a long time and I have made up my mind to confess so as to clear my conscience. I am enclosing herewith a voluntary statement in triplicate made by the subject of this communication in the presence of two of my officers for your information and guidance. Please advise me as soon as possible what your wishes are in this connection,

Yours truly

Signed by **Chris H Newton**

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF POLICE

Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada Date Stamped REGISTRY 15 AUG 29.10.

Detective Department, Police Headquarters, August 1st l929. C. H. Newton, Esq., Chief Constable,

Sir,

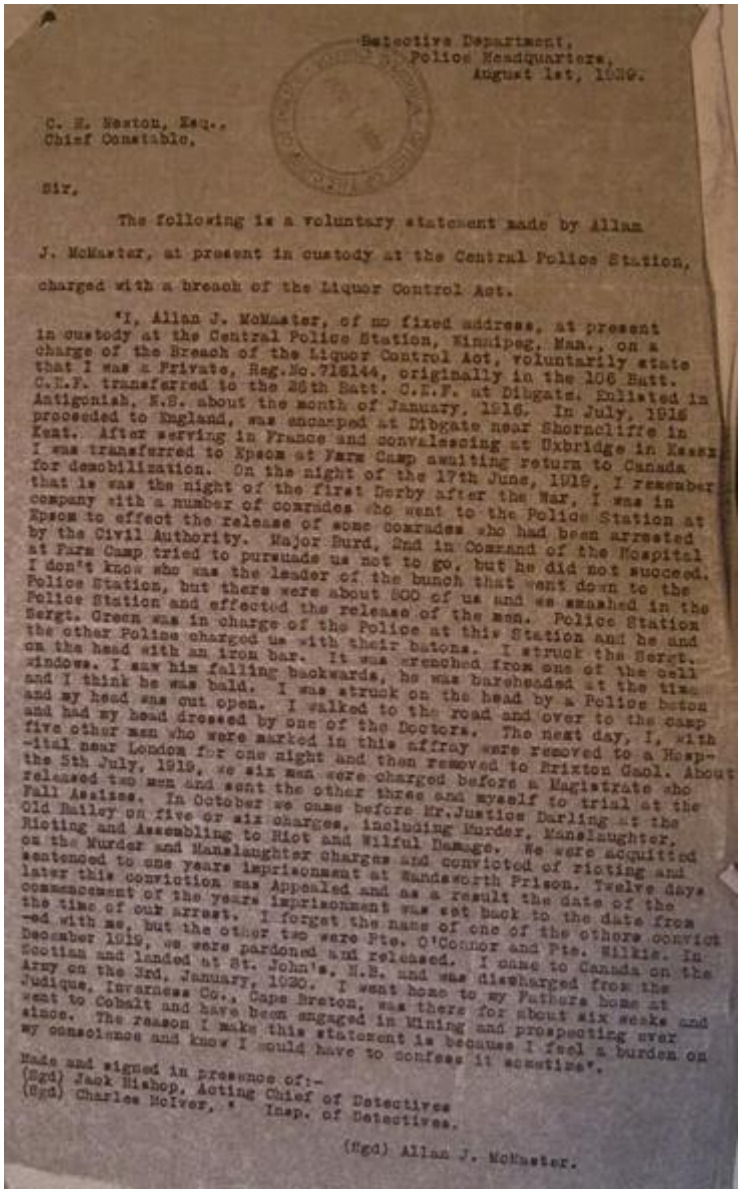
The following is a voluntary statement made by Allan J. McMaster, at present in custody at the Central Police Station, charged with a breach of the Liquor Control Act. "I, Allan J. McMaster, of no fixed address, at present in custody at the Central Police Station, Winnipeg, Man., on a charge of the Breach of the Liquor Control Act, voluntarily state that I was a Private, Reg.No.7l6l44, originally in the l06 Batt. C.E.F. transferred to the 26th Batt. C.E.F. at Dibgate. Enlisted in Antigonish, N.S. about the month of January, l9l6. In Ju1y, l9l6 proceeded to England, was encamped at Dibgate near Shorncliffe in Kent. After serving in France and convalescing at Uxbridge in Essex, I was transferred to Epsom at Farm Camp awaiting return to Canada for demobilization. On the night of the l7th June, l9l9, I remember that it was the night of the first Derby after the War, I was in company with a number of comrades who went to the Police Station at Epsom to effect the release of some comrades who had been arrested by the Civil Authority. Major Burd, 2nd in Command of the Hospital at Farm Camp tried to persuade us not to go, but he did not succeed. I don't know who was the leader of the bunch that went down to the Police Station, but there were about 800 of us and we smashed in the Police Station and effected the release of the men. Police Station Sergeant Green wall in charge of the Police at this Station and he and the other Police

