

28 NOV 1964

1.

Saturday

28.11.64

BASIL HENRY ROBERTS being sworn and states as follows:

COUNSEL: You are at present stationed at Mackenzie, and you are a Lieutenant of 'D' Company, B.G. Volunteer Force?

WITNESS: Yes.

COUNSEL: On the 25th May, 1964 at 0800 hours, what would that be?

WITNESS: Eight o'clock in the morning.

COUNSEL: As a result of the general breakdown of law and order in the Wismar/Christianburg area on the 25th May, you were summoned by Major Langham to report for duty immediately along with your entire Company?

WITNESS: That is right.

COUNSEL: What was the strength of your Company.

WITNESS: The entire strength was 97.

COUNSEL: You reported for duty and subsequently reported to headquarters?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

COUNSEL: You received special instructions from your O.C. that you afterwards passed on to all ranks?

WITNESS: I did so.

COUNSEL: The instructions you received were to have every member of the force place one round of .303 ammo. in his breach, after having loaded his magazine with 10 rounds .303 ammo. in readiness on encountering any riot mobs, rioters or arsonists. You carried out these instructions?

WITNESS: I did so.

COUNSEL: Your term of duty began about 0930 hours, that is 9.30 on the 25th May and ended around 5 a.m. on the 26th May. And during your term you were engaged in numerous duties from rescuing men, women and children, saving buildings from being destroyed by fire and seeing the refugees were safely transported from Wismar Police Station to Demba Trade School. Is that right.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

/COUNSEL:....

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COUNSEL: A total of approximately 31 adults and 29 children were rescued by your patrol alone, some of these people were hidden in swamps, their houses and sometimes in a neighbour's home, is that correct?

WITNESS: That is correct.

COUNSEL: After seeing the plight of those people who were mostly in the one mile and half mile area - Where is that area?

WITNESS: Way back of the Wismar Housing Scheme, a little way back into the bushes.

COUNSEL: As a result of this, you were forced to concentrate on saving lives rather than property?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

COUNSEL: You are now saying that as a result of the presence of your troops most of these evacuees were able to collect a lot of their belongings, before being escorted to the Police Station.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

COUNSEL: The operation of which you spoke was done through rain, sun, swamp and dense bushes, up hill and down hill with nothing to eat or drink on the part of your troops?

WITNESS: That is true.

COUNSEL: Lieutenant you are saying that you are completely satisfied with the manner in which your men handled themselves in the situation under those conditions?

WITNESS: I am sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: You are now expressing the opinion shared by your answer that Major Langham was with you in the thick of things.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: Lieutenant Roberts let me get the time right on the 25th you were on duty from 9.30 which was the Monday, and to 0500 hours which was the Tuesday the 26th, the total period of something like 30 hours.

Did you have any sleep?

WITNESS:...

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WITNESS: No sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did you get anything to eat? Did you feed your men? How were your troops fed? Were they brought back for food?

WITNESS: It was difficult for me to say, I do not think anybody had more than a cup of tea.

MR. SHEPHERD: Were they fed by voluntary aid?

WITNESS: I think so, wherever it could be provided.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did you personally have nothing but a cup of tea for 30 hours?

WITNESS: I certainly had sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: So far as your patrol was concerned could you remember the exact number of persons that were rescued by your patrol?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SHEPHERD: You didn't keep an accurate record?

WITNESS: It wasn't possible to do that at the time.

MR. SHEPHERD: From your personal knowledge you are unable to say how many persons were rescued by other patrols.

WITNESS: I am sir. The other officers and men would have this.

MR. SHEPHERD: You say some were rescued in neighbours' homes, who were they, who rescued them, were they all Indians?

WITNESS: All races, Amerindians, Africans and East Indians.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did all these people help you rescue the lives of all the unfortunate people?

WITNESS: Yes sir,

MR. SHEPHERD: Lieutenant Roberts, complaints have been made about you and your men, do you know what these complaints are?

WITNESS: So far as I can say sir, they are not true, but are irrelevant to the members of the Volunteer Force.

SHEPHERD: Lieutenant Roberts have you heard of Mohamed Hakim?

WITNESS: He lived at 38 Silvertown Wismar. Yes, I know a man by the name of Hakim but I don't know if he is the man.

SHEPHERD:

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SHEPHERD: What race is he?

WITNESS: Indian.

SHEPHERD: What sort of business did he have.

WITNESS: He had a Liquor Restaurant.

SHEPHERD: What happened to his restaurant?

WITNESS: It was destroyed by fire.

SHEPHERD: Were you anywhere near the restaurant at the time?

WITNESS: No. 350 yards away.

MR. SHEPHERD: Were there any patrols near the restaurant.

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SHEPHERD: What happened when you were 350 yards away?

WITNESS: I saw the building on fire.

MR. SHEPHERD: Was it the only building on fire?

WITNESS: No, there were several others.

MR. SHEPHERD: Were you with your patrol?

WITNESS: I was with my patrol at all times.

MR. SHEPHERD: How many?

WITNESS: Six of them and myself.

MR. SHEPHERD: Were there any police?

WITNESS: None.

MR. SHEPHERD: What did you do when you saw Hakim's place on fire?

WITNESS: Nothing.

MR. SHEPHERD: What were you doing?

WITNESS: I was assisting in rescuing and transporting people to Wismar Police Station. I was away up the hill and I had a pair of binoculars. It was with the aid of this pair of binoculars that I observed Hakim's building and several others on fire.

MR. SHEPHERD: At the time you were engaged in rescuing other Indians?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: Do you know a man by the name of Inshan Ally-Khan who is a tailor?

WITNESS: Maybe I know him but not by name.

/MR. SHEPHERD:...

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MR. SHEPHERD: He was living at 125 Wismar.

WITNESS: I still don't know him.

MR. SHEPHERD: Can't you remember? He had a Dry Goods Store there.

WITNESS: Probably.

MR. SHEPHERD: Are Mr. Wishart and Sgt. Archer here?

WITNESS: Lieutenant Wishart is now at Mackenzie. Sgt. Archer is here.

MR. SHEPHERD: Was Sgt. Archer on patrol with you?

WITNESS: He had his own patrol, we met only on occasions.

MR. SHEPHERD: Were you with Sergeant Archer at any time when an Indian spoke to him about saving his property and Sergeant Archer replied that there was no time for that, only time for saving lives.

WITNESS: I cannot remember.

MR. SHEPHERD: Now Lieutenant Roberts, is it true that your instructions were to save lives and not to save property?

WITNESS: After observing the situation that is what I resolved to do.

MR. SHEPHERD: Do you know a man named Richard Bolaisingh? He owns a grocery and is about 67 years old. He is also called Richard Lowe.

WITNESS: I heard the name but I don't know him.

MR. SHEPHERD: This man has given evidence that while he was being rescued by a Policeman he saw a Volunteer breaking windows and doors. Did the Volunteers at any time break windows and doors?

WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

MR. SHEPHERD: If they saw houses on fire and thought that people's lives were endangered what would they do?

WITNESS: Obviously they would try to get into the building by smashing doors and windows.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did you after the 25th May work with the British Army?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: Do you remember Lieutenant Thomas?

WITNESS: I do.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did you meet Lieutenant Thomas?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

/MR. SHEPHERD:...

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MR. SHEPHERD: Could you say if you met him on Monday 25th?

WITNESS: I can't remember, probably I did.

MR. SHEPHERD: If there were rumours going around that Police and Volunteers were taking the side of the rioters would you have agreed?

WITNESS: I would never have agreed with it.

MR. SINGH: Where do you live?

WITNESS: 395 Mora Street, Mackenzie, Demerara River.

MR. SINGH: Before the 25th of this year, where did you live?

WITNESS: Same place.

MR. SINGH: What work did you do?

WITNESS: I am a professional photographer at the Demerara Bauxite Company.

MR. SINGH: When did you first hear of the incident at Wismar?

WITNESS: To be truthful on Sunday evening, on the 24th.

MR. SINGH: This was the first time you heard it?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SINGH: Prior to Sunday 24th did you feel any tension in the city?

WITNESS: I wouldn't be able to answer that.

MR. SINGH: Did you feel it?

WITNESS: I didn't feel it.

MR. SINGH: You felt that everything was going right and calm? When did you first realise that there was trouble?

WITNESS: When it started sir. On the evening of the 24th.

MR. SINGH: Tell me something, are you and your men trained to deal with situations such as you dealt with at Wismar?

WITNESS: Not fully trained sir but almost trained.

MR. SINGH: What exactly does that mean?

WITNESS: Not in comparison with the British troops.

MR. SINGH: What about the Police Force?

WITNESS: Our duties were quite different.

MR. SINGH: How often did you go into training?

WITNESS: Once a week, one hour to one and a half hours, one afternoon per week.

/MR. SINGH:...

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MR. SINGH: Now you are trained under whose command?

WITNESS: Well exactly I do the training.

