



**Police
History
Series**

The Tottenham Outrage - 1909

Mike Waldren QPM



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Awful Crimes

There are some events that are so unprecedented that they defy belief at the time and this was certainly the case in 1909 with what was almost immediately afterwards called ‘The Tottenham Outrage’. Armed criminals, carrying ‘modern’ firearms which they were prepared to use, were chased through the streets over a distance of about six miles by police officers who were either unarmed or who were carrying firearms that were not only limited in number but which were out of date and badly in need of replacement. They were joined by numerous members of the public, some of whom were also armed (which says a lot about the private ownership of firearms at the time), with a few of them even lending their guns to the police and showing a degree of public ‘have-a-go’ spirit that would probably be considered out of place today.

WHOLESALE SHOOTING AT TOTTENHAM
Lax Administration of Aliens Act Leads to Awful Crimes by Foreign Pests.

The Robbery

By the early 1900s the invention of the motor car had meant that rubber was an increasingly valuable commodity and the Schnurmann factory, which described itself as ‘The Largest Rubber Buyers in the World’, was in Tottenham in North London. It employed about 150 people and dealt in scrap rubber – an early example of recycling. In order to pay his workers every week Schnurmann sent his own car and chauffeur, 29-year-old Joseph Wilson, with a 17-year-old office-boy named Albert Keyworth, to the London and South Western Bank in South Hackney.

On 23 January 1909 the two set off as usual and collected about £80 in gold, silver and bronze from the bank. However, when they returned to the factory at about 10.30 in the morning two men, named at the time as ‘Jacob’

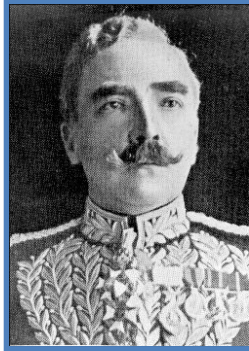


Largest Rubber Buyers in the World’, was in Tottenham in North London. It employed about 150 people and dealt in scrap rubber – an early example of recycling. In order to pay his



Schnurmann's car

and 'Helfeld', were waiting for them outside the main gates in Chestnut Road. A report to the



Henry

Commissioner of the Met, Sir Edward Henry, prepared two weeks after the event by Superintendent W. Jenkins, describes what happened next: 'Jacob seized the boy and bag [holding the money] and shot at him but inflicted no injury. There was a momentary struggle, they both fell but the man got up with the money. The chauffeur went promptly to the boys assistance when he was seized by Jacob, he however laid hold of the bag and grasped Jacob by the throat, both fell and struggled desperately, Helfeld shot at the chauffeur

repeatedly his coat riddled with bullets and a slanting shot passed through every garment including his under vest, in the region of his stomach. Jacob released himself and discharged his revolver at him. In a miraculous and unaccountable way he escaped injury.

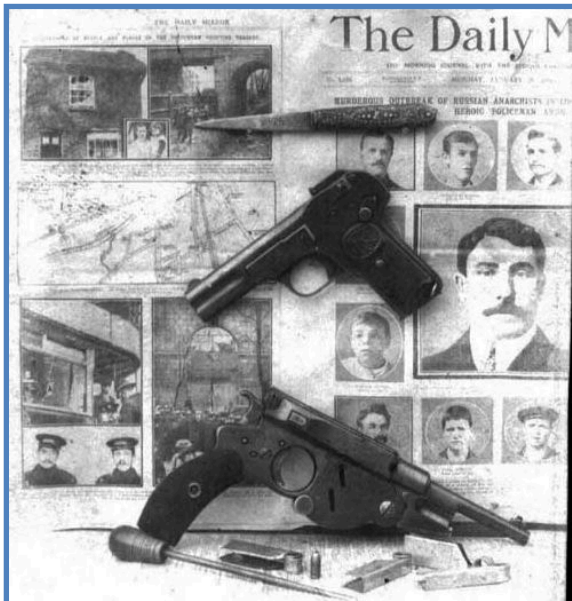
The chauffeur cried loudly for help and a man name[d] George Smith, a gas stoker ... went and gripped Jacob and threw him [to the

ground], the bag of money falling upon the pavement. Whilst struggling together Smith was shot in the chest by Helfeld. Jacob released himself and took the money at the same moment



Jenkins

discharging his revolver at Smith. His escape from death was equally remarkable'.



