

Early copies of the Epsom Herald are extremely rare and most simply have not survived the ravages of time.
We are exceptionally lucky to have found the following items in a scrap book of local newspaper cuttings.

The Herald

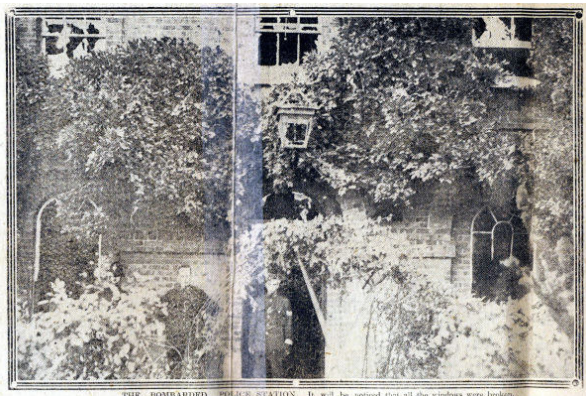
Friday, June 20, 1919

EPSOM POLICE STATION RAIDED

**STATION-SERGT.
GREEN KILLED.**

Number of Officers injured.

Splendid fight against Great Odds



The Epsom Police Station on the dawn of Wednesday morning looked as if it had received a visit from the Germans. Every window, gate and ??? [sic] was smashed, the garden rails were in a twisted, uprooted condition, and the garden itself was in a pitiable state. Broken glass, stones, bricks and pieces of paling were strewn about outside and inside the Police Station, and there were signs on all hands of the premises having been the scene of remarkable events. Terrible, too, for Station-Sergt. Green was dying as the result of what had happened, and more than half-a-dozen members of the Epsom force were suffering from injuries, some of them serious ones. As to how many Canadian soldiers had broken heads or other injuries it was not easy to ascertain, for the Canadians had left none of their wounded comrades behind. That some of them received a bad mauling is very certain, and blood-stains on the ground in certain places bore witness to the fact. The casualties of the Canadians may, for obvious reasons, be concealed, but in the awful fighting that occurred the handful of police, in their attempts to cope with several hundred of the visitors, were not the only sufferers, and the plucky manner in which the greatly out-numbered

police stood up to the mob was worthy of the high traditions of the Metropolitan Police for bravery.

THE EARLY EVENTS

What occurred on Tuesday night was the culmination of a nightly series of disturbances in the streets, in which not only Canadian soldiers, but some of the young men of Epsom, were concerned. There had been several clashes between them, and on Tuesday night further trouble was anticipated. The Canadians were in the streets in greater number than ever, and the police had occasion to take two into custody. As usual, the other Canadians showed annoyance at any of their comrades being arrested, and about 10 o'clock quite a number of them - estimates varying from 60 to 400 - assembled outside the Police Station, demanding the release of the men arrested, and threatening what would happen if the police failed to comply with their wishes. A number of the police went out into the road from the Police Station for the purpose of dispersing the Canadians, who then took to their heels and were chased through Rosebery Park. It was hoped that this was the end of the trouble for this evening, but, unfortunately, it was far from being so. The Canadians returned to the camp, collected together a large number of their comrades, rousing some out of their sleep, and ignoring all discipline and taking no notice of orders and advice, marched, several hundred strong, out of the camp and in the direction of the town.

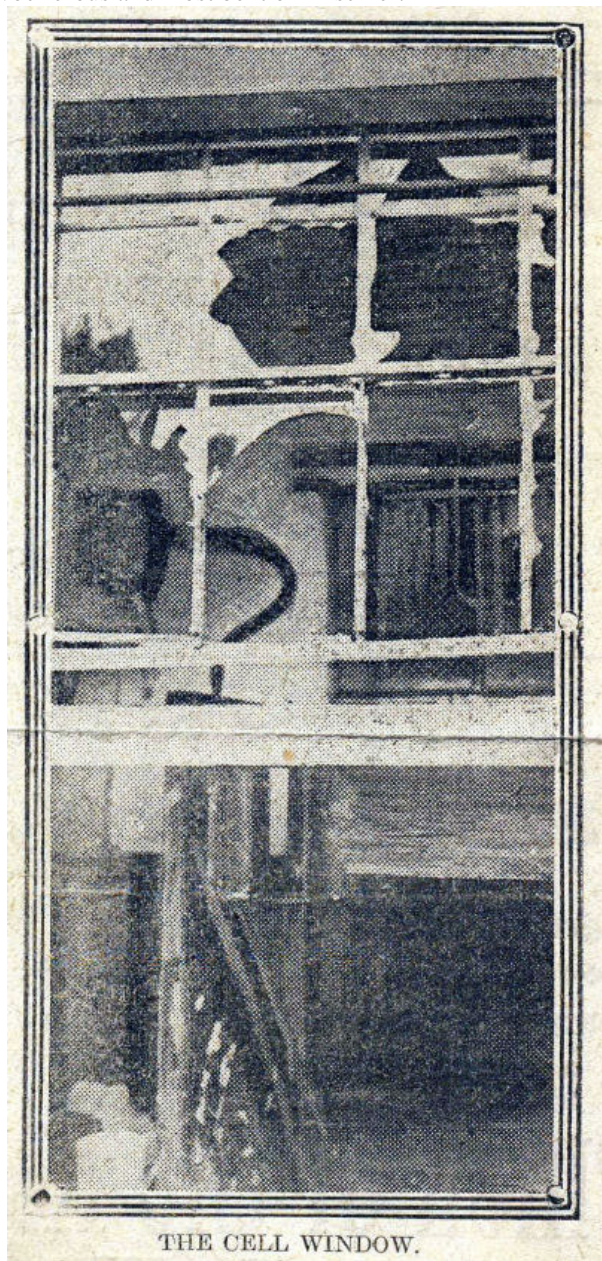
THE MARCH TO THE STATION

They marched in military formation. Some had bugles, and a good many had sticks, and those who had not, possessed themselves of the weapon before they got to the Police Station. At Woodcote they tore off some of the fencing in front of the cottage of Mrs. Northey, and also tore to pieces the fence in Ashley Road of the garden separating the grounds of Mr. Dorset's residence and the Police Station. Mr. Dorset, like all other were near the vicinity of some of the men. Addressing him as "Dad," they said they had no quarrel with him, and that they would do no damage to his fence or other property, a promise they kept. Estimates vary from 400 to 700 as to the number of Canadians who participated in the disgraceful affair. No one who was present puts the number at less than 400. Of the police at the station, the total number was never at any time more than 15, and, until some of the day men, who had gone off duty, could be called, there were fewer than that. It would have been asking almost for death for policemen summoned from their homes to have attempted to enter the station through the crowd of soldiers, and so they reached it by going through the rear of other premises. The Canadians, who were sounding the "Battle Cry" on the

bugles, were past being reasoned with, and all attempts to persuade them to go away were of no avail.