MR. SINGH: What does Major Langham do?

WITNESS: He supervises.

MR. SINGH: When you are given these men training is Major Langham there?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SINGH: Are you directly under Major Langham?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SINGH: No one else?

WITNESS: We have got another officer Lieutenant White.

MR. SINGH: You are the same rank?

WITNESS: We are all the same rank.

MR. SINGH: When were you alerted to be embodied?

WITNESS: Approximately at 8 o'clock on the 25th May.

MR. SINGH: At 8 o'clock in the morning? When were you exactly embodied and committed?

WITNESS: Around 9.30 to 10.00.

MR. SINGH: How many of your platoon were committed?

WITNESS: I wouldn't be able to say.

MR. SINGH: How many of your men were committed by 9.30?

WITNESS: I wouldn't be able to say we were despatched at the trouble spot.

MR. SINGH: But surely you were there at 9.30? At that time how many men were embodied?

WITNESS: I don't know Sir.

MR. SINGH: What were you doing?

WITNESS: I was getting busy to see how many men I could get.

MR. SINGH: What did you mean getting busy?

WITNESS: Getting busy dressed to go across to Wismar.

MR. SINGH: Did you know there was trouble at Wismar?

WITNESS: I knew there was trouble at Wismar.

MR. SHEPHERD: He didn't, he picked up six men and went across to Wismar.

/MR. SINGH:..

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MR. SINGH: Did you use the word busy just now? In relation to what?
Collecting men?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SINGH: How many men did you collect? At what time?

WITNESS: Six men, between 9.30 and 10.00.

MR. SINGH: Between 8 and 9.30 what were you doing?

WITNESS: Getting dressed to report to headquarters.

MR. SINGH: Where did you say you lived?

WITNESS: At 395 Mora Street, Mackenzie.

MR. SINGH: How far is that from headquarters?

WITNESS: About half a mile.

MR. SINGH: So between 8.00 and 9.30 where were you?

WITNESS: I wasn't home all that time, I was receiving orders from Major
Langham.

MR. SINGH: What were the orders you received?

WITNESS: That there was trouble at Wismar and I was getting men out of their
as
jobs and getting many men as possible.

MR. SINGH: You say when you got over to Wismar, what time did you get there?

WITNESS: 9.30 to 10.00.

MR. SINGH: You say you were up on a hill and could see your men in
operation because you had the use of a binoculars?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SINGH: When you say your men you mean your platoon?

WITNESS: Not platoon sir.

MR. SINGH: I am sorry. How many men did you have under your command?

WITNESS: Six men.

MR. SINGH: You said you were about 350 yards away up on a hill and you
could see your men in operation because you had the use of binoculars?

When you say you had six men under your command you did not include yourself
in that number?

WITNESS: The six and myself.

/SINGH:...

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MR. SINGH: Were all six doing rescuing work?

WITNESS: The six men were with me all the time.

MR. SINGH: When you spoke of your men you mean all the members of the volunteer force?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. SINGH: You said in your evidence at the time when the Liquor restaurant was being burnt your men were 350 yards away.

WITNESS: My patrol was with me all the time.

MR. SINGH: Now what did you do to save the liquor restaurant.

WITNESS: I was not there.

MR. SINGH: You said that you were 350 yards away, you said that it got to such a stage that your primary concern with the removing of lives and removal of people who were burnt out. Now your original orders were to save property and life?

WITNESS: Our orders were, sir, to try as much as possible to save as much as we can.

MR. SINGH: By whom: who gave those orders?

WITNESS: Major Langham.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Major Langham told you to save house and properties?

WITNESS: No he didn't, sir, he told us to get across to Wismar, but when we reached there we saw fire.

MR. SINGH: At 9.30 in the morning you did not know what was happening?

WITNESS: I saw fire and people were being taken from Wismar.

MR. SINGH: And who were the persons you saw coming across the river?

WITNESS: I don't know them.

MR. SINGH: I mean what race?

WITNESS: East Indians.

MR. SINGH: At any time you were told to save lives and properties?

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. SINGH: Was Major Langham across the river? What time was it?

WITNESS: I saw him on the hill at 11 o'clock.

/MR. SINGH:..

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MR. SINGH: Can you say what time the Volunteer Force was fully embodied and committed?

WITNESS: About three o'clock in the afternoon.

MR. SINGH: I do not want to interfere I just want the evidence. Besides standing on the hill with your men what did you do?

WITNESS: We were rescuing people who were hiding.

MR. SINGH: How long were you living at Mackenzie.

WITNESS: Approximately eight years.

MR. SINGH: You know Wismar/Christianburg good?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SINGH: What time did you get over?

WITNESS: 9.30 to 10.00 o'clock.

MR. SINGH: You must cross over before you could have gotten where?

WITNESS: One mile and a half sir.

MR. SINGH: Between 9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. did you see anybody being beaten?

WITNESS: I saw that the people were beaten.

MR. SINGH: Did you see anybody setting fire to any building?

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. SINGH: Did you recognise anybody in the crowd?

WITNESS: I did not sir.

MR. SINGH: You did not? Did they look hostile?

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. SINGH: Why are you lying? They looked peaceful as if they were going to Church?

WITNESS: I don't know sir.

MR. SINGH: Did you see bibles in their hands?

WITNESS: I can't remember.

MR. SINGH: Why are you lying you would not impress anybody.

WITNESS: I am trying to answer you.

MR. SINGH: Do you know what is a bible?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

/MR. SINGH.,.,

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MR. SINGH: Did you see them with any books in their hands?

WITNESS: I do not know.

MR. SINGH: Did they have cutlasses or bicycle chains?

WITNESS: I can't remember.

MR. SINGH: Did you have guns?

WITNESS: Rifles and Sten Guns.

MR. SINGH: What are the names of the men in your command?

WITNESS: I will try.

MR. SINGH: I hope you will.

WITNESS: I will.

MR. SINGH: Do you know that you were going to give a statement today? Did you prepare for this?

WITNESS: I did expect that.

MR. SINGH: Yes?

WITNESS: Lance Corporal Simonds, Private Stevenson 'J', Private O. Boston 'C', and Lance Corporal Bacchus, 'O'.

MR. SINGH: You are doing well.

WITNESS: I can't remember the other two names for the moment.

MR. SINGH: Only six men and you can't remember the other two names? How many Stens were there?

WITNESS: Two.

MR. SINGH: Who and who were in charge of these guns?

WITNESS: Myself and Lance Corporal Simonds were in charge of them.

MR. SINGH: Did you know that the stens - do you know that one was lost or stolen?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SINGH: Was a report made to you about it?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SINGH: Tell me something, it was in your possession at the time when it was missing?

WITNESS: It was at the headquarters.

/MR. SINGH....

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MR. SINGH: What was the number of the Sten gun?

WITNESS: I would not be able to say.

MR. SINGH: Did you know that your Sten gun was found under a bridge at Kitty?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SINGH: You have lived in the area for eight years?

WITNESS: Yes sir about eight years.

PROF. DRAYTON: You have lived well with the people, you have lots of friends?

WITNESS: I should think so.

PROF. DRAYTON: Are any of them Indians?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: And you moved along well with them, you did not have any quarrels with them before, no hostility?

WITNESS: No sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: Prior to the 24th you said you saw no sign of tension?

WITNESS: No.

PROF. DRAYTON: You and your Indian friends got on well prior to that you heard no rumours that there was going to be any trouble in the area?

WITNESS: Well, there were rumours that there was going to be trouble in the area.

PROF. DRAYTON: From whom?

WITNESS: Well, from these fellows who were employees of Croo Kang's over at Mackenzie. One told me that there was going to be trouble in the area.

PROF. DRAYTON: The men in your patrol were at all times with you at Wismar?

WITNESS: Yes.

PROF. DRAYTON: So Lance Corporal Simonds was at all times with you?

WITNESS: Yes.

PROF. DRAYTON: In the course of your answer to Mr. P. Singh just now you said that at no time while you were at Wismar did you see unruly crowds?

/WITNESS:...

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WITNESS: Hostile crowds.

PROF. DRAYTON: What is the difference between hostile and unruly crowds?

WITNESS: Hostile crowds are people who are attacking and unruly crowds are people who can't be controlled.

PROF. DRAYTON: Well, hostile in what respect.

WITNESS: Well, they could not be controlled.

PROF. DRAYTON: Were they around?

WITNESS: No sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: Well, in what sense were they unruly.

WITNESS: They were moving up and down.

PROF. DRAYTON: As a matter of fact, in answer to Mr. P. Singh you said that they were moving so slowly that they were looking as if they were going to Church. But yet Corporal Simonds fired two rounds of ammunition to disperse unruly crowds? Were you present at that time?

WITNESS: No sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: But you told me you were. That was not on the 25th?

WITNESS: No sir. Probably the next day, there was a break and enter at the Mackenzie market square.

