

Transcripts – Day 9

Day 9 – Thursday, 26 November 1964

CHAIRMAN: We will resume from where we left off yesterday with Mr. Festus Adams.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Yes, Mr. Adams, let us go back to that question when Demba handed that engine to your authorities. Was that engine in working condition?

ADAMS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: From the time Demba handed that machine to your authority have you ever used it?

ADAMS: Several times.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What caused it to go into disrepair?

ADAMS: It was a second hand engine. It was not in perfect working order.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You are suggesting than that Demba gave you a machine that was not in working order?

ADAMS: At the time it was given it was in perfect working order.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What caused it to go into a state of disrepair?

ADAMS: Well, the bearings were burnt.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Why?

ADAMS: I am not competent enough to answer that question.

PRATAP N. SINGH: It seems that the person who handled it was in the same position as you are.

ADAMS: Well, if you think so.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Was it repaired?

ADAMS: Yes. It was repaired and returned to me in working condition and went down again. It never stood up.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What caused it to go this time?

ADAMS: The same bearings trouble.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Were any steps made to repair it?

ADAMS: It was taken to Demba.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When was it taken to Demba?

ADAMS: Last year.

PRATAP N. SINGH: And so up to now it has not been repaired and sent back to you?

ADAMS: No. They said it is a waste of time to repair it.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Have they worded that to you in writing?

ADAMS: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you suggest that you write a letter to the government that a new engine be bought for it?

ADAMS: I wrote to government asking that the Fire Chief Officer be sent up to have on-the-spot investigations and recommend it to the local authority.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: It seems that you didn't like to answer questions. Did you recommend it to the government?

ADAMS: No. Because I was advised that it was better to have a new unit that would suit the district.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Don't you know if action in that regard was taken?

ADAMS: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: All right. Let us go back to this word you used – reprisal. You said you consider the Wismar affair an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, meaning that since the Indians were killing the Africans, the Africans will kill the Indians?

ADAMS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: In other words, to put it more clearly, since the supporters of the PPP were killing the supporters of the PNC, well the PNC would kill the PPP. Isn't that right?

ADAMS: It is human nature. Not necessarily the PPP versus the PNC. It could happen to anybody.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you agree that this was a racial clash?

ADAMS: It was a clash whether racial or not.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Yes, arising out of the strike from the GAWU, isn't that so?

ADAMS: Of course, that is the consensus of opinion.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Is that your opinion?

ADAMS: Yes, it was my opinion.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Now, is it also your opinion that the GAWU is an arm of the PPP?

ADAMS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Now, will you agree with me when you said a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye you meant that the PPP would kill the PNC. You agree with me?

ADAMS: Okay.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Well, in your opinion, in your remark to me, did you say it was started by the PYO? You did say so?

ADAMS: I never said so. I said there were PYO in the district.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you agree with it? You said you agreed with it, yet did you reconcile the statement with the one you made? And do you agree that it was started by the PYO boys?

ADAMS: I said it was started with the PYO boys.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You said that you agreed with that. How do you reconcile this statement?

ADAMS: Which two statements?

PRATAP N. SINGH: You know, Mr. Adams, you quoted from the Bible yesterday. Do you know who was Ananias? I am suggesting to you that you were in Harris' drug store about two days before the disturbance.

ADAMS: Yes, I read of Ananias but I can't remember who he was. A man has his own opinion of thinking. I can't remember being in Harris' drug store two days before the disturbance.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You can't remember being in Harris' drug store two days before this violence started at Wismar? I am suggesting to you that you were one of the ring-leaders.

ADAMS: No sir.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: I am further suggesting to you that you were one of the men who pointed out the houses to be burnt.

ADAMS: Positively no. That is a very dangerous accusation, Mr. Singh.

PRATAP N. SINGH: I know it is dangerous; that is why I am making it. That is why you went for a walk. Wherever you stopped they were to burn.

ADAMS: No sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You said you spoke to Mr. Hobbs about the strength of the Police Force. You are the chairman of the council, are you not?

ADAMS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you see after the interest of the area and notified the government that there was inadequacy of police in the area?

ADAMS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Who?

ADAMS: Mr. Nunes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When? This year or last year?

ADAMS: Last year.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When was that?

ADAMS: I can't remember.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You have a very convenient memory. What part of the year?

ADAMS: Well, the early months of this year.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What do you mean by "this?"

ADAMS: The month of January, February or March.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Oh, January, February or March.

ADAMS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You anticipated trouble at Wismar?

ADAMS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Then why did you not get in touch with the government?

ADAMS: Because there was racial tension in the country.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Is that why you did not get in contact with the government?

ADAMS: I said I spoke to them early in the year.

PRATAP N. SINGH: But then why you did not get in touch with the police? Do you think there were enough policemen there?

ADAMS: I thought I did the right thing.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you see any improvements? Did you speak to Mr. Hobbs about this trouble?

ADAMS: Yes. He said he would take the matter up.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You knew if he did?

ADAMS: I do not know if he did.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you see people in the streets?

ADAMS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What were they doing?

ADAMS: Well, they were just mobbing.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you speak to them concerning this mobbing?

ADAMS: Certainly I did.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did they remove?

ADAMS: Some of them moved off.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Since you were a responsible person of the area, don't you think that you should see that all of the people moved off?

ADAMS: But some went away.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Can you say how many?

ADAMS: Well, I did not check.

PRATAP N. SINGH: But don't you have any idea how many moved away?

ADAMS: I cannot tell you how many moved off.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You should have waited until everybody moved off.

ADAMS: I did the best I can. But they did not hear.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You said that you anticipated violence. Was it because of the death of the Sealey family?

ADAMS: Well, it started after that.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When did you get news of the affairs?

ADAMS: I cannot remember.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When this violence started?

ADAMS: It was supposed to have started on Monday.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When did it start?

ADAMS: I learnt of it on Monday. I saw it through that period.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Which period? Was it Friday, Saturday or Sunday?

ADAMS: I cannot remember. The tension started to build up. It was all along building up months before.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What did you do for the people?

ADAMS: The most I could have done was to talk to the people, encouraging them not to do anything to get themselves jittery.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You are the father of Wismar and the most responsible person for Wismar?

ADAMS: I agree.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Why didn't you get Mr. Jordan or Mrs. Ramjattan to speak to the people?

ADAMS: Mrs. Ramjattan was not there at the time.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Why didn't you take steps to find out if she was in the district?

ADAMS: I didn't find it necessary.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: You thought it would have exploded your plans which you have made?

ADAMS: I live at Mackenzie.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Your major interest was at Wismar where thousands of lives were in peril.

ADAMS: I am interested in both sides of the river.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Which one holds your greater interest?

ADAMS: I am not capable of answering your questions.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you belong to any organisation at Mackenzie?

ADAMS: Yes, the Parent-Teachers Association and a number of other organisations.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You were interested only in the thousands of lives that were in peril, or were you only thinking of earning your living?

ADAMS: I had to satisfy myself in both ways. Where lives are concerned it is very important.

PRATAP N. SINGH: I did not ask you for a lecture on that. I am asking you which is more important. If you don't want to answer the question tell me.

ADAMS: Alright

PRATAP N. SINGH: That is an excellent lip service. Which was more important, to get something to eat or looking over the lives at Wismar?

ADAMS: I had to satisfy myself at the time.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Are you suggesting that you couldn't get anything to eat at Wismar?

ADAMS: I should know about that.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Could you not have got some bread and cheese or something?

ADAMS: I could have got bread and cheese.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What was the anxiety to go back to Mackenzie?

ADAMS: To get something to eat.

PRATAP N. SINGH: While people were dying, while houses were being burnt, you saw fit to go to Mackenzie to have something to eat?

ADAMS: Well, I went to the people who were suffering.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you feel happy?

ADAMS: No, I didn't feel happy.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You should have felt so.

ADAMS: No, after all I am human.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You are? You are a most unreliable witness and most untruthful.

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DRAYTON: About what time did you return home on Saturday night from Wismar? About seven?

ADAMS: Which Saturday night?

DRAYTON: Saturday the 23rd.

ADAMS: About 9.30.

DRAYTON: About 9 to 9.30?

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ADAMS: About nine.

DRAYTON: So you were in Wismar the Saturday evening?

ADAMS: Yes

DRAYTON: And you returned home about nine o'clock. About 6.30, where were you?

ADAMS: That is very hard for me to say.

DRAYTON: Did you go to Harris' drug store?

ADAMS: I can't remember.