'Jacob' was later identified as being Jacob Lepidus (sometimes spelt Lapidus) and 'Helfeld' as Paul Helfeld, both Latvian immigrants, although doubts were expressed at the time that these were their real names. Helfeld had previously been employed at the Schnurmann factory for a few days when he probably saw the weekly wage delivery. The 'revolver' carried by Lepidus was in fact a

6.5mm 1894 model Bergmann (bottom in photo) while Helfeld carried a .32 calibre Browning (above). Both were magazine-fed self-loading pistols.

The weapons available to the Met were Webley .450 calibre gate-load revolvers which had first been supplied in 1884 and which, in theory at least, could only be issued to officers performing night duty. Indeed, a revised set of force instructions in April 1906 repeated the 'night duty' stipulation although of the 931 revolvers made available a quarter of a century earlier the number had reduced to 674 by 1905 due to the almost total absence of a proper maintenance regime. This number had been further reduced to 370 leaving, at best, two at each main police station after so many defects had been discovered in the remaining weapons that it was going to cost £474 (about £43,000 today) to repair them all. The Receiver of the Met, Sir Richard Pennefather, had suggested that the number be reduced to save money. A survey by Assistant Commissioner Major (later Sir) Frederick Wodehouse found that no revolvers were actually being carried at night anymore and Henry had agreed.



Webley .450 'British Constabulary' gate-load revolver

The choice of the robbery site was a poor one because it was almost directly opposite Tottenham Police Station which, in addition to its usual function, provided section house accommodation for unmarried police officers on its upper floors. As the two robbers ran off in the direction of Tottenham Marshes the sound of gunshots alerted the officers inside. Constables William Tyler and Albert Newman ran outside where they were told by Wilson what had happened. Newman told Wilson to get back into his car and then joined him as they went after the robbers in the vehicle while Tyler gave chase on foot. Meanwhile other officers had also been alerted. Constables Bond and Fraiser jumped through one of the windows of the police station into Chestnut Road and other officers, who were aroused from sleep, hastily put on whatever clothing immediately came to hand and ran out the front entrance to join the hue and cry. When the robbers turned and fired at them, Bond used a 'small revolver' he had borrowed from a passer-by to fire four shots in return but they all missed.



Newman and Wilson caught up with the robbers at Mitchley Road and were met with a fusillade of shots damaging the car's windscreen, hood and radiator thereby disabling it. Newman sustained a graze to his cheek and a

small wound on the lobe of his right ear. Among the crowd of people who were following the

chase was 10-year-old Ralph Joscelyne who had been helping the local baker on his rounds and one of the bullets hit him in the chest. He was taken to the Prince of Wales Hospital in Tottenham (renamed from Tottenham Hospital in 1907) but he was dead on arrival.



Joscelyne

Lepidus and Hefeld made off toward the Dust Destructor (a huge domestic rubbish incinerator) on Tottenham Marshes. Tyler and Newman took a short cut to get ahead of them and when they confronted the robbers opposite the Dust Destructor Tyler approached them and called upon them to give up. Hefeld took deliberate aim and shot him in the head.



Newman stayed with his colleague until Sub-Divisional Inspector Large arrived and together they carried Tyler to a nearby house where an ambulance was sent for. Five minutes after admission to the Prince of Wales Hospital Constable Tyler died.

According to Superintendent

Jenkins: 'The chase which had now become most desperate was continued with splendid determination. The murderers proceeded over the footbridge spanning the Great Eastern Railway, then in a north easterly direction to the west bank of the River Lea. Following this course to Chalk Bridge which spans the river just beyond the rifle butts, thence onto the Mill Stream Bridge where they held the crowd at bay for a considerable time'.