PROF. DRAYTON: No, this is an account of ammunition expended in military operations and it states where the circumstances under which Lance Corporal fired at an unruly crowd, so it wasn't Mackenzie, this was at Wismar.

WITNESS: The weapon used was a Sten gun?

PROF. DRAYTON: We can check that of course, but at no time was a shot fired?

WITNESS: Not with my patrol. They never fired a shot.

PROF. DRAYTON: You did not see any cases of people being raped?

WITNESS: No, I saw a woman come running to me in the nude, out of the bushes.

PROF. DRAYTON: Where was this woman?

WITNESS: At one mile Wismar.

PROF. DRAYTON: Do you know this woman?

WITNESS: No sir.

/PROF. DRAYTON:...

PROF. DRAYTON: Did you find out her name?

WITNESS: No, sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: Did you go down by the riverside, you and your patrol at any time? Were there any crowds there?

WITNESS: Yes.

PROF. DRAYTON: What were they doing?

WITNESS: They were in front of the Police Station watching what was going on and being dispersed all the time.

PROF. DRAYTON: How long have you been a member of the Volunteer?

WITNESS: 1953.

PROF. DRAYTON: Thank you.

MRS. MOOTOO: You said you rescued several people, how many?

WITNESS: It was approximately about 31 adults and 29 children.

MRS. MOOTOO: Where did you rescue them from.

WITNESS: From the sand crying out for help, because some of them were beaten.

MRS. MOOTOO: You saw them being beaten?

WITNESS: No. They were hiding out in houses.

MRS. MOOTOO: What else.

WITNESS: We took them down.

MRS. MOOTOO: What else did you rescue them from?

WITNESS: From swamps. I had a report that there were people hiding out in swampy areas and I took my patrol to go and rescue them.

MRS. MOOTOO: Was the atmosphere tense when you were there?

WITNESS: Yes. People were lying about the place, and buildings were being destroyed.

MRS. MOOTOO: Three houses in Georgetown can be on fire, and yet the atmosphere need not be tense.

WITNESS: Well, I term this as tense.

MRS. MOOTOO: I can see a house on fire and I can sometimes look at the crowd and say it is not tense.

/WITNESS:...

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WITNESS: Well, after seeing so many people we realised that something was going on, so I decided that the situation was tense.

MRS. MOOTOO: But you did not see anybody being beaten or anybody being raped?

WITNESS: No.

MRS. MOOTOO: You did not see anybody running about with bottles, or sticks and yet you say it was tense?

WITNESS: I saw people running, going and coming.

MRS. MOOTOO: You say you were looking through a pair of binoculars.

WITNESS: At that time it was Hakim's store on fire.

MRS. MOOTOO: But if you were busy at the time how could you look through binoculars?

WITNESS: Where I was looking from was close to the Police Station, and there were people all around and I could not leave them there.

MRS. MOOTOO: Why were you looking at them?

WITNESS: Members of the Police Force were there.

MRS. MOOTOO: Did you have a drink from Mr. T. Prashad's shop?

WITNESS: Not on the 25th, I don't know who is T. Prashad.

MRS. MOOTOO: Did anybody give you a drink?

WITNESS: No.

MRS. MOOTOO: Did you see a woman by the name of Shirley Mohammed, did you see her with three children?

WITNESS: I probably know her, but not by name.

MRS. MOOTOO: Did you see a woman with three children and with her clothes torn, calling out to the Volunteers for help?

WITNESS: I cannot remember.

MRS. MOOTOO: Thank you very much.

PROF. DRAYTON: Now I have referred to Exhibit P presented by your Commanding Officer which shows on the 25th and not on the 26th that Corporal Simonds was equipped with a rifle and not a Stea gun, and that he fired .303 ammunition to disperse an unruly crowd.

WITNESS: What Major Langham said was wrong.

/MR. SHEPHERD:...

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MR. SHEPHERD: I object sir, Officer Langham keeps his own records and this witness cannot be questioned to the manner of how it is kept.

CHAIRMAN: The witness has told us that Simonds could not have fired the shot on the 25th, because he was with him all the time.

PROF. DRAYTON: When you were looking through your binoculars, and saw Hackim's shop burning, you had the members of your patrol with you, all of them armed? Couldn't you send two or three members of your patrol to save Hackim's shop? You kept all of them there with you?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: You didn't think of sending two of your men to save the shop?

WITNESS: No sir, there were other members of the force getting rid of the crowd.

MR. SHEPHERD: They were looting on the 24th at 8.00 a.m.?

WITNESS: It was on the 25th sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: On the 25th, the Monday, 24 men had already been called in but before the rest were alerted and came in dribs and drabs. Your total strength was 97, and how many in the area were committed?

WITNESS: The entire 97.

MR. SHEPHERD: In answer to a member of the Commission there were crowds and I think you used the term "unruly".

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: Is this your opinion that if you had shot into the crowd the situation would have got worse?

WITNESS: I probably think worse.

MR. SHEPHERD: In an answer to a member of the Commission when you saw Hackim's place burning were other places burning at the same time?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: How many other places would you say were burning at a guess?

WITNESS: Well about five.

/PROF. DRAYTON:...

PROF. DRAYTON: You rescued a lot of people, when you saw the fires why didn't you go to put them out?

WITNESS: If I had left them there, by the time I had returned I might have found them dead or beaten.

CHAIRMAN: Did you have any training in dealing with riotous crowds?

WITNESS: No Sir.

CHAIRMAN: Would you say that all the Indians were evacuated from the Hill?

WITNESS: Not on the same day.

CHAIRMAN: Now to come back to the unruly crowds how did you handle them?

WITNESS: Well I never encountered any of them.

CHAIRMAN: Do you know a woman by the name of Shirley Mohammed?

WITNESS: No.

CHAIRMAN: Do you know a man by the name of Ramnaresh?

WITNESS: Perhaps I saw him but I don't know the name.

CHAIRMAN: Do you know whether your patrols were near the shop and were seen drinking beer?

WITNESS: My patrols were at no time near a shop. There was no shop nearby.

CHAIRMAN: Did your patrols pass by and see any house being pulled down?

WITNESS: No sir.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Your full name is Robert M. Archer?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: And you are Sergeant 1342 of 'D' Company of the British Guiana Volunteer Force?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On Sunday, 24th May, 1964 at about 1500 hours, at about 3 p.m. you were embodied at Mackenzie following an outbreak at Wismar?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: You were in charge of 24 men made up as follows: 3 Corporals, 3 Lance Corporals and 18 Privates?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

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MR. RAMSAROOP: These men having received their orders from Major Langham who was in charge, drew their rifles and ammunition at 1900 hours, that would be 5 p.m.

WITNESS: No, 7 p.m.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On the said day 24th May, the first detail of 12 men arrived at the Wismar Police Station. Your men were divided into four groups and placed under the supervision of a uniformed armed Policeman and you returned to barracks and resumed your guard duties. The second set of 12 men left for Wismar at 2345 hours that would be quarter to twelve.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On the morning of the 25th, you received a telephone message from Major Langham. When?

WITNESS: About 9.30 to quarter to ten.

MR. RAMSAROOP: You received a telephone message from Major Langham that you must take every available man to Wismar immediately because there was a breakdown of law and order.

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On arriving at Wismar Police Station you were instructed by the Officer-in-Charge.

WITNESS: By the Sergeant.

CHAIRMAN: Could you define the Sergeant's name?

WITNESS: Sergeant Chalmers.

MR. RAMSAROOP: You were instructed by Sergeant Chalmers to have two troops to patrol independently?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. RAMSAROOP: You took control of one group and 2608 Blanchard took charge of another group?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: The men under your control left with you for Silver Town. Is that Silver Town, Wismar?

WITNESS: It would be Half Mile and One Mile. The area is divided up into sections. Silver Town is one section and Half Mile is up on a hill.

/MR. RAMSAROOP:.

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MR. RAMSAROOP: Did you while patrolling observe a fire at Half Mile and saw a dwelling house on fire? Can you particularise it?

WITNESS: On patrol we asked whose house was burning and nobody seemed to know and we couldn't do anything because we didn't have any fire equipment.

MR. RAMSAROOP: In Silver Town? And you saw no lights in the house and the house was completely locked?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Not so far away you saw another fire and there were crowds of people shouting. People of what race?

WITNESS: They were made up mostly of Africans.

MR. RAMSAROOP: What were the shouts?

WITNESS: The normal shouts of a disorderly assembly, a riotous assembly.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On reaching there you found the house of Walter Bholai on fire and both himself and his wife beaten and stripped. At Silver Town?

WITNESS: No at One Mile area.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Sergeant you then cordoned off the area and dispersed the crowd aided by your men. While you were in that area your patrol rescued several persons including Ameer Khan Samaroo who was reported beaten, Mohamed Assak of the Valley of Tears. He was also beaten. Is that correct?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: And several other families ran to you for assistance and you in company of your men escorted them to the Wismar Police Station.

