

Day 12 – Monday 30th November 1964

CHAIRMAN: We will now resume the inquiry for today. Yes, Mr. Shepherd?

SHEPHERD: Mr. Chairman, with reference to the report of Major Langham which has been requested, I have to inform the Commission that the question of the report submitted has been referred to His Excellency the Governor. As it a report sent confidentially by the subordinate officer to the Commander of the B.G. Volunteer Force, His Excellency as Commander in Chief has to decide as to whether or not Crown privilege will be claimed in respect of this report. This question will have to be deferred for two or three days or at the most until the Governor has decided on this matter of privilege.

SERGEANT JOHN CUMMINGS is sworn in and he states as follows:

RAMSAROOP: You are the sergeant of “D” company of the B.G. Volunteer Force stationed at Mackenzie headquarters?

CUMMINGS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: Now, of the disturbances at Wismar-Christianburg, were you embodied on the 25th May at about 10.00 hours.

CUMMINGS: 10.00 a.m.

RAMSAROOP: You recall that you were given ammunition and instructions and duties relating to fire orders from your officer in command, Major Langham, and you were dispatched from your guard room with one corporal and eight men to reinforce Sergeant Archer, and to close all stalls at the Mackenzie market, the cinema, the recreational hall, and shopping centres. Most of these places belonged to civilians?

CUMMINGS: Only market I should say. Not the shopping centres.

RAMSAROOP: After you had done so, Major Langham arrived and you left with him. Four more volunteers were left at the market. Major Langham then dispatched fresh reinforcement, ten men to the area. At the Police station, you were again briefed by Major Langham, and you were further told to keep one round of ammunition in the breech; and you were told also to fire if you saw civilians being attacked. You were also instructed as to how to deal with rioters, looters, and arsonists. Is that correct?

CUMMINGS: That is correct.

RAMSAROOP: I cannot take your entire statement. I shall refer particularly to a certain incident on the 27th May, 1964, between 1200 hours and 1300 hours. A report of looting at the Mackenzie market was reported to you?

CUMMINGS: Yes, in the guard-room.

RAMSAROOP: As a result of that report, Sergeant Archer and yourself left with six men for the market. On arrival at the market, the patrol which was there had already arrested five looters. On coming to the market area, a quantity of stolen articles were found and later handed over to the Mackenzie police station. Can you roughly say what these articles were?

CUMMINGS: They were some toilets, foods, an amount of dry goods, and things of that sort.

RAMSAROOP: That is all, sir.

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SHEPHERD: No question.

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MOOTOO: On the 27th, were you at the Mackenzie side all the time?

CUMMINGS: Yes.

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MOOTOO: And on the 25th – where were you?

CUMMINGS: At the Wismar side.

MOOTOO: On the 25th you helped the stall holders to close up their stalls?

CUMMINGS: At the Mackenzie side.

MOOTOO: And then you went to Wismar?

CUMMINGS: Yes.

MOOTOO: Were you on patrol duty on the 25th?

CUMMINGS: Yes the entire day.

MOOTOO: What time did you go over to Wismar?

CUMMINGS: Around 1100 hours to 1200 hours.

MOOTOO: When did you come back to Mackenzie?

CUMMINGS: Around five o'clock on the 26th May.

MOOTOO: Where were you patrolling?

CUMMINGS: At first I was dispatched to Silvertown, One Mile and Half Mile in the Wismar housing scheme.

MOOTOO: What did you do there?

CUMMINGS: I helped to rescue lives.

MOOTOO: How many lives did you rescue?

CUMMINGS: John Mohammed and family.

MOOTOO: What did you rescue them from?

CUMMINGS: John Mohammed's wife was attacked and she was hiding, and he met us and said that his wife was beaten and so we rescued her from her hiding place and took her along with the other families to the Wismar police station.

MOOTOO: Who was with you?

CUMMINGS: A corporal and six men.

MOOTOO: Corporal who?

CUMMINGS: Corporal Moses.

MOOTOO: What other rescuing did you do?

CUMMINGS: One Jewan Persaud and family. They said they were in danger of their house being burnt, so we took them down to the police station and left volunteers to guard their house.

MOOTOO: When they asked you to rescue them were they in need of being rescued?

CUMMINGS: Yes. Their house was on fire.

MOOTOO: Was somebody attacking them?

CUMMINGS: No, not at the time. There were fires all around.

MOOTOO: When were they being attacked? Afterwards? Did anybody beat them?

CUMMINGS: No.

MOOTOO: Who else did you rescue?

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CUMMINGS: I rescued eight persons in the One Mile area.

MOOTOO: Did you see anybody been beaten?

CUMMINGS: No, I did not see anybody being beaten

MOOTOO: Did you see any looters?

CUMMINGS: No. I was put in the One Mile and Half Mile area. Most of the patrols were around that area. The amount of shops around there were already looted and set on fire.

MOOTOO: Did you see anybody carrying loot?

CUMMINGS: No.

MOOTOO: Did you see anybody carrying bits of sticks or stones?

CUMMINGS: No.

MOOTOO: Did you see crowds of people?

CUMMINGS: Yes.

MOOTOO: What were they doing?

CUMMINGS: They were gathering at the side of the streets.

MOOTOO: But violence started by people?

CUMMINGS: Yes.

MOOTOO: What were they doing? Were they standing and screaming?

CUMMINGS: They looked like orderly people.

MOOTOO: Did they look like sightseers?

CUMMINGS: Some of them looked like sightseers.

MOOTOO: And yet they were in one crowd?

CUMMINGS: Yes.

MOOTOO: How big were the crowds?

CUMMINGS: About thirty people.

MOOTOO: Thirty formed such a unit?

CUMMINGS: Well, you see one big bunch.

MOOTOO: But the thirty moved together?

CUMMINGS: Some of them go in opposite direction.

MOOTOO: But did you see other crowds?

CUMMINGS: Yes, throughout the day we saw crowds.

MOOTOO: Did you see people walking singly?

CUMMINGS: No, they were moving in tens.

MOOTOO: When you were at Wismar police station, did you see evacuees in the Wismar police station?

CUMMINGS: Yes, I saw evacuees.

MOOTOO: In what condition?

CUMMINGS: Some of them had cuts and bruises.

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MOOTOO: By whom were they beaten?

CUMMINGS: They were beaten by Negroes.

MOOTOO: But did you think they were beaten by Negroes?

CUMMINGS: Yes, so they were saying.

MOOTOO: Who were the Negroes? Where were they living?

CUMMINGS: They were living at Wismar.

MOOTOO: You say that the Negroes were moving around?

CUMMINGS: Yes.

MOOTOO: Did you see anybody being raped?

CUMMINGS: No.

MOOTOO: Did you see anybody been beaten?

CUMMINGS: No. I heard it in the Police station.

MOOTOO: At the Police station?

CUMMINGS: Yes.

MOOTOO: Thank you very much.

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SHEPHERD: Let me clear one point with the Commission. About how many people were in the patrol?

CUMMINGS: Six people.

SHEPHERD: According to your information people were beaten. You did not see anyone being beaten or raped?

CUMMINGS: No.

SHEPHERD: If you had seen anyone being raped what would you have done.

CUMMINGS: I would fire a shot at them to catch the individual.

SHEPHERD: Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Sergeant Cummings. You may step down.

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CORPORAL JOSEPH BLANCHARD is sworn in and he states as follows:

RAMSAROOP: You are stationed at Mackenzie?

BLANCHARD: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: On Saturday the 24th May, 1964 at 3.00 p.m. you were embodied in company of the British Guiana Volunteer Force. You were detailed to work at the Wismar area at 1500 hours on Sunday the 24th of May?

BLANCHARD: Yes sir, 3.00 p.m.

RAMSAROOP: You worked at the Wismar area in company of the British Army and members of the Volunteer Force. During your tour of duty you extinguished fires in Section B, Wismar area, and you rescued a quantity of people in the area?

BLANCHARD: Yes sir.

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RAMSAROOP: Those men were taken to Wismar. What kind of people were they?

BLANCHARD: Indians.

RAMSAROOP: Then you returned to barracks. On Monday the 25th you saw two persons looting and they were arrested. One person had been arrested by Assistant Superintendent of Police Lashley and he tried to run.

BLANCHARD: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: At the Christianburg area there were other members of the British Guiana Police Force but on your arrival at the Christianburg area a tear gas bomb was used to disperse a crowd which were looting.

BLANCHARD: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: On your arrival on the scene Mr. Lashley used three tear bombs but no one got hurt. Superintendent Roberts, member of the British Guiana Volunteer Force was in the Mackenzie area. You returned to barracks about what time?

BLANCHARD: About 10.30 p.m.

RAMSAROOP: After you saw other people looting you took them to the Police station.

BLANCHARD: Yes.

SHEPHERD: Were there any other instances in which you came across looted articles?

BLANCHARD: No.