URGED TO GO AWAY

Inspector Pawley went to the garden gate and urged, as best he could, the soldiers to desist from doing anything which they would afterwards regret, but without avail. It was hoped that the appeals of Major Ross, a Canadian officer at the camp, might have more effect. This officer also made a strong appeal to the men to return to camp, but to him the worst element of the crowd would not listen. Some of the soldiers appeared inclined to follow Major Ross's advice, but they were influenced by the minority, who were the most vociferous and most bent on mischief.



THE CELL WINDOW.

THE ATTACK ON THE STATION

At about 11.30 the attack on the Police Station began which had such serious results. A number of the Canadians, who had not already armed themselves with some kind of weapon, tore rails off the fence on the opposite side of the road, outside the Wesleyan Soldiers'

Institute. To get into the police garden in any numbers, and not in isolated units, they had to smash down the fence of the front gardens and the very big gates at the side leading to the yard. The united strength of the crowd was demonstrated by their pulling up the very strongly built iron fence, wrenching it out of the stone work. They also, with huge stones, smashed down the larger of the two yard gates, and once they got foot into the garden, and attained admittance into the yard, a terrific struggle between several hundred soldiers and very few police followed. The police put up what, under the circumstances, was a magnificent defence, but it was quite impossible for them to prevent being driven back to the station. Not only were they being struck at from all quarters with sticks and huge pieces of wood, but bricks, stones, and broken pieces of fencing were being flung at them.

STATION SERGT. GREEN KNOCKED DOWN

About 12 o'clock the police did succeed in temporarily forcing out of the yard, by super-human efforts, the soldiers who filled it. It was in this charge that Station Srgt. Green met, it is believed, with his fatal injuries. With seven or eight policeman, he charged quite a large body of the Canadians, and, in the charge, was struck across the face by a bit piece of wood and went down. Whether, while on the ground, he was kicked on the head or otherwise seriously assaulted, may be later revealed. When the small body of police, with Srgt. Green unconscious, and other members injured, had to retreat into the station, being borne down by the great weight of numbers, they obtained just a little respite, but only for a very brief time, and they were, in the station, running almost as great danger from missiles as they were while outside.

THE POLICE AT BAY

All kinds of heavy objects were thrown in a fusillade at the windows, smashing every pane, and pieces of glass were scattering about in all directions. Bricks and stones came hurtling into the charge room and into the inspector's office. Attempts of the Canadians to break the iron framework of the windows and to force an entrance into the station in the way were, however, frustrated. By using huge pieces of stone, which were thrown at the door, and by using big logs as battering rams, the crowd was successful, eventually, in smashing open the front door, against which a number of police were putting their weight to prevent it being opened. It was when the door was broken open that one or two of the police were somewhat injured, being caught by the battering rams. Though the door had been opened, the Canadians never succeeded sufficiently in obtaining a footing in the administrative portion of the building as to be able to do any damage here. Only a few could enter at a time, and those who did got a terrifically warm reception. In this fight it was a case of hitting or be hit, with, perhaps fatal results, and the police, when they got the chance, did not fail to hit, though, owing to the darkness, many of the blows may have gone amiss.

FIGHTING IN DARKNESS

The lamps in the station had all been smashed by this time, and the raid went on in darkness, adding, if

possibly to its terror. It was not only the windows on the ground floor that had been smashed. Those on the first floor had received almost as much attention. Those rooms form the private apartments of Inspector Pawley. Some of the members of his family were sleeping at the front of the building when the raid started, and they hurriedly removed themselves to the rear rooms when the attack on the windows of the rooms in which they were commenced. In these rooms a big collection of stones, etc., was afterwards made. Very fortunately, neither Mrs. Pawley nor any of the children were injured, though as can be imagined, their situation was an alarming one.

The attackers, who seemed to work themselves up into a more and more manic frenzied state, were successful in getting to the cells, where two of their number were confined, pending their removal in the ordinary way of things, to the Woodcote Park Camp. By the time of the raid the authorities at the camp had not sent for the prisoners, a matter, as it proved, for regret. The Canadians were determined in getting the two prisoners released, and this appeared to be the principal object of their action. In the cell passage is a window at the side of the yard. This window was so completely smashed that they were able to affect an entrance by it into the cell without having to go through the administrative block. A number of them, having entered the passage, broke the powerful lock of one of the cells and released the prisoner in it. In the adjoining cell was another Canadian, and under the circumstances, there being hopes that the raiders would abate some of their fury if the two prisoners were given up, Inspector Pawley, at great personal risk to himself, unlocked the cell door, and the man inside secured his liberty. According to reports, the Canadians who were in the passage will have very painful memories of the fact, for here they could not meet the police in such disproportionate numbers.

THE WITHDRAWAL.

That the chief aim of the rioters was to obtain the release of their two comrades was proved by their withdrawing from the station soon afterwards, though, in the withdrawal, they could not have had a very happy time, for they had lost the advantage of attack, and, though all the police had been hit in one way or another, and had been fighting for their very lives for a considerable time, there was still a good deal of life in some of them. It was a marvel - and they all recognized it when the ordeal was over - that anyone of them should have escaped death or being seriously injured. Only pluck and luck brought any of them through. At the finish about a half were so injured that they had to be placed on the sick list the next day.