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. RAMSAROOP: In Silver Town you picked up one Joe Persaud of One Mile?

WITNESS: Not One Mile. I picked him up in Silver Town. His residence at the time was at One Mile.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Joe Persaud was beaten and robbed?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Persaud gave you \$95.00 for safe keeping?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

/MR. RAMSAROOP:...

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MR. RAMSAROOP: Did he get it back?

WITNESS: The next morning Corporal Theirens and myself took the cash back to Persaud. He was at the Trade School.

MR. RAMSAROOP: These men were rescued in your party, Persaud, Sankar and several people from the Silver City area.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: These were taken to the Wismar Police Station where they were given protection by your 'D' Company?

WITNESS: Yes, the nature of the protection, there were people outside the Police Station where the rescued were taken. We stationed armed guards around to prevent the people from surging into the compound.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Were there people keeping watch?

WITNESS: Yes there were.

MR. SHEPHERD: Sergeant Archer, was it your duty to protect these people? When did your tour of duty start? Was it on Sunday or Monday, the 24th or the 25th May?

WITNESS: On Sunday the 24th at.....

MR. SHEPHERD: What time?

WITNESS: At three o'clock that day.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did it finish on the 25th or the 26th?

WITNESS: On Tuesday the 26th.

MR. SHEPHERD: During that time you had much sleep?

WITNESS: Not very much sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: How much?

WITNESS: To be correct. I had on the 24th to 25th two hours sleep.

MR. SHEPHERD: What happened on the 25th and 26th?

WITNESS: Two hours and a half sleep?

MR. SHEPHERD: How did you and your men take it?

WITNESS: The situation was very tense and we just had to be on the go.

MR. SHEPHERD: You said that you found Walter Bholu beaten and stripped: How did you see him?

/WITNESS:.....

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WITNESS: He was lying in his yard.

MR. SHEPHERD: What did you do for Walter Bholai?

WITNESS: His wife asked me to give him some water to drink and we sent for transportation to take him to the hospital.

MR. SHEPHERD: Were you satisfied with the service that your men performed?

WITNESS: Yes I am.

MR. SHEPHERD: How many years of service do you have in the Volunteer Force?

WITNESS: Fourteen years.

MR. SHEPHERD: How long have you lived in Mackenzie?

WITNESS: Since 1956.

MR. SHEPHERD: You know the people well at Wismar? You know Hakim Khan at 38 Silver Town. Was his place burned down?

WITNESS: Yes it was.

MR. SHEPHERD: Where were you when it was being burnt?

WITNESS: I was not there.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did you see it?

WITNESS: I saw it Sunday night. It wasn't burnt when we were passing through Silvertown going up to Half Mile, One Mill, nor when we were passing back.

MR. SHEPHERD: Were you told of saving lives and properties?

WITNESS: At all times we were told to save the lives of people.

MR. SHEPHERD: Which came first?

WITNESS: Lives.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did Hakim complain to you about your men?

WITNESS: No.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did you know Inshan Ali Khan, he is a tailor and businessman at Silver City?

WITNESS: Yes, I know him.

MR. SHEPHERD: Did he say something to you about his property?

WITNESS: I can't remember, several people told me about theirs.

/MR. SHEPHERD:...

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MR. P. SINGH: Did you ask?

WITNESS: In all cases, when persons reported to me that they were beaten I asked them if they could identify the man or woman who beat you, do you know his name, but they didn't say.

MR. P. SINGH: From 9.30 to 10.00 next morning, although you patrolled the entire city, would you agree with me that during the patrols you saw a lot of people behaving in a disorderly manner, you agree with that?

WITNESS: Yes, they were.

MR. P. SINGH: And during this patrol of yours from 9.30 to whenever it was the next morning, you saw nobody being beaten, and nobody lighting houses afire?

WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. P. SINGH: These crowds you saw numbered about what?

WITNESS: The largest crowd I have ever dispersed at one time numbered about 150.

MR. P. SINGH: Having dispersed them, did they go elsewhere and gather?

WITNESS: Yes, you dispersed a crowd here, saying get away, go to your home, they removed from one area and went to another area.

MR. P. SINGH: Let us put it this way, your patrol was not able to cope with these crowds?

WITNESS: No, we could not have coped with the crowds.

MR. P. SINGH: You live at Mackenzie?

WITNESS: Yes, I do. I live in the Housing Scheme at Wismar.

MR. P. SINGH: How many years have you been living there?

WITNESS: Since 1961.

MR. P. SINGH: Did you recognise any persons in these crowds?

WITNESS: Yes, several.

MR. P. SINGH: And you said that having dispersed them here, they would go there and assemble?

WITNESS: Yes.

/MR. P. SINGH...

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MR. P. SINGH: Did you arrest any of them?

WITNESS: Not for assembling.

MR. P. SINGH: What for?

WITNESS: I made arrests of people with articles that might have appeared to be looted stuff.

MR. P. SINGH: I see, but tell me, wasn't one of your duties to disperse crowds and make sure that there were no gatherings of people on the road?

WITNESS: Yes, that was one of our duties.

MR. P. SINGH: Well if you told a person to disperse and they didn't disperse what would you do?

WITNESS: I would have them arrested.

MR. P. SINGH: Well if you told them to disperse here, and they went to the corner and gathered again what would be your duty?

WITNESS: I would have them arrested.

MR. P. SINGH: Did you arrest any?

WITNESS: No, I did not.

MR. P. SINGH: Why?

WITNESS: Because whenever I gave an order to disperse, people would move promptly.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you recognise if it was the same crowd you told to disperse? Would you recognise any of the people?

WITNESS: Yes, I told you I would recognise some of them.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Now, how did these people appear to you?

WITNESS: They appeared to be calm, some were just walking.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you find out why they were gathering?

WITNESS: No, I didn't. My duty was not to disperse crowds but to see that they didn't commit any offence.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Who gave you the orders?

WITNESS: Major Langham.

MR. P.N. SINGH: What were your orders?

WITNESS: My orders were to go over with other responsible men we have to Wismar because there was a breakdown of law and order.

/MR. P.N. SINGH:...

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MR. P.N. SINGH: Sgt. Chalmers gave you the orders when you arrived?

WITNESS: He told me to divide my men in 2 groups. Sgt. Chalmers told me that people were lighting fire to people's houses and people being beaten.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Yet you say the crowd was peaceful?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you see them with any weapons?

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. P.N. SINGH: No sir.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you feel that your forces were able to cope with these emergencies?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. P.N. SINGH: How often does the Volunteer have training?

WITNESS: We have parades one time per week on the average.

MR. P.N. SINGH: What about the recruits?

WITNESS: They do two parades per week.

MR. P.N. SINGH: The Sten gun which was issued to you, could it be used with a .45 bullet?

WITNESS: No. It uses 9 mm. ammunition.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Could any Sten gun be used with .45 bullets?

WITNESS: Not that I know of.

PROF. DRAYTON: You say you lived at Wismar for eight years. You got on well with the people?

WITNESS: Very well indeed.

PROF. DRAYTON: You were friendly with both Indians and Africans?

WITNESS: Yes.

PROF. DRAYTON: When did you become aware of the tension of the possibility of serious trouble?

WITNESS: The morning of the 24th.

PROF. DRAYTON: No time before?

WITNESS: A couple of weeks before there were rumours around the area that persons wanted to poison the water.

/PROF. DRAYTON:...

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PROF. DRAYTON: Sgt. Archer, why did you only have two hours sleep between the 24th and 25th?

WITNESS: That was because the number of men were inadequate.

PROF. DRAYTON: Where were you on the night of the 24th?

WITNESS: I was in the guard room at Mackenzie, on duty.

PROF. DRAYTON: Now, in the course of your evidence, correct me if I am wrong, you said that some of the crowds were riotous, and you described others as a peaceful assembly.

WITNESS: Some were just chatting, and they were walking in groups and making noises.

PROF. DRAYTON: Is this riotous behaviour? What is the difference between that crowd and the others? When I asked you what is a riotous crowd you told me that they were making noises. Isn't this so.

WITNESS: Yes.

PROF. DRAYTON: Any such crowd you would describe as riotous?

WITNESS: Yes.

PROF. DRAYTON: What were the other crowds doing?

WITNESS: They were just standing by the roadside looking about.

PROF. DRAYTON: Were they making any noise?

WITNESS: No.

PROF. DRAYTON: So that the difference between a crowd and a riotous crowd is that a riotous crowd is noisy. Have you been trained to deal with a riotous crowd?

WITNESS: No, we have had no such training.

PROF. DRAYTON: What were orders for dealing with riotous crowds before you left Mackenzie?

WITNESS: We were told that if we encountered people trying to attack the civilians or other people, we were to open fire.

PROF. DRAYTON: You said that on two occasions you had encountered riotous crowds milling around somebody's property. What did you do?

WITNESS: We had them dispersed.

PROF. DRAYTON: How?

/WITNESS:...