SHEPHERD: This man who was held in Silver City was fired at six times. Did he get away?

BLANCHARD: He was later captured.

SHEPHERD: Was he wounded?

BLANCHARD: Yes.

SHEPHERD: Now, Mr. Lashley is a superintendent of police and you operated with him at all times?

BLANCHARD: Yes sir. We all operated together.

SHEPHERD: When he fired tear gas, what happened to the crowd?

BLANCHARD: The crowd dispersed and ran away.

SHEPHERD: And he fired more tear gas into the building? Did anybody come out of the building?

BLANCHARD: No one was in the building:

SHEPHERD: Was it evacuated?

BLANCHARD: Yes. To my opinion, nobody was really looting. They (the owners) were just calling for assistance.

SHEPHERD: Who was the proprietor?

BLANCHARD: Lalta Paul.

SHEPHERD: What happened to him?

BLANCHARD: He was scared.

SHEPHERD: What happened to the goods in the shop?

BLANCHARD: All was taken away.

SHEPHERD: Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN: Mr. Carter?

CARTER: No questions.

DRAYTON: How would you describe the crowds that you saw at Wismar?

BLANCHARD: To my opinion they were just stirred up.

DRAYTON: Would you describe them as riotous?

BLANCHARD: I would describe them as an angry crowd.

DRAYTON: How did they show that they were an angry crowd?

BLANCHARD: According to their remarks whilst looking at the police and the volunteers.

DRAYTON: And what else? You say it was an angry crowd. What else would make you describe them as angry apart from the remarks? Did they have anything in their hands?

BLANCHARD: No, none of them.

DRAYTON: No offensive weapons?

BLANCHARD: No. They were only shouting.

DRAYTON: Where were they going?

BLANCHARD: Some of them were going to their homes.

DRAYTON: Were they disorderly?

BLANCHARD: One man was disorderly and was arrested by Mr. Lashley.

DRAYTON: How long you were on duty? And from what time did you come in contact with any raping? Did you see any raping?

BLANCHARD: No.

DRAYTON: Did you see any victim of rape?

BLANCHARD: No.

DRAYTON: Thank you.

MOOTOO: When did you hold this man who had a quantity of cloth?

BLANCHARD: The Sunday night.

MOOTOO: And who was with you?

BLANCHARD: It was a policeman by the name of Martin.

MOOTOO: And who else?

BLANCHARD: Lance Corporal Stevens and myself.

MOOTOO: When you held this man was there anybody else nearby who had goods that were looted?

BLANCHARD: No.

MOOTOO: What did the man say?

BLANCHARD: He claimed the articles.

MOOTOO: You mentioned that the disorderly crowd used a remark. What were they saying?

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BLANCHARD: Look how the Premier got you all walking the place and why don't you all go home and rest and you are all getting wet in the rain.

MOOTOO: Anything else?

BLANCHARD: No.

MOOTOO: Did they say they had every right to walk on the road?

BLANCHARD: Some of them said so.

MOOTOO: The day when the looters were fired at, who was in your company?

BLANCHARD: Well, it was one Milling and about three others and myself. I was on patrol further up when I heard shouts.

MOOTOO: What was the crowd doing?

BLANCHARD: On arriving I found Mr. Lashley there. I didn't see anybody else carrying away looted goods.

MOOTOO: Did you save anybody?

BLANCHARD: Yes. I did.

MOOTOO: Who are the people?

BLANCHARD: Well, the names are Pandit, Ramkumar and his mother who is in the Silver City area and about two other persons. I can't remember their names.

MOOTOO: What was the condition of these persons when you rescued them?

BLANCHARD: They were just trying to get away.

MOOTOO: Was any of these people wounded?

BLANCHARD: No.

MOOTOO: When they came to you asking to be rescued were they running away from a crowd?

BLANCHARD: Some of them came to the station.

MOOTOO: Did anybody else come running away from a threatening crowd asking for help? In what condition did you see them? Were they waiting on the doorstep to be rescued?

BLANCHARD: Some of them were in their yards and some were in their houses.

MOOTOO: Did you rescue anybody on the road?

BLANCHARD: Nobody at all.

MOOTOO: Not even a child?

BLANCHARD: No.

MOOTOO: Where were you patrolling?

BLANCHARD: In Silver City, Wismar. We were all divided up.

MOOTOO: What time were you in Silver City?

BLANCHARD: Morning hours of the 24th. Monday to Tuesday night.

MOOTOO: Did you see during that time anybody being attacked?

BLANCHARD: No.

MOOTOO: And yet you know quite a lot of people who were wounded. You heard that?

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BLANCHARD: Yes.

MOOTOO: Did you rescue anybody who was wounded?

BLANCHARD: No.

MOOTOO: Anybody with their clothes torn?

BLANCHARD: I think one of them.

MOOTOO: Everybody was in their old clothes?

BLANCHARD: Yes. Nobody was prepared for travelling. Some had their grips and vanity drawers in their hands.

MOOTOO: Did anybody come to you and say he was beaten up?

BLANCHARD: No.

MOOTOO: Did you see any woman in the nude?

BLANCHARD: No.

MOOTOO: Thank you. That is all.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may step down.

MICHAEL TELESFORD is worn in and he states as follows:

RAMSAROOP: You are Private 2789 of the British Guiana Volunteer Force, presently stationed in Mackenzie? On the 24th May, 1964, you left your headquarters along with eleven men with Sergeant Archer about 1600 hours?

TELESFORD: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: There your company was divided into four sections, and a policeman was assigned to each section.

TELESFORD: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: On the 24th May, your company left for Wismar-Christianburg area about 1700 hours with six other men?

TELESFORD: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: Patrolling on foot you covered an area starting from First Alley to Cholmondoley Alley. During that period from 1700 hours to when would that be?

TELESFORD: I think it was midnight.

RAMSAROOP: During that time you put out three fires. One of these fires was at Senator Ramjattan's house? This fire started around the front portion?

TELESFORD: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: You also rescued several other families? Where were the families taken?

TELESFORD: Wismar police station.

RAMSAROOP: It was on the 25th when returning you rescued a man who was beaten by three men?

TELESFORD: It was on the 24th.

RAMSAROOP: Did you see the men?

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TELESFORD: No sir.

RAMSAROOP: These crowds – were there crowds on the road, amounting to how many?

TELESFORD: It varied – one, two, three, four – not more than four.

RAMSAROOP: You never saw crowds amounting to more than that?

TELESFORD: No sir.

RAMSAROOP: Which area was that?

TELESFORD: Christianburg.

RAMSAROOP: The distance, about how long?

TELESFORD: I think it was about half mile.

RAMSAROOP: Half mile square. What were these crowds doing on the road?

TELESFORD: They were moving; some were standing by, and they were not behaving badly. There was an order that no crowd more than four must be moving together.

RAMSAROOP: How long did you patrol for?

TELESFORD: Around 1700 hours to 0015 hours.

RAMSAROOP: What would that be in terms of civilian hours?

TELESFORD: Five in the afternoon to fifteen minutes past midnight on the 25th May.

RAMSAROOP: When were you embodied?

TELESFORD: I was embodied on the 24th May.

RAMSAROOP: And where were you from the 24th May to 5.00 p.m. on the 25th.

TELESFORD: I worked at Wismar the same night at the 24th until twelve o'clock the next day.

RAMSAROOP: When you were putting out the fire at Senator Ramjattan's house, did you see a man called Woolford? Did you know a man called Woolford?

TELESFORD: No sir.

RAMSAROOP: Was there a crowd around the house when it was burning?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: What time was this?

TELESFORD: I cannot remember the time, but it was during our patrol which means that it would be about 5.00 p.m. in the afternoon.

DRAYTON: Do you know a man named Hackett.

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: At any time did you see crowds of more than four?

TELESFORD: I did.

DRAYTON: How big was the biggest crowd that you saw?

TELESFORD: Not more than six.

DRAYTON: There was at no time crowds containing more than six people during the whole of your patrol?

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TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: How would you describe them?

TELESFORD: They were gathered. We could not hear the conversation they were carrying on.

DRAYTON: You said it was not more than six people. You must have heard what they were saying, so it would not be difficult to tell the kind of crowd. Were they just standing by doing nothing?

TELESFORD: Yes sir.

DRAYTON: Not armed?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: Not shouting?

TELESFORD: They were not shouting.

DRAYTON: Not singing songs?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: They were just conversing silently in a polite manner by the side of the road?

TELESFORD: Yes sir.

DRAYTON: And a group of six men doing nothing simply whispering softly and your instructions were to break them up? Tell them to move on?

TELESFORD: Yes sir.

DRAYTON: Did you see any looting?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: You did not see any of these people walking with pants lengths or any other things?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: Did you see any East Indians running for their lives?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: Did you see anyone being beaten? Anybody being raped?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: Would it be correct to say, Private Telesford, that you had a very quiet day at Wismar?