DRAYTON: You may have gone there?

ADAMS: I just can't remember.

DRAYTON: Therefore there is a possibility while you were at Wismar that you did pay a visit to Harris' drug store?

ADAMS: I might have done so.

DRAYTON: While you were at Wismar Saturday evening did you meet Mr. Jordan? Did you see him?

ADAMS: I can't remember him being in the district at that time.

DRAYTON: Did you see him?

ADAMS: No.

DRAYTON: Did you see Mr. Chalmers?

ADAMS: No.

DRAYTON: Did you see Mr. Hobbs?

ADAMS: I saw Mr. Hobbs only in the day but not on Saturday evening.

DRAYTON: Do you know Banga Mary?

ADAMS: Yes, I know the man.

DRAYTON: Did you see him on the Saturday evening?

ADAMS: I can't remember seeing him.

DRAYTON: So the only thing you could tell us is the Saturday evening you did visit Harris' drug store.

ADAMS: I might have.

DRAYTON: Mr. Adams, when was it that you and Mr. Jordan talked to a crowd of people?

ADAMS: That was on his visit there; that was before this occurrence.

DRAYTON: What date?

ADAMS: I can't remember.

DRAYTON: A month before, two weeks before, two months before? How long?

ADAMS: Maybe a month before.

DRAYTON: What did you tell the crowd of people?

ADAMS: We told them that owing to this tension that was going on around in the colony we must try to prevent ourselves from getting into any mix-up; try to be as calm as possible.

DRAYTON: Were there any East Indians in the crowd?

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ADAMS: I can't remember.

DRAYTON: Mr. Adams, you told us that you were aware of the rising tension in the area and the possibility of something similar to what took place in 1963. Did you at any time call a meeting of the village council to discuss this important possibility?

ADAMS: Yes.

DRAYTON: Did you keep any records of the village council meeting?

ADAMS: We keep records of the village council, of what transpires at the meetings.

DRAYTON: Minutes?

ADAMS: Yes.

DRAYTON: And there would be minutes that you discussed the possibility of the rising tension?

ADAMS: No. There would not be any minutes on that score.

DRAYTON: When you talked about it in the meeting, what did you decide to do about it?

ADAMS: I asked the members of the council to use their influence around the district.

DRAYTON: Mr. Adams, on May 25th when you were over at Wismar you said you spent three quarters of an hour walking around?

ADAMS: I spent some time walking around.

DRAYTON: And you saw a crowd moving up and down? Were they peaceful?

ADAMS: No.

DRAYTON: Why? What gave you that impression of them not being peaceful?

ADAMS: Because of what was going on; because they were burning.

DRAYTON: You saw burning?

ADAMS: I saw burning.

DRAYTON: What was the crowd doing that made you assess or characterise these crowds as other than peaceful?

ADAMS: They were moving backwards and forwards.

DRAYTON: Why is it that you thought it necessary to ask the people to disperse?

ADAMS: Because I saw buildings on fire.

DRAYTON: Do you think that the people in the crowd set fire in Wismar?

ADAMS: No.

DRAYTON: So you don't connect the burning with the people in the crowd?

ADAMS: I didn't assess.

DRAYTON: Did you or did you not?

ADAMS: No.

DRAYTON: Therefore you didn't connect the crowds with these fires?

ADAMS: Because I saw the danger of people blocking the traffic.

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DRAYTON: You were simply concerned about their lives being saved from motor vehicles knocking them down? You must have connected in some way the crowds with arson, with deliberate setting of fires to houses?

ADAMS: I couldn't have assessed the crowd.

DRAYTON: Before you went on your little walk around the district you went to the police station. You saw persons at the station who were beaten, some of them half naked and some with blood streaming down their faces. They must have been beaten or something had to happen. You didn't actually see any violence but you saw the results of violence? You must connect them in some way. It must have entered your mind that the violence and that these crowds were in some way connected with the beating of the Indians.

ADAMS: No. I assumed there had been beatings.

DRAYTON: Were members of these crowds involved in the beating of Indians?

ADAMS: I won't say so.

DRAYTON: But earlier you implied that the PYO had started it.

ADAMS: I said that I heard that the PYO were responsible.

DRAYTON: What I am trying to get from you is this: After your walk did you realise that what you and your village councillors had dreaded – Africans beating Indians – that this had become a reality?

ADAMS: Yes, I became aware of this.

DRAYTON: What did you then do? Remember that before these clashes started you were aware of rising tension and the possibility of such clashes.

ADAMS: I could have done nothing more.

DRAYTON: Did you speak to anyone in the crowd?

ADAMS: I have already said so.

DRAYTON: What did you tell them?

ADAMS: I told them to disperse and go to their homes.

DRAYTON: Did you tell them to stop beating the Indians?

ADAMS: No, I saw nobody being beaten.

DRAYTON: Alright, Mr. Adams, we are getting nowhere. Thank you.

MACDONALD: Was it Moses Bhagwan to whom you were referring when you spoke of the Mosaic law, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?" Remember you said that the PYO had gone into the district.

ADAMS: No, I said that after it had occurred I said to myself that this was the Mosaic law, meaning the old Moses.

MACDONALD: I was wondering because I do not think that the PYO would pay much attention to the old Moses. Who was obeying this Mosaic law? Who was falling in line with the Mosaic law?

ADAMS: The people.

MACDONALD: What people?

ADAMS: I can't say.

MACDONALD: Who was being forced by this law to create damage? Was it the people of Wismar in general?

ADAMS: I can't say.

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MACDONALD: But you were satisfied that there was somebody fitting himself to this law? Was it the people in general?

ADAMS: Yes.

MACDONALD: This was in relation to what was going on in the country generally?

ADAMS: Yes.

MACDONALD: Were you satisfied that people had fitted themselves to the law of Moses?

ADAMS: No, I was not satisfied.

MACDONALD: I am glad. As father if the district this tension must have made your work and life very difficult?

ADAMS: Yes.

MACDONALD: Would you say that your job has been easier during these past months?

ADAMS: Well, I wouldn't say so; it still remains the same. There has been no change. The job that I am doing remains the same.

MACDONALD: Is the situation the same?

ADAMS: The situation in the area is calmer.

MACDONALD: Is your work more difficult than it was before? Do you still collect all the rates that you collected previously?

ADAMS: No.

MACDONALD: I understand that there were a number of properties under the jurisdiction of the local authority that are not being used. Do you still collect rates for these?

ADAMS: No.

MACDONALD: So the burden has fallen on the persons paying rates?

ADAMS: Well, it will eventually.

MACDONALD: I understand that you have relieved those people who have removed from Wismar-Christianburg from paying rates?

ADAMS: We wrote the Board asking that their rates and taxes be waived.

MACDONALD: Is your council taking action to rehabilitate the people who have removed from the area?

ADAMS: No. We cannot afford to do so.

MACDONALD: I know, but surely there is a Central Government Board. Has there been any discussion in the local authority about it?

ADAMS: Not yet.

MACDONALD: Will you?

ADAMS: We hope to do so.

MACDONALD: I have been thinking about this connection between yourself and the Central Government Board in relation to the fire engine. Do you think that this had arisen after the disturbances last year?

ADAMS: It was before the disturbance.

MACDONALD: Was it on March 2nd that you started writing?

ADAMS: Yes, it was due to a fire we had there. If we had a truck we could have saved the building,

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MACDONALD: It is too bad that you hadn't a fire engine working nearby. Just one last question Mr. Adams. You said that at the moment you are a clerk at Demba. Do you mean that you have recently been employed?

ADAMS: No, I have been working for quite some time.

MOOTOO: Mr. Adams, you said that on Monday 25th you saw the assistant District Commissioner and talked with him about the situation. You thought it was grave and you added that the situation had worsened. What made you think so?

ADAMS: Because of what was going on.

MOOTOO: What was going on? Did you see anybody being raped?

ADAMS: No, I did not.

MOOTOO: What time was this?

ADAMS: About one o'clock.

MOOTOO: What made you think that the situation had worsened?

ADAMS: Because of fires that I saw. I saw a whole building collapse after this fire.

MOOTOO: You said about this was "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The situation was bad on the West Coast. The people did it because they were human. So you felt the people were justified in doing this?

ADAMS: No.

MOOTOO: But you said it was human nature.

ADAMS: No. It was human nature for them to do it.

MOOTOO: You are a great believer in this quotation "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?"

ADAMS: No. I am not a believer in it.

MOOTOO: Did you feel that the people at Wismar believe in it?"