THE KILLED AND INJURED

The member most seriously injured, next to Station Sergt. Green, was P.C. Weeding, who received a crack on the head, which has on previous occasions suffered in assaults. His condition for a long time was considered rather serious, and during the Wednesday there were many rumours that he was dead. Sergt. Durham was also somewhat battered on the head. Inspector Pawley received a cut on the forehead, and four stitches had to

be inserted. P.C. Bewick received an injury to the arm, and was sent on Wednesday, to hospital to see if any bone had been broken. Sergt. Greenfield (who some months ago was dangerously assaulted by Canadians, being unconscious for a number of hours), sustained a cut on the head and injury to the arm.



SOME OF THE INJURED.
[Photos, Central Press Agency.]

LIST OF INJURED POLICE

The full list of injured officers is as follows:

- Station-Sergt. Green, injured fatally.
- Inspector Pawley, cut on the forehead.
- Sergt. Blayden, lamed, not seriously.
- Sergt. Kersey, injured in back through heavy log of wood being dropped on him.
- Sergt. Durham, injuries to the hand
- P.C. Weeding, head injury.
- P.C. Bewick, injured arm.
- P.C. Monk, bad cut over the eye (fortunately the sight is not affected).
- P.C. Hook, injured in the abdomen.
- P.C. Short, slightly injured in the back and stomach (his belt saved him from serious injury).
- P.C. Barton, injured arm (at first supposed to be broken).
- Sergt. Shuttleworth, cuts on the hands.
- P.C. Rose, bruises.

CONGRATULATIONS AND SYMPATHY

Inspector Pawley has received a number of messages congratulating the police on their fine fight and sympathizing with them on the death of one of their comrades.

THE CANADIAN CASUALTIES

Probably it will never be known what were the total casualties of the Canadians. For obvious reasons those who took part in an affair which led to the death of a police officer, do not wish to exhibit their wounds to the public natural. But if the full list of Canadian casualties were published it would bear testimony to the fact that it was not the police who got all the blows. Perhaps their batons could a tale unfold - if they would. They evidently never saw so much service as they did on this night. When the raiders had withdrawn from the police

premises, they marched back to the camp though some found marching not at all an easy matter. One soldier left his cap behind, and among other of their articles picked up was one of the dice used in the Crown and Anchor game. Sergt. Kersey lost his helmet, and rumour goes that one of the Canadians was wearing it when he got to the camp. Station-Sergt. Green was conveyed to the Infirmary as soon as it was at all possible, and P.C. Weeding was conveyed home. All the police needing it received medical attention, and as stated, a number were put on the sick list, though one or two were able to resume duty during Wednesday.

ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS

During the time the fighting was going on, the S.O.S. message went out from the besieged station to some of the other stations in the V. Division, and men at these stations were hurriedly collected and dispatched on bicycles to Epsom, but by the time they arrived, the Canadians had departed.

DAMAGE TO THE POLICE COURT

Seven panes of one of the windows in the Police Court buildings were broken by bricks, etc., being thrown through the window of the robing room, and a big indent on the table shows where one of the missiles alighted. The caretaker and his wife (Mr. & Mrs. Shield), who live on the premises, wondered whether worse would happen. And some of the residents in the vicinity were a bit concerned as to whether the attentions of the Canadians would be extended beyond the police buildings. Though quite a number of the inhabitants living near the centre of the town heard the noise caused, there were many people, even in the streets nearest to Ashley Road, who knew nothing of what had happened until they went out into the streets in the morning.

A SAD APPEARANCE

From about seven o'clock in the morning a crowd collected outside the Police Station to see the devastation that had taken place. The Epsom police garden has long had the reputation – certainly during the whole of the time Inspector Pawley has had it in charge – of being one of the prettiest of the police station gardens in the Metropolitan area. On Wednesday morning it was pitiful to look upon. The ground was churned up, and flowers and plants had had all the life crushed out of them by many feet, and by the violence of many men. The garden iron railings were in any position but the perpendicular one, and the stone masonry into which they had been fixed was uprooted and broken, as were even some of the big slabs at the entrance to the garden. There was debris everywhere in the road outside the station, all over the garden, and in all the Police Station rooms. Everything looked a sad picture of great damage and disorderliness.

STATION-SERGEANT GREEN

Station-Sergt. Green, who had been at Epsom a number of years, was a very straightforward, popular officer, respected by all his colleagues and by the many townspeople who knew him. He was an old soldier, serving with the Artillery in India for nine years. His length of service in the Police Force was 24 years, and he would have retired on a pension had he lived till next

April. He was a man of much jocularly, and was always willing to do a man a good turn. About three years ago his wife, while attending a meeting at the Wesleyan Church, had a stroke and has been an invalid ever since. She is in hospital at Queen's Square, Bloomsbury, and for her and her two daughters aged 18 and 19 respectively, the greatest amount of sympathy has been expressed by all the townspeople. The very sad office of conveying to her the very distressing news of the death of her devoted husband was performed on Wednesday afternoon. The deceased officer was one of the day duty men who were called out to assist. He responded so quickly to the summons that he was completing the buttoning of his tunic on his way to the station. Like other officers called up, he did not attempt to enter the station from the Ashley Road entrance, but via premises leading to the rear of the station. He was taken to the Infirmary in an unconscious condition about one o'clock, suffering apparently from a fractured skull. He never regained consciousness, and despite all that medical and nursing skill could do for him, passed away – a victim to a mad raid – at ten minutes past seven.



