

District Magistrate's Office,

P.O. Box 25,

Kumasi, Ashanti

No. 888/34/1948

28th April, 1948

Your Honour,

It is common practice that when fresh cases are brought before the Court and the plea is not guilty they are made to stand down during the hearing of other Remand Cases. So far as we can say the allegation that the Police unnecessarily ask for Remand in the case of minor crimes is unjustified. Fresh minor cases are, if practicable disposed of on the first day they are brought to Court, but if not practicable to deal with them then on a plea of Not Guilty (e.g. When the Police have to bring witnesses from a distance) a date for hearing is fixed. Again it must be appreciated that the hearing of a fresh case on the first day depends on the amount of work before the Court. Bail is almost invariably granted by the Court, unless very substantial grounds exist for not doing so.

There is no other accommodation for Accused persons than the "cage" near the Court. This building is a garage converted and used by the Police for keeping prisoners pending their appearance in Court - and after conviction while awaiting Removal to prison. The garage has been used for this purpose for over 5 years - it was an "open" one until 1946 when as a result of prisoners escaping, expanded metal was put up at one end. There is no alternative accommodation in contemplation - although it would be highly desirable if a suitable building could be erected. So far as I can ascertain from the police women prisoners are not detained in the cage along with male prisoners - but they sit on benches in the open part of the garage. The number of women prisoners brought before the court is negligible - and such as there are - they are usually on police bail at the outset.

(Sgd.) H. C. SMITH

District Magistrate.

His Honour the Judge,
Divisional Court,
KUMASI

STATEMENT.

DATE: 25. 4. 48

NAME: C. H. K. STRIKE,
ADDRESS: GOLD COAST POLICE, KUMASI.
OCCUPATION: ASST. SUPT. OF POLICE,
NATIVE OF ENGLAND.

At 2042 hours on the 13th of March, 1948 I took a Police Patrol accompanied by two Sections of Military and went to the Odum Street area of Kumasi where the Broadcasting Van had shortly before been badly stoned. On reaching Odum Street the Police patrol was split up into small parties, each party being accompanied by a small detachment of soldiers. These patrols then combed through the area for the purpose of detecting curfew breakers and those persons who had been engaged in stone throwing. A small section of Police and Military under No. 5945 Corporal Adjei entered a small lane which gives access to Kingsway Street and shortly afterwards I saw some men running towards Odum street. They were being pursued by Police. On reaching Odum street I saw one man fell to the ground. ~~The remainder escaped.~~ At the time there were no Policemen within five yards of this man when he fell. I went to the scene and saw that this man had injured his leg. He was given first aid treatment, placed in the Police lorry and subsequently taken to hospital. Although I did not actually see this man fall in the drain I assume that he had done so as there was a large gutter between Odum Street and the lane out of which this man had run and also that there were no policemen near to him at the time he fell.



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
"A" DIVISION - KUMASI.

In view of the above and thereafter on two occasions and by written affidavit did the prosecution witness agree to split up Mr. Benji Adjei's accusations thus share would be as follows. One of those affraddes, all whom there were two, had not yet been traced by his relatives.

I wish to record that the accomodation of the two persons I initially mentioned at the Kumasi High Court is not the fault of the Gold Coast Police and the Police do not hold any animosity towards the people.

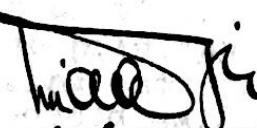
Forwarded by the Superintendent
of Police, Kumasi.

STATEMENT

NAME: TIMOTHY ANANG ADJEI
ADDRESS: G.C. POLICE, KUMASI.
OCCUPATION: CORPORAL GRADE 1,
NATIVE OF TESHIE - ACCRA.

25th April, 1948.

At approximately 2040 hours on the 13th of March, 1948, I was in charge of a Patrol consisting of four policemen armed with batons and four soldiers armed with rifles in the Odum street area. My instructions were to take this patrol into the side turnings branch off Odum Street for the purpose of detecting curfew breakers and those persons who had stoned the Police and the Broadcasting Van earlier in the evening. On entering a small lane to the right of Odum street, we met four men coming from the direction of Kingsway street. We challenged these men and they commenced to run in the direction of Odum street. On reaching Odum street in pursuit of these men we saw no sign of three men but the fourth was lying in the gutter groaning. He complained of an injury to his leg. With the assistance of two Constables I took this man up and placed him in the Police lorry by which he was subsequently taken to hospital. First Aid was rendered prior to this man being placed in the Police lorry and it was noticed that he had an injury to his leg. The nearest policeman to the injured man when he fell was about six paces away from him and I am confident that this man's injury was not due to direct action by Police.



NO. 5945 CORPORAL GRADE 1

In case of reply the
number and date of this
letter should be quoted.

No. 274/245/48.



SUPERINTENDENT

Gold Coast Police

KUMASI, ASHANTI,

25th April, 1948.

General Court

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO
SHOOTINGS AND DISTURBANCES
IN ASHANTI.

Ref. your No. 1428 dated 25th April, 1948.

In reply to the memorandum addressed to His Honour dated 22nd April, 1948, the following answers are given:-

2. In reply to sub paragraph 1:-

I wish to refer to the District Magistrate's letter No. 1075/9a/1945 dated 3rd July, 1945 a copy of which is attached and which has been adhered to by the Police in Ashanti. So far from asking for adjournments at the suit of the Police it has been the custom of the Police to press for immediate hearing. This has been enhanced by the fact that Police have submitted to the Court that it is advisable to sit in the afternoons.

So far as remands are concerned, they have been mainly due to the Magistrate who, through pressure of work, have been forced to adjourn cases by virtue of the fact that he has to travel to the other principal towns in Ashanti for at least a fortnight during each month.

In no case have Police opposed bail without very strong grounds and in all such cases, the Police have been ready either to complete their case or to lead such evidence as will satisfy the Magistrate that the application of the Police is justified.

Attention is invited to the case of the Commissioner of Police versus KROBO EDUSEI. In this case Mr. B. K. TAMAKLOE, B.L., assured the Court that there was no necessity for Police to oppose bail on the grounds that there would be interference with any witnesses for the prosecution. The case was called thereafter on two occasions and on neither occasion did the prosecution witnesses appear in spite of Defence Counsel's assurances that there would be no interference. One of these witnesses, of whom there were two, has not yet been traced by the Police.

3. With regard to para. 1(2) the accommodation existing for persons in custody awaiting trial at the Magistrate's Court is not one which can be properly answered by the Police as the accommodation is a portion of the Court.

4. In reply to para. 2 attention is invited to this office letter No. 274/243/48 dated 25.4.48 accompanying two statements forwarded to the Commission.

E. S. D. A. - J. A. B.

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE
ASHANTI

THE SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO THE
SHOOTINGS AND DISTURBANCES IN THE
GOLD COAST.

THROUGH
HIS HONOUR,
THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASHANTI,
KUMASI.

650
(40)

No. 1075/9a/1945.

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE,
P. O. BOX 25,
KUMASI, ASHANTI.

3rd July, 1945.

The Superintendent,
Gold Coast Police Force,
Kumasi/Ashanti.

I forward, herewith, a copy of a Circular letter No. 999/71/1945 of the 28th of June, 1945 on the subject of the times of the sittings of both the Divisional Court and this court.

2. After due consideration, both Mr. Rodwell, District Magistrate and I have decided that the actual daily Court work normally should be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

3. In this connection, it will be necessary in the mornings for the Police to arrive in Court not later than 8.30 a.m., half-an-hour being used in registering new cases and arranging for witnesses.

4. I shall be grateful if you will kindly give the necessary instructions accordingly.

(Sgd) W. B. VAN LARE.
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE.

No. 999/71/1945.

THE DEPUTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE,
DIVISIONAL COURT,
P.O. BOX 3,
KUMASI,
GOLD COAST.
28th June, 1945.

CIRCULAR:

The District Magistrate,
Kumasi.

I enclose herewith a copy of a circular letter
which I have received from His Honour the Chief Justice on
the subject of the times of the sittings of the Divisional
Court and the District Magistrates' Courts.

2. I propose to follow the routine which he has
prescribed whenever the work requires it and I expect
the District Magistrates to do the same.

3. Members of the Bar must therefore expect to
be required to attend the Courts in the afternoons when
necessary.

(Sgd) A. C. SMITH
J U D G E.

I have the honour to be,
Your Honour's Obedient Servant,

(Sgd) Walter Harragin.
CHIEF JUSTICE.

His Honour Mr. Justice Smith,
The Divisional Court,
Kumasi.

COPY.

No. 2517/33/C.J. 71/1945.

SUPREME COURT,
VICTORIABORG, ACCRA.

18th June, 1945.

