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REPORT DATED THE 27TH MAY, 191~~5~~, BY THE ACTING
CHIEF CONSTABLE TO THE WATCH COMMITTEE ON
THE ANTI-GERMAN RIOTS IN THE BOROUGH.

The Chairman and Deputy-Chairman, and also His Worship the Mayor and the Town Clerk, have been kept informed of the main facts in the recent riots and disturbances in the Borough. In accordance with the request of the Watch Committee, I now furnish a connected report on the subject. This is based upon reports from Superintendent Johnson and other officers, and upon my own observations.

2. It is well known that after the sinking of the *Lusitania* on the 7th May, outbreaks of hostility against Germans occurred on several days in Liverpool, Birkenhead, Manchester, Eccles and Salford, and many other places all over the country. As regards Salford, the dates to be considered are Monday, the 10th, Tuesday, the 11th, and Wednesday, 12th May, and I will take them in succession.

3. MONDAY, 10TH MAY.—The first sign of disturbance was at about 7-0 p.m., when the shop of a German pork butcher named F. Wagner, 19, Regent Road, was threatened by a small crowd. No damage was done then, the crowd was dispersed, and a Constable was left to patrol in front of the premises. Directly afterwards a large crowd assembled in front of the shop of F. Praz, another pork butcher, a German by origin but a naturalised British subject, at 41, Eccles New Road. This crowd was started by a number of young women from mills, who sang patriotic songs and waved flags. Chief Inspector Markland, Inspector Thom, Sergeant Whitehead, and several Constables got the crowd away. No damage was done then, Praz closed his shop, and by 8-0 p.m. all seemed quiet, but four Constables were left there. Just about 8-0 p.m. I was driving from Manchester along Regent Road, Cross Lane, Broad Street, and Eccles New Road, and neither the chauffeur nor I noticed, or heard of, any sort of disturbance. A little later, however, a crowd collected outside the shop of a pork butcher, named P. Hubb (a German by extraction but born in England), at 112, Cross Lane. Chief Inspector Markland, Inspector Thom, and

some Constables went there from Eccles New Road, and found two drunken sailors, who were using bad language, and threatening Germans generally. One (by name Boswell) was taken into custody, and the other went away. The crowd remained, but was not disorderly for a time. Chief Inspector Markland went to another German shop in Ellor Street, but finding all quiet there, he returned about 9-0 p.m. to Hubb's shop, 112, Cross Lane, where he had left Inspector Thom and some Constables. He then found that the crowd had greatly increased, and had begun to throw stones and break Hubb's windows. The inmates were got safely away. The Chief Inspector telephoned from Cross Lane Station for assistance to headquarters, and got into communication with Superintendent Johnson, who had been away on inspection duty in Higher Broughton. The Superintendent at once sent the motor patrol van to bring all available Police to Cross Lane, and he went there himself, after telephoning information to me. The crowd increased, and broke the windows of a German fruiterer named Crispin, on the opposite side of Cross Lane, at No. 113. Meanwhile, another and much larger crowd had collected outside the shop of Praz, 41, Eccles New Road (mentioned above). The Superintendent sent several Constables there from Cross Lane Station, but the crowd grew much too strong for the Police, and forced its way from the front and at the back into the premises, where great damage was done. Praz has lived a long time in the Borough. The persistent hostility against him may have been due to the fact that a German relation of his named Gronbach was living with him. Gronbach was recently released by the Government from an internment camp, and was allowed to live with Praz on security.

It was stated at the last meeting of the Watch Committee on the 21st May, that at this point (*i.e.*, the shop of Praz) a Constable had been seen actually directing the crowd to throw things at the shop of a German instead of at other shops. I have made enquiries into this allegation, and it is hardly necessary to say that all the Police Officers on duty there positively deny having done anything of the kind. Sergeant Whitehead says that Mr. Dicks, outfitter, of 39 Eccles New Road, next door to Praz, asked him (Whitehead) for protection, and, while they were talking together, Dicks called out loudly to the crowd that his was not the shop, and pointed to Praz's. This seems a probable

explanation of what appeared to have been observed. I may add that the Police had rather a rough time at Praz's shop. Sergeant Tomlinson and P.C. Boulter in particular were stoned, their helmets were knocked off, and Boulter was knocked down and stunned by a brick on the head.

Meanwhile, another crowd collected in front of the pork shop at 79, Tatton Street, which used to belong to a German named Schafer, but has been taken over by a British subject named Fletcher, and began to break windows. The Superintendent, whom I joined at Cross Lane Station, sent the patrol van with a dozen Police to Tatton Street, and the crowd was got away from there. It proceeded to the shop of a jeweller named Knupfer, 228, Regent Road, a German by extraction but a naturalised British subject. Superintendent Johnson and I went there directly we heard of this move, as we were very anxious lest this shop full of valuables should be broken into. Luckily Knupfer had strong shutters, so we got the crowd to move on without damage being done except to upstairs windows.