ADAMS: No.

MOOTOO: Well, if the people did that, well then they believed that.

ADAMS: No.

MOOTOO: Well, what made them do it? There must be a reason.

ADAMS: I don't know what they believed in.

MOOTOO: But you said this quotation. I don't know about this; I am not a Christian.

ADAMS: It is in the Bible.

MOOTOO: Why did you connect this quotation with the disturbances?

ADAMS: It is logical.

MOOTOO: You use the example that if I cuff you, you will cuff me back.

ADAMS: No.

MOOTOO: Why do you lie, Mr. Adams? Where I come from the people do not lie.

ADAMS: That is very strange.

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MACDONALD: You said you found this quotation in the Bible. What part of the Bible?

ADAMS: I cannot remember.”

MACDONALD: Is this your village motto: “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”?

ADAMS: I cannot remember.

MACDONALD: Does your local authority have a motto?

ADAMS: No.

MACDONALD: This quotation can be found in Matthew 38-39; but you must not read only 38, you must also read 39.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Adams.

FARNUM: If it pleases the Commission, Colonel King isn't here but Major Goodbody is here.

MAJOR JULIAN GOODBODY is sworn in and he states as follows:

CHAIRMAN: You are Major of the First Battalion of the Devon and Dorset Regiment?

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: Where were you stationed on the 25th May, 1964?

GOODBODY: I just arrived in Georgetown in the morning.

CHAIRMAN: Were you in Georgetown at that time?”

GOODBODY: That's right.

CHAIRMAN: You went to Mackenzie at 4.30 on the 25th May?

GOODBODY: On the 26th, Tuesday morning.

CHAIRMAN: You and about 40 soldiers?

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: When you arrived you went to the Mackenzie police station and you discussed the situation of Wismar-Christianburg and Mackenzie areas. You saw Mr. Neil Isaacs, Mr. Hobbs and Major Langhan and five officers.

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: When you went there you saw that Indians had moved from Wismar and had come to the Demba trade school?”

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: You were told that patrols from one of your platoons went the previous evening?

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: At 5.30 you went across the river with some soldiers. You walked rapidly along the main part of the river road?

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

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CHAIRMAN: What incidents did you see?"

GOODBODY: I saw a number of houses which recently were burnt. Some were smoking and others were half burnt. The people I saw were mostly Africans. I did not see any Indians around.

CHAIRMAN: At that time was there a curfew at Wismar?

GOODBODY: There was not a curfew at that time.

CHAIRMAN: For the rest of the day and some days later you patrolled the Wismar-Christianburg area?

GOODBODY: That's right, sir."

CHAIRMAN: Was anybody charged with larceny?"

GOODBODY: Well, several charges were made. Some for larceny, looting, breaking curfew, interfering with soldiers at their work, and resisting arrest.

CHAIRMAN: When was the curfew introduced at Wismar-Christianburg area?

GOODBODY: It was practically introduced on the 27th.

CHAIRMAN: And for how long did that continue?

GOODBODY: From 7 in the evening to 5.30 in the morning.

CHAIRMAN: And this was for about three nights. During this time you were assisted by the BG Volunteer Force and the police.

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: On the 6th July, there was a Chapman's launch incident, and after that incident about a few miles away some violence erupted. How far was that?

GOODBODY: North Mackenzie.

CHAIRMAN: Was that at Kara-Kara District?

GOODBODY: No, North Mackenzie.

CHAIRMAN: What was the main violence?

GOODBODY: This was mainly a number of people who started to beat up and assault the Indians, who at that time had come back and were living in the North Mackenzie area.

CHAIRMAN: Can you give us an estimate of the number of people who were beaten?

GOODBODY: I cannot remember, but certainly about 3 or 4 deaths and about a dozen injured.

CHAIRMAN: Was there any burning?

GOODBODY: In North Mackenzie, I cannot remember any burning.

CHAIRMAN: Do you know the Kara-Kara area? Can you say where the burning started?

GOODBODY: I cannot remember where the burning took place, but there was burning at Kara-Kara during the whole period I was up there.

CHAIRMAN: Were your men still stationed there?

GOODBODY: No, not my men.

SHEPHERD: Were your forces assisted by the Volunteer Force or by the police? Were you satisfied by the service of the Volunteer Force?

GOODBODY: Yes.

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SHEPHERD: Have you anything but praise of the assistance of the Volunteer Force?

GOODBODY: I have no criticism; they helped me in all respects.

SHEPHERD: When you arrived at 4.30, you were met by Assistant Commissioner Neil Isaacs and the lieutenant.

GOODBODY: Mr. Isaacs met me at the stelling. He took me to the police station and gave me a rough idea of what was happening in the area.

SHEPHERD: We have a map here. Is this the map that was given to you?

GOODBODY: No. This is something we prepared for ourselves.

SHEPHERD: Mr. Isaacs had a map of his own in which you were able to survey the area?

GOODBODY: It was not such good map, but it gave me an idea of what the area looked like.

SHEPHERD: This map was prepared by your company, and could you explain the meaning to the Commissioners of those markings and what they represent?

GOODBODY: I can explain the red crosses. They represent the burnt places; the green, the location of the Amerindians; and the blue could represent the Indian houses which are furnished or unfurnished.

SHEPHERD: You have yourself requested this map be produced here today. This is the only map that can assist because I feel this is the one you want.

GOODBODY: This map was prepared by junior men of my company and it certainly was not the work of experts but it is good enough for our purpose.

SHEPHERD: How long were you personally stationed in the area?

GOODBODY: From the 26th May until 1st August.

SHEPHERD: Were any complaints made personally to you by those Indians about contacting the police?"

GOODBODY: Nobody came up to me.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What time were you instructed to take over from Wismar?"

GOODBODY: I went up by boat the Demba company loaned us. The boat left Atkinson Field about midday.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How long notice did your patrol get?"

GOODBODY: My first platoon was put at one hour's notice to move at about 11.50 hours on the 25th.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Were those your first instructions?

GOODBODY: That was the first I ever heard.

PRATAP N. SINGH: The first about Mackenzie?"

GOODBODY: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: While you were at Mackenzie and Wismar was any report made to you of the loss of any fire arms?"

GOODBODY: I knew that during my time there that the BG Volunteer Force lost a sten machine gun.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Any report of a rifle or rifles?"

GOODBODY: Not that I can remember.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What about small arms?"

GOODBODY: You mean pistols? Again I can't remember any losses from the security forces.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: Can you remember when you got news of the loss of the sten gun?"

GOODBODY: First week in July.

PRATAP N. SINGH: On your arrival there what did you see the volunteers and the police doing?"

GOODBODY: The police were very busy looking after and was trying to assist East Indians and were at the police station at Wismar and Mackenzie. During the time immediately after my arrival the police went to extensive exercise showing my patrol around the area.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did the police seem busy?

GOODBODY: Certainly the police seemed extremely busy.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You imagined that there were incidents of beating at northern Wismar? Who were being beaten and who were doing the beating?

GOODBODY: I received a report about Africans who were beating someone in one case.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What group did he belong to?

GOODBODY: East Indian.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Now, did you say that the report you received was that Africans were beating Indians?

GOODBODY: I can't remember about any Africans being beaten up. Certainly no. I do remember I heard talking going on.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What were the police doing?

GOODBODY: I do remember that one African who was shot by the police for looting.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Could you give me an average of the number of volunteers and police on the Wismar side?

SHEPHERD: Sir, we shall instruct the senior volunteers' officers and police officers to be here. You may wish them to ascertain how many were there.

GOODBODY: I think this is a different question to answer. We relieved the Mackenzie police station.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How many were there at the time? Did you get the impression that they were more on the Wismar side than Mackenzie?

GOODBODY: After I got in the area my troops were responsible to look after the Wismar side and the volunteers would be responsible for Kara-Kara and Rainbow City and Mackenzie.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Thank you.

DRAYTON: You said that at 11.30 on the 25th you were alerted and you sent your first platoon to the area.

GOODBODY: The first platoon did not arrive until 5.30.

DRAYTON: What prevented them from going earlier? You had to get ready?

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

DRAYTON: What was the reason for this delay?

GOODBODY: As far as my people are concerned there was no delay in that. We weren't given the executive order to move until about 4.00 to 4.30 that evening.

DRAYTON: From whom?

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GOODBODY: From the Garrison Commander in BG at the time. It was proper for the order to come from him in this particular case. I think he probably personally told the commanding officer of the Queen's Own Buffs who immediately got on to the platoon commanding officer.