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WITNESS: We formed extended lines and told the people to go to their homes.

PROF. DRAYTON: But you said that you were ordered to shoot at such times.

WITNESS: Only if the crowds tried to attack us or endanger the lives of the people.

PROF. DRAYTON: Do you consider that these two riotous crowds were trying to endanger the lives of civilians and members of the public?

WITNESS: No not at the time.

PROF. DRAYTON: Yet they were riotous.

WITNESS: They were noisy.

PROF. DRAYTON: So a riotous crowd is a noisy crowd.

WITNESS: Or disorderly.

PROF. DRAYTON: I am trying to understand what you mean by a riotous crowd.

WITNESS: They were disorderly.

PROF. DRAYTON: Many times in Georgetown there are crowds of people making noise. Would you describe them as riotous?

WITNESS: They could be described as disorderly.

PROF. DRAYTON: What I am trying to get from you is why you did not fire into the two riotous crowds you saw having been given orders to do so before you left Mackenzie.

WITNESS: If and only if they were trying to endanger the lives of people and property or attacking the civilians, and they were not.

PROF. DRAYTON: Thank you.

REV. MCDONALD: Sergeant would you like to change 'riotous' to 'disorderly'?

WITNESS: Yes.

REV. MCDONALD: You have lived in Wismar for about three years and should know the people. Would you say that they are excitable or volatile?

WITNESS: Not in my opinion.

REV. MCDONALD: Are they calm?

WITNESS: I believe they are.

REV. MCDONALD: Have you lived on the Coast?

/WITNESS:...

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WITNESS: Yes, I have lived in Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

REV. MCDONALD: Would you say that the people at Wismar possess a greater quality of roughness about them than the people of Georgetown at normal times?

WITNESS: Yes.

REV. MCDONALD: Do you know Lieutenant Wishart?

WITNESS: Yes.

REV. MCDONALD: Do you know if he opened fire at any time?

WITNESS: Yes, I heard that on one occasion he had cause to open fire. At that time there were two others who fired, one Police Officer and one Volunteer Corporal.

REV. MCDONALD: I understand that Lieutenant Wishart has left the district, do you know of the reason?

WITNESS: I do not know, I heard that he was transferred to Georgetown

REV. MCDONALD: Did you hear of threats?

WITNESS: No.

REV. MCDONALD: Would you say Sergeant that knowing the people and knowing their nature would make your position in this terrible situation somewhat more difficult than the position of the British Troops that came later? In other words would you say that as a person involved in the community that this added a large amount of difficulty to your work than would have been the case of a perfect stranger?

WITNESS: No, I do not think so.

REV. MCDONALD: So you were in the same position as a Sergeant of the Devon and Dorsets?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

REV. MCDONALD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Do you know Prashad's shop?

WITNESS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Were you seen drinking at that shop at any time during the 25th May.

WITNESS: No.

/CHAIRMAN:...

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CHAIRMAN: Were you and your men seen drinking at Ramnaresh's shop situated at Half Mile Wismar?

WITNESS: No sir, we could not do that.

CHAIRMAN: There is an accusation that Volunteers went by while one Mrs. Barker an East Indian woman living with an African was bored. She started to scream for help, and was passed by a Volunteer, do you know of this?

WITNESS: No sir.

CHAIRMAN: Do you know a man called Banga Mary?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: Did you see him that day in the crowd?

WITNESS: Yes, I saw him patrolling in the streets.

CHAIRMAN: Was he part of your unit?

WITNESS: No sir.

CHAIRMAN: He was carrying on his own patrol?

WITNESS: Possibly.

CHAIRMAN: Did any of the evacuees make any accusations about Banga Mary to you?

WITNESS: No sir.

CHAIRMAN: Did your patrol rescue one Mrs. Gopie?

WITNESS: No sir.

CHAIRMAN: You did not rescue anyone named Gopie in a jeep?

WITNESS: No sir, I did no mobile patrols,

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. SHEPHERD: There are nine Volunteers here to make statements.

MR. RAMSAROOP: We intend to call some of them.

CHAIRMAN: Lance Corporal Bacchus. What Bacchus.

WITNESS: Oswald Bacchus.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On the 24th May, 1964, you, with 24 others were embodied at Mackenzie around 2.30 p.m. under command of Sergeant Archer.

WITNESS: Yes.

/MR. RAMSAROOP:

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MR. RAMSAROOP: Your duties were read to you by your O.C. of the 'D' Company and rounds were then issued to you?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. RAMSAROOP: And to everyone of you, rounds of ammunition.

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On the said Sunday 12 of you reported at the Wismar Police Station to duty. The Sergeant then in charge of the Station detailed two Volunteers and one Policeman to do patrol in the district. You and one other volunteer along with Corporal Joseph patrolled One Mile area until 5 p.m.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: You thought everything then was calm.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On the 25th May around 10 a.m. you were called out to assist the Police at Wismar. You got to the station around 10.30 a.m. and at that time houses were being burnt and people were at the Station asking for help.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: What type of help was requested?

WITNESS: To assist them in bringing their things to the Station in order that they will be saved.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Lieutenant Roberts got to the station about 10.40 a.m. About 10.45 you received a report from an Indian woman whose name you can't remember. She reported that men had beaten her at Half Mile area and that she had to run with her nine months baby in the bush. At that time the rain was falling.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Where was the rain falling?

WITNESS: At Wismar.

MR. RAMSAROOP: You recalled that Mr. Roberts took six men and went in search of the child but did not find any trace of the child. You and others in your company made inquiries but to no avail. You with your men

/continued....

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continued to patrol, rescuing people in the Half Mile and One Mile area.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMBAROOP: In the Half Mile area an Indian man reported to you that some men were setting fire to his house which was a concrete building. Yourself and Lieutenant Roberts, Major Langham and two other Privates when to the man's assistance, where you saw no one at the place you referred to. You checked around the building and windows were broken and bottles were strewn over his place.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Lieutenant Roberts asked the people there if they would like him to take them to the Police Station to which they replied 'yes, but they would like to take a few things with them'?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Yourself and one other Private whose name you can't recall. You were detained by Lieutenant Roberts to watch these people and after they had finished packing you took them to the Wismar Police Station.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: The families comprised of four. Is that correct?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: An hour later the house was burnt. Was it the house that you were detailed to watch.

WITNESS: It wasn't the house sir, we were told to watch the people.

MR. RAMSAROOP: When you were finished watching you then reported to the Police Station around 5 p.m. Everything seemed calm at the time?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: About 5.30 p.m. yourself and Corporal Roberts rescued Lalta Paul and his family of three, also Barbara Jack and family - a family of five.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: On the 26th May this year around 8 a.m. were you posted to One Mile area with Devonshire and Dorset soldiers?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

/Mr. RAMSAROOP:...

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MR. RAMSAROOP: And around 10 a.m. on that day you received a report from a negro woman that her son's girl was locked in a house for two days and was afraid to come out and was asking for help to get across to Mackenzie at Dr. Klautky's residence where she was working.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: Her son's girl's name was Betty Hamid and she was having a young baby. She was just at the point of delivery.

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: At about 3 p.m. you got another report and you went to the assistance of three Indians who were hiding at a negro man's place. You couldn't recall his name?

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. RAMSAROOP: At about 3.30 p.m. you reported back at the Wismar Police Station where one Ross from the One Mile area called you and asked you to wait on.

WITNESS: Yes sir

MR. RAMSAROOP: From where did this man call you? Was it in his house? You went to him. He said that he was afraid and he was hiding for three days. His wife was a negress. You took both of them subsequently to the Wismar Police Station.

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: No questions.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you know Hakim's residence? Oh, by the way do you know Hakim Alli known as Khan? Could you possibly see from where you were to Hakim's residence?

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Now, how far away you were?

WITNESS: One mile.

MR. P.N. SINGH: You were in company with Lieutenant Roberts at that time, and you were 350 yards and saw Hakim's house at the time.

WITNESS: We were not at that time together.

/MR. P.N. SINGH:...

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MR. P.N. SINGH: You said that you were with him and you never left him.

WITNESS: I was not with him all the time.

MR. P.N. SINGH: When did you leave Wismar?

WITNESS: I can't remember, Early the next morning.

MR. P.N. SINGH: How many crowds you saw?

WITNESS: I did not take a check.

MR. P.N. SINGH: About how many in a crowd?

WITNESS: About 100.

MR. P.N. SINGH: You saw crowds, what were they doing?

WITNESS: They were gathering on the road chatting. Some were singing.

MR. P.N. SINGH: What were they singing?

WITNESS: I can't remember.

MR. P.N. SINGH: They were not by any chance singing "We Shall Not Be Moved"?

WITNESS: I can't remember.

MR. P.N. SINGH: You did not try to disperse the crowd?

WITNESS: Yes, I did my best to break the crowd.

MR. P.N. SINGH: If you saw one hundred people would you try to disperse the crowd?

WITNESS: I tried.