charged us with their batons. I struck the Sergt on the head with an iron bar. It was wrenched from one of the cell windows. I saw him falling backward, he was bareheaded at the time and I think he was bald. I was struck on the head by a Police baton and my head was cut open. I walked to the road and over to the camp and had my head dressed by one of the Doctors. The next day, I, with five other men who were marked in that affray were removed to a Hospital near London for one night and then removed to Brixton Gaol. About the 5th July, l9l9, we six men were charged before a Magistrate who released two men and sent the other three and myself to trial at the Fall Asizes, In October we came before Mr.Justice Darling at the Old Bailey on five or six charges, including Murder, Manslaughter, Rioting and Assembling to Riot and Wilful Damage. We were acquitted on the Murder and Manslaughter charges and convicted of rioting and sentenced to one year's imprisonment at Wandsworth Prison. Twelve days later this conviction was appealed and as a result the date of the commencement of the year's imprisonment was set back to the date from the time of our arrest. I forget the name of one of the others convicted with me, but the other two were Pte O'Connor and Pte. Wilkie. In December l9l9, we were pardoned and released. I came to Canada on the Scotian and landed at St. John's, N.B. and was discharged from the Army on the 3rd, January, l920. I went home to my Fathers home at Judique, Inverness Co., Cape Breton, was there for about six weeks and went to Cobalt and have been engaged in Mining and prospecting ever since. The reason I make this statement is because I feel a burden on my conscience and know I would have to confess it sometime".

Made and signed in presence of:-

(Sgd) Jack Bishop, Acting Chief of Detectives (Sgd) Charles McIver, "Insp. of Detectives.[33]

[33] http://www.cefresearch.ca/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=4893



Detective Department,
Police Headquarters,
August 1st, 1929.

C. H. Newton, Esq.,
Chief Constable.

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"I, Allan J. McMaster, of no fixed address, at present in custody at the Central Police Station, Winnipeg, Man., on a charge of the Breach of the Liquor Control Act, voluntarily state that I was a Private, Reg.No.716144, originally in the 106 Batt. C.E.F. transferred to the 26th Batt. C.E.F. at Dibgate. Enlisted in Antigonish, N.S. about the month of January, 1916. In July, 1916 proceeded to England, was encamped at Dibgate near Shorncliffe in Kent. After serving in France and convalescing at Uxbridge in Kent I was transferred to Epsom at Farm Camp awaiting return to Canada for demobilization. On the night of the 17th June, 1919, I remember that is was the night of the first Derby after the War, I was in company with a number of comrades who went to the Police Station at Epsom to effect the release of some comrades who had been arrested by the Civil Authority. Major Burd, 2nd in Command of the Hospital at Farm Camp tried to pursuade us not to go, but he did not succeed. I don't know who was the leader of the bunch that went down to the Police Station, but there were about 500 of us and we smashed in the Police Station and effected the release of the men. Police Station Sergt. Green was in charge of the Police at this Station and he and the other Police charged us with their batons. I struck the Sergt. on the head with an iron bar. It was wrenched from one of the cell windows. I saw him falling backwards, he was bareheaded at the time and I think he was bald. I was struck on the head by a Police baton and my head was cut open. I walked to the road and over to the camp and had my head dressed by one of the Doctors. The next day, I, with five other men who were marked in this affray were removed to a Hosp-ital near London for one night and then removed to Brixton Gaol. About the 5th July, 1919, we six men were charged before a Magistrate who released two men and sent the other three and myself to trial at the Fall Assizes. In October we came before Mr.Justice Darling at the Old Bailey on five or six charges, including Murder, Manslaughter, Rioting and Assembling to Riot and Wilful Damage. We were acquitted on the Murder and Manslaughter charges and convicted of rioting and sentenced to one years imprisonment at Wandsworth Prison. Twelve days later this conviction was Appealed and as a result the date of the commencement of the years imprisonment was set back to the date from the time of our arrest. I forget the name of one of the others convict-ed with me, but the other two were Pte. O'Connor and Pte. Wilkie. In December 1919, we were pardoned and released. I came to Canada on the Scotian and landed at St. John's, N.B. and was discharged from the Army on the 3rd. January, 1920. I went home to my Fathers home at Judique, Inverness Co., Cape Breton, was there for about six weeks and went to Cobalt and have been engaged in Mining and prospecting ever since. The reason I make this statement is because I feel a burden on my conscience and know I would have to confess it sometime".