It was here that Cyril Burgess was hit in the ankle. Several men who had been duck shooting on Tottenham Marshes and nearby Banbury Reservoir had joined in the chase and they used their shotguns to return fire. Constable Nicod decided that enough was



Tyler

enough. He too borrowed what Jenkins described as a 'revolver' from someone in the crowd and went forward. Kneeling down on the bank of the river he took aim and squeezed the

trigger. Nothing happened. Although described as a 'revolver' it may well have been that it was a self-loading pistol and that the officer was unfamiliar with how it worked. In any event he beat a hasty retreat and both Hefeld and Lepidus fired at him. He was hit twice but subsequently recovered from his wounds.

The police and public continued the chase with both sides exchanging fire and 30-year-old Sidney Slater was wounded as was 27-year-old Frederick Baker. When the two robbers ran through a gypsy encampment they fired more shots but 'without causing any hurt or damage' and by the time they reached Salisbury Hall Farm they needed to catch their breath. Taking cover behind a haystack they kept their pursuers at bay with more or less continuous fire and 32-year-old William Roker, later described as being 'a local pugilist' who was 'anxious to show his skill on the murderers', was hit in both legs.

Tram Hijacked

The pair must have realised that trying to escape on foot was hopeless. What they needed was transport and so they left the farm and headed for Chingford Road where they hijacked a tram. Seeing the two gunmen the driver headed upstairs to the top deck leaving the conductor behind and it was he who was now forced to drive the vehicle with a gun at his head. A passenger on the tram, 63-year-old Edward Loveday, was wounded when he tried to make his escape. Sergeant Hales stopped another tram travelling in the opposite direction and told the driver to reverse. Many of the pursuing throng climbed on board as well and the chase resumed with the occupants of both vehicles firing at each other although with little effect.

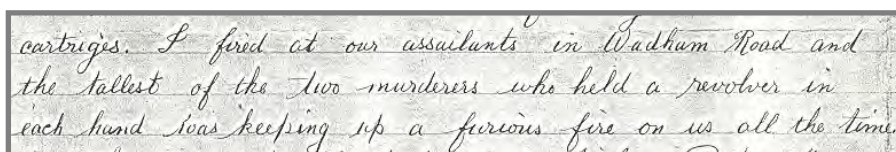


Constable Hawkings was now armed with a police revolver (one story that appeared in several newspapers was that the gun cabinet had to be forced open because no one could find the key) and he had commandeered a pony-drawn cart. As he drew near to the tram he took aim but was seen by Hefeld who shot the pony. The cart overturned sending its passengers spilling into the road and although the pony survived,

its owner, John Aldred, subsequently claimed £3 3s (£3.15) for depreciation in the animal's value. However, a vet put the value of the animal at 'about £10 and it was worth £12 before it received its injury ... [although] a shock of this kind would tend to make the animal unreliable and likely to take fright at street noises'. A settlement figure of £2 10s (£2.50) was eventually agreed.

The quick-thinking conductor realised that the tram was, by its very nature, unable to change its fixed route and so he told the pair that there was a police station just around the corner. The ruse worked and he was told to stop. The robbers got off and commandeered a horse-drawn milk cart which was stationary by the side of the road. The driver, 19-year-old George Conyard, was in a nearby shop and when he ran out to try to stop them he too was shot and wounded. However, the milk cart proved to be too slow and when it was overtaken by a horse and van being driven by a greengrocer's assistant, Thomas White, one of the men pointed a gun at his head and he jumped off his seat.

The robbers took the van and were hotly pursued by Constable Adams who had commandeered a car to give chase. Blowing his whistle, Adams managed to attract the attention of Sergeant Jowitt and Constable Francis who were on duty at Hagger Bridge just ahead of them. Despite having no idea of what was going on they tried to stop the van and were shot at although neither was hit. The action forced the robbers to change direction and they turned into Kingsley Road driving across waste land into several more roads. A member of the public, Thomas Brown, had joined the pursuit just before the hijacking of the van and he was now a passenger in a privately owned car being driven by a chauffeur, Frederick Williams, together with Constables Shakespeare and Gibb and another man who 'happened to arrive with a breechloading gun in his possession' which was now being used to fire at Hefeld. The man with the gun soon decided that this was not the place for him to be and so he



cartridges. I fired at our assailants in Wadham Road and the tallest of the two murderers who held a revolver in each hand was keeping up a furious fire on us all the time.