MR. P.N. SINGH: When you went to disperse the crowd did they bother with you?

WITNESS: No sir.

MR. P.N. SINGH: When you saw fire did you call the crowd to assist you since they were loitering in the streets?

MR. SHEPHERD: He did not say anything about putting out fire.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you call the people to help you? Why?

WITNESS: Because I believed they were only keeping noise and they were not making trouble.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you recognise anybody in the crowd?

WITNESS: Well I can't say no.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Give me the names of one or two.

WITNESS: I cannot remember the names.

/MR.P.N.SINGH:..

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MR. P.N. SINGH: Were they men or women whom you recognised?

WITNESS: They were men, women and children.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you find that when you dispersed a crowd here, they would go somewhere else to gather. Did you go behind them and disperse them again?

WITNESS: We hadn't time to go and disperse them again.

MR. P.N. SINGH: About how far did they go and gather?

WITNESS: Sometimes when you go and disperse a crowd here, they would go somewhere else.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Let us say that you dispersed a crowd at point A, you say that they would go somewhere else?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. P.N. SINGH: What did you do then?

WITNESS: You cannot do them anything because they are peaceful.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Well if you think they are peaceful why did you trouble them in the first place?

WITNESS: Because a fire was going on.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Wasn't it one of your duties to disperse crowds?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. P.N. SINGH: So, you did not serve any purpose at all?

WITNESS: Why did you say so, it was my orders that I was carrying out.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Were any guns fired at them?

WITNESS: I cannot remember.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you have a Lance Corporal in your group by the name of Simonds?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Your group was gathered at that time?

WITNESS: Yes sir, we were working up the hill.

MR. P.N. SINGH: And Simonds carried a gun?

WITNESS: Yes.

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MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you at any time hear Lance Corporal/^{Simonds} discharge a gun?

WITNESS: No 'sir, because I did not work with him.

MR. P.N. SINGH: How many men were there in your group?

WITNESS: About six or seven, I cannot remember exactly because it is a long time.

MR. P.N. SINGH: How come you cannot remember, do you know that you were going to give evidence today?

WITNESS: Yes. But I do not have a book of the notes to check.

MR. P.N. SINGH: If your patrols had fired, would you have made a note of it?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. P.N. SINGH: When would you have made a note of it?

WITNESS: When we got back to the guard room.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you hear Lance Corporal Simonds say that he had discharged a gun?

WITNESS: No.

MR. P.N. SINGH: You did not discharge any?

WITNESS: No.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Did you see anybody being beaten?

WITNESS: No.

MR. P.N. SINGH: And you were patrolling the One Mile area, and during the course of your patrol, you saw no one being beaten and so the place was peaceful?

WITNESS: Yes.

MR. P.N. SINGH: Thank you.

PROF. DRAYTON: Lance Corporal Bacchus, who were the people who were with you on patrol at that time?

WITNESS: : There were six of us in the group, and we were on top of the hill.

PROF. DRAYTON: Continually on top of the hill?

WITNESS: Yes, we were rescuing people. Our job was to rescue people.

/PROF. DRAYTON:...

PROF. DRAYTON: Were you as a group together all the time?

WITNESS: Yes, we were patrolling.

PROF. DRAYTON: Who were the six people in your group?

WITNESS: I cannot remember the names.

PROF. DRAYTON: You cannot remember any of the names of the people who were working with you to this day?

WITNESS: I can remember Lieutenant Thomas and Major Langham.

PROF. DRAYTON: Major Langham was in your group?

WITNESS: Yes, but not all the time.

PROF. DRAYTON: Who else?

WITNESS: Lance Corporal Stevenson.

PROF. DRAYTON: Was Lance Corporal Simonds with you?

WITNESS: As far as I can remember he wasn't with us.

PROF. DRAYTON: Was Lieutenant Roberts with you?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: Who is responsible for the issuing of ammunition and guns of various descriptions?

WITNESS: We have an Armourer.

PROF. DRAYTON: When you were embodied who was the person responsible for issuing individual members of your unit with arms?

WITNESS: Sergeant Archer issued rounds of ammunition.

PROF. DRAYTON: What about weapons?

WITNESS: Sergeant Archer did that.

PROF. DRAYTON: And they had presumably a record kept of what particular type of weapon was issued to a particular individual?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

PROF. DRAYTON: Could you tell us why person is issued a Sten gun, and another a rifle?

WITNESS: All the N.C.O's were issued with Sten guns.

PROF. DRAYTON: How long did you live in this area?

WITNESS: 17 years.

/PROF. DRAYTON:

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PROF. DRAYTON: At Wismar?

WITNESS: Mackenzie.

PROF. DRAYTON: What is your job when you are out of uniform?

WITNESS: Technical man. Sampler at the Demba Laboratory.

PROF. DRAYTON: Did you get on well with both ethnic groups?

WITNESS: Yes.

PROF. DRAYTON: For how long prior to the 24th May did you become acquainted that there was a possibility of trouble in the area?

WITNESS: I never had the idea of there going to be any trouble in the area.

PROF. DRAYTON: Well then only on the 24th did you become aware of this trouble.

WITNESS: I did hear rumours of buildings being bombed. I heard people speaking these rumours.

PROF. DRAYTON: Thank you.

REV. MCDONALD: Where have you been living?

WITNESS: 456 Bulletwood Street.

MR. MCDONALD: In your statement that you have mentioned, what was the general impression at Wismar/Christianburg side. You were on top of the hill most of the day?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

REV. MCDONALD: Was there a lot of smoke on top of the hill?

WITNESS: Yes.

REV. MCDONALD: When you glanced down into the Valley of Tears, and the flat land near the river, what did you see?

WITNESS: There was allot of smoke and fire.

MRS. MOOTOO: In your opinion would it be harder to see down below?

WITNESS: Yes.

REV. MCDONALD: Did you say when you were on duty the night of the 24th that everything was calm?

WITNESS: I saw no fires where I was on patrol.

MRS. MOOTOO:...

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MRS. MOOTOO: Sgt. Bacchus you said you didn't see anybody being raped or beaten, would you say that the damage was done before you arrived?

MR. SHEPHERD: I object to that question.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shepherd I think that members of the Commission have a right to question this witness.

MRS. MOOTOO: Did you feel that all the trouble had taken place when you arrived?

WITNESS: I said that when I arrived some of the houses were already on fire, the people were not looting at that time.

MRS. MOOTOO: Does that mean that you were summoned too late, and you couldn't have prevented any damage? From what you said you arrived too late.

WITNESS: I would not say that.

MRS. MOOTOO: You didn't see any damage done before your eyes?

WITNESS: No, I didn't.

MRS. MOOTOO: You were rescuing the people who had already been beaten but it doesn't mean that you arrived too late?

WITNESS: When we arrived the damage had already been done, and some of the houses were burning.

MR. SHEPHERD: When you say "I arrived too late", do you mean that you were too late to save these houses?

WITNESS: Yes sir.

MR. SHEPHERD: You did not mean that you were too late to do some good.

WITNESS: No sir.

CHAIRMAN: " And you were looking towards the spot where these houses. Were they being burnt?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

CHAIRMAN: " Could the crowd have seen you?"

WITNESS: " Yes, there was a possibility"

CHAIRMAN: " Thank you Lieutenant Thomas"

"You are excused "

SULTAN SATTAUR being duly sworn, states as follows:

CHAIRMAN: " Your present address is Plantation Enmore, East Coast, Demerara?"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN: " Are you employed?"

WITNESS: " Yes, with the People's Progressive Party as an Elections Officer".

CHAIRMAN: " You used to live at Wismar"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN: " You were operator at Demba Bauxite Company?"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN: " Around 11th May, 1964, you heard anything at Wismar?"

WITNESS: " Bombing and burning. Two houses were being burnt".

CHAIRMAN: " Did they threaten you? What did they say to you?"

WITNESS: " We would burst your collie rass. Normally the people were on the road"

CHAIRMAN: " Were they all negroes?"

WITNESS: "They were all negroes"

CHAIRMAN: " Did you make any report of this?"

WITNESS: " I complained to my Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent that if I do not come to work they must not think that I am not working any more, because of the disturbances of the area I could

be killed"

CHAIRMAN: " Do you think you would have been killed?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

CHAIRMAN: " Who you reported to?"

WITNESS: " One Mr. Howard, and I told him that there would be a massacre at Wismar"

CHAIRMAN: " He called in Mr. Flynn?"

WITNESS: " Mr. Flynn also asked me the same thing. I told him I wouldn't go home, but I would sleep in the Power house, because my life was threatened, and I slept in his office. But before that I went back to my job, and the three of us went back to the office"

CHAIRMAN. " About what time?"

WITNESS: " About two weeks before"

CHAIRMAN. " One month. Normally my leave was up, but as I was not feeling well, I asked for one month's sick leave"

CHAIRMAN. " Where were you on the 25th?"