Your Honour,

After careful consideration, I have decided that it should be the normal routine and not the exception for the Supreme Court to sit in the afternoons.

2. I am aware that already Your Honour sits in the afternoons during Assizes and that you have refrained from allowing this practice in civil cases in deference to ancient custom and the undoubted wishes of the Bar, but the Gold Coast must move with the times.

3. This letter must not be taken to mean that new cases should be started in the afternoon as this might well cause hardship to litigants and lawyers, but where a case is in progress, it should be continued after the adjournment for luncheon. This practice is already in being in certain courts, but it is desirable that if it should be universal in all the courts of the Colony.

4. I understand that when there is any work to be done, District Magistrates do sit in the afternoon, but I would be grateful if you would make sure that this practice is followed by District Magistrates throughout your Judicial Division due regard being had, of course, to exigencies of travel in districts where courts are being held many miles from Headquarters.

I have the honour to be,
Your Honour's Obedient Servant,

(Sgs) Walter Harragin.

CHIEF JUSTICE.

His Honour Mr. Justice Smith,
The Divisional Court,
Kumasi.

On Saturday August 1st other forces in Ashanti were quiet and forces ordered for the day made at the ground agreed with the Governor of Kumasi.
The forces all arrived at Kumasi last day and can be seen to be in excellent order.

5. Gheno-base was garrisoned by the arrival of reinforcements of one Army, Royal Artillery and 100 men and reinforcements of one Army, Royal Artillery and 100 men were despatched to that base. Instructions were given for reinforcements to march to and be available within and numbered days depending on circumstances.

6. It will be seen from the following that the forces have been put into position ready for operations and are in full force in the area.

7. Distracted in Ashanti and in the area.

22nd April, 1948.

DISTURBANCES IN ASHANTI.

1.3.48 - 31.3.48

The boycott which was originally instigated by Nii Bonne II commenced in Ashanti on 2.2.48 and was conducted in a most provoking manner. The method used being that of intimidation and force. Numerous persons who had gone into stores to purchase goods were picketed and their purchases taken from them. Police patrolled the streets and as far as possible prevented interference with people wishing to buy.

2. So called members of the anti-inflation campaign committee were intervened by Superintendent/Ashanti and Kumasi. They were warned that they were liable to prosecution if boycotters used any methods of persuasion against buying other than peaceful methods.

3. The "members" of the "committee" denied having any connection with elements using any form of violence but this was later shewn to be untrue when the "chairman" - KROBO EDUSEI was put before the District Magistrate's Court and charged under Section 160 of Cap 9. He was found guilty and sentenced to a fine of £5 or 1 month I.H.L. He paid the fine.

4. This state of affairs continued in varying degrees of intensity up to 28.2.48 as from which date the boycott was declared closed.

5. Police had great difficulty in prosecuting boycotters as the prosecution witnesses were afraid to give evidence. It was shown, however, on several occasions, by evidence on oath (often by the boycotters) that they had every intention of enforcing the boycott by unlawful means if necessary. That the Magistrates appreciated the significance of this is clear from remarks passed by them. The fines imposed by them were so small that they had no deterrent effect on the boycotters. The effect of this situation continuing for nearly a month was that the hooligans who had been enforcing the boycott gained confidence in the use of violence to force their wishes on the man in the street.

6. There is no doubt that unruly elements and criminals took advantage of the situation and posed as boycotters.

7. On 28.2.48 Kumasi and other towns in Ashanti were quiet and stores opened for the sale of goods at the prices agreed with the Chamber of Commerce. The stores all closed at Noon on that day and there was no incident over the week end.

8. When news was received of the outbreak of disturbances in Accra reinforcements of one Asst. Superintendent and 50 N.C.Os and men were despatched to that town. Instructions were given for all outstations in Ashanti to send in all available N.C.Os and men having only skeleton station staffs.

9. It will be seen from the foregoing that the unruly elements were primed for trouble and quickly followed the lead given to them by the Accra Riots and looting.

10. DISTURBANCES IN KUMASI - 1.3.48
Nearly all stores opened at 8.00 a.m. and crowds began to

KROBO EDUSEI began to assemble but did not buy any goods. At about 8.15 a.m. former stated that he was not satisfied with the prices and had told the people not to buy.

11. Between 8.30 and 9.00 a.m. most of the stores closed and the crowds began to gather and march through the Commercial area. It is of importance to note that these crowds were made up of men, women and children.

12. Police were already standing by at this stage and in order to have the largest possible force at disposal the SP/Ashanti ordered the Licensing Office to be closed and the staff to report to Barracks.

13. The total available Force of Police to deal with the crowds in Kumasi was 84.

14. At 9.15 a.m. a mob collected outside the Kingsway Stores in Stewart Avenue and stones were thrown at the windows of the store and goods were looted from the windows.

15. A party of Police - 35 strong - left the Central Station under the command of the Superintendent/Kumasi, Mr. CARRUTHERS and this party endeavoured with some success to keep the crowd on the move from the Stewart Avenue down Kingsway Street.

16. At the Northern end of Kingsway Street large crowds collected in front of and behind Police who were unable to disperse them. The Superintendent/Kumasi then telephoned for the Tear Gas Squad - 9 strong - which succeeded in joining the main body of Police about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour later.

17. By this time the attitude of the crowd had become much more threatening and several stones were thrown. The Police were able to drive the crowd back by baton charges to the junction of Kingsway Street and Guggisberg Road which was to their front. They also drove the crowd back to the junction of Kingsway Street and Apramusu Road which was in their rear. They were not, however, able to move them further owing to the open spaces at Kejetia and off Apramusu Road. Furthermore the size of the crowd was such that control of it was impossible with the strength of Police available.

18. An attempt was made to disperse the crowd with Tear Gas but this had only a temporary effect for the following reasons:-

(1) Police were being attacked in front and rear so that if Police followed up an attack with bombs the crowd in the rear immediately closed and pressed.

(2) The tear gas bombs were defective as they did not explode immediately nor was the gas sufficiently strong.

19. There was no armed party with the Police baton and tear gas parties and after the failure of the tear gas the crowd grew in size and became more uncontrollable. Two constables were injured by stones. The Superintendent in charge of the party telephoned to Police Provincial Headquarters and asked for military assistance at 11.15 a.m. and the Military were notified at 11.16 a.m. The Chief Commissioner, Ashanti, who had been made aware of the situation authorised this step.

20. Police had considerable difficulty in preventing the

the crowd from breaking their line but maintained their position for a further $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. At the end of that period as military support had not arrived the Police forced their way back to the Zongo Road below the Police Barracks.

21. The events leading to this stage were witnessed by Mr. DOYLE of Patterson, Zochonis Ltd and photographs taken by him are attached.

22. The crowd did not make any very serious attempt to prevent Police returning towards the Police Station but there was some heavy stoning.

23. Troops arrived. As has been mentioned above military assistance was asked for at 1116 hrs and Major MYATT and 2 Platoons were immediately despatched to guard G.P.O. and Banks. The Military were asked to give support to Police at Kejetia and at 11.42 a.m. CAPT. JACQUES and one Mortar Platoon (52 A.O.R) proceeded to Kejetia where they found that the mob had dispersed and they then proceeded to the Police Station.

24. At 12.30 p.m. control was regained at the south end of Kingsway street and the junction of Stewart Avenue and Haper road. At 12.35 Major Partridge, CO/Troops and a party of Provosts went to the Banks and saw a mass of people down Kingsway Street who were breaking into stores. At 12.45 p.m. the C.O. informed the Superintendent/Ashanti that he proposed to clear Kingsway street and at 12.55 p.m. Kingsway street was cleared of rioters but there still remained a large number of women, children and sight-seers. At 1 p.m. crowds were reported at Kejetia principally round Patterson, Zochonis Ltd's establishment and the C.O. with Provosts, one Section of the Mortar Platoon and a lorry load of Police proceeded to clear the streets. From there the patrol proceeded to the S.T.T. Store at Kejetia which was surrounded by a large crowd which was immediately dispersed.

A detachment of troops was left in charge of the area bounded by Zongo road, Apimpua road, Kejetia and Guggisberg road. The mobile patrol mentioned above then proceeded to Buggisberg road and cleared it completely.

25. At 1.20 p.m. Kingsway street was still crowded and at 2.00 p.m. the C.O. sent a message to the Superintendent, Ashanti, asking him to assist in keeping the streets clear at road junctions along Kingsway street. At 2.20 p.m. a message was sent to the C.O. that Police assistance under the command of Superintendent/Kumasi was being provided and this assistance arrived immediately. It is unfortunate that Police were ineffective in keeping the road junctions blocked as requested but this was entirely due to the fact that they were completely exhausted.