Made and signed in presence of:-
(Sgd) Jack Bishop, Acting Chief of Detectives
(Sgd) Charles McIver, " Insp. of Detectives.

(Sgd) Allan J. McMaster.

Date Stamped OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE - WINNIPEG, CANADA

AUG 1 1929

The response from the Metropolitan Police was that these matters had been dealt with by the courts and there were no outstanding charges likely to be brought against McMaster and so there would be no further action taken in this case. The Metropolitan Police brought closure to the case with a telegraphic response: "Macmillan sentenced in connection with this affair and he is not wanted. Letter following."

Interview with Mrs Freda Philp (nee Pawley) at her Flat in St Martin's Avenue, Epsom, Tuesday 19 January 1993[34]

IM How old were you when Epsom Police Station was attacked by the Canadian Soldiers and where were you at the time?

FP I was 15 years of age at the time (19 June 1919). The whole family was upstairs. The Police Station was converted into family quarters to accommodate us. There were 8 of us. When the Canadians surrounded the house, we were terrified. There was Ernie, my younger brother, Hilda, Doris, Mabel, myself and Harry, my older brother, my mother and father, of course.

IM How many rooms did you have upstairs?

FP There were 3 bedrooms (the girls had to share). The two boys had the front room and our parents had the third one. There was the bathroom, a large kitchen-cum dining room, a scullery, a huge coal range in the kitchen and, of course, the sitting room. All this was the top floor of the ground floor Police Station. Our bedrooms were over the cells. Sometimes we heard the "ritual" of change of shifts that took place in The Parade Room underneath.

IM Did you get much shouting and banging?

FP Oh yes, especially after the Races when the cells used to get filled up with drunks and disorderly

IM I suppose you had to take the good with the bad. What were the good things?

FP Father did not have to go far to work, so he was always around. We had a very happy childhood. We went to Pound Lane School.

IM Did your friends tease you about it?

FP Oh no, they had respect; "Our father is the Master of the Police Station, so you better

remember", so to speak.

IM What was your father's work?

FP He was an Inspector. He started off as a village boy from the bottom and worked his way up, first as a Sergeant, then Inspector. My parents came to London from Cornwall (Devonport). We were born in London, except Nina.

IM Was it a very secure job? How many years was he in his job?

[34] http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Interview_with_Mrs_Freda_Philp.pdf

FP Well, he carried on after his retirement, because as the War started, he was asked to stay on.

IM How old was he during the riots?

FP He was quite young. When he retired he was in his fifties. He was presented with this marble clock to go on the mantelpiece, with an inscription. After the riots, all the policemen who protected the station were given gold watches. Harry, my older brother, who helped, was given a silver watch and my mother was presented with a small lady's watch, which we donated to the Bow Street Police Museum at a presentation. The Hinton family donated their watch too on the same occasion. Harry had dad's gold watch which he did not want to part with. Harry was presented also with a silver cigarette case by Sir Rowland and Lady Blade, local JP.

IM You all deserved the tokens. You must have been very proud of them.