[For Full Document see Appendix I or Click Here](#)

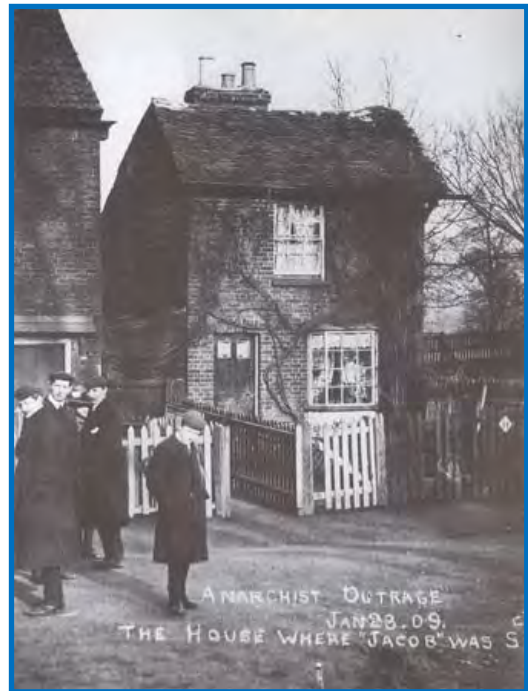
gave the gun and some cartridges to Brown who 'fired at our assailants ... and the tallest of the two

murderers [Hefeld] who held a revolver in each hand was keeping up a furious fire on us all the time'. Brown's account makes interesting reading but it is sometimes at variance with the other official records, particularly when he is trying to highlight his own role in the affair.

Lepidus and Hefeld abandoned their vehicle in Winchester Road and headed on foot for the River Ching with Hefeld keeping up a continuous fire with both guns at their pursuers. They clambered down a narrow bank of the river where Lepidus, who had the Bergmann pistol back by now, managed to climb over a fence. Hefeld tried to do the same but he was exhausted and when he saw the crowd behind him he called out to Lepidus 'Go on, save yourself, I've only got two [bullets] left'. He then shot himself in the head but he was still alive when his pursuers overpowered him. Shakespeare picked up the pistol used by Hefeld and Brown later said that he asked if he could have it to continue the pursuit.

Lepidus was still being chased by a crowd of police and public and when 38-year-old Frederick Mortimer threw a brick at him he turned to fire at them. A bullet passed over the shoulder of Constable Zeithing and hit Mortimer in the chest. Several more shots passed through the lapels of Zeithing's greatcoat. Lepidus was running out of options and so he decided his best bet was to go to ground and hide. He ran across Hale End Road into a field at the rear of Oak Cottage, a small two-storey house consisting of four rooms and a lean-to, and his pursuers lost sight of him. The owner of the house, Charles Rolstone, was not at home but when Mrs Rolstone saw a man looking in through the lean-to window, his face covered in blood from wounds probably caused by the shotguns fired at him during the chase, she screamed and ran out of the house crying 'Oh my children'.

Lepidus locked and bolted the lean-to and front doors and in desperation he tried to hide in a chimney. Station Sergeant Hart saw the large crowd of people and police officers with assorted weapons and he told them not to fire until the children were out of the house. Charles Schaffer, who had been in on the chase from the beginning, with Constable Dewhurst forced open the lean-to door and went into the kitchen where they found the children and brought them out to safety. After failing in his attempt to hide in the chimney Lepidus went upstairs to the small front bedroom and took a nervous look out of the window. He was spotted and those in the crowd with guns opened fire.