26. At 2.50 p.m. a mob collected at the junction of Kingsway street and Odum junction and commenced to batter down doors and windows of stores. Troops in that area under the command of Lieut. Michel heard shots fired and one soldier fired two shots. Lieut. Michel gave the order to cease fire. One person was found lying dead near Metharam Store having been shot through the head. In the meantime troops under the command of Capt. JACQUES were being pressed on three sides by a large mob and six shots were fired - two persons were wounded.

27. At 3.20 p.m. a mobile patrol consisting of Police and Military circulated the town and from this time onwards no further trouble occurred. At 6.30 p.m. a curfew was imposed on the whole of the municipal area of Kumasi and Military Guards were posted at vulnerable points.

(1)

No. GOLD COAST

SUBJECT Commission of Enquiry

POLICE MEMORANDA.

ACCRA and KUMASI.

CLOSED
UNTIL
1979

Previous

Subsequent

CO.964/11

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28. At 11.35 p.m. Police Konongo reported that there had been a meeting of ex-servicemen who declared their intention of breaking into the stores at Konongo on the 2nd March 1948. The meeting is reported to have consisted of only seven men.

At 11.55 p.m. military reinforcements arrived at Kumasi. During the day 113 arrests were made by Security Forces in connection with rioting and looting.

During the whole of the time that Police were in contact with the crowds the attention of the more riotous members of the mob was directed principally upon Superintendent of Police, Mr. D. G. CARRUTHERS and the call of "kill the white Superintendent" was frequently heard.

29. TUESDAY 2ND MARCH, 1948: The curfew was lifted at 6.00 a.m. and at 7.25 a.m. looting at NANKANI STORES was reported. A patrol of Infantry and Police was immediately despatched but on reaching NANKANI's stores they found that the looters had run away. At 8.30 a.m. looters were reported in considerable numbers raiding small stores near the Central Market and moving to Kejetia. Two sections of Infantry were immediately despatched to deal with this further outbreak. At 8.55 a.m. crowds with sticks were reported in Kingsway street. At 9.7 a.m. the District Commissioner read the Riot Act in Kejetia where the situation was serious. At 9.10 a.m. two sections of Infantry and a Provost Section were despatched to this area and troops and Police moved the crowd from Kejetia. The crowd assembled near the Railway and at 9.16 a.m. the Commanding Officer ordered three men to fire one round each. Men from the Mortar Platoon which was in the rear fired into the air and the Commanding Officer then ordered three more rounds to be fired and two men were wounded and the mob dispersed. At 9.30 a.m. a mob of people headed by a man called KWAKU LIDAAH advanced towards CAPT. JACQUES and his Section. KWAKU LIDAAH was exhorting the mob to attack the troops and he was called upon by Capt. JACQUES to stop and disperse but he took no notice of this and Capt. JACQUES warned him that if he did not do so he would be shot. No notice was taken of this warning and CAPT. JACQUES shot him through the leg, and it appears that the bullet was deflected and passed through the scrotum. He died very shortly after being shot. At 9.45 a.m. Major MYATT who had come along Guggisberg Road towards Kejetia with his party ordered two shots to be fired to the right of the road into open ground to prevent the crowd from wheeling in that direction. The crowd dispersed.

30. At 10.56 a.m. Police Konongo reported that a crowd of several hundreds of people had assembled in the lorry park adjacent to the Police Station and that although they were at that time fairly quiet the situation had grave possibilities owing to the fact that Police from Konongo had been sent to Kumasi to fill places of some of those sent as reinforcements to Accra. At 11.58 a.m. a Platoon of Infantry left Kumasi for Konongo.

31. 12.3.48. At 8.00 a.m. the District Manager, United Africa Company, telephoned to say that the general and textile stores would be opened at 9.00 a.m. and as a rush to buy was anticipated Police were provided to make the crowd form up into orderly queues.

32. 13.3.48. At 6.25 p.m. the Odumhene telephoned for Police to clear a number of people from the street outside his premises in Odum Street. Police were immediately sent out but at 6.35 p.m. Mr. ELLIOTT, Assistant District Commissioner returned to the Station with the Broadcasting Van and reported that a crowd at Odum street stoned them.

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33. At 7.7 p.m. A.S.P. Mr. STRIKE and 15 Police left on curfew patrol and returned at 7.40 p.m. with 11 curfew breakers.

At this stage curfew breaking in the Odum area became serious and at 8.42 p.m. the Superintendent/Ashanti accompanied by A.S.P. Mr. STRIKE and a Police patrol with two Sections of Infantry proceeded to the Odum area.

34. At 9.50 p.m. Mr. RICHARDSON, the Agent of G.B.Ollivant Ltd. reported that he had heard a hand siren, such as was used by KROBO EDUSEI, being sounded in Ashanti Newtown.

35. At 9.55 p.m. the Superintendent of Police, Ashanti, with a Police party and troops returned from Odum area with seven curfew breakers. The party returned at this time because a siren was heard and it was thought that it was the regimental fire alarm being sounded in the military lines.

36. At 10.50 p.m. Police patrols reported that the sound which was heard had been in the vicinity of KROBO EDUSEI's house.

37. 14.3.48. At 12.5 a.m. a Police motor cycle patrol reported that he saw approximately 30 men assembling near the house of KROBO EDUSEI.

38. At 12.43 a.m. after observation had been kept on KROBO EDUSEI's house, the Superintendent/Ashanti, A.S.P. EDUSEI and 30 men left the Station to visit Mr. KROBO EDUSEI and returned at 1.20 a.m. with KROBO EDUSEI and one military type of hand siren.

39. 15.3.48. There were signs of tension and large crowds began to collect in Kejetia area but the crowd moved from Kejetia in the direction of Ashanti Newtown.

40. At 10.19 a.m. Assistant District Commissioner, Mr. TAYLOR, reported that he had received a message from the Secretary to the Asantehene that between 300 and 400 ex-servicemen were demonstrating in front of the Asantehene's Court. The Superintendent/Ashanti telephoned to the Resettlement Officer, Major ANTHONY, and arrangements were made for him and the District Commissioner to take the cinema van and speak to the ex-servicemen outside the Asantehene's Court. They were to be accompanied by Superintendent/Ashanti with two lorries of Police and 1 Company of troops but Major ANTHONY asked that the patrol should not accompany him and he therefore left in the Mobile Cinema van with the District Commissioner and a despatch rider followed.

41. At 11.15 a.m. the Cinema Van returned with Major ANTHONY and Mr. ALLEN - District Commissioner. The latter had received a wound on his left cheek bone as the result of a stone being thrown at him.

42. At 11.25 a.m. Superintendent/Ashanti and A.S.P. MR. AMPAW left with Police party supported by military for Manhyia (Asantehene's Court area). On arrival at Manhyia the Police formed up and faced a large crowd who were told to disperse. This they did when Police advanced to make a baton charge. The crowd dispersed from the open area of the Palaver Ground and split up down the many side streets round the area. Police patrolled the area and the public were told to keep off the streets and keep inside their houses and for a short time the situation appeared to have become less tense. After a short time, however, there was sporadic stoning but this was not serious.

43. At approximately 11.50 a.m. a column of men approximately some 150 in number moved on to the Palaver Ground where they halted and the Superintendent/Ashanti approached them and told them that they must break up and disperse. The leader of these men stated that they wished to march home but the Superintendent/Ashanti informed him that this could not be allowed and the leader immediately agreed to disperse the column. A number of the men left the scene but others were obstinate.

44. At this juncture a stone was thrown which hit a soldier and he fired one shot which slightly wounded one man. This incident proved to have unfortunate results as the ex-servicemen immediately got out of control and became violent. The soldier who had fired the shot was seized by them and it was with great difficulty that his capture by the mob was prevented.

45. The Superintendent/Ashanti decided that the man who had been shot and wounded should be placed in the Police lorry and removed for medical attention, but the mob objected to this and stone throwing on a large scale commenced. Shortly after this Superintendent/Ashanti received injuries and had to be taken into hospital.

46. At 12.42 p.m. the Superintendent/Ashanti returned to Police Station from Manhyia and at 12.47 military reinforcements were sent to Manhyia.

47. At 12.50 p.m. it was reported that the ex-servicemen were coming towards the Police Station in a body and one minute later a report was received from Kejetia that ex-servicemen armed with cudgels and sticks were moving in that area.

48. At 1.02 p.m. Major MORPHEY reported that the mob had been dispersed at Manhyia but were believed to be assembling at Kejetia.

49. At 1.5 p.m. 2 lorries of troops and 1 lorry of Police left for Kejetia and at 1.16 p.m. Major MYATT who was in charge of the troops returned from Kejetia with the District Commissioner, Mr. ALLEN, and reported that it had been necessary to open fire on the mob. Two shots were fired and one man was wounded. The crowd attempted to put up a barricade across Antoa Road which leads to Manhyia and the Airport. At 1.23 p.m. the Commanding Officer with troops and Police returned from Kejetia and reported that the crowd had dispersed. Uneasy crowds were reported near the market and in the direction of Kejetia.