FP Oh yes, very proud. It was a terrible experience. All the windows were smashed in. The bedrooms were covered in glass. We had a little pantry and we hid there, the younger ones. We could not escape because they blocked all exits, but they never got in through the door. They managed to open one cell. It went on all night. We couldn't come down at all, because to get out we had to go through the front door. Mother and sisters Mabel and Doris tended to the wounded.

IM It must have been terrible for your father, knowing you were upstairs and he was pretty helpless.

FP Yes, it was very hard for him. He received a gashing blow over his head too.

IM What happened later?

FP The damage was repaired, then father retired. Someone else took over the Police Station. I think his name was Inspector Jeffs. Then it was bombed in the Second World War when the top floor went and later it was demolished altogether and the Police Station was moved to Church Street. When my father retired, we rented a house in Station Road. That's Upper High Street where the present car park is. It was No 54. The house belonged to Mr Golby who lived next door. My sister, Mabel, was a post-woman in Epsom. (Both my sisters. Mabel and Lucy were May Queens in Pound Lane School). My sister, Lucy, worked for Elphick the fishmongers at the top of the High Street.

IM Let's go back to the Police Station. I see pictures of a garden.

FP Yes, at the back of the Police House we had a large garden and a greenhouse. In his off duty hours, my father used to spend a great deal of time gardening.

IM So you were a local girl and went to Pound Lane School; what happened then?

FP After the War, when I left school, I went to work for FW of Six (?) Grocers in South Street. I worked there for four years. They closed down. I went to work for the Co-op in East Street in 1922. I was there for 42 years, not all the time in East Street. I moved when they moved. Just before World War 2, they decided to do their own book-keeping and I was given the job of book-keeper. I was doing all the books and wages. I was there till I retired in 1964.

IM When did you marry?

FP When I retired at 60, I went on a holiday and met my future husband, Andrew Philp, ten years older. We got married in St Martin's in 1965, married by Canon Percel. After mother died, aged 48 (?) in 1945 of cancer, the lease on the house in Upper High Street expired. We moved to a house along East Street, Epsom Road, "Homedean", it's now flats, in 1937. Then we moved to No 7 Chase End, Harry and I. Harry never married and suffered from his War injuries all his life and towards the end, he was blind. He never applied for his disability pension. I promised to look after him. I asked for his permission for Andrew to move in. Andrew died in 1978.

IM Were policemen well paid in those days?

FP No, very poorly, so my father had his pension during his lifetime and my mother had just enough to get by when he died, but we were comfortable. We never bought a house, but we did buy a car and Harry drove it.

IM What was the social standing of the police in those days?

FP People who remembered him always spoke well of my father and, of course, after the riots he was well respected and seen as a bit of a hero.

IM As a school girl, how did your school mates react to the events?

FP Oh, I was admired and envied.

IM When did you move here?

FP After Andrew died I moved to St Martin's"to the flats, because the house and the garden became too much work.

IM Did you know PS Green, who was murdered, and his family?

FP Yes, we knew his daughters, who also went to Pound Lane School. After the events, they went to Canada, to relatives, and eventually married Canadians, but when they had the 50th Anniversary in 1969, one came over and we were invited to the Police Station to meet her. Inspector Ebon invited us and we had a long re-union and even corresponded for a while.

IM What else do you remember of the horrible day?

FP PS Green. When he was wounded, he was carried to Mr Pollhill's house, the butcher, which was opposite, then to Epsom District Hospital where he died next morning.

IM What happened to your younger brother, Ernest?

FP He married. He worked for the railways and then moved to Basingstoke. He then went on the buses. He died in 1959. He was quite young then. He had children, but I don't hear from them - 3 sons and 1 daughter. Raymond, one of his sons, was killed in an air crash and Ernie, who was ill at the time, died shortly after.

IM Can I take you back to the Police Station? Did it have electricity, running water?

FP We had gas lighting. We had running cold water. We had a bathroom and a big kitchen range and a gas stove and gas copper. The building went back a long way. The middle window was the bathroom, the two on each side were bedrooms. The sitting room was at the back, so was the kitchen-diner and one bedroom and, of course, the large garden. Ashley House, where Mr Reginald White lived with his mother, had a very large garden at the back too.