TELESFORD: What day was that?

DRAYTON: The 25th.

TELESFORD: We had to put out several fires.

DRAYTON: How many fires?

TELESFORD: Three fires.

DRAYTON: What did you do about these three fires?

TELESFORD: We had to get some buckets and fetch water from the creek and put out the fires.

DRAYTON: Apart from that what else did you do?

TELESFORD: We rescued some families, but they were not running. We were passing and they called out to us.

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DRAYTON: How many families?

TELESFORD: I can't remember how many families; things happened fast.

DRAYTON: Nothing had been happening fast. I have a mental picture of nothing happening fast. I have a slow moving picture. I want you to tell me what happened fast.

TELESFORD: There were three fires, and apart from putting out fires, we had to go and keep guard on other buildings.

DRAYTON: Why did you have to keep guard around these buildings? What was going on?

TELESFORD: We just had to keep guard.

DRAYTON: So you had a quiet day on the 25th?

TELESFORD: I would not say so.

DRAYTON: What sort of day you had on the 25th?

TELESFORD: I had a busy day.

DRAYTON: How?

TELESFORD: We had to go up the hill to rescue some families.

DRAYTON: Did you arrest any persons on that day'?

TELESFORD: No.

DRAYTON: No time?

TELESFORD: No.

DRAYTON: Thank you.

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MACDONALD: Is there any other thing memorable about the smoke?

TELESFORD: That was how we recognised the building was in smoke.

MACDONALD: But except for the smoke in the building, what about the smoke in general? What about your eyes?

TELESFORD: My eyes were normal, sir.

MACDONALD: What time smoke was in Christianburg area?

TELESFORD: That was about six o'clock.

MACDONALD: Can you tell us at what time did you go on duty on Sunday the 24th?

TELESFORD: At six o'clock.

MACDONALD: You were in Wismar patrolling at 6.00 p.m. on the 24th May, 1964?

TELESFORD: Yes, and I left there about 7.00 a.m. on Tuesday.

MACDONALD: About 7.00 a.m.?

TELESFORD: Yes.

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MOOTOO: Did you patrol right through the Monday or you had a break?

TELESFORD: We had a break. We worked up to midnight.

MOOTOO: And you patrolled in the area on Sunday night?

TELESFORD: We patrolled Silver Town and Half Mile and One Mile.

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MOOTOO: And Monday, what area, or what time you started?

TELESFORD: Some minutes after nine. I cannot remember.

MOOTOO: After 9 a.m.? What time did you finish?

TELESFORD: We never got back until Tuesday morning.

MOOTOO: On Tuesday about what time?

TELESFORD: Around six o'clock.

MOOTOO: About 6 a.m.? What area did you patrol?

TELESFORD: We guarded the hill of that area – Christianburg and Wismar.

MOOTOO: The hill of Wismar and Christianburg. Can you tell us exactly what section of work you did on Sunday?

TELESFORD: We left the station and went to the hill and Silver Town.

MOOTOO: Can you describe what you saw and what you did on the Sunday?

TELESFORD: Well, we rescued some people and saw some things on the road – a steel helmet. We had a man who was beaten up and we investigated the matter.

MOOTOO: You rescued the man you saw lying on the road? What kind of man?

TELESFORD: Indian.

MOOTOO: And were those people who were rescued Indians?

TELESFORD: They were Indians.

MOOTOO: Where were they taken?

TELESFORD: We took them to the Police station.

MOOTOO: What did you do with this man?

TELESFORD: Shortly before I rescued this man he was lying there.

MOOTOO: Where was this man beaten?

TELESFORD: Right there where I picked him up.

MOOTOO: Was it very shortly before, or long before?

TELESFORD: Long before.

MOOTOO: Where was he beaten? Was he beaten near his house?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: What else did you do on Sunday?

TELESFORD: I took three other men to the compound and took this other man to the station. Then we went in and put out the fires.

MOOTOO: While taking the one that was beaten to the station, did you see anybody running away from him or anyone rescuing him before?

TELESFORD: Plenty people were running away from the One Mile, Half Mile area.

MOOTOO: Besides that, any other one? What was his name?

TELESFORD: I did not take the name of the fellow.

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MOOTOO: You did not take them to the police station, and then to their own homes?

TELESFORD: That was their request. We took them to the station, and by their request we took them home to get their things.

MOOTOO: What did you do on Sunday?

TELESFORD: We rescued some people that were beaten.

MOOTOO: What else?

TELESFORD: There were several people, some with blood on their faces.

MOOTOO: Now on Monday, what exactly did you do?

TELESFORD: I picked up plenty people. They were lying on the ground, some on the road and some in their houses.

MOOTOO: And they were beaten?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: What else did you do on Monday?

TELESFORD: I saw Roshan Ally's wife at the window and I rescued them.

MOOTOO: Where did you take them?

TELESFORD: To the police station.

MOOTOO: Now, on Monday what exactly did you do? How many people did you rescue?

TELESFORD: About nine or ten people.

MOOTOO: They were beaten so badly you could hardly recognize them?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: How did you know those people wanted rescue?

TELESFORD: Because they were calling out.

MOOTOO: Did they call to you?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: When you went did you see crowds running away from them?

TELESFORD: No.

MOOTOO: Were you patrolling by foot or by jeep?

TELESFORD: On foot.

MOOTOO: And were you far away?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: Did the crowd move away before you reached?

TELESFORD: Yes, they moved away.

MOOTOO: How many people did you rescue? When you rescued these people did you have to wait very long before you got some sort of conveyance to take them to the police station?

TELESFORD: Yes, we had to wait for conveyance. We had to wait two hours.

MOOTOO: You had to wait for two hours?

TELESFORD: Well, of course, we had to wait for two hours until the vehicle came up.

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MOOTOO: Was there any way to get in touch with the police so that they can send an ambulance quickly if somebody is bleeding to death?

TELESFORD: No.

MOOTOO: There was no means of communication?

TELESFORD: No.

MOOTOO: How did you inform the police station? You just heard that the jeep was going around?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: What else did you do on Monday?

TELESFORD: I rescued some people.

MOOTOO: You rescued some people? What else?

TELESFORD: Well, we rescued families. We assisted some of them in bringing their things down.

MOOTOO: Did you accompany them to the police station?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: What else did you do besides rescuing?

TELESFORD: We didn't do much. We helped families.

MOOTOO: Did you put out any fires on that day?

TELESFORD: Yes. We did put out fires on Monday.

MOOTOO: How many fires did you put out Monday night?

TELESFORD: We put out three fires on Monday.

MOOTOO: On Monday you put out another three fires? Who helped you to put out the fires?

TELESFORD: The other patrol.

MOOTOO: Did anybody come out to help you? How did you put out the fires?

TELESFORD: With buckets.

MOOTOO: Where did you get the buckets?

TELESFORD: From underneath the houses.

MOOTOO: Where did you get the water?

TELESFORD: From the creeks.

MOOTOO: When you were putting out the fire, did anybody come out and stop you, saying that they wanted to burn the house.

TELESFORD: I did not see anybody.

MOOTOO: You were on duty Sunday and Monday, and you think that on Monday there was more violence than on Sunday?

TELESFORD: I think so, because some fire started from Sunday night to Monday morning.

MOOTOO: Did you hear any bomb on Sunday, or Sunday night?

TELESFORD: I believe several bombs were heard on Sunday night.

MOOTOO: Did you go to investigate what it was all about?

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TELESFORD: We were patrolling at Half Mile, Wismar.

MOOTOO: Did you hear any bombs on Monday?

TELESFORD: I can't remember.

MOOTOO: Do you know the difference between a hand-grenade explosion from that of a dynamite explosion? Do you know?

TELESFORD: I do not know.

MOOTOO: The crowd that had passed you by had any explosives with them?

TELESFORD: I do not know.

MOOTOO: When you heard bombs, did you see flames burning up in the sky?

TELESFORD: No. Because I was too far away from the crowd to see what is the result of it.

MOOTOO: On Monday you said it was more violent. Can you tell me why?

TELESFORD: Well, there was more work to be done, and there were more houses burning and there were more people to be rescued.

MOOTOO: What was the atmosphere? Would you say that on Sunday the place was more peaceful, and Monday it was not so peaceful?

TELESFORD: I must say that none of the two days was peaceful.

MOOTOO: The crowd you saw – were they rejoicing or glad of what was going on, and were they laughing?

TELESFORD: I don't know what you mean by rejoicing.

MOOTOO: Now do you feel that these people were rejoicing?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: Why did you think they were happy on Monday?

TELESFORD: I do not know why they were happy.

MOOTOO: From what you saw, do you think they had any feelings about anything at that time?

TELESFORD: I don't know.

MOOTOO: Were they happy or sad?

TELESFORD: I don't know.

MOOTOO: Were they laughing, or were they lecturing something?

TELESFORD: I don't know.