WITNESS: " I was up at Nabaclis, E. C. Demerara.

CHAIRMAN. " What time?"

WITNESS: " About two weeks before"

CHAIRMAN. " You had a house at Wismar?"

WITNESS. " I was stopping at Mr. Jairam"

CHAIRMAN. " Did you loose anything?"

WITNESS: " I lost my cycle and some clothes which I left there"

PAUL NIRGIN, sworn and states as follows:-

CHAIRMAN. " Your present address is 223 Success Housing Scheme, East Coast, Demerara?"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN. " What work are you doing?"

WITNESS: " Nothing sir"

CHAIRMAN: " You are not working ; unemployed?"

WITNESS: " Yes sir"

CHAIRMAN. " And on the 25th May where you lived?"

WITNESS: " The Valley of Tears, Wismar"

CHAIRMAN: " You lived there with your parents?"

What was your father's name?"

WITNESS: " Nirgin"

CHAIRMAN. " What work you did at Wismar?"

WITNESS: " I use to be with him on the tug"

CHAIRMAN: " Your father had a tug and you use to work with him on this tug. How big was the family?"

WITNESS: "Five children"

CHAIRMAN: " Your mother alive?"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN. " Now on the night of the 26th, Sunday night how many of you were at home?"

WITNESS: " Four of us"

CHAIRMAN. " Four of you all?"

WITNESS: " Myself, two brothers and a smaller sister"

CHAIRMAN. " And your mother?"

WITNESS: " My mother was in Berbice"

CHAIRMAN: " And your father?"

WITNESS: " My father was in town"

CHAIRMAN: "When did your father come back from Georgetown?"

WITNESS: " Monday morning he reached Wismar"

CHAIRMAN: " Now on the night of the 24th did anything happen at Wismar?"

WITNESS: " I saw fire at the back"

CHAIRMAN: " Saw Fire? What kind of fire? And as a result what you did?"

WITNESS: " I kept watch with my brothers"

CHAIRMAN: "Did anything happen to you during that night?"

WITNESS: " No. Sir"

CHAIRMAN: " Do you say that the place was tense? Were you afraid?"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN: " When your father came home did he tell you to do anything?"

WITNESS: " He came home at 7. a. m. "

CHAIRMAN: " What did he tell you?"

WITNESS: " He said that we must pack up and we have to go to the landing". "We started to move out. We didn't pack anything because we saw a mob at Mr. Khan's house".

CHAIRMAN. " A mob of about how many?"

WITNESS: " About 40 people at Mr. Khan's house"

CHAIRMAN. " At Valley of Tears?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

CHAIRMAN. " Is that the same Mr. Khan who has a son by the name of Richard Khan?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

CHAIRMAN: " What was the crowd doing?"

WITNESS: " They were beating Richard Khan at that time "

CHAIRMAN. " And you continued?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

CHAIRMAN. " What you and your father did?"

WITNESS: " We started to run out and one shout look a coolie going there and they left from Khan's place and went after us"

CHAIRMAN. " Yes, and what happened next?"

WITNESS: " As we started to run and ran up the hill I missed my father"

CHAIRMAN: " And you went where?"

WITNESS: * We went and hid in some bush"

CHAIRMAN: * ~~What were you were hiding there did~~
you see ~~anything~~. What was the mob doing?"

WITNESS: " They had sticks and iron bars and all kinds of things"

CHAIRMAN: " HOW long did you stay there?"

WITNESS: " We stayed there about one hour or two. And we saw some people coming from the hill about a mile or so. So we joined them!"

CHAIRMAN: " You and your brothers?"

WITNESS: " Two brothers and one sister"

CHAIRMAN: " You joined the East Indian people who were coming down from the hill and you followed them?"
Did you recognize anybody?"

WITNESS: " I recognized Banga Mary; he was the leader and I heard him say kill him Three O'clock".

CHAIRMAN: " You saw Banga Mary?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

CHAIRMAN: " Now while you were in this crowd did anything happen to you?"

WITNESS: " Whilst I was going down I saw a flock of boys teenagers about 18 to 19 years"

CHAIRMAN: " How many boys?"

WITNESS: " 6 to 8 boys. Then they said boy where are you going and they scrawbled me and started beating me up, and I got a cut on the right side of my face."

CHAIRMAN: " You all went to the police station?"

WITNESS: " We couldn't get to Wismar station because the road was blocked"

CHAIRMAN: " So when did you go to the station?"

WITNESS: " I went to the main road with the ferry boat and a man by the name of George who was in the crowd paid five dollars to go across to Mc Kenzie side"

CHAIRMAN. " Now this occurred about what time?"

WITNESS: " About ten o'clock "

CHAIRMAN. " When you were running away from your home what time was it?"

WITNESS. " Eight o'clock"

CHAIRMAN. " When you got to McKenzie you went to the Police Station? And anything occurred at the Police station?"

WITNESS. " When we went there we saw the Sergeant on the platform?"

CHAIRMAN. " You know his name?"

WITNESS. " Simon"

" Well George shouted Oh God. I never see anything like this. Sergeant Simons said that instead of talking about 'God' we had better get home".

CHAIRMAN. " You went under the station?"

WITNESS. " Yes, and corporal Lall came down stairs and asked what was the matter"

CHAIRMAN. " What time was that?"

WITNESS. " This was about 10.00 o'clock"

CHAIRMAN. " Eventually you were taken to the Trade School?"

WITNESS: " We stayed there until 6. o'clock"

CHAIRMAN. " Did you see your father?"

WITNESS: " Yes, the Friday when he came down. He was dead when I saw him".

MR.P.N.SINGH. " Did you see any police or volunteer?"

WITNESS: "Yes sir".

MR.P.N.SINGH. " At Wismar?"

WITNESS: " Yes"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " How far were they from you at any time?"

WITNESS. " Several rods or so"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " How far?"

WITNESS: " Well, they were a good way off?"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " What were they doing?"

WITNESS. "They were walking about"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " From where they were walking, could they have seen that you were being beaten?"

WITNESS. "Yes Sir"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " Did any of them come to your assistance?"

WITNESS. " No sir"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " Did anything happen to the crowd you saw going down from half mile?"

WITNESS. " No Sir"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " They ran away?"

WITNESS: " Yes Sir"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " Did you recognize any of the teenagers who were beating you?"

WITNESS. " Well , if I saw them again I will recognize them".

MR.P.N.SINGH. " Do you know their names?"

WITNESS. " No Sir"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " Did you recognize anyone in the group which was beating Khan?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir, I recognized 'Banga Mary'

MR.P.N.SINGH. " Anyone else?"

WITNESS. " I heard someone shout 'Three O'clock' look a coolie, kill him"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " You heard that?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

MR.P.N.SINGH. " Thank you".

DR.DRAYTON. " When your father reached Wismar at 3. o'clock where did he go?"

WITNESS. " He went home".

DR.DRAYTON. " When you ran out of the house, was your father with you?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

DR. DRAYTON. " What happened to him?"

WITNESS. " The crowd shouted - Look a coolie' and ran after me".

DR. DRAYTON. " Did they leave Khan after beating him?"

WITNESS. " I dod not look".

DR. DRAYTON. " Do you know Sergean Simon very well?"

WITNESS. " No not so well".

DR. DRAYTON. " You are certain it was Sergeant Simon whom you saw at Mc Kenzie Police Station platform?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

DR. DRAYTON. " What were the police and Volunteer doing?"

WITNESS: " They were just walking about".

DR. DRAYTON. " Walking about doing nothing?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

DR. DRAYTON. " You did not receive any assistance from them?"

WITNESS. " No Sir"

DR. DRAYTON. " Thank you".

MRS. MOOTOO. " Did you call to the Police for assistance?"

WITNESS. " No"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Do you think they saw the Indians being beaten?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Why?"

WITNESS. " Because I could have been them"

MRS. MOOTOO. " What were they looking at ?"

WITNESS: " I do not know"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Were they doing anything?"

WITNESS. " No"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Nothing at all?"

WITNESS. " No, nothing at all"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Were they just standing and having a little chat?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Did you see them helping anyone?"

WITNESS. " No"

MRS. MOOTOO. " At that time did you feel that they had work to do?"

WITNESS. " They were not busy"

MRS. MOOTOO. " They just had nothing to do?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Apart from your father and Richard Khan being beaten did you see anyone else?"

WITNESS. " No"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Did you see anyone setting fire?"

WITNESS. " No. Only when they were setting fire to our house"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Was the police looking at your father when he was being beaten?"

WITNESS. " No, they were not looking at that time"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Did you call out to the Police?"

WITNESS. " No"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Why?"

WITNESS. " We were in confusion"

MRS. MOTOO. " Did you ask them to help you to take you across to the station?"

WITNESS. " No, we did not talk at all"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Were the teenage boys running after you at that time?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Did you see any Policemen?"

WITNESS. "Yes"

MRS. MOOTOO. " What were they doing?"