THE INURED CANADIANS

The authorities at the camp on Wednesday displayed reticence as to the number of men injured and as to the extent of their injuries. But quite a number of the men had injuries principally to the head, and so badly had some of them been knocked about, that it was one of the marvels of a sensational night that one or two were able to get back to camp at all without being conveyed

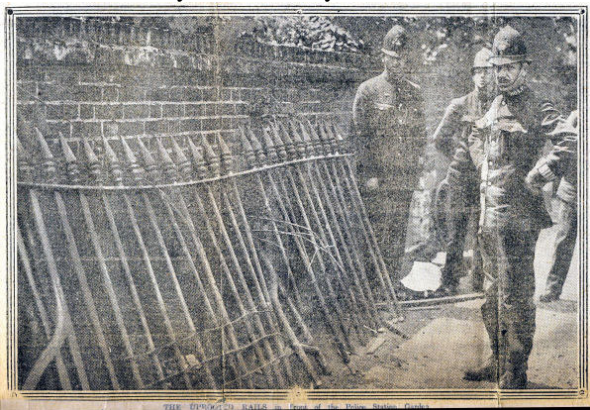
there. Doctors and others must have been busy in attending to men who will not be anxious to participate again in such an affair as that on Tuesday night.

PARADE OF THE CANADIANS

About midday on Wednesday, there was a general parade of the men, when the commanding officer (Co. Guest) addressed them. He said what happened the previous night was very much to be regretted, and that the men would be very sorry to hear that one of the police officers who were injured had since died. He was not going to put the town out of bounds, but he could not tell them what headquarters might do. He requested the men of the staff and the patients to keep away from the town, where feeling was running very high. The colonel also mentioned that there was conceded to the men in camp every privilege that was possible.

TELEGRAM TO THE WAR OFFICE ASKING FOR THE CAMP TO BE CLOSED.

In the morning the Chairman of the Urban Council (Mr. H.B. Longley, J.P.), after consultation with one or two other members of the Council, sent the following telegram to the Adjutant-General of the War Office, and to the Canadian Military Headquarters, London: "Serious riot of Canadian convalescent soldiers stationed at Woodcote Park Camp, Epsom, occurred last night, resulting in the murder of a police sergeant, the injury of several police, and the wrecking of the police station. Strong action should be taken at once, as 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 the district. Immediate action is necessary for the safety of the inhabitants."



THE RIOT ACT CLAUSE NO DRINK TO BE SOLD.

Before two magistrates, Mr. W. Dorset (Chairman), and Mr. E.B. Jay, at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, Insp. Goodenough (who said he was deputizing for Insp. Pawley, injured), said he had been instructed by the Chief Constable to apply that all public houses in the parishes of Epsom and Ewell should be closed for the sale of intoxicating liquors until Monday.

The application was made under the Closing in Time of Riot Clause of the Intoxicating Liquors Act of 1910, Sec. 63.

The Chairman: I think it is a very proper application.

Insp. Goodenough said they were making the application owing to further anticipated trouble. There was a very strong feeling in the part of the civil population because of the death of Station-Sergt. Green. There was a rumour that there was likely to be more trouble, and it was felt that it would be better that the houses should be closed.

The Chairman: I quite agree.

Mr. Jay: It is a very serious step to take. We want evidence.

The Chairman: You have only 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?

Insp. Goodenough: If my friend on the Bench had been in my house last night he would know all about it.

Mr. Jay: We will do all in our power to maintain law and order. Are there any extra police?

Insp. Goodenough: We have some extra police.

Mr. Jay: Have you asked for military help?

Insp. Goodenough: We have made that application.

Mr. Jay: This riotous conduct must be put down. The Government has been unfortunate in not dealing with it as it ought to have done.

The magistrates having decided that all the licensed houses should be closed for the sale of intoxicating liquors until Monday, the question of whether clubs should also be closed was raised.

Insp. Goodenough said he had no instructions as to that.

After considering the matter, the magistrates decided that the sale of intoxicating liquors in the clubs should also be prohibited until Monday.

ORDER RESCINDED

Before the same magistrates on Thursday morning, Insp. Pawley said he was directed by the Chief Constable to ask that the order as to the closing of public houses and clubs for the sale of intoxicating liquors be rescinded. The police had decided that now the military situation was well in hand, and that the town was put out of bounds, and as they did not want to inflict any unnecessary hardship on the public, the order might safely be rescinded.

Mr. Jay: Can there be any reservation in respect of soldiers?

The Chairman: The houses are put out of bounds for the camp.

Insp. Pawley: I trust that we can leave it to the military. I am afraid that might be too drastic, and lead to further trouble. What we wish to avoid is further trouble of any kind.

The application was granted, the rescinding of the order to take effect from noon.

CANADIAN ABSENTEES

While the magistrates were signing the orders to be served on the licensees and clubs, a young Canadian, Thomas Allen Noble, (20), of the Seaford Camp, was brought before them on a charge of having deserted since the previous day.

Det. Bell said at 2.45 that afternoon he was with other officers making inquiries about another matter, when he stopped prisoner in the High Street and told him

who he was. He also said "I have reason to believe you are an absentee or not an officer at all." Prisoner said, "Oh, yes, I am a soldier. I was discharged from Woodcote Camp some time ago, and I am up here from Seaford." Witness said, "Where is your authority?" Prisoner replied, "I have got it round at my lodgings." Witness remarked, "If you are in lodgings here, why from Seaford? The fact of the matter is you are an absentee." He was charged, and admitted the offence.

Asked if he had anything to say, prisoner said he would not say much now, but would say it later on. He said, "I got struck on the face, and was continually tripped."

Prisoner was remanded to await an escort.

TOWN OUT OF BOUNDS

On Wednesday the Canadian military headquarters sent the following telegram to Mr. Longley in reply to his telegram:- "Serious disturbance reported to have occurred last night greatly regretted. Adequate steps already taken by the Canadian Military Authorities to prevent any recurrence. Epsom has been placed out of bounds."

The following telegram was received from the Adjutant-General of the Forces: "Your telegram of today about Canadian soldiers at Woodcote received. The matter is in the hands of the Field Marshal commanding in chief Forces in Great Britain, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W."

MILITARY COURT

On Thursday a Military Court of Inquiry opened at the camp. The previous day Col. Guest, in an interview, said: "The police have asked that they may be allowed to question anyone who, as the result of the inquiry, is implicated. This we have consented to."

FUNERAL OF STATION-SERGT. GREEN

The funeral of Station-Sergt. Green takes place on Monday afternoon. The burial at the cemetery will be preceded by a service at the Wesleyan Church.