MOOTOO: While you were on patrol, did anybody come to you and complain about somebody else?

TELESFORD: No.

MOOTOO: Did you see a lot of P.Y.O. boys that day? They were supposed to be in that area at that time.

TELESFORD: I don't know any of them.

MOOTOO: Do you have any feeling that these boys were around there?

TELESFORD: No.

MOOTOO: Where are you living?

TELESFORD: At Christianburg.

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MOOTOO: How long you're living there?

TELESFORD: This is four years.

MOOTOO: Do you know anybody? Have you seen strange faces?

TELESFORD: I don't know, because there was no time to look at faces.

MOOTOO: On the 23rd of May, did you see any strange faces?

TELESFORD: I was not embodied at that time.

MOOTOO: Did you know anybody when you came out?

TELESFORD: No.

MOOTOO: Now, what education and qualifications you have? Have you been to school? Up to what standard?

TELESFORD: Up to sixth standard.

MOOTOO: You sat school leaving?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: You were successful?

TELESFORD: Yes.

MOOTOO: So you are an intelligent man.

TELESFORD: I would say so.

MOOTOO: Yes, you are an intelligent man, and you don't know if there were new people around the place? You don't know the difference of a person who is happy and a person who is sad?

TELESFORD: No.

MOOTOO: You like art?

TELESFORD: Yes, I like painting.

MOOTOO: What do you like to paint?

TELESFORD: I like watching painting.

MOOTOO: What do you think, for instance, sceneries or you like the human form?

TELESFORD: I don't like it.

MOOTOO: Do you like a dull or bright painting? You like a dull or bright day?

TELESFORD: I like all two.

MOOTOO: If you like painting you must be very sensitive to everything around you – changes in faces, changes in atmosphere, and so on. You must be looking at a very new painting. And you say you are not aware of anything, and you say you are an intelligent man – a grown man. You saw no changes in atmosphere? You were not aware of the difference in atmosphere, no changes in people's faces. You are not aware that they were new people in the area or so?

TELESFORD: That is so.

MOOTOO: That is strange. Thank you very much.

DRAYTON: Sunday you said you were on patrol on the hill?

TELESFORD: Sunday night.

Transcripts – Day 12

DRAYTON: Silver City, Half Mile, One Mile. Did you see any fires on the hill around seven o'clock?

TELESFORD: I can't remember,

DRAYTON: They were so numerous that you cannot remember?

TELESFORD: I won't say they were numerous – about two or three.

DRAYTON: From where you were up the hill, you couldn't get in touch with the police station?

TELESFORD: No.

DRAYTON: Do you know Mr. Harris, the drugstore man?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: You were living there for four years. Don't you know if he had a phone?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: Why didn't you go to make any inquiries?

TELESFORD: We had to stay to guard the people.

DRAYTON: Do you know Mr. Jordan?

TELESFORD: Yes sir.

DRAYTON: When did you see him?

TELESFORD: I cannot remember.

DRAYTON: When last did you see Mr. Jordan in the area?

TELESFORD: It is a long time.

DRAYTON: The area that you were patrolling – was it the government housing scheme?

TELESFORD: We didn't patrol the housing scheme until the Monday 25th.

DRAYTON: Did you know there was running water there?

TELESFORD: Yes.

DRAYTON: Why didn't you make use of the water to fill your buckets and utensils?

TELESFORD: In the area where we worked in the hill we had to use the creek water.

DRAYTON: What other work do you do besides being in the Volunteer Force?

TELESFORD: I work at Demba.

DRAYTON: Are you a member of the constabulary?

TELESFORD: No sir.

DRAYTON: On the 24th May, did you hear any rumour at your work place or at home?

TELESFORD: No.

DRAYTON: Did you hear about the man who was beaten on the 23rd May?

TELESFORD: No sir.

SHEPHERD: It was on Wednesday 27th that you put out three fires?

TELESFORD: No. That was on the Monday.

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SHEPHERD: Do you know where the Senator was?

TELESFORD: No sir.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Telesford. You may step down.

ALEXANDER STUART-WISHART is sworn and he states as follows:

RAMSAROOP: You are a lieutenant by rank in the British Guiana Volunteer Force and are stationed at Mackenzie?

WISHART: I am in Georgetown.

RAMSAROOP: On the 23rd May, 1964 where were you stationed?

WISHART: At Mackenzie.

RAMSAROOP: When did you cease being stationed at Mackenzie?

WISHART: July 15th.

RAMSAROOP: Lieutenant on 25th May, 1964, were you embodied in "D" company?

WISHART: "D" company.

RAMSAROOP: Would you kindly tell me what were your duties on 25th May?

WISHART: Our duties were to disperse mobs who were behaving disorderly and setting fires.

RAMSAROOP: Is it true that on 25th May, 1964 you saw a man attempting to bomb the Mackenzie police station?

WISHART: I didn't see at any time any man attempting to bomb anywhere.

RAMSAROOP: Is it true Lieutenant on the 15th July you had to leave Wismar because your life was threatened?

WISHART: My wife was threatened and I received a transfer so I accepted it.

RAMSAROOP: On the 25th May did you have cause to discharge a gun at anyone?

WISHART: I did.

RAMSAROOP: Will you kindly describe the circumstances?

WISHART: Slightly before 1600 hours on May 25th, Assistant Superintendent John Lashley asked me to accompany him with three volunteer privates on a patrol. We were patrolling D'Aguiar's Alley. As we were half way out of the alley, we saw a lad of about eighteen years of age coming out of a small alley towards us. He had a lot of packages in his arms. Superintendent Lashley called out on him to come forward, which he did. We searched him and he had in his possession what appeared to be looted goods. Superintendent Lashley then started to question him. At that moment he broke and ran. Superintendent Lashley called on him three times to stop, and when he did not stop, the Superintendent, myself and a volunteer private opened fire. He was hit in the alley-way, but he continued running. We gave chase and we found him on top of a hill one-hundred yards away. He was suffering from two gun-shot wounds, one in the region of his upper left arm and the other in the region of his lower back. We then took him to the Wismar police station which was about fifty yards from where we found him. He was taken across the river and then conveyed to the Mackenzie hospital.

RAMSAROOP: Lieutenant, did you to your knowledge know anyone else who had fired on a man who was attempting to bomb the Wismar police station?

WISHART: No sir.

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RAMSAROOP: That will be all.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Lieutenant, what was the nature of the threat that your wife received?

WISHART: Well, about 1615 hours on the 25th May, 1964, a man who claimed to be the father of the lad that was shot, went up the stairs where I was living and rang the front door bell. When my wife answered it, he asked if Lieutenant Wishart was living there. He then said that Lieutenant Wishart had shot his son and that although he might have a gun in his possession now, he did not always have it. He then advised my wife that I should have a gun in my possession at all times and he then left.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How many rounds did you fire in this boy?

WISHART: Six rounds.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you know how many Superintendent Lashley fired?

WISHART: I think it was three.

PRATAP N. SINGH: And who was in your group?

WISHART: Private Nurse.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How many rounds did he fire?

WISHART: Two.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you know if any of these men, Superintendent Lashley and Nurse's families were threatened?

WISHART: Not as far as I know.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you see any crowds on the road?

WISHART: I saw numerous groups on the road.

PRATAP N. SINGH: About how many did you see in each crowd?

WISHART: About three dozen.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What kind of crowd did you describe them as – peaceful, rioters, disorderly, hostile?

WISHART: I would say the majority were onlookers.

PRATAP N. SINGH: And the rest?

WISHART: Well, in the crowd you may have three or four doing damage.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Like what?

WISHART: Well, I did not see them doing anything.

PRATAP N. SINGH: So you are only assuming that. Were any people beaten in your presence?

WISHART: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Were any people assaulted in any other way?

WISHART: Not in my presence.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you see any house being set afire?

WISHART: I did not see houses being set afire.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you know what happened to the young man who was shot?

WISHART: The last time I heard he was in the Georgetown Hospital.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: You did not know if any proceedings are being taken against him?

WISHART: I don't know.

DRAYTON: Is it a fact that the wounds which this lad received could have been inflicted from the shots being fired?

WISHART: That is so.

DRAYTON: Why is it that you say in these crowds there were three or four people who were trouble-makers?

WISHART: That is what I heard.

DRAYTON: You actually saw crowds?

WISHART: About three dozens.

DRAYTON: How would you describe these crowds that you saw?

WISHART: Well, for instance, you would come upon a fire and see a crowd standing watching the fire.

DRAYTON: Doing nothing?

WISHART: Yes.

DRAYTON: Were they jubilant?

WISHART: They were impassive.

DRAYTON: Did you see anybody on the road during the time of your patrol on Sunday?

WISHART: At the time I saw many others.

DRAYTON: So there are two or three different types of crowds. What were the characteristics of the crowd you saw standing watching the fires and those you saw while assisting people to the Police station?