Next the crowd passed into Trafford Road, where it broke some windows at the Trafford Hotel, the licensee of which is the same Fletcher mentioned above. Superintendent Johnson, Chief Inspector Markland, and I, with all the afternoon and night reliefs of the Police Force, were engaged trying to put down these disturbances, and it was not till nearly 2-0 a.m. that the crowds were dispersed and quiet was restored. It will be understood that the outbreak on Monday was unexpected. There was no time to summon Special Constables, but about half a dozen came of their own accord. Far the most serious rioting and damage took place on the night of the 10th May at the shop of Praz, 41, Eccles New Road, and it was here that the Police were overpowered.

4. TUESDAY, 11TH MAY.—In the morning about six dozen people, some aliens, some British subjects, came to the Town Hall, and to Police Stations, saying that they had been warned or threatened, and asked for Police protection. The patrols were strengthened as far as possible in the quarters which seemed to be likely to have trouble; but it was quite impossible, and also undesirable, to send policemen in all directions. I gave certificates of British, or non-German, nationality to many applicants, and advised them to have them printed and stuck up on their premises. This was done, and I am told that

many shops were saved in consequence. The early morning Police reliefs were kept on duty till 2-0 p.m., and the afternoon Police reliefs were brought on duty at mid-day. I directed all the available Special Constables (about 180) enrolled for general purposes to parade for duty at 7-0 p.m. with the night Police relief, which was brought on at 6-45 p.m. Tuesday was the worst day we had. Disturbances began in the morning at 141, Greengate, the shop of a pork butcher named Hoffer, a German by origin and a naturalised British subject. He closed his shop, and his wife, who was ill, was taken away in the Police ambulance, under the direction of the Chairman, Dr. Pinder, to the Infirmary. Valuable property was also removed, and no damage was done to the premises. The shop next door, belonging to a German named Dracke, was also protected. Chief Inspector Markland and several Constables were engaged at this point for a long time.

Early in the afternoon the house (which was unoccupied at the time) of a German named Jennart, No. 10, West Union Street, Salford, was stoned by a crowd of women and youths. Mr. Councillor F. Hampson notified this to the Police. Some Constables were sent to the spot and prevented further damage. At the same time the shop (19, Regent Road) of F. Wagner (already mentioned) was attacked by another crowd and the windows broken. The house of a saddler named Bach (104, Oldfield Road) was threatened by another crowd. His name was (not unnaturally) taken to be German, but he is English, and Chief Inspector Markland succeeded in making the crowd understand this and leave the shop.

Later in the afternoon there was a large and threatening crowd in Cromwell Road, outside the millinery shop (No. 14) of "Miss Florence." She and her mother and sisters had to take refuge in Pendleton Town Hall. I saw them there. The father, who is dead, was a German named Stubemann, but the mother is English, and the daughters are English born. I went to the shop, and told some of the people about the family. The Police saved this place from damage and the inmates from injury.

Attacks by crowds became more frequent at various points in Broughton and Pendleton—*e.g.*, in Lower Broughton Road, at the shops of Morris Brown, Schumm, Segal, Hallorn, Boltiansky, Kanter

(alias Jackson), Lipshaw, the shop of Isidor Brown, 7 Sussex Street, and the house of Mrs. Schumm, 41, Lord Street.

Parties of Police under Inspectors Egan, Morris, and Boardman were despatched. They could not prevent window breaking, but no premises were wrecked or looted.

In Pendleton there were similar crowds and attacks on the premises of Fecht and Company, Broad Street, Swanston, draper, of Ellor Street, and the Priory Hotel in High Street, kept by Antony Hepper. Small parties of Police were sent to these places, and saved them from being broken into. The cause of the crowd's hostility here was that Mr. Swanston, an Englishman, was supposed to have gone security for a German butcher, which was quite a mistake. The name of Hepper, a British subject, seems to have been regarded as German, but there was no real reason for attacking the Priory Hotel. Both Swanston and Hepper have complained that they were not given Police protection, although they applied for it at Pendleton Town Hall before they were attacked. As already explained, such applications were numerous. There seemed to be no particular reason why Swanston and Hepper should be attacked, and all the spare men at Pendleton Town Hall were wanted in Cromwell Road, where the shop of Florence (alias Stubemann) was seriously threatened, as stated above.