DRAYTON: How were they taken up to Wismar by plane?

GOODBODY: Most went up in a Dakota and some flew in the Demba Otter.

DRAYTON: How long have you been a soldier?

GOODBODY: 15 years.

DRAYTON: I am not asking about the cooperation that was rendered to you by the Volunteer Force, but can you make any comment with regard to the discipline as an armed force after you worked with them for some time? Therefore, you must be able to give some kind of criticism positive or negative. I am talking about the discipline. I am not talking about the cooperation.

GOODBODY: To begin with, I think the company I saw was very well-disciplined. Major Langham I remember is an extremely strict disciplinarian. The men responded well and I was impressed with the way they performed. They performed very efficient and did exactly as they were told. They didn't slack up smoking cigarettes. I would say that in my opinion they were a well-disciplined force.

DRAYTON: You confirm, Major, that no allegation was made to you by anyone during your stay at Wismar against members of the Volunteer Force or police in that they were involved in looting and assisting in any crimes that took place on the Monday.

GOODBODY: I can't remember anybody coming to me.

DRAYTON: Did you hear rumours about their being involved?

GOODBODY: No. I heard no such rumours but I read allegations in the papers.

DRAYTON: You heard no Indians talking of it?

GOODBODY: The number of Indians that I spoke to unfortunately was limited and we were busy evacuating Indians and had no opportunity of talking to them.

DRAYTON: They must have been discussed by the people?

GOODBODY: Newspaper comments are usually discussed. This is as far as I can say.

DRAYTON: Thank you.

MACDONALD: You are a Major – a company commander?

GOODBODY: Yes.

MACDONALD: Which company?

GOODBODY: "C" Company.

MACDONALD: You arrived on Sunday 24th at 12.00 noon?

GOODBODY: Yes I arrived by plane.

MACDONALD: How many platoons are there in the company?

GOODBODY: There are three.

MACDONALD: Where were the second and third platoons?

GOODBODY: They stayed at Atkinson Field.

MACDONALD: They began moving to Georgetown on Monday?"

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GOODBODY: Yes.

MACDONALD: At the time you would have been occupied with the second and third platoons?

GOODBODY: I was at Atkinson Field some time during the early part of the afternoon on Monday. Here I spoke to the commander. I was informed by him that he was happy because everything was ready for a quick move. I later left for Georgetown and on arrival I found that the other platoon was on its way.

MACDONALD: Thank you.

MOOTOO: How long did it take you to evacuate everybody from Wismar?

GOODBODY: I can't honestly say. A lot of the evacuation had been done by the time I had arrived at about 4.00 in the morning. There was certainly a number of Indians under the police station when I arrived and these were evacuated within twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

MOOTOO: Did you go about looking for persons hiding in the bushes?

GOODBODY: I think it is right to say that one or two patrols found some Indians that had gone into the bushes.

MOOTOO: So when did you finish evacuating everybody?

GOODBODY: I can't honestly remember. All I can say is that the majority had been evacuated within forty-eight hours.

MOOTOO: So you took a few days?

GOODBODY: One or two persons never left Mackenzie

MOOTOO: I am talking about Wismar"

GOODBODY: I should think that the majority were out within forty-eight hours. I can't remember in detail.

MOOTOO: When did you find these people?

GOODBODY: On arrival we saw one or two people calling out as soon as they saw the river launch passing. But I think that most of them were evacuated within twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

MOOTOO: Did anybody try to attack the people while they were being rescued?

GOODBODY: Certainly not. Nobody tried their luck with the soldiers.

MOOTOO: Thank you.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you find any ammunition? How many rounds?

GOODBODY: I found about 30 rounds of ammunition. Not very much.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Were they found in containers?

GOODBODY: I think the ammunition was in a tin of some sort.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Any guns?

GOODBODY: I cannot honestly remember. There may have been one or two guns. The records may prove me wrong on that.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did anybody make a report to you that there were unlawful machine guns in the Wismar area?

GOODBODY: Rumours of everything were sent about.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you ascertain or find out who was spreading those rumours?

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GOODBODY: We didn't have any information of such. There was a wonderful rumour which had us rushing out west from Wismar; when the rumour was spreading that Indians were attacking the area with guns.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What happened?

GOODBODY: Nothing happened.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Can you remember when this was?

GOODBODY: It was sometime during the early part of June.

PRATAP N. SINGH: That was after the Indians were evacuated from Wismar?

GOODBODY: Yes, that was after the first week.

DRAYTON: The bullets that were found, were they machine gun bullets?"

GOODBODY: Machine guns and rifles can fire those bullets.

DRAYTON: The bullets that were found, could they have been used in a machine gun?

GOODBODY: If it was point 45 [.45]. They could be used in a Thompson machine gun. It is an ancient weapon; it was used during the war.

DRAYTON: I see. Thank you.

SHEPHERD: There is just one question I want to clear up. You have served in a number of different territories of war?

GOODBODY: On emergency sir, not war.

SHEPHERD: Not war. We haven't had war for 20 years, only civil riots and such like. How many different territories?

GOODBODY: For the last two or three years, none sir. We have been in Cyprus and Kenya.

SHEPHERD: Cyprus is gripped with cold war, but in Wismar you found that rumour got a grip on people more readily than in almost any area that you can recollect?

GOODBODY: I cannot remember rumours spreading this way before.

SHEPHERD: Now, you have heard rumours in the press of police standing by while looting, arson, and murders were going on. Possibly you heard this which was quoted and uttered by no less a person than the Minister of Home Affairs in the Senate. Because it was introduced as evidence before this Commission and has been mentioned more than once. The account of what took place at Wismar was shocking and revealing; armed police and Volunteer Force guards stood by as arson, rape and murder were committed and made no effort to intervene. You were there several days? How many days were you there?"

GOODBODY: I was there until the 1st August, sir, for 12 weeks.

SHEPHERD: During the 12 weeks you were there did you ever discover anything by way of evidence or otherwise to justify that statement?

GOODBODY: No sir.

SHEPHERD: Now, we will come to the later event. You were there 12 weeks of course, so that covers the affair of the "Sun Chapman." We come to events which succeeded the blowing up of the Sun Chapman. You said that there was some violence concerning the Africans who they caught in the act of beating three Indians. Were you there?

GOODBODY: No, it was reported to me.

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SHEPHERD: And the three Africans are now awaiting trial?

GOODBODY: I certainly had to send three soldiers in the magistrate court in connection with this.

SHEPHERD: It is in your knowledge. You can't be everywhere as an army commander because it is your duty to report. It is only to your knowledge that an African was shot dead for looting?"

GOODBODY: Yes, of course.

SHEPHERD: And this shooting occurred when? Can you remember approximately?

GOODBODY: I think it occurred on the night or late afternoon on Wednesday 27th, because I remember seeing his body lying there.

SHEPHERD: You think it was the 26th or 27th?

GOODBODY: The 27th.

SHEPHERD: And he had been shot?

GOODBODY: Yes sir.

SHEPHERD: You have told the commissioner that you saw the volunteers standing up to the strain pretty well?

GOODBODY: Yes, I had.

SHEPHERD: Can you think of any other occasion when you saw instance of good discipline by any patrol?

GOODBODY: I went down in the Kara-Kara area and they were doing pretty well there.

SHEPHERD: You saw any volunteer standing by as rape, arson, and murders were going on?

GOODBODY: No sir.

SHEPHERD: From what you saw the volunteers doing, were the incidents true?

GOODBODY: I think it is more unlikely to be true, knowing the people as I do now.

SHEPHERD: Thank you. No further questions.

—

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you say when you arrived there the Indian population surrendered themselves readily to the British Army?

GOODBODY: Yes, they didn't have to be encouraged to come out of hiding; they just came out.

—

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

—

DERYCK GORDON THOMAS is sworn in, and he states as follows:

CHAIRMAN: Your full name please.

THOMAS: My name is Deryck Gordon Thomas.

CHAIRMAN: Now you are Lieutenant of the "C" Company of the Devon and Dorset Regiment?

THOMAS: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: When did you arrive in this country?

THOMAS: On the 24th May.

CHAIRMAN: You were stationed at Atkinson?

THOMAS: My platoon was stationed at Atkinson, and I was at Diamond Estate.

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CHAIRMAN: Now on May 25th, 1964, at approximately 11.30 a.m. you were instructed by the “C” Company to place your platoon on one hour’s notice to move to Mackenzie?

THOMAS: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: At about 4.30 the said day the platoon left Atkinson. It was given the order to move.