ASSEMBLED CROWDS.

During the whole of Wednesday there was a big crowd of people, principally civilian, outside the police station. The number of Canadians to be seen was very few, and those who did come down into the street must have been conscious that perhaps, under the circumstances, it would have been better to have kept away for a time. The townspeople generally were much moved by the death of Station-Sergt. Green, and feeling against the Canadians who took part in the raid ran rather high. Many police, including a number of detectives, arrived during the day, and behind the scenes there were evidently steps being taken to deal with any further outbreak. There were many rumours of an alarmist character, but the presence of additional police reassured the nervous ones. There were conferences during the day between the police and the military.

CANADIAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The Canadian Headquarters have issued the following statement:-

The incident preceding the disturbance at Epsom, which is deeply deplored by the Canadian Authorities, appears to have been due to the feeling of hostility which has been steadily growing between the Canadians and

demobilized Imperial soldiers, which recently came to a head at Guildford.

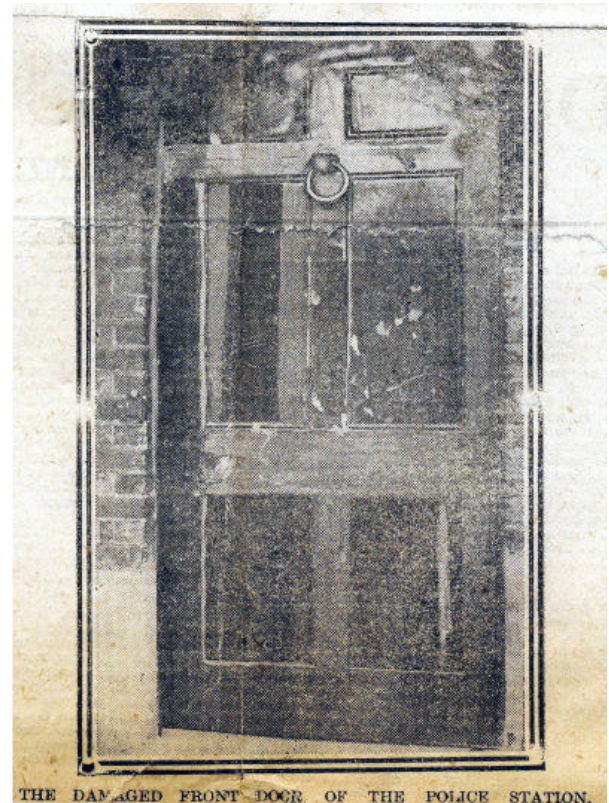
Since civilians were fined as the consequence of that affair, a number of Canadians have complained at different times that when out alone, or in small parties of two or three, they have been attacked by a gang of civilians. It has not been possible as yet to ascertain the reason for Tuesday night's occurrence, 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 ensued, and two 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. This 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. Considerable damage was done to the premises. One policeman was so seriously hurt that he subsequently succumbed.

Several other policemen were injured and five or six Canadian soldiers, one of the latter severely. After the affair at the Police Station the men returned in groups to camp and went quietly to bed.

Complete order prevails at the camp, but the Canadian Authorities have taken the most drastic measures to prevent any recurrence of the disturbance.



THE DAMAGED FRONT DOOR OF THE POLICE STATION.

THE INQUEST OPENED.

SIR ROWLAND BLADES AND MR. CHURCHILL

LETTER FROM THE WAR OFFICE.

The inquest on the body of station-Sergt. Thomas Green was opened by Mr. Gilbert White, Divisional Coroner, and a jury, at the Guardians' Institution yesterday (Thursday) afternoon. Mr. J. Chuter Ede, C.C., was chosen foreman of the jury, other members being Lieut.-Commander Chamberlain, Messrs. H. Warwick Martin, F.H. Tarr, H.W. Cole, H. Skelton, Henry [unreadable], W. Thompson and W. Sykes.

The Coroner said they had met to inquire into the cause of the death of Police Station-Sergt. Thomas Green, whose death, as they would hear from the evidence, arose in consequence of injuries received by him on Tuesday night at the Epsom Police Station, when something in the nature of a riot took place by certain men who apparently came from the Canadian Convalescent Camp, Woodcote Park. He did not propose at the present time to go fully into the case. No doubt the jury had heard a good deal about it from other sources, probably as much as he had. As they could imagine, the matter was now being thoroughly investigated by the police officials. He was holding the inquest as soon as possible in order that arrangements might be made for the funeral, but he did not propose to go fully into the matter that day: only to take evidence of identification, to enable the giving of a death certificate. He would adjourn the inquest until a day next week, when the matter might be more fully gone into. One reason he did not propose to go fully into the case that day was because he wished to call, as one of the witness, Inspector Pawley, who was in charge of the Police Station on the night of the occurrence, and it was far better that the jury should hear the evidence of what took place direct from the officer who was in charge of the Police Station than from him, (the Coroner), for he might possibly give some information that was not accurate. The Coroner asked if anyone was represented at that inquest.

Mr. A.M. Barrack said he was present on behalf of the Urban Council, and Mr. A.G.Ebbutt stated he represented the Guardians, in whose infirmary Station-Sergt. Green died.

Sergt. Kersey (Coroner's Officer) said he had seen the body in the mortuary, and identified it as that of Station-Sergt. Thomas Green. Deceased, who was 51 years of age, was a station-sergeant in the Metropolitan Police, and had been stationed at Epsom eight years. He left a widow and two daughters, aged 19 and 18. He served 24 years in the Force, and was previously in the Royal Horse Artillery. He was on duty at the Police Station on Tuesday night.

The Coroner said he would leave calling other witnesses until the adjournment. He presumed that extra precautions were being taken. He had seen that the Chairman of the Urban Council had taken the matter up and that the magistrates had made a certain order.

The Foreman: I understand that the Deputy Clerk to the Urban Council has received a copy of the letter sent to the member for the division from the War Office.

This letter, which was then read, was as follows:-
War Office, June 19th, 1919.