50. The Commanding Officer requested the District Commissioner to impose the curfew and to read the Riot Act and at 1.40 p.m. the District Commissioner with Police and military left to read the Riot Act at Kejetia. Two minutes later a crowd was reported coming from Ashanti Newtown and military patrols under Major MYATT with a Police party left to intercept them.

51. At 1.46 p.m. a report was received from Kejetia that S.A.T. Store was being attacked and shortly afterwards Mr. JETZER, the Agent reported that the crowd had threatened to burn the S.A.T.

52. At 2.8 p.m. two lorry loads of troops with Majors MORPHEY and MYATT left to investigate the road block at Antoa road and returned at 2.29 p.m. The road block was cleared twice and the road reported open. The road block had been put up by children and women were reported to be in the crowd.

53. Meanwhile at 2.22 p.m. a report was received of looting and burning of S.A.T. Store at Kejetia and a military and Police patrol was immediately despatched but returned at 2.35 p.m. It was again called for by the Manager of the S.A.T. The patrol returned at 2.58 p.m. and reported that two shots had been fired and one man wounded on their first patrol. On their second patrol the looters were dispersed. Six persons were captured including ringleaders and stone throwers.

54. At 8.50 p.m. Major MOPHREY reported that a military patrol proceeded to Bantama, Ashanti Newtown, Odumasi road accompanied by Police; in both areas patrols were stoned and road blocks were round along Odumasi road. Another military patrol left for Bantama and returned at 9.35 p.m. reporting that there was some stoning in that area. In Ashanti Newtown, however, there was much hostility and road blocks were holding up progress of patrols which were immediately stoned when they were heard approaching. All road blocks were cleared.

55. 16.3.48. At 12.43 a report was received that hooligans were gathering in front of the Asantehene's Court but two minutes later a rumour was received that the Asantehene and Divisional Council Chiefs were to meet these hooligans at 3 p.m. to hear their complaints.

56. At 12.58 p.m. it was finally established that the man who had died as a result of a gun shot wound on 15.3.48 was KWAME NYAME, an ex-serviceman No. 37846, G.C.R. who had been employed as a Cook by K. ISSARDAS & Company and who resided at House OA.133, Kumasi. He was shot whilst attempting to set fire to the S.A.T. Store at Kejetia.

57. At 1.7 p.m. a pamphlet was received by Police. This pamphlet was of a highly inflammatory nature.

58. At 1.35 p.m. the Asantehene's Police reported that a crowd smaller than that of the previous day had gathered but that there had been no incident. However, 12 minutes later a Police report was received that large crowds were collecting at Manhyia and that a disturbance had commenced.

At 1.49 p.m. the mobile cinema with Assistant District Commissioner, Mr. ELLIOTT accompanied by one platoon of 1 N.R. left for Manhyia via Antoa Road. Two parties of Infantry 2 P.T.C. under Major MOPHREY and accompanied by a Police party under Superintendent Mr. CARRUTHERS proceeded to Manhyia via Zongo Road.

59. At 2.14 p.m. the Cinema Van and 1 Platoon of 1 N.R. returned reporting that there had been no shooting and that Police had captured several persons. At 2.19 p.m. the Commanding Officer and the 2 parties of 2 P.T.C. returned and reported that there had been no firing. The crowd at Manhyia was estimated to be about 300 strong. Two road blocks had been encountered.

60. Assistant District Commissioner, Mr. KNIGHT reported that he heard clerks in his office saying that they were awaiting a message from Accra as to whether they were to go on strike. At 3.55 p.m. information was received regarding a general strike in which the P.W.D., Post Office and Railways were to take a major part and a message was expected by the local Unions to be received by 4 p.m. on 16.3.48 authorising a strike. At 4.45 p.m. Mr. WATCHORN, of Kingsway Chemists reported that U.T.C. labourers had informed one of his assistants that they had been instructed to attend a meeting that evening.

61. At 6.40 p.m. Police Konongo reported that when the 1.51 p.m. Bus train from Kumasi arrived at Konongo pamphlets were distributed by an unknown person. The text was as follows:-

"Release our political leaders immediately.
Lift the Ban on our Papers at once.
Otherwise general strike. Give us liberty
or give us death.
Working Classes Gold Coast.
C.P.K."

This pamphlet was the same as that mentioned in para. 57 above.

62. At 6.52 p.m. the mobile cinema van with Assistant District Commissioner, Mr. ELLIOTT escorted by Police and troops returned and reported some stone throwing in Bantama and shouting in Ashanti Newtown. The Odum area was quiet.

63. At 8.45 p.m. Military and Police patrols in strength proceeded to the Accra road area and Ashanti Newtown and at 9.5 p.m. Superintendent CARRUTHERS reported with the Police patrol left to join the military patrol on Maxwell road where road blocks had been replaced with great rapidity. All road blocks were cleared.

64. At 10.55 p.m. a Report of the Ashanti Times telephoned from Kejetia Traffic point that Ashanti Newtown Post Office had been attacked. A Police and Military patrol was immediately sent out and returned at 11.17 p.m. and reported that the windows and doors of the Post Office had been smashed and the telephone in the Kiosk had been torn off and thrown into the street. The patrol also reported that two lorries had been used to block Wesleyan road.

A Police armed guard was mounted on Ashanti Newtown Post Office at 11.20 p.m. and at mid-night the Police and Military patrol returned and reported that although an attempt had been made to open the safe at the Post Office it had failed. The patrol further reported that they had encountered several road blocks but although they had cleared a number of them there were some that they were unable to shift.

65. 17.3.48: At 6.15 a.m. a Police and Military patrol returned and reported 10 road blocks in Ashanti Newtown, some of them were substantially made with derelict vehicles, concrete blocks and limbs of trees.

66. The erection of these road blocks had the effect of nullifying the curfew due to the inability of Security Forces to travel to the affected area with any speed.

67. At 9.10 a.m. the Superintendent/Ashanti returned after meeting STEPHEN FORKUO, the Secretary of the ex-service-men's (?) Union. The Superintendent/Ashanti had warned Forkuo that no meeting of ex-servicemen or others could be held in the municipality of Kumasi and stated that if the ex-servicemen wished they would have to hold their meeting outside the municipality and the Resettlement Officer would have to be present. Additional to this, the Police would have to be informed of the time and place of the meeting. FORKUO stated that he would do his best to assist in the maintenance of orderly meetings as he had been directed. This conversation took place in the presence of Major ANTHONY at the Resettlement Office.

68. At 9.47 a.m. a telephone message was received of a small gathering outside the Asantehene's Police Station and a Police motor cyclist was despatched to enquire into this matter. The motor cyclist reported that there were two groups of ex-servicemen at Manhyia numbering about in all who were being addressed by some individual.

69. Until 12.34 p.m. reports from Manhyia were that there was no disturbance but at this time a disturbance was reported and it was stated that the mob was man-handling the Chiefs. At 12.36 p.m. parties of Police and Military in the same formation as that used on the previous day were sent out to Manhyia, and by 1.22 p.m. the situation was under control but there had been some stone throwing. 40 prisoners were captured.

70. From 3.00 p.m. onwards reports were made by (a) Mr. RICHARDSON of G.B. Ollivant Ltd. that a railway strike has been ordered to begin as from mid-night on the 17th/18th March, 1948. (b) Mr. BARRETT, P.W.D., that the P.W.D. employees would go on strike as from mid-night.

71. At 7.6 p.m. the curfew patrol returned and reported that Ashanti Newtown was quiet and that no stones had been thrown. Several stones had been thrown in Odua where some persons were collected and one stone was thrown in Bantama. Later a Police report was received troops and Police left on patrol. This patrol returned and reported one road block only which had been removed. There had been no stoning.

72. At 8.15 p.m. a disturbance was reported from the vicinity of Asafo X roads and another road block was reported on the Bantama road at 8.50 p.m. Superintendent/Ashanti with a Police mobile patrol left for Bantama to remove the road block at 9.00 p.m. It was found that there were two road blocks and when these had been cleared and Police were moving away there was some stone throwing and Superintendent Ashanti fired one shot down an alley way and the stoning ceased. There was no casualty.

73. At 9.50 p.m. a crowd was reported assembling in Guggisberg Road near the Goods Station and electric light wires in that area were cut. Police and Military patrols visited the area and cleared the road blocks but no crowd was seen.

74. At 10 p.m. a Police and Military party returned from Asafo X roads where three mobs had been dispersed by tear gas shells. Six road blocks had been erected but had been cleared away, although the Accra road was still blockaded. One Police Constable was slightly injured and one person was arrested who was also a casualty.