THOMAS: Yes sir, at about 4.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: The platoon left Atkinson around 5.00 p.m.

THOMAS: Around 4.30 to 5.00 p.m. Some went in a Dakota aircraft, and I went in the Demba plane.

CHAIRMAN: The platoon landed at Mackenzie airstrip?

THOMAS: Yes sir. About 5.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: About 5.30 you were met there by Assistant Superintendent Neil Isaacs and taken to the Demba Trade School?

THOMAS: I went with the Assistant Commissioner of Police to the Mackenzie Police station.

CHAIRMAN: You went to the Police Headquarters and there you went in conference with the Commissioner?

THOMAS: That’s right.

CHAIRMAN: What was decided?

THOMAS: It would have taken me about a quarter of an hour to get there. When we got there, the Army was working under the control of the Police. I was required to get as many of my people into the Wismar area as quickly as possible.

CHAIRMAN: You said “people”. Who do you mean? Your men?

THOMAS: Yes. And about 6.30 I had as many men out in the area. I dispatched five of my patrols; three went to Christianburg and two stayed at Mackenzie.

CHAIRMAN: Where was the most troubled area?

THOMAS: The Wismar area, Silver City.

CHAIRMAN: You went over there with your men?

THOMAS: I decided not to, sir. I didn’t know the area, and there was no way of contacting the Police Commissioner if anything went wrong. I kept a small reserve of seven people at the Demba Trade School where I had set up a temporary headquarters.

CHAIRMAN: Did you come over to the Wismar area?

THOMAS: No. My patrol came back around mid-night. I was waiting for their report, and in fact I heard from them.

CHAIRMAN: Did you see anybody doing anything? You said you went over the next day. Did you see any person committing larceny or looting?

THOMAS: There were certainly many cases of arson, which confirmed what my patrol leaders had reported.

—

SHEPHERD: I don’t think I have your full name?

THOMAS: Deryck Gordon Thomas.

SHEPHERD: You commanded the first platoon, “C” Company.

THOMAS: Yes.

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SHEPHERD: You flew out from the United Kingdom on Friday 22nd or Saturday 23rd?
THOMAS: On Saturday 23rd.

SHEPHERD: You arrived in British Guiana on the 24th and your platoon was stationed at Atkinson Field.
THOMAS: I was going to move to Diamond, but as the Mackenzie situation worsened, we took off from Atkinson Field to Mackenzie.

SHEPHERD: How in any hours had you been in the country?
THOMAS: About 24 hours.

SHEPHERD: When you arrived in the country did you have any time to unpack?
THOMAS: No.

SHEPHERD: How large is your platoon?
THOMAS: Approximately 27, with one sergeant.

SHEPHERD: These men took off in two air crafts on Monday 25th and arriving within half an hour at Mackenzie. How were you transported from the airstrip at Mackenzie?
THOMAS: I came in a Police Land Rover and the platoon in a boat straight to Mackenzie.

SHEPHERD: How many NCOs?
THOMAS: I had a total of five, one sergeant and four corporals and lance-corporals.

SHEPHERD: How many patrols did you send over to the west bank?
THOMAS: Three. And two on the east bank.

SHEPHERD: You were met by Issacs, the Assistant Commissioner, and. one of the first things he told you was to show your men around Wismar area in order to quiet things down.
THOMAS: Yes sir.

SHEPHERD: Were you satisfied with this arrangement?
THOMAS: Yes.

SHEPHERD: I want to get a clear picture. You say you were under the command of the Police?
THOMAS: I was receiving orders myself from an NCO, and in fact the policemen went as guides as we had no maps. That was the only thing to do. I had asked the Commissioner of Police for guides, if I remember right. Consequently, I asked the Assistant Commissioner for guides and these he gave.

SHEPHERD: So you went personally the next day which is a Tuesday to Wismar?
THOMAS: Yes sir.

SHEPHERD: This was your first visit to Wismar. And what did you see when you arrived there?
THOMAS: I made a note in my diary of the fact that the place looked as if it had been hit by a bomb. There were many cases of arson.

SHEPHERD: What do you mean by that; setting fire to houses maliciously? What do you mean by cases of arson? Houses still burning or persons setting fires to houses? What do you mean?
THOMAS: Houses were burning; one or two others were smouldering.

SHEPHERD: Did you see any crowd there rioting?
THOMAS: There were no rioting and there were no crowds.

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SHEPHERD: Was there any looting?

THOMAS: No. But when my platoon came at 6.15 the evening before, there was a large crowd at the Police station.

SHEPHERD: Was it an angry crowd? Did you see hostile crowds on the 26th, the Tuesday?

THOMAS: No sir.

SHEPHERD: Was everything quiet except that there were crowds of people? And how long did you and your platoon remain in the area? When did you leave?

THOMAS: We left on the Saturday following.

SHEPHERD: For how long did you stay?

THOMAS: For approximately one week.

SHEPHERD: Were you relieved by another platoon?

THOMAS: No sir. The rest of the Company had joined us during that week. Major Goodbody and No. 7 platoon arrived at 4 o'clock on the 26th and another platoon, No. 8., arrived two days later.

SHEPHERD: How long did you personally stay?

THOMAS: For five days.

SHEPHERD: Did you return?

THOMAS: The following day there was a strike at Demba.

SHEPHERD: And did you take your platoon with you and return the next day?

THOMAS: Yes, I did, sir.

SHEPHERD: And you returned Sunday the 31st? Why did you return?

THOMAS: Because there was a strike at Demba and that they needed a platoon.

SHEPHERD: And you remained until August 3rd and you remained in the area until the "Sun Chapman" was sunk.

THOMAS: Yes sir.

—

PRATAP N. SINGH: When did you actually find out about the Wismar incident?

THOMAS: I should say half hour before my platoon was placed at an hour's notice.

PRATAP N. SINGH: That was about 11 o'clock.

THOMAS: I heard that this sort of thing was going on.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did it come to your attention while you were at the Wismar-Mackenzie area that any firearms were lost by the security forces?

THOMAS: Yes Sir. But I couldn't remember the date. The British Guiana Volunteer Force lost a Sterling sten gun.

PRATAP N. SINGH: There crowds you kept referring to on the 25th, what kind of people were they?

THOMAS: They were African people and they certainly struck me as the sort of people who have just gathered together to enquire what was going on.

PRATAP N. SINGH: On the 25th or 26th when you went over was the crowd only occasion you talked about what was going on.

THOMAS: There were one or two fires and there was a bucket brigade.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: What kind of people?

THOMAS: Again African people.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you see any Indians on the 25th?

THOMAS: I can't remember how many, but in all two of the Police stations, and I remember my platoon brought some in the Police station.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Now was there any report to you about finding of ammunition?

THOMAS: No, there was no report to me.

PRATAP N. SINGH: From whom did you hear of the Wismar troubles when you arrived?

THOMAS: The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Isaacs.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What did he say?

THOMAS: I can't remember exactly. He told me what had been going on in the areas, He told me that among the African population there were certain elements in the Wismar and Silver Town and Silver City who were burning the houses of the East Indians and also that there were one or two cases of people being beaten. An East Indian girl was raped although I don't remember the details of that. So he told me in fact that a definite attack against the East Indian population was going on that night.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What did you gather was the reason your troops went to Wismar?

THOMAS: To bring some stability to the area.

PRATAP N. SINGH: You said to bring stability? Would you say that the force of law and order existed there?

THOMAS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you gather that to get as many of your men in the area ready as soon as possible would give prestige to the force of law and order?

THOMAS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Of course there were already the Police and Volunteers on the road.

THOMAS: Yes, but they were short in numbers.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Were any reports made to you or did any information reach you that certain members of the Volunteer Force were involved in the looting?

THOMAS: I heard rumours, but quite honestly I can't say because there were many rumours.

PRATAP N. SINGH: But you did hear rumours?

THOMAS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Now besides being instructed by the Commissioner of Police to have your men ready as early as possible, did he tell you what to do?

THOMAS: I cannot remember if he said in words what I should do. I think it was fairly obvious that our task was to keep the peace.

PRATAP N. SINGH: He gave you no orders?

THOMAS: I guess he did, but I cannot remember.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What did he tell you? He did not actually tell you to keep the peace?

THOMAS: That is my duty. I do not have to be told.

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PRATAP N. SINGH: I know, but that is the impression you got?

THOMAS: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you hear of any incidents in North Mackenzie?