Dear Sir Rowland, - With reference to your call here today, Mr. Churchill asks me to thank you for the information that you have submitted to him as to the local conditions at Epsom. The whole matter will be the subject of searching investigation. Meantime, 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 Sergt. Green, who has died as a result of his injuries.

Yours faithfully,

A. Macculum Scott.

Parliamentary Private Secretary.

The inquest having been adjourned until Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The Foreman said he took it that adequate precautions would be taken that no military witnesses who might be required would be repatriated or removed from the Coroner's jurisdiction prior to the adjournment. It might be necessary to call certain officers, non-commissioned officers, or men at the camp, and undoubtedly some men were hoping for repatriation; and it might prolong the proceedings and cause considerable difficulties if precautions were not taken to prevent that.

It was stated that no one was present at the inquest from the camp.

Inspector Pawley said he thought they might taken it for granted that any soldier who was known to have been implicated would be retained at Epsom, and if the jury thought it necessary for any man to be called, he felt sure Col. Guest, the commandant at the camp, would render every assistance.

The Foreman: Does that remark apply also to the officers who may have been in charge of the camp, or a section of it?

Inspector Pawley: I think I can say yes.

It was stated that there had been received a letter from Sir Rowland Blades, conveying his regret to the family on the death of Station-Sergt. Green.

Inspector Pawley said he hoped the Coroner would convey to Sir Rowland Blades his (Inspector Pawley's) thanks for his kind expression of sympathy with the family.

The inquest was then adjourned.

Among those present at the proceedings were Mr. W. Dorset, J [unreadable] and the Rev. G.W. Always (Wesleyan Minister).

CANADIANS AND EPSOM POLICE

SCENE IN THE HIGH STREET

Before Mr. W. Dorset (in the chair) and Mr. E.B. Jay, at an Occasional Police Court on Friday, Pte. Clifton Duby, Canadian soldier, Woodcote Park Camp, was charged with being drunk, disorderly, and using obscene language, and with assaulting P.C. Barltrop, the previous night.

P.C. Stanford said at 10.5 p.m. he was in the High Street with P.C's Barton and Barltrop when he saw prisoner, who was drunk and was using obscene language. He had his coat off and was challenging the

civilians to fight. Witness asked him to put on his coat, which he did. Prisoner went about 15 yards, when he again took off his coat. He refused to go away, and, when taken into custody, became very violent, and several of his comrades tried to rescue him. Outside the Police Station prisoner threw witness to the ground, and one of his comrades struck P.C. Barltrop across the head with a stick.

By prisoner: He did not see the civilians interfere with him (prisoner).

P.C. Barltrop stated that he saw prisoner and other soldiers having an altercation with civilians. After being arrested prisoner kicked witness on the right knee, and one of his comrades jumped on his back and hit him across the head with a stick.

P.C. Barton gave corroborative evidence.

An officer from the camp was unable to give prisoner a good character.

The Chairman said it was a disgraceful case, and remarked that the case of soldiers interfering with the general public were getting common. Prisoner would be fined £5, or, in default of payment, would be sentenced to one month's hard labour.

Inspector Pawley stated that the men at the camp were allowed to come down into the street. There were no Military Police in the streets, and the civilian police had to look after them, and if they took a Canadian into custody, no matter how justifiable their action, comrades of the arrested man attacked them. That condition of things was not fair to the police, and the Canadians ought to have their own men patrolling the streets.

The officer said it was the duty of the Acting Provost Marshal of that area to provide military patrols, and he would convey what had been said to the commandant of the camp.

The Chairman: If there is no one to look after them they should not be allowed to come out.

CANADIANS AND CIVILIANS.

----- STREET SCENES AT EPSOM. -----

Before Mr. W. Dorset (in the chair) and Mr. H.B. Longley, at an Occasional Police Court at Epsom on Tuesday morning, Walter Terry (24), 9 Linton's Lane, Epsom, was charged with using insulting words and behaviour whereby a breach of the peace might have been occasioned, at Epsom, the previous night.

P.C. Taylor said about 10.20 p.m. there was a large crowd of civilians and soldiers in the High Street. Defendant was challenging one of the soldiers to fight. Some of those present had coats off. The police tried to get the defendant to go away, but he did not seem inclined to do so, and they were obliged to take him into custody. One of the Canadians was also taken into custody, and was being dealt with by the military authorities.

Asked if he wished to put any questions to witness, defendant replied: No, sir. I think he did his best for me.

Witness stated that there was trouble in the street nearly every night last week, and it looked as if there was going to be this week.

The Chairman: What is the cause of this?

Witness: I can't say. Like the soldiers at Witley Camp, the Canadians seem bent on trouble.

Sergt. Blayden: The young men demobilised come into contact with the Canadians. That is the origin of it. They get drinking about, and quarrels start.

The Chairman: But I don't understand the cause.

Sergt. Blayden: There is a little bit of feeling between the two-Imperials and the Canadians.

The Chairman: I should have thought there ought to be comradeship.

Sergt. Blayden: I am afraid that is not so.

P.C. Stanford said there was a crowd of nearly 100 soldiers and civilians. The police tried for some time to stop them fighting. Defendant and a Canadian started fighting. Previously witness could see there was ill-feeling between the Canadians and the civilians. They were standing about in groups.

Defendant stated that he was walking through the street, when he was molested. Every man had a right when molested, to stick up for himself and when one of the soldiers made a dash at him he, of course, hit him back.

The Chairman: Who commenced it?

Defendant: I went to look after my brother.

Mr. Longley said he would like to be more clear as to the origin of the dispute.

P.C. Taylor stated that it appeared as if a gang of stable lads came down to give the Canadians a hiding if they could. Both the stable and other Epsom lads were reinforced, and the Canadians too.

The Chairman (to defendant): It would have been wiser if you had kept out of it. It seems you rushed into it. You will be fined £1, and I hope this will be the end of it.

Sergt. Blayden: During the past week, owing to the disturbances, we have had to employ two, three and four extra police every night in the endeavour to preserve order.