75. 18.3.48: There was a general stoppage of work on this date as the notices from the Trade Union Council that there would be no strike and apparently not reached the local Branches in Kumasi. There were static crowds in various places but these dispersed in an orderly manner. In many instances, employees who remained at work were threatened by strikers that if they did not cease work reprisals would be taken against them by the strikers. The Telephone Exchange Operators remained at work as did the Power House Attendants and Water Works employees.

76. At 11.58 the military post at S.A.T. Kejetia reported having fired 4 shots at people re-making a road block on Antoa road. Two minutes later "B" Company of 2 P.T.C. under Command of Major NYATT left with a party of police for Kejetia. The Commissioner of Police who had arrived by air from Accra was in charge of this party. This patrol returned and reported having burned down two road blocks on Antoa Road and Chinboboano road.

77. At 12.11 p.m. a report was received from Police Dunkwa that trouble had broken out at NYINAHIN and that Police had been sent out from Bibiani.

81. 19.3.48: All railway employees returned to work. Trains were running normally. P.W.D. labour was recommending work and the Manager of U.A.C. reported that the Firm's stores would open.

82. At 9.30 a.m. Mr. BUDGE, Government Auditor, reported finding a bomb with fuse attached in his office. The bomb consisted of three sticks of gelignite with a fuse and detonator.

83. At 9.47 a.m. a report was received from Sunyani that a large mob had gathered and were creating a disturbance in the town. The disturbance was a purely political nature and not connected with disturbances elsewhere. His Honour, Mr. Justice KORSAH who was at Sunyani at the time spoke to the mob and restored order.

84. At 12.56 p.m. a Police patrol under Superintendent Ashanti returned from an all-round tour of the town and reported all quiet except in Bantama where there was a meeting in a house. Whilst trying to make his escape one man fell and broke his leg. He was taken to hospital and 4 others were brought to the Police Station for interrogation.

85. At 2.58 Mr. HEIMAN of U.T.C. reported that he had encountered a road block at Akumadan. Police Wenchi were instructed to investigate.

86. From 4 p.m. onwards the situation throughout Ashanti was reported quiet but at 10.28 p.m. an explosion was heard from the direction of Ashanti Newtown and 22 minutes later a second explosion was heard from the same direction. Police patrols which were out at the time had not heard the explosion and there was no trace of where they had occurred. No further trouble throughout Ashanti.

87. 20.3.48: At 9.35 a.m. a report was received from Kumawu that the Chief was being threatened by youngmen.

88. At 9.40 a.m. a party of Police and Platoon of soldiers was sent out and at 10.12 a.m. the District Commissioner, Mampong, was informed of the position.

89. A hostile meeting was held at Odumasi village near Bekwai at 10.14 a.m. and the District Commissioner, Bekwai, spoke to the meeting and then returned to Bekwai. The situation quietened.

90. Asst. Dist. Commissioner, MR. ELLIOTT, returned from Bibiani and reported that the disturbance at Nyinahin was then under control. The main ringleaders were in custody.

91. At 11.5 a.m. it was reported that a gang of ruffians who were cutting cudgels at Fumesua had been broken up by the N.A. police who had arrested six of them.

93. At 12.49 p.m. A.S.P. Mr. CARRINGTON, reported Effiduasi that seven ruffians had been arrested and that the trouble appeared to be due to the swollen shoot campaign.

94. At 5.55 p.m. all areas were quiet except that of Mampong where it was reported a gang of some 60 ruffians had arrived and the District Commissioner expected trouble.

95. At 9.15 p.m. A.S.P. EDELSTEN with a party of 20 Police left for Mampong.

96. At 9 p.m. Sub Inspector Konongo reported all quiet but asked for Police to accompany the District Commissioner to Juansa where the Chief had been threatened.

97. An angry mob at Asuoso village, mile 45 on the Wenchi road, burned the house of an Elder named YAW BANDA.

98. 21.3.48: The Acting District Commissioner, Bekwai, reported at 12.17 p.m. that disturbances had occurred on the Lake side during the night.

99. The disturbances on the Lake side had quietened down and Essumeja and Bekwai were both quiet.

100. At 10.30 p.m. Police Bekwai reported an incident at Essuoso where youngmen held a meeting and asked the Chief to sign a paper to the effect that he would not agree to the Government Swollen Shoot campaign. The Chief refused and a disturbance occurred. The situation calmed down very soon.

101. 22.3.48: At 8.00 a.m. Police Bekwai reported that there had been trouble at Mpotuom where a gang of ruffians assaulted the N.A. Police Inspector who had arrested a man named OSEI KOJO for threatening the Chief.

102. At 9.23 a.m. a report was received that a crowd had assembled outside the Police Station at Sunyani and were threatening to break into it because one of the ringleaders of the disturbance at Sunyani had been arrested. Police re-inforcements left for Sunyani at 10.3 a.m. Asst. District Commissioner, Mr. ELLIOTT reported disturbances at KENYASE in the Ahafo area.

103. Later Police left with Mr. ELLIOTT for KENYASE.

104. The Sub Inspector Bekwai reported at 12.22 p.m. that 14 persons had been arrested at Essuoso and 4 at Mpotuom. He also reported that the youngmen were causing disturbance at Peki No.2.

105. At 5.5 p.m. a report was received at Sunyani that there had been trouble at BECHEM where ex-soldiers had been parading the town and stores closed. There had been several arrests but the situation had been quietened down.

106. At 5.15 p.m. Asst. District Commissioner Mr. ELLIOTT reported from Goaso that Kenyase No.1 was quiet and that

12.

10 persons had been arrested for creating a disturbance. Kenyase No.2 was, however, quite out of hand as there were about 100 men creating trouble and they were all drunk. Later at 8.20 p.m. MR. ELLIOTT reported that Kenyase No.2 was quiet but that no arrests had been made.

107. A report was received from Police at Bechem that the town was quiet and that the Chief had used his N.A.Police to arrest trouble-makers 6 of whom had been arrested but 4 of these had escaped. Sometime later the 4 escaped men came to Kumasi Police and reported that they had escaped because they thought the Chief was going to kill them. They made counter complaints against the Bechemhene.

108. At 9.19 p.m. a report was received that anti-swollen shoot labourers had been attacked at Juaso. Police were sent out from Konongo.

109. At 9.30 p.m. the situation at Kenyase No.2 deteriorated and goods from some stores were burnt.

110. 23.3.48: KROBO EDUSEI was before the Court and the case was adjourned till 30.3.48 as both the civilian Police witnesses had disappeared.

111. Kenyase No.2 was still reported to be in a disturbed state at 11.50 a.m. and later still the Assistant District Commissioner reported that the people became hostile when an attempt was made to arrest the leaders. At 2.6 p.m. A.S.P. EDELMAN left with 20 Police for Kenyase No.2.

112. A report was received that the Asst. District Commissioner, Juaso, Mr. BUMFUS, had been stoned in Juaben. It was arranged that he should take out 15 Police from Konongo the next day and deal with the situation.

113. Police Bekwai reported that youngmen armed with sticks and cutlasses had surrounded the Chief's house at Peki No.2. The District Commissioner had gone there with 10 Police and arrested 10 of the youngmen. The remainder escaped into the bush. The trouble was due to swollen shoot.

114. 24.3.48: At 7.36 a.m. Police Bekwai reported that 4 youngmen arrived at ODAHUM and demanded the Stool from the Chief because he had supported the swollen shoot campaign. The youngmen of the village supported the Chief. One of the raiders chased a youngmen into his house and was about to cutlass him when he picked up his own cutlass and wounded his assailant in the abdomen. The wounded man died later.

115. A.S.P. EDELMAN reported at 10.25 a.m. that shots had been fired at Police in Kenyase No.2. Police returned the fire but no casualties were observed. At a later date one man was brought in with a bullet wound in the face. He was admitted to hospital but died.++ At 11.04 a.m. Police were withdrawn from Kenyase No.2 and 2 plain clothes men were left there to assist the Asantehene's representative - the Hiawuhene - to round up the ringleaders.

++ Wrongly reported. The injured man is still alive 22.4.48.

116. Police Bibiani reported having arrested 13 more men at Nyinahin.

117. 26.3.48: District Commissioner, Mr. ALLEN reported at 11.25 a.m. that N.A.Police were beaten at Abofuor by ruffians who had captured a lorry driver. The N.A.Police fought their way clear but were fired at.

At 12.15 p.m. A.S.P. AMPAW with 20 Police supported by 2 Officers and 20 troops and a motor cyclist accompanied the Asst. District Commissioner Mr. TAYLOR left for Abofuor.