WISHART: They were jeering the people when we were taking them to the police station.

DRAYTON: You must tell me how you will describe them. You described the crowd as being disorderly?

WISHART: I won't say that the crowd was disorderly.

DRAYTON: Were they rioters?

WISHART: The crowd I saw, they were not rioters.

DRAYTON: What is your job?

WISHART: I was working at the Singer Company at the time.

DRAYTON: How many years you were in the Volunteer Force?

WISHART: Two and a half years.

DRAYTON: You know the people in the area very well?

WISHART: Only at Wismar.

DRAYTON: Are you friendly with all the types of people there?

WISHART: Some in the community.

DRAYTON: Lieutenant, were you aware before the 24th of any possibility of this outbreak. On the 24th, Sunday, did you have any conversation with Mr. Langham?

WISHART: Yes.

Transcripts – Day 12

DRAYTON: Can you describe the nature of the conversation?

WISHART: Yes. He said there was a possibility for all the men to be embodied but only twenty-four men were embodied.

DRAYTON: Twenty-four men in the Volunteer Force? Did he discuss that with you or did he tell you that the entire force of “D” company should be embodied?

WISHART: No.

DRAYTON: Did he tell you why he came to this resolution to embody only twenty-four men?

WISHART: No he didn't.

DRAYTON: And, Lieutenant, after what he said to you, did you add to his statement or did you outline the situation of that Sunday morning?

WISHART: I can't really remember.

DRAYTON: You don't remember, but there was a possibility he had assessed the situation, but only a certain amount instead of the whole company was embodied? Did he tell you he had received the instructions from Georgetown?

WISHART: He gave the whole of the volunteers until 1600 hours on Sunday.

DRAYTON: How long did this discussion last?

WISHART: Perhaps over half hour.

DRAYTON: And then you just went home.

WISHART: Yes.

DRAYTON: Lieutenant, as a person living in this area for two and a half years, how many men of the Volunteer Force were living on the Wismar side?

WISHART: I don't know.

DRAYTON: You were on duty, Lieutenant, for the whole of the Monday. And you were at Wismar on that day; I mean you observed the whole situation. You have an awareness of what the situation was on that day?

WISHART: No. I didn't see the whole situation because I was not everywhere.

DRAYTON: If the whole Volunteer Force had been embodied on Sunday, would you say this might have made the situation any different?

WISHART: It certainly would have helped, in my opinion.

DRAYTON: In what way it would have helped?

WISHART: It would have prevented the outbreak on Monday.

DRAYTON: You think so?

WISHART: Even though the Volunteer Force had been embodied, there would not be enough men to cope with the situation. But at any rate it would have considerably reduced the loss of lives and property. As a result there would have been less incidents.

DRAYTON: Thank you.

—

MACDONALD: How far from the police station were you when this shooting incident happened on the 25th May?

WISHART: About a half mile.

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MACDONALD: Could you tell me, please, how you were armed on the 25th?

WISHART: I had a sten gun and Superintendent Lashley a .38 revolver.

MACDONALD: Can a sten gun be set for single fire?

WISHART: Yes, it can.

MACDONALD: Was yours set for single fire?

WISHART: Yes, it was.

MACDONALD: Were there any of these crowds near the vicinity?

WISHART: There were individuals.

MACDONALD: I wonder if can ask you that at that time if you were fed up with the people at Wismar?

WISHART: In what respect?

MACDONALD: Things that were going on; things that you have seen and that you have heard.

WISHART: Well, I would say I had never seen anything like it before.

MACDONALD: I can believe that. Thank you.

MOOTOO: What time did you fire this shot at the looter?

DRAYTON: Shortly before 4.00 p.m.

MOOTOO: How the people in the area reacted to this shooting?

DRAYTON: As soon as we stopped firing we did not remain in that area. At the police station I heard a few comments from the people.

MOOTOO: What comments?

WISHART: That I would have to take off my uniform and if I object I would not be allowed to remain long in the area.

MOOTOO: I see. Were these comments made to you only or at all the others as well?

WISHART: I only heard comments about myself.

MOOTOO: When you fired did you feel that the crowds dispersed? Did they panic?

WISHART: Which crowd?

MOOTOO: The crowds in the area.

WISHART: There were only individuals.

MOOTOO: Did they run away? But when you were bringing this man to the police station, did you find people had run away, or were they still hanging around the place?

WISHART: They were a few individuals. There were no crowds but evacuees in the compound.

MOOTOO: Were there any crowds running around the police station?

WISHART: We didn't allow crowds to gather around the station.

MOOTOO: From the hill to the police station you saw nobody hanging around anywhere?

WISHART: I didn't see any crowds; I saw individuals.

MOOTOO: From the hill to the police station?

WISHART: Mostly individuals.

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MOOTOO: So the whole place was deserted?

WISHART: Yes.

MOOTOO: You said when you were escorting these people, people were jeering at you or crowds were jeering at you. Why do you think they were jeering at you?

WISHART: Really, I can't say.

MOOTOO: What were they saying?

WISHART: They were laughing.

MOOTOO: Were all laughing?

WISHART: Well, one or two individuals might laugh.

MOOTOO: Did they say anything?

WISHART: Not that I can remember.

MOOTOO: Did the crowds, individuals as you say, ever cooperate with you? Did the people ever point out to you that somebody was in need of rescue?

WISHART: Not that I can remember.

MOOTOO: Thank you very much.

—

CHAIRMAN: Lieutenant, on this day your tour of duty took you the whole of the Christianburg area?

WISHART: I went up to Christianburg about half an hour. When I first went across the river there were twelve to fifteen people who wanted volunteers to take them to their homes to get their belongings.

CHAIRMAN: These people – as you were escorting them – you were able to get a fair picture of what was happening?

WISHART: To the best of my knowledge.

CHAIRMAN: After all the kind help given by the Volunteer Force and the police, would you be surprised that these people should say that they don't want the Volunteer Force or the Police Force but the British Army to protect them?

WISHART: Yes, I would be surprised.

—

SHEPHERD: What is your full name?

WISHART: Keith Alexander Stuart-Wishart.

SHEPHERD: And you had been in the Volunteer Force since when?

WISHART: Since October 1962.

SHEPHERD: Your orders were to put out any fires and to charge any persons who were committing any serious offences, and you couldn't apprehend them in any other way?

WISHART: That's right.

SHEPHERD: You were carrying a sten gun or rifle?

WISHART: Sten gun.

SHEPHERD: Your weapon – was it loaded?

WISHART: That's right.

SHEPHERD: By pulling the safety catch, could you have fired at any moment?

WISHART: Yes sir.

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SHEPHERD: Would it be likely that looting, rapings or fires would be done in the presence of your men?

WISHART: Not likely.

SHEPHERD: Now, you explained to the Commission what you meant by crowds, and you said some were jeering and making mock. Would it be right to open fire on the crowd?

WISHART: You cannot just open fire right then. As an officer, I assessed the situation and did whatever I thought necessary, once the crowd is not doing anything wrong.

SHEPHERD: Jeering is not sufficient to open fire on the crowd?

WISHART: No.

SHEPHERD: If you had told your men to open fire, would this have made the situation better?

WISHART: It would have made it worse.

SHEPHERD: I am in a position where I am appearing for both the Police Force and the Volunteer Force, but later on this may not be possible owing to the fact that from the evidence it would be better if someone else would appear for the Volunteer Force.

CHAIRMAN: When you make the application we shall consider it. Thank you, Mr. Wishart. You may step down.

JOSEPH RAMCHARRAN is sworn in and he states as follows:

RAMSAROOP: Where do you live?

RAMCHARRAN: 5 North Road.

RAMSAROOP: And you are a civil servant?

RAMCHARRAN: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Are you presently attached to the Social Assistance Department?

RAMCHARRAN: Yes I am.

RAMSAROOP: Can you say in particular, following the Wismar-Mackenzie disturbances, what assistance was given to persons, and how many evacuees were assisted?

RAMCHARRAN: First of all, when they arrived in Georgetown by boat they were taken up to the Ruimveldt bond, and they spent ten days there, where they were given free boarding and lodging. During these ten days efforts were made to get them placed either with families or friends and this was accomplished within that period. These persons were also given, on leaving the bond, money grants and they received assistance in the form of food vouchers monthly. 744 families evacuated from that area, comprising of 1,249 adults, and 2,150 children, making a total of 3,399 individuals who are now settled in various parts of the country. The money grants amounted to \$16,500 and they are assisted monthly in the sum of \$16,100 in the form of food vouchers.

We had information on investigation from these people, by their own declaration, and also through information from the police and the local authority at Christianburg. We have been able to ascertain that 255 houses were completely destroyed – their estimated value of \$1,457,810; eight farms at \$6,500; 87 business premises at a value of \$448,540. The estimated value of livestock is \$30,000 making a value of property completely destroyed in the sum of \$1,942,850. The estimated property partly destroyed was 12 houses valued at \$12,200 and 24 business premises valued at \$56,950.