The Chairman (to defendant): This kind of thing must not go on. It did not concern you in the very least. You realize that?

Defendant: Yes, sir.

POLICE APPEAL TO CIVILIANS.

With reference to the attack by the Canadian soldiers on the Epsom Police Station - a report of which will be found elsewhere - we are asked to state that it is the wish of the police that there should be no acts of hostility displayed towards any Canadians, but that civilians should assist in making the duties of the police, both civilian and military, as light as possible. Among those who visited the Epsom Police Station yesterday, was Sir Nevil Macready.

TWO CANADIANS DETAINED

Yesterday (Thursday) as on the previous day, police officers visited the camp for the purpose of seeing if they could identify those who took a prominent part in the riot. Two Canadian soldiers were later taken, accompanied by two officers in plain clothes, Div. Det. Insp. Ferrier, and Pc. Rose, to the Epsom Police Station, and detained, and later in the day taken to Bow Street.

No charge had been preferred against them up to the time of their leaving Epsom, not far as could be ascertained, up to a late hour last night. It was understood, in the event of any charge being preferred, the proceedings would be at Bow Street, the idea apparently being that in consequence of the feeling existing in this district, it would under the circumstances, be better that Police Court proceedings should not take place at Epsom. By a coincidence, a resident of Epsom, Mr. E.W. Garrett, is one of the Bow Street magistrates.

This (Friday) morning the two Canadian soldiers were still under detention.

CANADIAN EXPLANATION REPUDIATED

Last (Thursday) night the Epsom Urban Council issued the following statement to the Press: That this Council most strongly repudiates the official explanation of the Canadian authorities that the riot was the result of the attitude of the civilian population, and protests against the official explanation being issued before judicial enquiries had even been commenced.

The Council has decided to be represented by counsel at the adjourned inquest.

A ROSE PLACED ON THE BODY

While the jury was viewing the body of Station-Sergt. Green yesterday afternoon, the Foreman (Mr. J. Chuter Ede), on behalf of the jury placed on the body a rose from the garden of one of the jurymen (Lieut. Commander Chamberlain).

COMRADES OF THE GREAT WAR EXPRESS SYMPATHY.

At a meeting of the Epsom branch of the Comrades of the Great War on Wednesday evening, it was decided to send a letter of sympathy to the widow and daughters of Station-Sergt. Green; to write to Inspector Pawley, wishing all the injured police officers a speedy recovery from their injuries; to be represented at the funeral, and to send a wreath.

SIR ROWLAND BLADES INTERVIEWS MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL.

The inhabitants will appreciate the helpful interest taken by Sir. Rowland Blades in the question of protective measures being adopted. Writing to the Clerk to the Urban Council yesterday (Thursday), the member for the Epsom Division said: "I telephoned to you this morning to convey my deep regret and sympathy in the trying and anxious time through which Epsom and the neighbourhood have been and are passing, and also my very deep sympathy with the family of the late Sergt. Green. In my absence I spoke to your deputy and to Mr. Chuter Ede, and the latter seemed quite satisfied with the arrangements being made to protect the neighbourhood from any possible repetition of such terrible scenes. I arranged with Mr. Chuter Ede to visit the War Office to make certain troops were actually being dispatched. I was fortunate enough to be able to have a personal interview with Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary for War; General Sir Charles Harrington, Deputy Chief of the Imperial Forces; General Romer, Chief of Staff to Sir Douglas Haigh, and Mr. Maccullum Scott, M.P., Mr. Churchill's Parliamentary Secretary, upon all of whom I impressed the seriousness of the situation and the necessity for prompt and adequate action. I was

informed that the troops had actually started, and received the enclosed letter, which I shall be glad if you will ask the Coroner to read in Court, so that not only Epsom, but the surrounding neighbourhood generally, may be satisfied that all possible is being done. Perhaps you will also be good enough to lay the letter before your Council."

A copy of the letter referred to will be found in a report of the inquest on another page.

CANADIANS' GIFT OF £200.

The Canadian Red Cross has voted £200 to the family of the deceased police officer.

REGRETS

Lieut. General Sir R.E.W. Turner, V.C., Chief of the Canadian General Staff, called upon the chairman of the Epsom Urban Council, and on the officer at the Police Station, on Thursday to convey the deep regrets of the Canadian authorities at the occurrence.

THE INJURED OFFICERS.

Sergt. Durham and P.c. Weeding were last night a little better. All the other officers are making very satisfactory progress.

THE THANKS OF THE POLICE

Under the present stress of circumstances, the Epsom Police, being unable to acknowledge by letter each of the numerous kindly messages received, desire, through the medium of this paper, to express deep appreciation of the sympathy that has been shown them, and to ask friends to accept this as an acknowledgment.

LORD ROSEBERRY VISITS THE STATION

About 12 noon on Thursday, Lord Rosebery's carriage was pulled up outside the Police Station, and Lord Rosebery had a few minutes' conversation with Inspector Pawley regarding the raid.

THE SPECIAL CONSTABLES

It has been suggested to ex-Chief Inspector Wooten, S.C., that a large number of the Epsom ex-Special Constables would like to pay a last tribute of respect to the late Station-Sergt. Green. It is therefore hoped that as many as possible will attend the funeral on Monday next in uniform, and will assemble at 2.30 at the Horton View end of the Lower Court Road.

MORE ARRESTS.

Seven more Canadians have been taken to Bow Street, bringing the total number to nine. These men were taken yesterday from Orpington. On Wednesday a number of men at the camp, including some who had been injured, were removed to Orpington, and yesterday some of the Epsom officers went there to see if they could identify any of the men as being among those who took part in the raid.

BISHOP OF WINCHESTER AND "THE TRAGIC INCIDENT."