The party returned at 7.15 p.m. after a most successful operation. Four shots were fired by military and two persons wounded. Police were fired on but not injured. One Constable suffered minor cutlass injuries. Forty prisoners were brought in (5 had been previously arrested) with 1 D.B. Gun, 3 Cap Guns, 1 Flint lock Gun, 4-12 bore Cartridges and 4 lead slugs.

118. 28.3.48: The situation was all quiet up to 12.5 p.m. when it was decided to withdraw the full strength of Police from Kenyase No2 as the Odikro and Elders had undertaken to apprehend the rioters who refuse to come out of hiding while the police were still present.

119. At 3.40 p.m. Asst. District Commissioner, Mr. ELLIOTT arrived from Goaso with six persons from Kenyase No.2. Up to this time 11 of the 20 or so wanted ringleaders had been arrested. The Asst. District Commissioner reported to Operation from the people of Mim, Ntontronso and the Odikro and some Elders of Kenyase No.2. He also reported that when passing through Tepa he was informed that two clerks had been talking to people in the town and claimed to have been to America. They had left in a Taxi.

120. 29.3.48: At 12.35 a.m. a man named DUKE ANDERSON was brought in by Police from Teppa and is alleged to have been one of the persons mentioned in report by Mr. Elliott above. Anderson was interrogated by Superintendent/Ashanti and was detained at 2.30 a.m. for further enquiries. At 10.2 a.m. A.S.P. AMPAW returned from searching the premises where Duke Anderson stays in Kumasi. Nothing incriminating was found.

121. At a later stage a telegram was received from C.I.D. Accra to say that there was nothing recorded against DUKE ANDERSON and he was therefore allowed Police Enquiry Bail in the sum of £100 with one Surety.

122. 30.3.48: At 2.30 p.m. it was reported that 10 persons from Kenyase No.2 had pleaded guilty in the District Magistrate's Court to taking part in a riot and they were each fined £15 or 3 months I.H.L. All persons from Kenyase No.1 were fined £5 or 1 month I.H.L. each.

Eur Baker, Dactor.

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE
ASHANTI

NAME	DATE	DIGNOSIS	REMARKS	ADDRESS.
S.P. Mensah	1.3.48	Gunshot wound right chest and right upper arm Laceration of leg	Admitted Ward 1	Not known
Abudulai	"	Injury to head		"
Kojo Tufuo	"	Injury to face		"
Ama Nsiah	"	Wounds of head		"
Kojo Donkor	"	Abrasions of leg		"
Asaman Dagomba	"	Cut wound forehead	Admitted Ward 4 ran away 3.3.48	"
Kwabena Nsiah	"			"
Kwame Boateng	"	Gunshot wounds of leg		Gold Coast Police, Ks1
No. 6745 Cst/Grd. 2 C.B. Quartey	"	Contusion of knee		Gold Coast Police, Obs1
No. 6100 Cst/Grd. 1, E.A. Mensah	"	Laceration of lip by stone		Not known
Yaw Tabi	"	Revolver shot of hand		"
Kwesi Agyarko	"	Laceration of leg		"
Issaka Noshie	"	Laceration of eye lid		"
Amadu Wangara	"	Injury to Head		"
Kwaku Boahene	"	Injury to Head		"
Kwabena Salawu	"	Laceration of scalp		"
Iboro Hausa	"	Injury to Head		"
Abudu Hausa	"	Injury to Head		"
Kwaku Boadu	"	Gunshot wound of supra-clavicular region	Admitted Ward 1 Discharged 3.3.48	"
Akua Afryea	"	Injury to head		"
Musa Gao	"	Wound of left arm		"
Ersie Takyiwa	"	Laceration of finger		"
No. 6305 Cst/Grd. 3, Pauloma Sisala	2.3.48	Injury to right knee	Admitted Ward 3	Gold Coast Police, Ks1
Amadu Fulani	"	Gunshot wound left thigh	" "	Not known
G.Ntiamoah	"	Gunshot wound left thigh	" " 11	"
J.Owusu Ansah	13.3.48	Gunshot wound both hips		"
Kwame Oduro	3.3.48	Fractured right leg.		"
No. 6213 Cst/Grd. 4, Isaka Wangara	3.3.48	Injury to foot		Gold Coast Police
No. 6784 Cst/Grd. 5, Kwabena Danquah	3.3.48	Injury to foot		"

arrived there with a column of motor vehicles, with volunteer Special Constable drivers and a small party of Police, for the purpose of evacuating European women and children. We had hostile receptions at many places en route. When nearing Koforidua, lorries laden with singing and shouting ~~occupants~~ and laden with obvious loot passed us

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- WITNESSES.
1. MR. D. G. CARRUTHERS SUPER INTENDENT/KUMASI
 2. MR. C. H. K. STRIKE ASST. SUPERINTENDENT/KUMASI
 3. MR. C. R. EDELMAN "
 4. MR. R. D. AMPAW "
 5. MAJOR PARTRIDGE O.C./TROOPS
 6. " MORPHEY "
 7. " NYATT "
 8. CAPT. JACQUES "
 9. LT. COPE "
 10. 2ND LT. MICHEL "

on a mission to
evacuate 25 European women and children.

D. G. Ballance
COMMISSIONER,
THE GOLD COAST POLICE.

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NOTE FOR INFORMATION OF
COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY, RELATIVE
TO SHOOTING INCIDENT AT KOFORIDUA
ON 2ND MARCH, 1948.

On March 2nd 1948, on representations that the situation at Koforidua was critical, I proceeded there with a column of seven fast private motor vehicles, with volunteer Special Constable drivers and a small party of Police, for the purpose of evacuating European women and children. We had hostile receptions at many places en route. When nearing Koforidua, lorries laden with singing and shouting occupants and laden with obvious loot passed us proceeding in the opposite direction to ourselves. I decided to seize some of these vehicles and did so, placing them in my convoy for return to Koforidua.

When about 7-10 miles from Koforidua I stopped the convoy and was endeavouring to get a seized vehicle into position when I heard a lorry approaching. I had previously placed uniformed policemen on the road ahead to stop any oncoming vehicle and thus avoid possible serious accident. On being signalled to stop, the oncoming vehicle, which was laden with persons and looted goods, refused to stop and accelerated its speed towards the convoy which could clearly be seen. At the same time persons began to jump from the vehicle and dive into the 'bush'. Realising that the lorry was determined to charge into our convoy at full speed and thus possibly cause loss of life and/or prevent us from continuing our mission of rescue, Mr. Beeton and some others fired a few shots at the tyres of the oncoming vehicle, ~~and~~ People still continued to jump out of the vehicle thus exposing themselves to the risk of stray shots. When very close to the convoy the driver appeared deliberately to charge at the first vehicle (making no attempt to pass it on its off side). The first vehicle, a new touring car owned by Mr. Beeton, Provincial Commissioner, was wrecked, another damaged and one Police Constable was severely injured, others of us had very narrow escapes. One lorry occupant was killed and one injured (he subsequently died). I caused the injured men to be brought back to Koforidua and subsequently ordered the body of the man who died to be taken to the public mortuary. I reported the facts to the Superintendent of Police, Koforidua.

The Police convoy was only enabled to proceed by leaving the wrecked vehicles behind and driving the undamaged vehicles through a ditch. We found the situation at Koforidua to be critical and I caused reinforcements of troops to be sent there the same night. It is my opinion that the action of the persons who opened fire at the tyres (or even at the engine if this was done) of the oncoming vehicle was entirely justified in an endeavour to stop an accident, save life and save the convoy which was on a mission of great importance.

25 European women and 8 children were successfully evacuated.

D.W. Ballantine

COMMISSIONER,
THE GOLD COAST POLICE.

STATEMENT OF CAPT.R.W.H.BALLANTINE, C.B.E.,
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

In accordance with instructions received I proceeded to Koforidua with a convoy of private cars and a small armed party of Police and Special Constables for the purpose of evacuating European women and children from Koforidua.

I was informed before setting out that the situation in Koforidua was critical, that the women were confined in the Residential Area and that one bungalow at Koforidua had already been set on fire.

I proceeded by way of Nsawam, Suhum and Kibi. We had a hostile reception at most places and especially so at Suhum which had been extensively looted. The people were so hostile at this place that I was forced to put out a protective screen and patrol on foot in front of the convoy. No shots were fired and no force was necessary.

When nearing Koforidua lorries began to pass our convoy containing shouting and singing people. These lorries were loaded with what was obviously loot - some of the loads being even packed on the wings of cars.