RAMSAROOP: You have a statement of the facts and figures. Is there any objection to tendering this document? No objection. [*Document tendered admitted and marked Exhibit "T".*] Was anything done by the government to buy food for these persons?

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RAMCHARRAN: Yes

RAMSAROOP: In what form?

RAMCHARRAN: Well, they were fed on the first ten days at the bond and they now receive monthly food vouchers for each family.

RAMSAROOP: Has anything been done to provide housing?

RAMCHARRAN: I would not be quite competent to say anything about that.

RAMSAROOP: Or lots?

RAMCHARRAN: I do know that there are housing lots which government intends to build and that about thirty families have gone to various land settlement schemes.

MOOTOO: Do those people come to you for money? Did you give them?

RAMCHARRAN: No, we don't give them money.

MOOTOO: But there is no money allowances given to these people now?

RAMCHARRAN: No.

MOOTOO: Did every one of these people who were displaced come to you for food vouchers?

RAMCHARRAN: Yes

MOOTOO: You send it to everyone.

RAMCHARRAN: Yes

MOOTOO: Has anyone refused this food voucher?

RAMCHARRAN: Not to my knowledge.

MOOTOO: How much is this food voucher?

RAMCHARRAN: Every adult is given \$6 per month, and \$4 for one child.

MOOTOO: So, from this food voucher can they get clothing out of it as well?

RAMCHARRAN: No, only food, but more displaced persons were supplied with books for their children, and clothing.

MOOTOO: I see this figure you give. How did you arrive at this figure?

RAMCHARRAN: Well we have the figure to each one of them.

MOOTOO: You figure out all individually?

RAMCHARRAN: Yes.

MOOTOO: Can we have the list?

RAMCHARRAN: I don't have it here.

MOOTOO: Do you have a record of each family?

RAMCHARRAN: Yes, we have every record of each person.

MOOTOO: We would like to have that record.

RAMCHARRAN: Do you wish to see one record, because it is being used at this time.

MOOTOO: We just would like a copy of it.

RAMCHARRAN: Yes, I am afraid I don't have it to give you now.

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MOOTOO: We would like to have a look at it. Thank you very much.

RAMRATTIE RAMRATTIE PRASHAD is sworn in and she states as follows:

RAMSAROOP: Where are you living now?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: 61 Public Road, Kitty

RAMSAROOP: Are you single?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: How old are you, Ramrattie?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: About nineteen

RAMSAROOP: Are you living with your father?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: I am living with my parents.

RAMSAROOP: What is the name of your father?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: My father is Tribawan Prashad.

RAMSAROOP: On the 25th of May of this year did anything happen to you? At anytime during the day or night?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: About 5.00 to 5.30 p.m. I was upstairs.

RAMSAROOP: What happened?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: I heard a voice calling out to my father. As I looked through the window, I saw a group of people outside the house, in front of the window.

[One page with about 15 questions and answers missing here]

SHEPHERD: No questions.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Where did those men rape you? In Mrs. Clarke's yard?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How long were you in Mrs. Clarke's house before the crowd came and pulled you out?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: I was there for about ten to fifteen minutes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When you got to Mrs. Clarke's house did she take you in willingly?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you hide in her home?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. The door was closed.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Was it locked?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. It was locked from the inside.

PRATAP N. SINGH: While you were running from your house to Mrs. Clarke's house, did anybody see you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: How did you get into Mrs. Clarke's house?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: She opened the door for us. A few minutes later they started to tell Mrs. Clarke that if she did not open the door they would burn the house. She opened the door and told us to get out. She ran through the back, and they dragged me out.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Where were these people?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: They were all around.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Now, at the time when these men were doing these things to you, where was Mrs. Clarke?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: I do not know.

PRATAP N. SINGH: About what time did this thing happen to you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: At about 5.30.

PRATAP N. SINGH: At the time did you see any policemen, volunteers or soldiers around?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How far is Mrs. Clarke's yard from the river?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: About thirty to thirty-five feet.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When you caught yourself you were in the river?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You can't remember how you got in the river?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you recognise any of the men and women who beat you up and left you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. But I don't know their names.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How long were you living Wismar before this thing happened?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: About eighteen years.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You said that you do not know the names of the people but you would recognise them?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes, they used to buy at the shop.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you at any time report to the police?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: While I was in hospital I gave a statement to the police.

PRATAP N. SINGH: In Georgetown Hospital?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did anybody at any time ask you to go back to identify these men?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: No police or volunteers?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: If you were given police protection would you go?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you tell the police that you did not know the names but that you could recognise them if you saw them?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you think that Mrs. Clarke would know their names?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: I do not know.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How many of you went to Mrs. Clarke's house?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: My sister-in-law, my niece and myself.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did any of these men assault you at the riverside?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you know the name of the man who pulled you back?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No, but I know his wife's name.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What is the name of his wife?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: I only know her first name. It is Yvonne.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did this man have anything to do with you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No. He just dragged me back and beat me.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you tell the police that you would recognise the man who beat you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did any of the women beat you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. I know the name of one of the women. Her name is Miss Maud. She sells in the Wismar market. She stripped me and cuffed me all over my body.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When you were thrown into the river the second time you did not have any clothes?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you tell the police the name of the person who stripped you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you tell the police that men and women beat you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did the police to whom you gave your statement ask if you could recognise the people who beat you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Was your sister-in-law nearby when this thing was happening to you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: She was beaten too.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did anything happen to her like what happened to you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. She told me so.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What of your niece? Did a similar fate befall her?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. She told me so.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you ask her if she know the names of the men who did this thing to her?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. She said she knew some of their names.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you know if she gave a statement to the police?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Thank you.

DRAYTON: Miss Ramrattie, were there a lot of people down by the riverside?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. There were about ten to twelve of them by the riverside.

DRAYTON: How many were on the road?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: About four hundred.

DRAYTON: Were there any volunteers down by the riverside?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No, I did not see any.

DRAYTON: Thank you.

MOOTOO: Did your sister-in-law say if she saw any volunteers or policemen in the crowd?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No.

MOOTOO: Do you know the man who took away your jewellery and your money?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: I do not know his name, but I could identify him.

MOOTOO: Is he a member of the Volunteer Force or the Police Force?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No.

MOOTOO: You said that when they threw you into the river first you were unconscious, and when you were aware of yourself you were in the river. That means that more than three men might have raped you, but you could only remember three men having done so.

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

MOOTOO: When the fellow dragged you back, did they rape you again?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

MOOTOO: About how many? About five or six?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. And most of them belonged to the district.

MOOTOO: This woman who stripped you – did she strip you before they raped you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

MOOTOO: What were they saying at the time when all this was going on? Did they try to stop what was going on?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No, they were happy about it.

MOOTOO: What was the crowd doing? Did they stop what was going on?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No. They were happy about it.

MOOTOO: Were they people whom you knew?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes. Most of them used to buy from the shop.

MOOTOO: Your father had a shop?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes.

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MOOTOO: How old is your niece?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Around fifteen years old.

MOOTOO: How many men do you think raped her?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: I can't say. About three.

MOOTOO: Yes, about three first, but afterwards how many?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: About five or six afterwards.

MOOTOO: Then about ten or more men might have raped you?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes, about that number.

MOOTOO: Did the same thing happen to your sister-in-law and your niece?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: Yes about five,

MOOTOO: Did anybody say that these girls were unmarried and untouched, leave them alone?

RAMRATTIE PRASHAD: No. They started to laugh.

MOOTOO: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Miss Prashad.

ALLEN HACKETT is sworn and he states as follows:

RAMSAROOP: What is your occupation?

HACKETT: Mason.

RAMSAROOP: Where do you live now?

HACKETT: Bagotville, West Bank Demerara.

RAMSAROOP: Where were you living on the 23rd May?

HACKETT: Wismar.

RAMSAROOP: Mr. Hackett, on the 24th May were you in Bholai's shop at any time?

HACKETT: I can't remember.

RAMSAROOP: Were you in the shop anytime around the 23rd to 25th?

HACKETT: You see, they have other Hacketts at Wismar. It might be some other Hackett. I am Allen Hackett.

RAMSAROOP: You know one Woolford?

HACKETT: Yes, I know George Woolford.

RAMSAROOP: On the 24th did you speak to Woolford ? Did you tell him anything? Or he told you anything? What he told you?

HACKETT: On the 23rd, a Saturday night, my house was burnt down and I went to move out the Sunday morning, and I asked him to allow me to stay at him until things get quiet. He said he believed his place would be burnt too. Well, he took me to Mrs. Ramjattan and she told me that I must stay with her until things got quiet. In the afternoon of May 24th on Sunday she travelled to Georgetown leaving me and Woolford in the house to keep watch until she came back. Well, things went normal until Monday

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afternoon at about 3.30 p.m. I saw a Negro man standing at the front window. I saw a man jump the fence and another came and handed him a saucepan.