WITNESS. " Only walking about doing nothing?"

CHAIRMAN. " What would you say was the value of your house?"

WITNESS. "Everything comes to the value of \$8,000.00"

CHAIRMAN: " Was it insured?"

WITNESS. " No it wasn't "

CHAIRMAN. " What happened with the tug? Were you able to get the tug?"

WITNESS. " It was alright"

CHAIRMAN. "Thank you"

SUKHOO being sworn states as follows:

CHAIRMAN. " You live at Lot 15 Second Street, La Penitence?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN. " You have a wife and 6 children?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN. "What work do you do now?"

WITNESS: " I am not working"

CHAIRMAN. " In May you lived at 43 Silver Town Wismar."

WITNESS. " Yes"

CHAIRMAN. " And there you carried on a shop?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN: " In the lower flat; and you live in the upper flat?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

CHAIRMAN. " On Friday 22nd May did you see anything happening at Wismar?"

WITNESS. " Yes , I saw fires; houses were burning"

CHAIRMAN. " Yes" " Where?"

WITNESS: " Up the one mile area"

CHAIRMAN. " On the Monday 25th May, 1964 about 8 o'clock anything happened?"

WITNESS. "Yes, I went to work on Monday morning"

CHAIRMAN. " What time did you leave for work?"

WITNESS: " I left for work at 7 o'clock"

CHAIRMAN " When you went to work, anything happened?"

WITNESS: " No, but in the Shop where I work around 8. o'clock I saw fire in the one mile area".

CHAIRMAN. "After you saw that what happened?"

WITNESS. " Well, after that I still saw fires"

CHAIRMAN. " Where were you working?"

WITNESS: " At Mc Kenzie at the Carpenter shop as a labourer"

CHAIRMAN. " You came home?"

WITNESS. " When the breakfast horn blew at 11. o'clock"

CHAIRMAN. " What did you see?"

WITNESS: " A lot of crowds all around; not in my premises but all over Wismar area "

CHAIRMAN. " What happened to you?"

WITNESS. " Nothing happened to me. After we came home we got confused after seeing all these people, and shortly after I told my wife like something happening"let us pack up these clothes and put them at the back of the yard. About 2. o'clock I saw many people come into my yard"

CHAIRMAN. " How many people?"

WITNESS. " About 12 negroes"

CHAIRMAN. " What happened?"

WITNESS. " They came and compelled my tenants to move the furniture and clothes"

CHAIRMAN. " Did you recognize any of the 12 people?"

WITNESS. " Yes. I went to them and spoke to the blackfellows and begged them if they would save my building. They said sorry, they had got paid to burn all the Indian buildings and they had to do it. After that we continued packing our clothes in the fowl-pen and about 3 o'clock I saw them come to break Mr. Persaud's building, there I saw one volunteer and two policemen walk away"

CHAIRMAN. " You saw them walk away?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

CHAIRMAN. " What happened next?"

WITNESS. " I ran to the back with my children and wife and I did not see any thing more. After they broke Persaud's house, they came to my building and put fire on the big building."

CHAIRMAN. " How long you stayed there?"

WITNESS. " I sent my two sons to get some Volunteers to take us to the Police Station"

CHAIRMAN. " Did you speak to them?"

WITNESS. " I did not speak to the Volunteers?"

CHAIRMAN. " Well what happened?"

WITNESS. " Let me tell you all over again"

CHAIRMAN. " Yes"

WITNESS. " I sent my big boys to the Police Station to bring some Volunteers"

CHAIRMAN. " What time did they arrive?"

WITNESS. " My boys along with the Volunteers came in about 7 o'clock"

CHAIRMAN. " When they came what did you say?"

WITNESS. " I told them nothing"

CHAIRMAN. " Okay, What did you estimate your loss to be?"

WITNESS. " I estimate my loss to be around
\$32,000.00

CHAIRMAN. " Yes Mr. Shepherd "

MR.SHEPHERD: " Four ~~volunteers~~ came and carried you to the Police Station. What time was this? "

WITNESS. " 7 . p.m. " "

MR.SHEPHERD: " At night? "

WITNESS. " Yes "

MR.SHEPHERD: " What would have happened if they did not carry you? "

WITNESS: " I don't know "

MR.SHEPHERD: " Now earlier you saw two volunteers " "Do you know if they were responsible for the breaking of Persaud's Store? "

WITNESS. " I do not know "

MR. SHEPHERD. " What were their names? "

WITNESS. " I do not know their names "

MR. SHEPHERD. " You do not know their names, you are sure, If I brought them here would you be able to point them out? "

WITNESS. " No Sir "

MR. SHEPHERD: " They would be coming here and you will have to pick them out? "

WITNESS. " I cannot pick them out at all. I do not know them "

MR.SHEPHERD: " I must reserve cross-examination, until further instructions "

MRP.SINGH. " How far away were they from Persaud's Store? "

WITNESS. " About 3 rods "

MR.P.SINGH. " Did you think that they could have broken Persaud's Store? "

WITNESS: " Yes Sir "

MR.P. SINGH. " What did they break the shop with? "

WITNESS. " I do not know, I was at the back. "

MRS. MOOTOO. " What time were you taken at the Police Station?"

WITNESS: " About 7 o'clock"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Were there people at the Police Station?"

WITNESS. " Yes there were people"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Were there crowds inside or outside?"

WITNESS. " They were crowds outside the Police Station"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Were they negroes?"

WITNESS. " They were all negroes"

MRS. MOOTOO. " Where there any rumour that anyone would attack you?"

WITNESS. " No"

DR, DRAYTON. " Did you know any of the negroes?"

WITNESS. " No Sir"

DR. DRAYTON. " Were they strangers?"

WITNESS. " Yes Sir"

DR. DRAYTON " You had some tenants How many were there?"

WITNESS. " I have four tenants"

DR. DRAYTON. " Their names please?"

WITNESS. "George, Palmey, and Leonard" "I do not know the other name"

DR. DRAYTON. " Were they all negroes?"

WITNESS. " Yes they were all negroes"

DR. DRAYTON. " That is all"

CHAIRMAN. " Thank you Mr. Sookhoo.

RAMKUMAR was sworn in and states as follows:

CHAIRMAN. " You now live at 264 Punt Trench Road La Penitence?" What work are you doing?"

WITNESS. " Nothing"

CHAIRMAN. " You live at Wismar, Low 17 Division
D Christiansburg. You had a stall at the market?"

WITNESS. " Yes"

CHAIRMAN. " What was the situation at Wismar around
about Friday and Saturday, 22nd to the 24th May?"

WITNESS: " On the 24th I was home. I saw one
house burning down at Wismar Hill, I stayed and kept
watch at my home"

CHAIRMAN. " How many children do you have?"

WITNESS. " Five children living with me"

CHAIRMAN. " Did anything happen to you that
Sunday night?"

WITNESS. " About 8 o'clock I saw three men come
up to one Alma Layne. They had a hand bag and a parcel
under their arms. They went to Alma and the husband
and they discussed for about ten minutes. After they
had finished they left, as we came outside ofr my
gate, they fired a gun shot at my-in-law and myself .
but it didn't hit us."

CHAIRMAN. " Nothing happened to you that night?"

WITNESS. " They went away and about 7 o'clock in
the night, I heard a loud explosion at Sooknan
premises"

CHAIRMAN. " How far was that estimated?"

WITNESS. " About 25 rods. Well I left home and
went to Mrs. Ramjattan and spent the balance of
the night there"

CHAIRMAN. " Was she there?"

WITNESS. " She was in Georgetown. I returned
early in the morning, leaving my cousin home the
Monday".

CHAIRMAN. " What is your cousin's name?"

WITNESS: " Ramcoomar"

CHAIRMAN. " About what time?"

WITNESS. " About 7 o'clock, I went out on the road. While I was there a lady came up to me and asked me to turn over the gun I had last night. I told her I never had a gun, and I never fired one" The man and the lady had five bottles in their hands, four bottles of rum and one bottle of cider. She lifted her hand and fired a lash on my left shoulder. When she was about to hit me again, I jumped into the river. The whole crowd came down and continued pelting me. The same lady burst my head. I was in the river all the time. My son-in-law and son she pelted with the other two bottles. They then ran to the police station"

CHAIRMAN: "This is what time?"

WITNESS. " About 8 . o'clock . My son-in-law and son went to make a report. About ten minutes after the police came and they told me to come out of the river. When I started to come out of the water the crowd started to cuff me and kick me, the police managed to push me into the jeep. They drove me to a street called Sand Road. They drove from there to the Station"

CHAIRMAN. " You spent the whole day at the Station?"

WITNESS. " Whilst I was there Sir I saw plenty houses on the hill burning"

CHAIRMAN. " You didn't get back to your home that day?"

WITNESS: " No Sir"

CHAIRMAN. " Did you sent the police for your family? They brought your family?"

WITNESS. " Only my daughter and my son-in-law"