I stopped the convoy and held up three of these vehicles and told them to join my convoy and proceed with me. Some of the passengers - presumably looters jumped from the vehicles when they halted and escaped. About 7 to 10 miles from Koforidua, I had stopped on the fairly narrow road to allow, I think, the third seized vehicle to get into position in my convoy. This was not easy on the narrow road and I realised that another lorry coming along - they had been travelling fast no doubt to get away with the loot - might easily run into my convoy and so prevent my rescue of the women and children. I accordingly put out an advance guard of Constables to stop any lorry coming along. I then heard the sound of a lorry approaching; it was loaded with people. On being signalled by Police to stop it refused and accelerated and I realised that it intended to charge our convoy. Mr. Beeton, Provincial Commissioner, who was a Special Constable appeared to realise this also, and with the obvious endeavour to stop the vehicle and so save our lives and possibly the whole convoy from disaster (as the lorry might at the speed it was going have tumbled cars pell-mell and caused a complete road obstruction and loss of life) he fired some shots at the tyres. Hearing this and realising the position some other members of the party, I cannot say whom, also fired. This did not stop the vehicle from which people were jumping and it drove on at a very fast speed into Mr. Beeton's car (a new one) and wrecked it. Before and during the

the crash people were jumping out of the lorry in all directions and diving into the bush. I am sure some must have been injured in jumping. As the lorry crashed into the car one Police Constable was flung high into the air and landed unconscious into a ditch nearby. I saw also two other bodies flung out of the lorry, one for some distance. I found one badly injured man beside the lorry and one dead man some little distance away. I thought they had been killed and injured by the crash, but they could conceivably have received the injuries by shots as they jumped or hit the ground. I brought the injured lorry man and the Constable to Koforidua and asked the Superintendent of Police to send a party to the spot and make necessary investigations. The injured man died before we arrived at Koforidua and I ordered the body to be taken to the Mortuary.

I fired no shots myself and realising that the volley failed to stop the lorry I ordered firing to cease immediately.

I am of the firm opinion that Mr. Beeton's action, also the action of the other persons who fired, was taken in an attempt to prevent members of the convoy being killed, also perhaps to save the convoy and the lives of people in the lorry. The lorry was advancing so fast that there seemed little hope for some of us.

No other shots were fired during the whole operations and the evacuation of 25 women and 8 children was successfully accomplished.

P.W. Gallantin

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

ACCRRA. 16th April, 1948.

WITNESS TO ABOVE STATEMENT.

T. Adams

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Incident which occurred on the Tafo-Koforidua Road,
March 2nd, 1948.

On March 2nd I was one of a party of armed Police and Special Constables which went by road to Koforidua to bring European women and children into Accra. I heard that the position was very serious.

The party travelled in motor vehicles driven by Special Constables. I, as a Special Constable, drove my own car and led the convoy. Capt. Ballantine was a passenger in my car.

The column travelled by Nsawam and Kibi. Suhum was excited but ^{our} one show of force gave us a clear passage. Suhum and Kibi had suffered looting the previous day. At Tafo and Kukurantumi there were most hostile hooting crowds, but no opposition was offered to our passage.

Near Koforidua loot-laden lorries started passing us and we twice stopped the column to ensure that some at least of these lorries were brought back to Koforidua. Two such vehicles at least had been incorporated in the column and we were engaged in having a third turned round when a lorry came round a bend in the road to the south of us - i.e. from Koforidua. The driver was told to stop well ahead of the column by uniformed constables and I, standing in front of the column, wearing a Special Constables' steel helmet, also signalled to it to stop alongside the column. The driver took no notice of these signals and orders and it soon became apparent that he intended to immobilise the column by charging at it. I therefore fired at the lorry-wheels, without effect, and the lorry came on and hit my car extremely violently. The people in the lorry jumped clear or were thrown clear and two were injured as a result of the collision; in addition, a constable who was standing behind my car was severely injured. The constable was attended to and one of the injured passengers; the other, who had been flung to the side of the road, was dead by the time he was attended to. My car and the lorry now made an extremely effective barrier across

across the road. The column was therefore most vulnerable and if the roadblock had been complete we could not have carried out the purpose of the expedition. It proved impossible to separate the collided vehicles, so the cars in the column were driven past them; this was possible, by driving wholly in the ditch and the column got under way again some twenty minutes, I think, after the collision. We brought the injured persons in to Koforidua.

M. P. Aclan

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(6)

STATEMENT OF WHAT HAPPENED ON THE KOFORIDUA ROAD THE SECOND OF MARCH 1948.

On the second of March 1948 together with six other vehicles, I left for KOFORIDUA to evacuate women and children.

We travelled through KIBI, and at TAFO. There was a very hostile crowd who shouted, abuse and throw some stones.

As we approached KOFORIDUA a number of lorries loaded with loot came from KOFORIDUA. These were stopped and made to turn so that we could escort them back. Shortly after this I saw a lorry in the ditch and unattended.

This vehicle was loaded with loot and the convoy stopped so that loot stuff could be unload and taken back. Whilst that was being done I went to the head of the convoy.

I am a special constable, was wearing my steel helmet and was carrying a rifle.

I heard a lorry coming from KOFORIDUA and travelling at a fast speed. It appeared to me that the driver intended to crash into the convoy and to prevent as getting through, Mr. Beeton opened fire at the tyres of the vehicle and I decided that the only way to prevent the collision was to stop the vehicle and so save damage and possible lost of lives.

So I opened fire at the tyres of the vehicle.

The driver and a number of the passengers jumped from the lorry while it was still travelling very fast and the vehicle collided with Mr. Beeton's car and completely wrecked it. The lorry was loaded with loot.

An escorte policeman was badly injured and so too was one of the passengers from the lorry. These were loaded on to the vehicle and taken to KOFORIDUA. We left a dead African also from the lorry at the side of the road.

We then collected women and children from KOFORIDUA and brought them back to ACCRA.

ACCRA, the 20 of April 1948.

R.W. WAGEMANS.
Chief Engineer
C.F.A.O.
ACCRA.

Wageman

OFFICER IN C. M. T. T. W
GOLDCOAST POLICE

ACCRA.
20.4.48.

(7)

STATEMENT OF INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ON KIBI-KOFORIDUA
ROAD ON 2nd. MARCH, 1948.

On 2nd. March, a convoy of seven Private Vehicles left Accra for Koforidua for the purpose of evacuating women and children from that area. Details of the convoy are as follows :-

1. Plymouth Saloon, Index No. AH.1 driven by Mr. W.H. Beeton.
2. Chrysler Saloon, Index No. AR.4 driven by Mr. J. Fischer.
3. Oldsmobile Saloon, Index No. AC. 9629 driven by Mr. E. W. Neil.
4. Hudson Saloon, Index No. AC. 9930 driven by Mr. F. Benoit.
5. International pickup, Index No. AC. 2806 driven by Mr. R. Bauman.
6. Hudson Saloon, Index No. AC. 9999 driven by Mr. R.W. Wagemans.
7. Chevrolet Saloon, Index No. AC. 8974 driven by Mr. L.J. Thomas.

2. All of these persons were Special Constables and each was accompanied by a small Armed Party of Police. Captain Ballantine, the Commissioner, accompanied Mr. Beeton in the first car and I was with Mr. Thomas at the rear of the convoy.

3. The convoy proceeded via Nsawam, Suhum, Kibi and Tafo. Hostile crowds were operating at each of these places and in particular, at Tafo, stones were thrown, some of which hit the vehicle in which I was travelling.

4. As the convoy approached Koforidua, lorries containing loot and persons who appeared to be under the influence of drink commenced to pass us and the convoy was halted in order that these vehicles should be escorted back to Koforidua.

5. Approximately seven miles from Koforidua, a lorry loaded with loot was seen in a ditch. The convoy halted and whilst I was superintending the removal of food which it was intended should be taken back to Koforidua, I heard the sound of a lorry obviously travelling at a fast speed and approaching the head of the convoy. Shortly after this, I heard the sound of a rifle fire and some people disappearing into the bush on both sides of the road. I also saw Mr. Beeton's car pushed back into Mr. Fischer's car and then swung across the road broadside on and the top of a lorry immediately behind the car. An Escort Constable who was standing behind Mr. Beeton's car was thrown across the road and into a ditch. The Constable and one injured African were attended to and placed on one of the lorries containing looted articles. Another African, who was dead, was lying in a ditch at the side of the road.

6. It was impossible to clear the road of the obstruction caused by the collision of the lorry and Mr. Beeton's car, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that the remaining vehicles in the convoy were able to pass and carried out the evacuation of the women and children from Koforidua.



OFFICER I/C M.T.T.U.
GOLDCOAST POLICE

ACCRÀ.
20.4.48.

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STATEMENT BY FRANCIS DOUGLAS DODCO ACQUAAH
SERGEANT GRADE 1, GOLD COAST POLICE.