RAMSAROOP: What time was that? About 3.30 p.m. in the afternoon?

HACKETT: Yes. The man went under the house and he threw the contents from the saucepan under the house. Then he lit the fire, I smelled gasoline and I called Mr. Ramjattan saying somebody come to burn down the house. He went downstairs with a gun and when he saw him the man ran away.

RAMSAROOP: Can you recognise this man would you know him?

HACKETT: If I see him I would recognise him but I don't know his name.

RAMSAROOP: Mr. Hackett, are you a member of the PPP?

HACKETT: Yes, I am a member of the party.

RAMSAROOP: And is it true, because you are a member are a member of that party, your house was burnt?

HACKETT: I got threats from the PNC saying "you are a black man, you want to divide us in the last election; you are going to see what is going to happen to you."

RAMSAROOP: Do you think Mrs. Ramjattan's house was going to be burnt too because of the party?

HACKETT: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: That will be all.

SHEPHERD: You are not the Hackett who was taken into custody for looting in Richard Low's shop?

HACKETT: I am Allen Hackett.

SHEPHERD: Thank you.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When you got these threats, from whom did you receive these threats? From members of the PNC? You know their names?

HACKETT: I think I can remember two or three. It was among a lot. One was Norton and the other was Haynes. He was an old boxer. His boxing name is Whalebone Kid.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Those you can remember. Did you make a report of these threats to the police?

HACKETT: I didn't go to the station.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Now you say those men whom you saw trying to burn Mrs. Ramjattan's house – they were strangers to Wismar?

HACKETT: I never saw them there before.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How long have you been living at Wismar?

HACKETT: I was living there since 1958 until May.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Why did you not report these threats to the police? Is it because you thought the police would have done nothing about it? Did the police take any action?

HACKETT: The police took no action.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you try reporting to the Volunteer Force?

HACKETT: I never reported it to any police or volunteer.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Why? What was your idea of not reporting it to the police station?

HACKETT: Because the police does not take any steps when you are known as a PPP.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: They don't take action? Did you report this attempt to burn Mrs Ramjattan's house to the police.

HACKETT: A policeman came.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you know the name of the police that came?

HACKETT: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Would you recognize him if you see him?

HACKETT: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What did he tell you?

HACKETT: He came and he called Mr. Ramjattan from the road and asked Mr. Ramjattan if he had a dog. Mr. Ramjattan said no. He said he said he would come to him. He came into the yard and went upstairs. He said he heard they came to burn his house, and he asked if he has a gun and he told him let him have it. Mr. Ramjattan went into the bedroom and brought the gun with twelve cartridges and then he (the policeman) put it in his pocket. He said, "I am going to take this for your protection and you also." Mr. Ramjattan then asked the police constable, "What about this man?"— that is, about me. The police constable said he knew nothing about me. He (Mr. Ramjattan) asked if I could go to the station. He (the policeman) said that I could go the station or stay and watch the home. He had no business.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How were you taken to the station? Did you see any crowds on the road?

HACKETT: There were many crowds on the road, and some would say "Hackett, you are with the coolie." On one occasion I could remember one man who said I am a black dog. I remember one man, Vernon Browne.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What is your opinion of the crowd?

HACKETT: They were hostile.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you see them beating anybody?

HACKETT: On the back street I saw some Negroes beating an Indian man and he fell to the ground.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How far were these men from you?

HACKETT: About twenty rods.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you have a clear view?

HACKETT: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you think that the police could have seen?

HACKETT: Oh yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Was the police armed.

HACKETT: He had Mr. Ramjattan's gun.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did he make any attempts to disperse the crowd that was beating the man?

HACKETT: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you draw his attention to what was happening?

HACKETT: I said, "Look something happening down the street". He said, "Come along; we have no time for that."

PRATAP N. SINGH: Having seen this policeman with the gun, did the crowd do anything?

HACKETT: No sir.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: To whom did you report the attempt to burn Mrs. Ramjattan's house?

HACKETT: Mr. Ramjattan made the report to Corporal King.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Could you remember if Corporal King said anything?

HACKETT: No, I can't remember.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Mr. Hackett, you have been at Mackenzie from 1958 all the time?

HACKETT: Sometimes I would come down to Georgetown for weekends.

—

DRAYTON: Do you know Mr. Woolford during this whole period?

HACKETT: Yes sir.

DRAYTON: You do know Senator Ramjattan well?

HACKETT: Well, I wouldn't say I know her until the disturbances.

DRAYTON: Which disturbances?

HACKETT: The May disturbances. 1964.

DRAYTON: Did you belong to the Wismar group?

HACKETT: No, I didn't belong to that group. I have joined a group down on the West Bank.

DRAYTON: You didn't know the system that when you change your residence you change your constituency?

HACKETT: No sir.

DRAYTON: How many weeks did you spend for the year at Wismar?

HACKETT: Well, you see, sometimes I would come down to Georgetown and spend some time.

DRAYTON: This attempt to set fire to Mrs. Ramjattan's house – did anything happen to the house?

HACKETT: No.

DRAYTON: You and Woolford remained at the Senator's home the whole of the Sunday night. Did the house burn down?

HACKETT: Yes, after we went to the police station.

DRAYTON: What time did Woolford leave the house on the Monday morning? You didn't see Woolford for the whole day?

HACKETT: At 6.45 p.m. I saw him on Monday afternoon late.

DRAYTON: How did you leave Wismar.

HACKETT: By steamer.

DRAYTON: Did you receive any injuries?

HACKETT: No.

DRAYTON: Is Hackett a common name at Wismar.

HACKETT: Yes, I know about three Hacketts. One is a coals seller, one works with Demba, and the third a carpenter.

—

MACDONALD: Mr. Hackett you said there was no sense to report the matter to the police. Why?

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HACKETT: About three months before the disturbances four men went into the Aluminium Restaurant and beat Woolford, and the matter was reported to the police and they didn't take any action.

MACDONALD: Did Woolford know this man by his name?

HACKETT: Yes, he knew the man.

MACDONALD: And as far as you know he reported this to the police and no action was taken by the police.

HACKETT: A fellow named Harajie. He was beaten also, and no action was taken by the police.

MACDONALD: When was this? This year or last year?

HACKETT: Early this year.

MACDONALD: Do you know if he gave names?

HACKETT: I think so. I can't say. After Woolford was taken to the hospital with injuries from the blows he got, and released, he met one of the men who had beaten him, and Woolford struck him and Woolford was charged.

MACDONALD: Now, you mentioned that you were going down the street with the police and Mr. Ramjattan. There was only the one police with you?

HACKETT: Yes. Only one police.

MACDONALD: Were there any other people he was taking to the station at the time?

HACKETT: It was the two of us only.

MACDONALD: Suppose the police had seen this crowd beating another man, and he had gone to his aid and left you standing on the river road, what do you think would have happened to you?

HACKETT: It might have been that we would have been beaten too.

MACDONALD: Would you agree that the police had to make a decision between you and the Senator's husband and this other man?

HACKETT: Yes sir.

MACDONALD: Do you think he made that right decision?

HACKETT: From my point of view, I think so.

MACDONALD: From your point of view you have no criticism?

HACKETT: No

MACDONALD: Thank you Mr. Hackett.

MOOTOO: What was the name of this police, Mr. Hackett?

HACKETT: I don't know, but if I see him I could identify him.

MOOTOO: Did you see Mr. Woolford again after the disturbances?

HACKETT: I saw him about two or three times.

MOOTOO: Where?

HACKETT: In Georgetown.

MOOTOO: And have you spoken to him?

HACKETT: Yes, because we travelled down on the same steamer.

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MOOTOO: During that time, did any of the people in the area tell you to keep away from Wismar because there was going to be a lot of trouble?

HACKETT: Yes.

MOOTOO: Who are these people?

HACKETT: I mentioned the names just now.

MOOTOO: They told you not to go back to Wismar?

HACKETT: Yes. They told me not to remain there.

MOOTOO: Did anybody else go to the Mackenzie side and say that there would be any trouble? Did they try to save you?

HACKETT: One fellow tried to save me.

MOOTOO: What did he do?

HACKETT: When my house was burnt down I went to his place.

MOOTOO: Did anybody say, “Go on the Mackenzie side; it is too dangerous?”

HACKETT: No.

MOOTOO: When you were about to leave Mr. Ramjattan’s house, did you see anybody trying to put out the fires?

HACKETT: I put out the fire.

MOOTOO: Did anybody else help you?

HACKETT: Mr. Ramjattan.

MOOTOO: Was Mr. Ramjattan’s house severely burnt?

HACKETT: Yes.

MOOTOO: Did any volunteers try to help you?

HACKETT: No.

DRAYTON: Mr. Hackett, this man who came to set fire to Senator’s Ramjattan’s house – he could not have seen Mr. Ramjattan with the gun?