Constables Charles Eagles and John Cater with Detective Constable Charles Dixon found a ladder next door and put it up against the back bedroom window. Eagles borrowed a pistol (which Jenkins again wrongly describes as being a revolver) from a member of the crowd, climbed the ladder and opened the window. Meanwhile Hart searched the lower part of the house with a dog that he had found tied up outside and he then sent it upstairs (Jenkins mistakenly attributes this action to Dixon). Eagles, from the top of the ladder, encouraged it to look under the bed. It was at that moment that he saw Lepidus pointing a gun at him through the partially open back bedroom door. Eagles tried to fire at him but he couldn't work out how to disengage the safety catch of the pistol and so he climbed back down the ladder.



Bed on which Lepidus was found with his gun still in place

Back on the ground he swapped the pistol for a police revolver being carried by Dixon and the three officers went into the house. They climbed the narrow staircase with Eagles in front followed by Dixon and Cater. Eagles fired twice and Dixon once through the front bedroom door and there was the sound of a shot from inside the

room. The police forced their way in and found Lepidus on the bed 'in the throes of death' with his gun beside him.

At the time Eagles and Dixon thought that one of them must have fired the fatal shot but on 26 January a coroners court returned a

verdict of 'felo de se' (literally 'felon of himself'), an archaic legal term meaning suicide. Jenkins concludes his report by saying that: 'It would be impossible for me to speak too highly of the splendid conduct of the police of N and J Divisions. In response to my call to duty they were most prompt and in action cool, tactful and fearless'.

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

[For Full Document see Appendix II or Click Here](#)



Some of the officers involved from 'N' Division

A Report For The King

A special report was prepared for King Edward VII who, on 27 January, expressed his thanks to Henry for the 'interesting and graphic account of the tragedy at Tottenham' and offered his opinion that: 'It is almost inconceivable that such a thing could have occurred in these days on the very outskirts of London. The King thinks that the police behaved with great gallantry and should you consider it desirable to do so, he would be glad if you would

convey to those engaged in the affair, and especially the (two) [sic] officers who entered the house, his high appreciation of their conduct’.

Hefeld was also taken to the Prince of Wales Hospital and armed officers were posted both inside and outside in the grounds. There were fears that there might be a rescue attempt made by fellow ‘Russian anarchists’ or ‘Alien Terrorists’ as the pair were now being called by the media. He survived for three weeks before



Funeral procession of Tyler and Joscelyne

succumbing to his injury.



Tyler memorial

asking that it be placed on Tyler’s grave to show his ‘admiration for the London Metropolitan Police Force, to which the deceased belonged’. There was no mention of young Ralph and at the end of his letter the Baron made the point that: ‘The murderer who is said to be a Russian subject was not a Russian speaking ethnographically’.

The funerals of Constable Tyler and Ralph Joscelyne were held together on Friday 29 January and both were buried in Abney Park Cemetery. The joint funeral cortege passed through the streets of Tottenham which were lined by police officers two deep on either side of the road.

Baron Alphonse Heyking, the Consul General at the Imperial Russian Consulate in London, wrote to the Commissioner the following Monday to say that he was sending a wreath and



[For Full Document see Appendix III or Click Here](#)

On 23 March 1909 it was announced in force orders that Constables Dixon, Eagles, Nicod, Cater and Dewhurst would be specially promoted to the rank of sergeant, without examination, in recognition of their ‘devotion to duty and conspicuous courage’. At the same time Constables Newman and Zeithing were advanced to the highest rate of pay for their rank. Superintendent Jenkins and Sub-Divisional Inspector Large received an ‘appreciation of

excellent services rendered' from the Home Secretary. Seven officers were recommended for an award from the Bow Street Reward Fund and the names of another seventy, whose conduct appeared to merit special consideration, had their names passed to the 'Tottenham Outrage Fund' for an award. The incident brought about the creation of the Kings Police Medal which was awarded to Eagles, Dixon and Cater, by now promoted to sergeants, on 9 November.