I remember on the 2nd of March, 1948, I joined a convoy of seven seven cars to Koforidua via Kibi-Koforidua Road with Police and European Special Constables.

On our way we stopped at Suhum and found stores looted and some people still running in the street.

We stayed there for some time when the Commissioner asked us to patrol in the street. We did that to the end of the town; and went in our cars again to continue our journey.

Some lorries passed our convoy full of singing and shouting men with articles hanging, some on front mud-guards, believed to be looted articles.

We took two of these lorries and joined them into our convoy.

About 7 miles to Koforidua we stopped our convoy on the nearside of the road to take two more lorries.

The Commissioner ordered the drivers of these lorries to join the convoy; when backing those lorries, two Constables were asked by the Commissioner to get in front of the convoy to stop any lorry coming.

Not quite long we heard a lorry coming with shouting, I ran and joined the Constables in front to stop the on coming lorry.

The driver failed to stop when I raised my hand up for him to stop. He was then coming on us with a speed, therefore we jumped into the road side.

When the men in the lorry saw the Police Party some started jumping into the bush leaving the driver alone, in trying to escape the lorry went into a ditch.

We helped the driver to bring the lorry on the road again. Immediately the lorry came on the road, we heard another lorry coming. I again ran with more Constables to stop it.

The Police signalled and shouted on the driver to stop; but he speeded up straight into us, when we jumped off his way; the driver went up with the same speed and crashed one car in our convoy and smashed it completely. Someone opened fire to try and stop it halting us.

I did not fire myself neither did Commissioner or some of the Constables with me.

The Commissioner started to shout on the men to stop firing after I heard about three shots.

I saw men jump out from the lorry and run into the bush. When the lorry crashed I saw some men thrown out.

I again saw one Constable thrown into the bush. I found him unconscious with bad cuts on the head and bleeding from the nose.

Another man behind the lorry near the rear nearside tyre was also bleeding from the mouth and the nose. The Commissioner ordered that he and the injured Constables must be taken into Koforidua.

We then started for Koforidua, before we arrived at the C.E.P.'s bungalow we found the other man dead, the Commissioner again ordered that he must be taken to mortuary and the Constable to the Hospital.

We again left Koforidua with the convoy with many European women and children collected there to Accra.

Francis D. Acquaah
sgt. 641

(1)

STATEMENT BY MR. C.H. IMRAY,
SUPT. OF POLICE, AGRA.

28.2.48. 7 p.m. Returned from Castle to bungalow and thence to Barracks. Reports of riots and looting general. Military picketing V.Ps.

NOTE: While at Castle was contacted by phone on several occasions by Major Ames and Mr. Widdup reporting incidents in town and calling for assistance. Sent every available man remaining at cross roads, also Messrs. Reeve and Lane. Remained at Castle as I understood I might be needed to give account of earlier events at cross roads. I then went to bungalow changed hurriedly into clean uniform and went to Main Barracks. Here I remained central, and endeavoured to organise Police parties to deal with reports of looting, etc. which were constantly coming in. Major Morris, Capt. Pincher and a platoon of gunners were allocated to me to assist Police.

9.15 p.m. Proceeded round town on general reconnaissance with Col. Colbeck and a platoon of troops and some Police.

NOTE: We were delayed for some time near the Korle Lagoon where we arrived just too late to stop the breaking and looting of a couple of warehouses. Looters were still in the neighbourhood. We did not fire. Left some troops and Police under a B.N.C.O. to picket this point.

10.45 p.m. Returned to Main Barracks and thence to Capt. Eckel's house for food with Capt. Eckel and Major Ames; thence returned to Barracks.

NOTE: There was little to do during this period as heavy rain had started shortly before 11 p.m. and most of the looters had left the street.

12 m.n. Returned to Barracks via the Post Office.

NOTE: At about this time I ordered Major Fordyce to remain at Post Office with Col. Colbeck as Police/Military Liaison Officer.

29.2.48 2 a.m. Went with Major Morris to all outlying Police Stations and brought in Arms and Ammunition to Main Barracks.

NOTE: At some time during this period I visited the G.P.O., Cable Office, Banks, etc. with Major Fordyce, to ensure that these were under Military guard.

(2)

5.15 a.m. Returned to Barracks and remained central on telephone. Reports of looting recommenced. Places affected were behind the G.P.O. and in Derby Avenue. Major Morris and Mr. Reeve with composite Military/Police patrol left to deal with this.

NOTE: From this time on we were constantly calling upon Major Morris and his platoon for assistance.

6.45 a.m. The Commissioner phone District Commissioner and told him he felt time had come for him to take over, and asked him to see Colonial Secretary and so represent.

6.55 a.m. District Commissioner rang and enquired re position.

NOTE: At approximately this time the Commissioner instructed that Police parties should be withdrawn to Barracks to reorganise for operations with troops. I endeavoured to convey his instructions to all Officers so that all parties engaged in picketing other than vulnerable points should be so withdrawn and not left as isolated units.

7.15 a.m. Major Morris returned from Station Road and reported looting was general and crowds were refusing to disperse except as a result of fire. Said he had fired 3 rounds.

7.30 a.m. More reports of looting in Station Road. Major
7.45 a.m. Morris accompanied by Police again went at my request to Station Road. Returned and said he had fired 3 volleys, results as yet unknown.

8 a.m. Had breakfast at Police Headquarters.

9.45 a.m. Nsawam and Kibi reinforcements (20) arrived. More reports of looting and Arson in Station Road and Boundary Road, - Sick & Co. Troops (Major Morris) and Police went to deal with this

10.10 a.m. Mob released prisoners at Ussher Fort. Sent Mr. Doxat to endeavour to control this.

11 a.m. Army got into position; mob being got under control.

1.30 p.m. Messrs. Hockley, Lane and self brought in rifles and ammunition from Rifle Association building on X'borg Road.

3.10 p.m. Sent Mr. Strike (A.S.P. Kumasi who had arrived with reinforcements and has since returned) to go to French Company to post picket and ensure safety of food supplies. Lorry arrived with shot guns and ammunition from the French Company.

3.15 p.m. Major Morris with troops and Police went to Dodowa Road as crowd was reported collecting on Golf Course. He soon returned and reported that this was false.

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(14)

3.25 p.m. More looting reported at U.A.C. near Bannerman Road. Major Morris and Police again to the scene.

3.25 p.m. More shots from unknown quarter.

NOTE: Since morning, apart from one brief sortie when I went down the Knutsford Avenue with some Police to try and stop some looting while Major Morris was away. I obeyed the Commissioner's instructions and endeavoured to ensure that no small isolated Police parties operated in town unless accompanied by armed Military.

(Sgd). C.H. Imray
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

(4)

STATEMENT BY MR. W. ASHLEY GOVAN,
AG. ASST. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

- 21.2.48 5 p.m. On information being received by me, I phoned Major Pordyce at his bungalow, and we proceeded to Accra from Cantonments in my car.
- 5.20 p.m. Proceeded to Station Road where we endeavoured to disperse large crowds of persons who were looting stores.
- 6.30 p.m. Proceeded to Station Road Police Station, where I took a phone message from Mrs. Franklin, that she had received information that the European Club was to be attacked. I also took another phone message from the Superintendent, Ashanti regarding reinforcements.
- 7 p.m. Returned to Station Road with Mr. Bailey and Mr. Hockley. We endeavoured to clear various stores of large numbers of looters. This was practically impossible, as by the time we had cleared one store, and moved on to the next, the looters had returned to the cleared store. The Escort Police and certain of the General Police did excellently in assisting us in this work.
- 7.30 p.m. On instructions from the Commissioner, I proceeded to the Airport, where I had an interview with Mr. Ramage, the Airport Fire Master. He promised to send into Accra immediately, a detachment of the Airport Fire Brigade to assist in extinguishing the fire at the United Africa Company building in Station Road.
- 8.15 p.m. I returned to the Main Barracks, and remained in the Duty Office answering the telephone.
10. p.m. I again proceeded to Station Road, and was there until about 4 a.m. with Mr. Bailey and Mr. Hockley and a detachment of Police. Our main work at this time was again endeavouring to clear stores of looters. Owing to the heavy rain which commenced at 10.40 p.m. the crowd began to disperse and there was little looting going on until we returned to the Barracks.
- 29.2.48 4 p.m. Returned to the Main Barracks where I was in the Duty Office answering the telephone.
- 5 a.m. 7.30 a.m. I had a sleep on the floor of the Police Recreation Room.
- 8.30 a.m. I proceeded to the Ridge Hospital where the Government Dentist took out the root of a tooth which had been broken, when I was struck on the face about 7 p.m. the night before.
- 10 a.m. I returned to the Duty Office in the Main Barracks.

(Sgd). W. Ashley Govan
AG. ASST. COMMISSIONER.