THOMAS: No Sir. I am sorry I was thinking of South Mackenzie. Yes, I heard of incidents – arson. That was my reason for sending two patrols to the area.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Any murders?

THOMAS: No.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Any beating?

THOMAS: I can't remember. I know some activity against the Indian population had occurred on the eastern bank of the river.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you ever meet the village chairman, Mr. Festus Adams?

THOMAS: Not on that night. I cannot remember ever having met him.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Were you at any time acting under the Police?

THOMAS: The situation in Mackenzie was under Police control and it is the duty of the military to assist the Police and in that connection. I was working under the instructions of the Police. When everything is quiet the military takes over.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When did the military take over?

THOMAS: I really can't say. I think a note was handed to Major Goodbody soon after he arrived.

PRATAP N. SINGH: So you eventually took control of the situation at Wismar. At what time did you take control?

THOMAS: I don't know."

PRATAP N. SINGH: When did it come to your knowledge?

THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, I think it would have been more appropriate for Major Goodbody to have answered these questions.

PRATAP N. SINGH: When did it come to your knowledge that you had taken control of the situation?

THOMAS: I can't remember.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you not say a few minutes ago that on the morning of the 26th May you knew that the Army was in full control?

THOMAS: I said I knew that when Major Goodbody gave the orders to the platoon Commander.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Who was the Commander?

THOMAS: I am one of the commanders. The other one has left the Colony.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What day did you receive orders?

THOMAS: On the 26th.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Morning or afternoon?"

THOMAS: I can't remember.

—

DRAYTON: How many men are in the patrol?"

THOMAS: Six. One NCO and five men.

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DRAYTON: When you got to Mackenzie were there any disturbances?

THOMAS: I do not believe that I saw any disturbances in the area. I can't remember seeing fires in the area, but I had been told that there were disturbances, and that is why I sent two patrols on that side of the river.

DRAYTON: Why did you keep the more experienced patrols in Mackenzie when you knew that most of the trouble was at Wismar?

THOMAS: I can't remember saying so.

DRAYTON: I am sorry. You sent the most experienced men to Wismar? Why did you not go?

THOMAS: If I went to the Wismar area it would have been difficult for my senior officers to contact me. I had the reserve troops in the area to deal with any situation if it got out of hand.

DRAYTON: While you were up there did you work very closely with the BG Volunteer Force?

THOMAS: No. I worked directly under the Assistant Commissioner of Police.

DRAYTON: When you got to know the Volunteers, you worked with them?

THOMAS: Later on.

DRAYTON: What was your impression of the BG Volunteers as an armed unit?

THOMAS: I compare it very favourably with our territorial unit.

DRAYTON: In comparison?

THOMAS: Yes, not too bad at all. They operated with us on one or two operations and on one of the occasions we did a cordon search on the Christianburg area and they did very well indeed.

DRAYTON: Thank you.

—

MOOTOO: Did you find any bombs or dynamite in the area?

THOMAS: No.

MOOTOO: Did you hear any explosions while you were there?

THOMAS: Are you talking about the night of the 25th-26th? If so, I didn't.

MOOTOO: You would be able to distinguish between fires caused by bombs and fires caused by dynamites?

THOMAS: Personally, I would not be able to do so.

—

MACDONALD: When you read about this one-hour notice, did that mean one hour after receiving the order you were prepared to move?

THOMAS: Yes.

—

CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Shepherd?

—

SHEPHERD: In reply to Mr. P.N. Singh, you said that you understood that your purpose in sending troops to Wismar was to bring stability to the area.

WITNESS: Yes.

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SHEPHERD: Was it in your opinion frankly that the troops brought some stability to the area?

THOMAS: No. The reason being that you didn't know enough people there. This situation was the sort of situation in which you could have lost a complete Company.

SHEPHERD: Why did you say go?

THOMAS: Because the arsonists were careful indeed not to be caught and they made very obvious efforts to make sure that the security forces were out of the way before they did anything, and generally speaking, that particular week, this was what happened.

SHEPHERD: How about the terrain?

THOMAS: It made it a little more difficult. If we had maps we would have been able to move around more quickly.

SHEPHERD: Describe the area. Was it hilly or flat?

THOMAS: Approximately 300 yards off from the river, there was a steep escarpment. Most of the activity was centred on the area between the escarpment and the river. On the evening of the 25th-26th most of the activity was concentrated between the river and the hill in that flat area. Most of the burnings were houses at Silver Town, Silver City and Wismar-Christianburg.

SHEPHERD: Do you mean that they found a terrain which assisted them in getting on with their job?

THOMAS: I think so.

SHEPHERD: Will you explain?

THOMAS: It would have been easier for the military to move around unnoticed providing we had covered the area fairly well.

SHEPHERD: The arsonists were seen by you?

THOMAS: We would not have been able to know they were arsonists, unless they were seen in the act.

SHEPHERD: It is no part of the duty of forces to open fire on crowds standing doing nothing. When did you open fire?

THOMAS: We open fire if there is a danger to ourselves, to our weapons, to the people and places we are guarding. In this case, we would be responsible for looking after the whole of the Mackenzie and Wismar areas. If we saw anybody lighting a fire and we could not have stopped him in any other way, we would have shot him.

SHEPHERD: If anyone was going to commit murder and he had been resisting?

THOMAS: We would have opened fire if we could not have stopped him in any other way.

SHEPHERD: But it is not your duty to open fire on a crowd standing by doing nothing?

THOMAS: No sir.

SHEPHERD: You may have seen that they were starting a fire or encouraging others to start a fire. Would this have been justified?

THOMAS: Certainly not, sir.

SHEPHERD: I would like you to qualify your statement that the arsonists would not have been seen.

THOMAS: The reason being that there were so many fires and nobody was caught.

SHEPHERD: You may have hoard rumours that the Volunteers were taking the side of the rioters, either assisting them, taking advantage, or encouraging them. You may have heard rumours. Did you hoar any rumours?

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THOMAS: I do not know whether I heard them. I certainly read them in the papers.

SHEPHERD: We will come to that, and, unfortunately, people will recollect on what they read in the papers rather than what they are told.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Just one more question. You said that these people were burning and that they were not being caught. Would you say this was planned?

THOMAS: I would not say that it was planned.

MOOTOO: You said that you found it difficult because you had no maps and you did not know the location of the area. Do you think that the Volunteers could have saved the houses since they knew the location better?

THOMAS: No I do not think so, because the houses were on fire and no one could have saved them.

MOOTOO: But since they knew the area more than you and your men, could they not have saved the houses from being burnt?

THOMAS: No one could have saved them.

MOOTOO: Thank you very much.

CARTER: At this stage were you equipped with helicopters?

THOMAS: There were no helicopters.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thomas, did you have field glasses?

THOMAS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: If you had field glasses and you were on the hill and you were looking towards the spot where these houses were being burnt, could you have seen the arsonists?

THOMAS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Could the crowd have seen you?

THOMAS: Yes, there was a possibility.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Lieutenant Thomas. You are excused.

SULTAN SATTUR is sworn in and states as follows:

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

SATTUR: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: Are you employed?

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

CHAIRMAN: You used to live at Wismar?

SATTUR: Yes, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: You were operator at Demerara Bauxite Company?

SATTUR: Yes, Sir.

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

SATTUR: Bombing and burning. Two houses were being burnt.

Transcripts – Day 9

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

SATTAUR: We would burst your coolie raas. This was normal with people on the road.

CHAIRMAN: Were they all Negroes?

SATTAUR: They were all Negroes.

CHAIRMAN: Did you make any report of this?

SATTAUR: 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?

SATTAUR: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Whom you reported to?

SATTAUR: One Mr. Hubbard, and I told him that there would be a massacre at Wismar.

CHAIRMAN: He called in Mr. Flynn?

SATTAUR: 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: How long were you there for?

SATTAUR: 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?"

SATTAUR: I was up at Nabaclis, East Coast Demerara.

CHAIRMAN: When did you go there?

SATTAUR: About two weeks before.

CHAIRMAN: You had a house at Wismar?

SATTAUR: I was stopping at Mr. Jairam, the dispenser.

CHAIRMAN: Did you lose anything?

SATTAUR: I lost my cycle and some clothes which I left there.

—

PAUL NIRGIN is sworn and he states as follows:

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

NIRGIN: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: What work are you doing?

NIRGIN: Nothing sir.

CHAIRMAN: You are not working? Unemployed?

NIRGIN: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: And on the 25th May where you lived?

NIRGIN: The Valley of Tears, Wismar.