Enemies

On the Continent of Europe, assorted anarchist groups were quick to portray Hefeld and Lepidus as heroes. *Le Révolté*, a journal published in Geneva, described how: 'Last week the dailies related in detail a tragic incident of the social struggle. In the suburbs of London (in Tottenham) two of our Russian comrades attacked the accountant [he was the office-boy] of a factory and, pursued by the crowd and the police, held out in a desperate struggle, the mere recounting of which is enough to make one shiver... After almost two hours of resistance, having exhausted their munitions, and wounded 22 people, three of them mortally [it was two], they reserved for themselves their final bullets. ... We today insist on saying loudly and clearly: The London "bandits" were at one with us! ... I can guess, dear reader, the sentimental objection that is on your lips: "But the 22 unfortunates wounded by your comrades' bullets were innocent! Have you no remorse?" No! For those who pursued them could have been nothing but "honest" citizens, believers in the state, in authority. Perhaps oppressed, but oppressed who, by their criminal weakness, perpetuate oppression. Enemies!'

Needless to say the article did not identify that one of those 'enemies' was only 10 years old and this sickening drivel would have appalled Ralph's mother, Louise Joscelyne. Her husband died shortly after the murder, of a broken heart according to the family, but she never remarried and lived on until 1952 at which time she still had a pair of small boots belonging to her son. They had been returned to her from the mortuary after the post-mortem and she kept them highly polished. Her last request was that they be buried with her and after a final shine they were placed carefully in her coffin.



The .450 Police Revolver

One result of the incident was that on 2 February 1909 Henry set up a board to examine and report on the various claims for compensation being sent in by members of the public who had taken part in the pursuit. The next day he added that 'I should be glad if this board would also make enquiry as to whether our Service Revolver is quite suitable or whether it could with advantage be replaced by some other type. They should also report whether the numbers at present attached to each station is adequate'. The board, consisting of two Met chief constables, Major E. H. T. Parsons and Colonel Edwards, together with Superintendent James Olive, carried out trials at the grounds of the gun maker, William Evans, at a total cost of £1 10s (£1.50). Despite the obvious urgency and although the board reported in March that the Webley revolvers should be withdrawn and replaced by 'Colts Automatic Pistol', probably the Model 1903 in .32 calibre, nothing happened.

It is quite likely that this was because weapon manufacturers in Great Britain objected to the largest police force at the heart of the Empire adopting a US-made weapon and, if so, this would explain why Henry sought more authoritative advice early in 1910. He asked the War Office about a suitable firearm and this time trials were conducted at the Army Inspection Department at Enfield Lock. In due course the Chief Inspector of Small Arms (the leading authority for the critical evaluation of military weapons) suggested that a British-made weapon, the .32 calibre Webley & Scott self-loading pistol, be adopted with the same model in .22 calibre purchased for training purposes. He also suggested that a number of officers from each division should receive training at Enfield so that they could act as instructors. By the end of 1910 none of the recommendations had been implemented, a lack of action that both Henry and Wodehouse would have cause to regret because the subject would be urgently revived again following a siege in East London – at 100 Sidney Street.

Note:

Were there any developments to do with police firearms in your force/area during this period of history? If so please contact mike.policehistory@yahoo.com.

© Mike Waldren

Thomas William Brown
11 Albion Road
Forest Road
Walthamstow
— " —

28732/10

(1)

On January 23rd 1909, I heard my son Thomas calling out, "Dad come quick". I saw him running down Kingsley Road and then a P.C. named Adams running down Forest Road. He said "don't go too near; they have got shooters"; I still kept running down Kingsley Road, and then I saw two men in a van the one driving whilst the other was at the tailboard with a revolver in each hand, and suddenly he fired at me, the bullet whizzing past my right temple. I was still pursuing, when one of them again fired at me, and this time the bullet passed through the cloth of the right leg of my trousers. I still continued in the chase following the murderers down Fulbourne Road, here they were still firing at random on their pursuers. They then turned to the left down Brookcroft Road; still firing until they reached Beresford Rd. After this they turned into Wadham Road. Then I went around into Chingford Rd. Here I met a P.C. who was doing point duty. I said "Come with me quick The murderers are up here meaning Winchester Road. He and another P.C. came running along with me and then we ~~we~~ saw a motorcar that was in pursuit. Into this we all got; also a gentleman who happened to arrive with a breechloading gun in his possession. We proceeded down the Wadham Road as quickly as possible and whilst on the way we were firing at our assailants. Soon the gentleman in possession of the Breechloading Gun left the car and let me have the use of the gun and some cartridges. I fired at our assailants in Wadham Road and the tallest of the two murderers who held a revolver in each hand was keeping up a furious fire on us all the time. Soon they were into Winchester Road, Highams Park; Here M^r North and myself fired on the two men in the van. Shortly they abandoned the van and commenced a retreat on foot. I then noticed the tallest of the two hand his mate one of the two weapons he had been using and then made off