HACKETT: When I told Mr. Ramjattan a man came, he came down the back stairs, so the man could have seen him. The man ran after he saw Mr. Ramjattan.

DRAYTON: Neither you nor Mr. Ramjattan reported this attempted arson to the police?

HACKETT: The police heard.

DRAYTON: How did the police hear?

HACKETT: I heard Mr. Ramjattan had a niece who was living in front of the river side and she reported the matter.

DRAYTON: Neither of you reported this matter.

HACKETT: Before we had gone, the police came.

DRAYTON: How long after?

HACKETT: Thirty to forty minutes.

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DRAYTON: And the first question that the policeman asked was if Mr. Ramjattan had a dog, the second was if he had a gun, and if he had, he had to let him have it, and the third was if he had it in his house. Mr. Ramjattan said he did not have a dog and let the policeman in. Didn't he ask about the fire?
HACKETT: Afterwards he said, "I heard somebody was trying to burn down your house."

DRAYTON: Have you been back to Wismar?
HACKETT: No, I have not been back since Tuesday 26th May.
DRAYTON: Thank you.

SHEPHERD: You told Professor Drayton that the police asked Mr. Ramjattan if he had a dog. This is puzzling. Can you explain what he meant by this?
HACKETT: Because he wanted to go in the yard.

SHEPHERD: Did you know Mr. Ramjattan kept a shot-gun?
HACKETT: No.

SHEPHERD: Before you went there you don't know that he had a shot-gun?
HACKETT: No.

SHEPHERD: Of course Mrs Ramjattan is a member of the PPP.
HACKETT: Yes.

SHEPHERD: And the police took her husband to protect him. This is how you heard about it?
HACKETT: I don't actually think so.

SHEPHERD: But you have said that the police did protect only those belong to the PNC. That's what you mean?
HACKETT: At one time that was the saying.

SHEPHERD: Is that your view?
HACKETT: I remember on two or three occasions when these people were not protected.

SHEPHERD: When were the two or three occasions?
HACKETT: I can remember at one time with Woolford and the other with Harajie.

SHEPHERD: You don't know of any other time?
HACKETT: Well, I can't remember now.

SHEPHERD: Well, try to remember. I wish to ask to allow to recall this witness to re-examine him as well as Woolford who gave evidence here already. You see he gave evidence here already before this Commission. I think you can take it from me I think he didn't say anything about anyone beating him. He didn't refer to anybody doing him anything. How can you say so?
HACKETT: Well, I know that. I knew he was beaten.

SHEPHERD: The police took any action?
HACKETT: No.

SHEPHERD: Now there were several attempts made to burn Mrs. Ramjattan's house.
HACKETT: I know one.

SHEPHERD: You don't know who put out the second fire?
HACKETT: No.

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SHEPHERD: So you don't know if the second fire was put out by the Volunteer Force? You don't know about it?

HACKETT: No, I don't know.

—

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We may call you back at a later date.

—

NAOMI BACCHUS is sworn in and she states as follows:

RAMSAROOP: You are living at Wakenaam?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: And you are 68 years of age?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: You have a husband, Mr. Bacchus, and a son, A. Khan.

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: You were living at Christianburg on May the 23rd, 1964?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: Now on the Wednesday the 13th May, 1964 you were living at Christianburg in a house owned by your son and daughter-in-law Halima Bacchus?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: This house was a two-storeyed building, and you were living in the lower storey – your husband and you. It had three rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs. Was one of these rooms rented to Mr. Clarke known as Clerky?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: On Wednesday the 13th May 1964 Clarke told you a boy had given him one hundred sticks of dynamite to keep? The boy was employed at Demba?

NAOMI BACCHUS: No.

RAMSAROOP: The boy has gone to West Coast Demerara where they had some disturbance and his mother had died and was buried?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: He was working at Demba?

NAOMI BACCHUS: I don't know.

RAMSAROOP: He went to see his mother buried?

NAOMI BACCHUS: He went to see his mother's grave.

RAMSAROOP: And he went back to Wismar?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: When you heard that they would burn your house did you report it the police?

NAOMI BACCHUS: No sir. I didn't.

RAMSAROOP: You heard that there was going to be trouble at Wismar?

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NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: When you heard that you got afraid and went to get your husband but you didn't report it to the police?

NAOMI BACCHUS: No, I didn't.

RAMSAROOP: You told one Mr. Allicock about this and he said it was no use telling the police because they would do nothing about it?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: This was on Wednesday some time before the disturbances when Mr. Allicock told you to go to Georgetown and make a report?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Now, on Sunday 24th May about 7 o'clock in the morning you and your grandson and husband went upstairs in the bedroom.

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Were you afraid?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

RAMSAROOP: And you asked Mr. Clarke to stay with you?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Because you heard the rumour that Africans would burn East Indians' houses and beat them?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: About 10.00 p.m. Mr. Clark stayed with you?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Around 10.00 p.m. Mr. Clarke said that the boys were setting fire to one Jannak's house?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Mr. Clarke then told you to go downstairs and get away – that the people would burn the house?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Mr. Clarke then left and did not join you again?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Because the house was owned by Indians? And you went down into the room and closed up all the windows and doors and you fell asleep?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: The next morning, that is, Monday 25th May, while you were at home you heard some Africans men shouted "Fight" and they were running.

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes. I was on the road.

RAMSAROOP: You mean your husband and your grandson all went to First Alley and you heard a boy threatening to shoot you?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

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RAMSAROOP: You left your son and you remained there till about 4.30 p.m?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: So volunteers came to your rescue and took you to the police station?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: Your husband and your grandson remained there till about 4.30 p.m. until you were sent with some volunteers to Mackenzie?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

RAMSAROOP: You over-nighted in Mackenzie and next morning you joined a boat to go to Georgetown.

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes sir.

—

SHEPHERD: It was ten days or eleven days before the rioting that you heard the one hundred sticks of dynamite had been stolen from Demba. You didn't tell the police?

NAOMI BACCHUS: No sir.

SHEPHERD: Don't you think it would be better if you had reported it to the police?

NAOMI BACCHUS: I didn't go because the police handled people when they go to make a report.

SHEPHERD: What report?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Anything what people tell you.

SHEPHERD: I am counsel to the police. If you make accusation you should give me details.

NAOMI BACCHUS: I went to the police station at Wismar.

SHEPHERD: When was that?

NAOMI BACCHUS: It was on the 23rd of May.

Shepherd: At what time?

NAOMI BACCHUS: About 9.00 p.m.

SHEPHERD: What did you want to report to the police?

NAOMI BACCHUS: It was about Mr. Clarke's rumours.

SHEPHERD: That was ten days later.

NAOMI BACCHUS: When he told me I didn't take it for anything because we were living quite good. I didn't take things so serious. I heard rumours while I was going to the market or shop.

SHEPHERD: And why you did not report it?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Because we were living good.

SHEPHERD: You told them anything?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes. I told them that I would report it to the police; that they had bombs and dynamite. They told me that my father Jagan would be the cause for this.

SHEPHERD: Can you recognise these persons if you see them again?

NAOMI BACCHUS: No sir, because I did not stand up too long.

SHEPHERD: The policeman you reported it to – do you know him?

NAOMI BACCHUS: No sir.

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SHEPHERD: Did he dress like that policeman here?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

SHEPHERD: Why you had to wait ten days?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Because I didn't expect anything like bombs would be used. We were living so good that the people were calling me Ma and my old man Pa. My old man is feeble.

SHEPHERD: Would it have been better if you had an Indian man or woman along with you?

NAOMI BACCHUS: No. I was alone.

—

MACDONALD: Did you say anything to your son about this dynamite or burning?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes. I told his wife.

—

MOOTOO: Was this after Clarke told you?

NAOMI BACCHUS: It was about the next week Sunday.

MOOTOO: What was the name of this boy who gave one hundred sticks of dynamite for Clarke to keep?

NAOMI BACCHUS: I don't know.

MOOTOO: Were you surrounded by Negroes?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

MOOTOO: You thought they were good people?

NAOMI BACCHUS: Yes.

MOOTOO: Who were you living with?

NAOMI BACCHUS: I was living with my grandson and my old man. Clarky told me that they had blasted the shop next door.

MOOTOO: Did you say he was coming to bomb your shop?

NAOMI BACCHUS: I told my old man I was not going anywhere for any Negroes to beat and kill me.

MOOTOO: How much did you lose in the disturbances?

NAOMI BACCHUS: About 1,500 dollars. The house was not mine, but my son's.

MOOTOO: About how much everything in value?

NAOMI BACCHUS: About 1,600 dollars.

MOOTOO: You husband was working?

NAOMI BACCHUS: He was the caretaker of the Muslim church. They carried away the windows and zinc and they burnt the church.

MOOTOO: Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Bacchus. We will now adjourn for today.