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CHAIRMAN: You lived there with your parents? What was your father's name?

NIRGIN: Nirgin.

CHAIRMAN: What work you did at Wismar?

NIRGIN: I used to be with him on the tug.

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

NIRGIN: Five children.

CHAIRMAN: Your mother is alive?

NIRGIN: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: Now on the night of the 24th, Sunday night, how many of you were at home?

NIRGIN: Four of us.

CHAIRMAN: Four of you all?"

NIRGIN: Myself, two brothers and a smaller sister.

CHAIRMAN: And your mother?

NIRGIN: My mother was in Berbice.

CHAIRMAN: And your father?

NIRGIN: My father was in town.

CHAIRMAN: When did your father come back from Georgetown?

NIRGIN: Monday morning he reached Wismar.

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

NIRGIN: I saw fire at the back.

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

NIRGIN: I kept watch with my brothers.

CHAIRMAN: Did anything happen to you during the night?

NIRGIN: No sir.

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

NIRGIN: Yes sir.

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

NIRGIN: He came home at 7 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: What did he tell you?

NIRGIN: 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?

NIRGIN: About 40 people at Mr. Khan's house.

CHAIRMAN: At Valley of Tears?

NIRGIN: Yes.

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

NIRGIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: What was the crowd doing?

NIRGIN: They were beating Richard Khan at that time.

CHAIRMAN: And you continued?

NIRGIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: What you and your father did?

NIRGIN: We started to run out and one shouted, "Look a coolie going there;" and they left from Khan's place and went after us.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, and what happened next?

NIRGIN: As we started to run and ran up the hill I missed my father.

CHAIRMAN: And you went where?"

NIRGIN: We went and hid in some bush.

CHAIRMAN: Whilst you were hiding there did you see anything? What was the mob doing?

NIRGIN: They had sticks and iron bars and all kinds of things, and they were standing around a person and beating him.

CHAIRMAN: How long did you stay there?

NIRGIN: 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?

NIRGIN: Two brothers and one sister.

CHAIRMAN: You joined the East Indian people who were coming down from one mile and you followed them? Did you recognise anybody in the mob?

NIRGIN: I recognised Banga Mary. He was leader and I heard him say, "Kill him, Three o'clock."

CHAIRMAN: You saw Banga Mary?

NIRGIN: Yes.

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

NIRGIN: Whilst I was going down I saw a flock of boys – teenagers about 18 to 19 years.

CHAIRMAN: How many boys?

NIRGIN: Six to eight boys. Then they said, "Boy, where are you going?" And they scrambled 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?

NIRGIN: We couldn't get to Wismar station because the road was blocked.

CHAIRMAN: So when did you go to the station?

NIRGIN: 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 Mackenzie side.

CHAIRMAN: Now, this occurred about what time?

NIRGIN: About ten o'clock.

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

NIRGIN: Eight o'clock.

CHAIRMAN: When you got to Mackenzie you went to the Police station? And anything occurred at the Police station?

NIRGIN: When we went there we saw the sergeant on the platform?

CHAIRMAN: You know his name?

NIRGIN: 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?

NIRGIN: Yes, and Corporal Lall came downstairs and asked what was the matter.

CHAIRMAN: What time was that?

NIRGIN: This was about 10 o'clock.

CHAIRMAN: Eventually you were taken to the Trade School?

NIRGIN: We stayed there until 6 o'clock.

CHAIRMAN: Did you see your father?

NIRGIN: Yes, the Monday when he came down. He was dead when I saw him.

—

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you see any Police or Volunteer?

NIRGIN: Yes sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: At Wismar?

NIRGIN: Yes.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How far were they from you at any time?

NIRGIN: Several rods or so.

PRATAP N. SINGH: How far?"

NIRGIN: Well, they were a good way off?

PRATAP N. SINGH: What were they doing?

NIRGIN: They were walking about.

PRATAP N. SINGH: From where they were walking, could they have seen that you were being beaten?

NIRGIN: Yes sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did any of them come to your assistance?

NIRGIN: No sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did anything happen to the crowd you saw going down from Half Mile?

NIRGIN: No sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: They ran away?

NIRGIN: Yes sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you recognize any of the teenagers who were beating you?

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NIRGIN: Well, if I saw them again I will recognise them.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Do you know their names?

NIRGIN: No sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you recognise anyone in the group which was beating Khan?

NIRGIN: Yes sir. I recognized Banga Mary.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Anyone else?

NIRGIN: I heard someone shout, “Three o’Clock, look a coolie, kill him.”

PRATAP N. SINGH: You heard that?

NIRGIN: Yes sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Thank you.

—

DRAYTON: When your father reached Wismar at 7 o’clock where did he go?

NIRGIN: He went home.

DRAYTON: When you ran out of the house, was your father with you?

NIRGIN: Yes.

DRAYTON: What happened to him?

NIRGIN: The crowd shouted, “Look a coolie”, and ran after me.

DRAYTON: Did they leave Khan after beating him?

NIRGIN: I did not look.

DRAYTON: Do you know Sergeant Simon very well?

NIRGIN: No, not so well.

DRAYTON: You are certain it was Sergeant Simon whom you saw at Mackenzie Police Station platform?

NIRGIN: Yes.

DRAYTON: What were the Police and Volunteers doing?”

NIRGIN: They were just walking about.

DRAYTON: Walking about doing nothing?

NIRGIN: Yes.

DRAYTON: You did not receive any assistance?

NIRGIN: No sir.

DRAYTON: Thank you.

—

MOOTOO: Did you call to the Police for assistance?

NIRGIN: No.

MOOTOO: Do you think they saw the Indians being beaten?

NIRGIN: Yes.

MOOTOO: Why?

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NIRGIN: Because I could have seen them.

MOOTOO: What were they looking at?

NIRGIN: I do not know.

MRS. MOOTOO: Were they doing anything?

NIRGIN: No.

MOOTOO: Nothing at all?

NIRGIN: No, nothing at all.

MOOTOO: Were they just standing and having a little chat?

NIRGIN: Yes.

MOOTOO: Did you see them helping anyone?

NIRGIN: No.

MOOTOO: At that time did you feel that they had work to do?

NIRGIN: They were not busy.

MOOTOO: They just had nothing to do?

NIRGIN: Yes.

MOOTOO: Apart from your father and Richard Khan being beaten, did you see anyone else?

NIRGIN: No.

MOOTOO: Did you see anyone setting fire?

NIRGIN: No. Only when they were setting fire to our house.

MOOTOO: Was the police looking at your father when he was being beaten?

NIRGIN: No, they were not looking at that time.

MOOTOO: Did you call out to the Police?

NIRGIN: No.

MOOTOO: Why?

NIRGIN: We were in confusion.

MOOTOO: Did you ask them to help you to take you across to the station?

NIRGIN: No, we did not talk at all.

MOOTOO: Were the teenage boys running after you at that time?

NIRGIN: Yes.

MOOTOO: Did you see any policemen?

NIRGIN: Yes.

MOOTOO: What were they doing?

NIRGIN: Only walking about doing nothing?

—

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

NIRGIN: Everything comes to the value of \$8,000.

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CHAIRMAN: Was it insured?

NIRGIN: No it wasn't.

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

NIRGIN: It was alright. It is at Clemwood now.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

—

SUKHOO is sworn in and he states as follows:

CHAIRMAN: You live at Lot 15 Second Street, La Penitance?

SUKHOO: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: You have a wife and six children?

SUKHOO: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN: What work do you do now?

SUKHOO: I am not working. I was a labourer at Demba.

CHAIRMAN: In May you lived at 43 Silver Town, Wismar?

SUKHOO: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: And there you carried on a shop?

SUKHOO: Yes sir.

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

SUKHOO: Yes sir.

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

SUKHOO: Yes. I saw fires; houses were burning.

CHAIRMAN: Yes? Where?

SUKHOO: Up the One Mile area.

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

SUKHOO: Yes, I went to work on Monday morning.

CHAIRMAN: What time did you leave for work?

SUKHOO: I left for work at 7 o'clock.

CHAIRMAN: When you went to work, anything happened?

SUKHOO: 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?

SUKHOO: Well, after that I still saw fires.

CHAIRMAN: Where were you working?

SUKHOO: At Mackenzie at the carpenter shop as a labourer.

CHAIRMAN: You came home?

SUKHOO: When the breakfast horn blew at 11 o'clock.

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CHAIRMAN: What did you see?

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

CHAIRMAN: What happened to you?

SUKHOO: 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?