2

for a fence that was close by. Here it was that Mr North and myself fired at the tallest of the two. He fell this side of the fence and was then seen to turn his revolver on himself, shooting himself in the right temple. I then ran on with two P.C.s; one of them picked up the revolver which had been used by the assassin. I asked the P.C. 747 for the revolver. We then continued to chase the murderers who was now alone. He made his way across to a place called Beech Hall Estate. Here they were erecting some houses, and more shots were fired by the assailant now at large, and a plasterer by name F. Mortimore was shot in the right breast. Then he ran across Oak Hill, through the hedge, around the back of the Oak Public House towards Oaks Cottages; I then reloaded the gun I had with me. Then I saw our assailant creeping behind the hedges with his revolver in his left hand, and he saw me taking aim at him. Then he made for one of the cottages near by and admitted himself by the backway. Soon I saw him at one of the bedroom windows. Then I fired at him, the shots piercing some of the windows of the room. Then detective Nixon came through the house and said; Dont fire anymore for God's sake as there are 3 or 4 of us inside now. I then entered the house and heard Nixon shout up the stairs to the assailant to surrender, but no answer came. By this P.C. Eagles was firing up the stairs at the door and soon all was quiet for some seconds; Suddenly a loud report rang out and then Inspector Gould of Tottenham made for the room. I then followed Nixon and P.C. Eagles. I then saw a man lying on a bed bleeding from a wound in the right temple and a revolver laying on the bed by his side.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

SPECIAL REPORT.

Stoke Newington STATION.

N DIVISION.

SUBJECT

7th day of February 1909

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

REFERENCE TO PAPERS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joseph William Ayley, age 30, of 113 Love Lane, Tottenham,
A slight wound on left knee when rendering assistance to P.C Tyler.

George Cousins, age 29, of 14 Asplins Road, Tottenham,
Received a bullet in thick part of left shoulder, after lying down for a short time renewed the chase

William Stephen Thomas Edwards, age 28, 4 Leeds Street, Edmonton. Received a shot in the left elbow near where P.C Tyler fell.

P.C 50 MR Hawkings graze over left eye and leg but how caused is not clear, he was following the murderers in an advertisement cart. One of the murderers shot the pony causing it to fall and Hawkings and the men with him were thrown out. Bullets had passed

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

LIST OF POLICE INJURED FROM OTHER CAUSES.

CLIMBING FENCES ETC.

P.C 513 N Forde sprain of left thigh.

" 238 N Woadden lacerated thumb of right hand

" 534 N Brown jagged wound of left hand.

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

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASUALTIES 25.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I proceeded there and took general charge.

Sgd. W. Jenkins

Superintendent.

Imperial Russian Consulate General

LONDON.

Windsor Chambers,

20, Great St. Helens, E.C.

1-st February 1909.

Nb 323.

To the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

New Scotland Yard, S.W.

Sir,

I have the honour of requesting you to arrange that the wreath I send you may be placed on the grave of the fearless Police Officer, who fell a victim of the recent Tottenham outrage. In doing so I wish to show my admiration for the London Metropolitan Police Force, to which the deceased belonged, and my deep sympathy with the bereaved. The murderer who is said to be a Russian subject was not a Russian speaking ethnographically.

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,

J. Heyking.
Consul General.