Speaking at the Lecture Hall, Epsom, on Wednesday afternoon, on behalf of the Archbishop's Western Canada Fund, the Bishop of Winchester said: "It is painful to us that an incident so tragic should have occurred as that which happened at Epsom last night, and which cost the life of a public servant belonging to the town, and a great deal of injury to others. We shall be far removed from attributing this to anything like the

habitual conduct or the average character of our Canadian brothers. We know what splendid heroism they have shown, and we regret that a part of their unit, in the greater trials of peace, should have been led, no doubt under trying circumstances, into an affair with such painful results. I should have felt disrespectful if I had said nothing about what has happened, but we pass to brighter thought of what Canada has done for us, and what we have done, what we are still trying to do, for Canada."

Sir, During the disgraceful attack by 400 of 500 Canadians from Woodcote Park Camp on the night of June 17th-18th, on the Epsom Police Station, in addition to the most regretted loss of life and damage to public property, most wanton and unprovoked attacks were made on the property of private citizens. Gangs of undisciplined rowdies from the camp, dressed either in service uniform or hospital blue, many of whom appeared to be drunk, invaded these premises at midnight, and committed a great deal of damage. The large stable gates, which were locked, were forcibly broken from their hinges and flung into the middle of Ashley Road. Stone copings and brick walls were torn down to provide weapons for the brave attack of some hundreds of ruffians on less than a score of unarmed civil police. Cast iron gutters were stolen to use as battering rams, and oak pale fences torn down and flung into the road. This, I presume, was intended as a slight token of gratitude to the owner for permitting the free use of part of the premises as a canteen for upwards of three years.

It is somewhat difficult to decide what can be done by a private citizen in such a case to protect either himself or his property. Should he take any measures to protect himself, he will probably find himself before some grandfatherly "beak" who possibly never saw a blow struck in anger during his innocent and blameless life, and whose greatest excitement has been the missing of the 9.05 express to Town, and severely lectured for his presumption in "taking" the law into his own hands." A smart sentence as a gentle reminder would be handed out to him. Informing the police (the course usually advised on these occasions) was obviously futile on this occasion, as the few civil police available were bravely defending themselves and public property against an obviously organized attack by hundreds of camp rowdies wearing the King's uniform. Organised it certainly was, as it was easy to see that the roads near the Police Station were picketed, to prevent or interfere with any possible reinforcements of police.

The persons present dressed as officers, together with the N.C.O'S and M.F.P., were treated by the rioters with contempt. On a former occasion, when disturbances took place at the same spot, the men from the camp showed their contempt for discipline, and for those who are supposed to control their movements, although presumably holding the King's commission. In the course of a good few years of soldiering, I have never seen such utter contempt shown to officers by N.C.O'S and men under their control.

Now there is at the Council headquarters a powerful and wonderful new motor fire engine, which

apparently has little to do but keep up the luster of its resplendent brass work for drills and parades, why should it not be occasionally allowed to "work its passage" should such scenes occur in future? It is to be hoped they will not occur. Surely it might be brought into action to direct a "healing draught" on the young Canadian bloods from the camp, and by the direction of a powerful stream at close range cause them to reflect, and to direct their energies elsewhere. But, on the other hand, this proceeding might be construed by some sapient Bench as "taking the law into one's own hands" and this, as we all know, is a most reprehensible practice.

Yours, etc.,

R.W.

Ashley House, Epsom.

Sir – The deplorable occurrence on Tuesday night, which resulted in the death of a much respected sergeant of our local police, will, I trust, receive the immediate attention of the Army Authorities. I have no doubt that the large majority of the Canadians which took part in the disturbance will deeply regret it, but what has happened now may happen again when "the blood is up." It appears that one of their comrades was arrested. Even if arrested without proper cause, the determination to effect his rescue cannot possibly be justified. They have shown by their action on this and other occasions that they resent civilian authority. With these views, they clearly ought not to be quartered so near a civilian community. The Canadians ought to be their own police, and if they cannot keep control, they ought to urge the Government to provide a place where the risk of civilian life and property is reduced to a minimum. To expect or even allow a score of police to protect themselves against 400 soldiers is simply murder. I do hope the town will in due time show its appreciation of the very trying time Insp. Pawley and his men have gone through the past few years.

Yours faithfully,

RESIDENT.

The deplorable events on Tuesday night form by far the most unpleasant chapter in the history of Epsom during the war, a history which, on the whole, is one which can be viewed with feelings of pride. Regrets as to what took place in the wrecking of the Police Station are also, so far as the inhabitants of the town are concerned, not unaccompanied by feelings of pride, created by the thought of the really magnificent way our local police stood up to hundreds of Canadians. What these few police did against so many soldiers deserves to be publicly recognised in some way by the townspeople of Epsom. Probably nothing greater in the way of heroism has been performed by that little band of policemen struggling against what anyone would have considered to be overwhelming odds, struggling, and so far as preventing the administrative portion of the building from being wrecked is concerned, triumphing. It was really a great victory for the cause of order against disorder, but it was a victory – and that is the saddening part of the matter – at the cost of the death of Station-Sergt. Green, a most capable and genial officer.

The Conduct of the Canadian soldiers from the time they first arrived at Woodcote Park in 1915 has, on the whole, been wonderfully good. Let not that be forgotten in these days when feelings run high. It is within the last few months that some of those who wear the maple leaf badge have given the inhabitants and the police cause for complaint. The reasons may be various, and as to what preceded the raid, there is the last few months that some of those who Canadian version of the affair, which version has not at all favourably impressed the public.

But no good reasons can, possibly be adduced by the Canadian soldiers who took part in Tuesday night's monstrous proceedings for what they did. They suggest that some of their number were the subject of an unprovoked assault by civilians during race week, and that this assault was the origin of the almost nightly fights since with the youths of Epsom. They seem to have grievances against the police (1) for arresting any of them, presumably claiming the right to do whatever they like in the streets without hindrance, and grievances even because some of them were arrested at the races for gaming. As regards the bellicose relationships with the youths of Epsom, the fault may not be all on the side of the Canadians; very possibly is not. In any case, it needs to parties to a quarrel, and the lads of Epsom should be sternly discouraged from doing anything likely to contribute to continued disturbances. But whatever reasons and excuses the Canadians may put forward, they are paltry reasons and excuses for such action as was committed on Tuesday night.

EPSOMIAN.