SUKHOO: About 12 Negroes.

CHAIRMAN: What happened?

SUKHOO: They came and compelled my tenants to move the furniture and clothes.

CHAIRMAN: Did you recognise any of the 12 people?

SUKHOO: Yes. I went to them and spoke to the Black fellows 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?"

SUKHOO: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: What happened next?

SUKHOO: 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?

SUKHOO: I sent my two sons to get some Volunteers to take us to the Police station.

CHAIRMAN: Did you speak to them?

SUKHOO: I did not speak to the Volunteers.

CHAIRMAN: Well, what happened?

SUKHOO: Let me tell you all over again.

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SUKHOO: I sent my big boys to the Police Station to bring some Volunteers.

CHAIRMAN: What time did they arrive?

SUKHOO: My boys along with the Volunteers came in about 7 o'clock.

CHAIRMAN: When they came what did you say?

SUKHOO: I told them nothing.

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

SUKHOO: I estimate my loss to be around \$32,000.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Shepherd.

—

SHEPHERD: Four Volunteers came and carried you to the Police station. What time was this?

SUKHOO: 7.00 p.m.

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SHEPHERD: At night?

SUKHOO: Yes.

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

SUKHOO: I don't know.

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

SUKHOO: I do not know.

SHEPHERD: What were their names?

SUKHOO: I do not know their names.

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

SUKHOO: No sir.

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

SUKHOO: I cannot pick them out at all. I do not know them.

SHEPHERD: I must reserve cross examination until further instructions.

—

PRATAP N. SINGH: How far away were they from Persaud's store?

SUKHOO: About 3 rods.

PRATAP N. SINGH: Did you think that they could have broken Persaud's store?

SUKHOO: Yes sir.

PRATAP N. SINGH: What did they break the shop with?

SUKHOO: I do not know. I was at the back.

—

MOOTOO: What time were you taken at the Police station?

SUKHOO: About 7 o'clock.

MOOTOO: Were there people at the Police station?

SUKHOO: Yes, there were people.

MOOTOO: Were there crowds inside or outside?

SUKHOO: There were crowds outside the Police station.

MOOTOO: Were they Negroes?

SUKHOO: They were all Negroes"

MOOTOO: Was there any rumour that anyone would attack you?

SUKHOO: No.

—

DRAYTON: Did you know any of the Negroes?

SUKHOO: No sir.

DRAYTON: Were they strangers?

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SUKHOO: Yes sir.

DRAYTON: You had some tenants. How many were there?

SUKHOO: I have four tenants.

DRAYTON: Their names, please?

SUKHOO: George, Palmer, and Leonard. I do not know the other name.

DRAYTON: Were they all Negroes?

SUKHOO: Yes, they were all Negroes.

DRAYTON: That is all.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Sookhoo.

—

RAJKUMAR is sworn in and he states as follows:

CHAIRMAN: You now live at 264 Punt Trench Road, La Penitance? What work are you doing?

RAJKUMAR: Nothing.

CHAIRMAN: You lived at Wismar, Lot 17 Section D, Christianburg. You had a stall at the market?

RAJKUMAR: Yes.

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

RAJKUMAR: 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?

RAJKUMAR: Five children living with me.

CHAIRMAN: Did anything happen to you that Sunday night?

RAJKUMAR: 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 of my gate, they fired a gun shot at my house but it didn't hit us.

CHAIRMAN: Nothing happened to you that night?

RAJKUMAR: They went away and about 9 o'clock in the night I heard a loud explosion at Sookram's premises.

CHAIRMAN: How far was that estimated?

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

CHAIRMAN: Was she there?

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

CHAIRMAN: What is your cousin's name?

RAJKUMAR: Ramcoomar.

CHAIRMAN: About what time?

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RAJKUMAR: 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?

RAJKUMAR: 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?

RAJKUMAR: Whilst I was there, sir, I saw plenty houses on the hill burning.

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

RAJKUMAR: No sir.

CHAIRMAN: Did you sent the Police for your family? They brought your family?

RAJKUMAR: Only my daughter and my son-in-law.

CHAIRMAN: What is the name of your daughter?

RAJKUMAR: Lucille Samaroo. She got her hands broken two places.

CHAIRMAN: At her home?

RAJKUMAR: From my place.

CHAIRMAN: Did the Police bring them to the station?

RAJKUMAR: They brought them to the station.

CHAIRMAN: What is the name of your son-in-law?

RAJKUMAR: Kenneth Samaroo. He got his jaw broken.

CHAIRMAN: What do you estimate your loss to be?

RAJKUMAR: \$30,000. My house, my shop, and all my furniture in my house.

—

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shepherd?

SHEPHERD: No Questions.

—

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Carter?

CARTER: No questions.

—

PRATAP N. SINGH: No questions.

—

DRAYTON: You spent the night at Senator Ramjattan? Were you alone?

RAJKUMAR: Myself and Mr. Woolford and another Black fellow, my son-in-law, and my wife.

DRAYTON: What is the name of the fellow?

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RAJKUMAR: I can't remember his name now.

DRAYTON: Do you know him? How long had he been in Wismar?

RAJKUMAR: He had been in Wismar a long time.

DRAYTON: Thank you.

—

MACDONALD: About how many were in the crowd beating you by the river?

RAJKUMAR: About 500 people. The road was full.

MACDONALD: Do you remember how many Police came in the jeep?

RAJKUMAR: Three Police.

—

MOOTOO: Why did you go to Mrs. Ramjattan's house?

RAJKUMAR: Sir, I was afraid.

MOOTOO: Is she any relation of yours?

RAJKUMAR: No.

MOOTOO: Then why did you go to her?

RAJKUMAR: I went across there and spent the night because I was afraid.

MOOTOO: You thought Mrs. Ramjattan's house would be safe? Why?

RAJKUMAR: Because she was in the Government.

MOOTOO: You took everybody?

RAJKUMAR: My wife, my son-in-law, and my daughter.

MOOTOO: Was there anybody left in your house?

RAJKUMAR: Nobody in my house.

MOOTOO: While you were being attacked were there any Police about?

RAJKUMAR: No Police.

MOOTOO: Did you recognise anybody in the crowd? Can you remember the names of the people?

RAJKUMAR: I saw one Sammy Bransford in the crowd and I know the lady who beat me and burst my head.

MOOTOO: Do you know her name?

RAJKUMAR: I do not know her name.

MOOTOO: Did you see many strange faces there?

RAJKUMAR: Yes.

MOOTOO: Who were they?

RAJKUMAR: All were Africans.

MOOTOO: What sort of people?

RAJKUMAR: Some looked like hooligans.

MOOTOO: How were they dressed?

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RAJKUMAR: Some with black jerseys and black pants and some with khaki pants and khaki shirts.

MOOTOO: Why were they after you?

RAJKUMAR: After they fired the shot at me the night, they said that an Indian man fired a shot at them. I did not fire any shot. I do not own a gun.

MOOTOO: Who were the people who fired? Did you recognise them?

RAJKUMAR: Yes. It was my neighbour's brother with another two fellows.

MOOTOO: What is his name?

RAJKUMAR: I do not know his name?

MOOTOO: Did you live well with your neighbour?

RAJKUMAR: Yes.

MOOTOO: Did they have any grudge against you?

RAJKUMAR: They had no grudge against me.

MOOTOO: Why did they frame this thing?

RAJKUMAR: To get me out of the district.

—

CHAIRMAN: When you were taken to the Wismar Police Station did the crowd attack you there?

RAJKUMAR: When we came to the Police station about six o'clock when Lalta Paul's house was burning, a fellow threw dynamite just near his house and the Police fired a shot and shot him in his foot.

—

MOOTOO: Where was this man?"

RAJKUMAR: This man was on the road near the Police station and he had a dynamite under his arm.

MOOTOO: What was he doing with the dynamite?

RAJKUMAR: Well, he threw it at Lalta Paul's building and we saw him from the Police station.

MOOTOO: Where?

RAJKUMAR: He threw the dynamite and tried to cut the electric wire on the building.

MOOTOO: Did he throw the dynamite first or was he fired at first?

RAJKUMAR: He threw the dynamite first.

MOOTOO: And who shot him?

RAJKUMAR: A policeman shot him.

MOOTOO: Did you see the policeman?

RAJKUMAR: I saw the policeman on the road.

MOOTOO: Do you know the name of the policeman?

RAJKUMAR: No.

MOOTOO: Thank you very much.

—

CHAIRMAN: At this time we will adjourn for the day.