Towards nightfall matters became serious in the Regent Road district. The windows of a Russian subject named Rosenblum were broken. The shop of an English baker named Silcock, 35, Regent Road, was attacked by an angry crowd, apparently because Mrs. Silcock had made herself obnoxious by expressing sympathy with a German neighbour whose windows had been broken.

About 8-0 p.m. a large crowd assembled outside the Royal Hotel at the corner of Tatton Street and Phoebe Street. The licensee, Pressler, is a British subject of Austrian extraction. Chief Inspector Markland was there with all available men, including Special Constables. A youth was arrested and taken to Regent Road Police Station. The Police who did this were followed and stoned by part of the crowd, and a window of the station was broken. Outside the Royal Hotel the crowd increased rapidly, and, although more than 70 Police and Specials, with three Inspectors, were there, they were forced back to

the entrance of the house. Then some men got inside at the back, and wrecked the contents. Fortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Pressler had escaped just before.

Meanwhile another large crowd was threatening the Wellington Hotel in Ellor Street. The licensee is a British subject named Smith, and he is supposed to have been attacked because he became security for a German who was lately released under Government orders. This hotel got off with broken windows, but protecting it detained men whom we wanted to send to Tatton Street. They were sent eventually, but not till the crowd had got into and wrecked the Royal Hotel.

In Eccles New Road about the same time a crowd threatened to wreck the confectioner's shop (No. 115) of a British subject named Stant, who was wrongly supposed to be German. Six Constables and some Special Constables (Mr. Councillor Bescoby among them) were brought in the patrol van from Broughton, and remained on guard for about two hours, preventing any damage being done.

In Chapel Street yet another crowd made an attempt on the premises of a jeweller named Renk, a British subject. He had closed his shop, and had strong shutters, so no damage was done beyond window breaking. But the crowd was threatening for about two hours, and a force of thirty Constables and two Inspectors were engaged there.

Four arrests were made during Tuesday evening. Every available policeman, including the office staff and Special Constables, were employed. The early morning relief was brought on to do a second tour of duty. The Mounted Police were used during daylight to clear the streets, but it was not thought advisable to bring them out into the dark streets at night. The motor patrol van was used to transfer bodies of Police to the various points threatened from time to time. Superintendent Johnson and I and the other principal officers were out till past 1-0 a.m., when the crowds gradually dispersed.

5. WEDNESDAY, 12TH MAY.—Complaints and requests for protection continued to come in on Wednesday morning, and it looked as if several large licensed houses (*e.g.*, the Ship Hotel and the Langworthy Hotel) were likely to be attacked. I had not been able to get Police assistance from Manchester or Lancashire County; but the Docks

Police, under Superintendent Clark, came to our aid with an effective force of one Inspector, two Sergeants, and 21 Constables. There was no particular trouble on Wednesday until after 6-0 p.m., when the crowds collected in Lower Broughton Road. Stones and other missiles were thrown at shops there already damaged on Tuesday, and the crowds moved along Sussex Street and Edward Street, where windows were broken in the shop of Stoller, an Austrian, and Jost, a German. Extra Police were sent there from Headquarters in the patrol van, and also Special Constables. The crowds were kept moving till they gradually dispersed. I was in Lower Broughton Road and Sussex Street soon after 6-0 p.m. when the windows had been broken, and there were plenty of police there then.

Later on a hostile crowd collected in front of Seymour Mead's premises in Regent Road. A dozen of the Docks Police and others were promptly sent from headquarters to the spot in the patrol van and in motor cars which had been lent us. This force was just in time to prevent an attack on Seymour Mead's shop, and the crowd was got away without any damage being done. The crowd is said to have been annoyed with Seymour Mead as having been first to raise prices after the beginning of the war. There was no question of Germans here. There was another crowd in Langworthy Road, and a glass sign was broken at the shop of R. Dalziel, No. 167. But Chief Inspector Markland and some Constables induced the crowd to move away.

There was no more trouble on Wednesday evening, or at night. I was out with the principal officers till midnight, and before going home I drove through Lower Broughton and the Regent Road and Cross Lane districts, where all was quiet. The trouble had subsided.

6. Throughout the disturbances the crowds were largely composed of women and youths, and even children, though, of course, there were men too. The women and children pressed in front, and stones, &c., were thrown over their heads by roughs from behind. The Police could not charge crowds of women or use their truncheons, and the scanty light in the streets at night was another difficulty.

7. Animosity against Germans, provoked by German atrocities in the war, undoubtedly started the rioting. It was known, too, that a certain number of persons had recently been released under Government orders from internment camps, and there was a feeling abroad

that alien enemies in this country were being too easily treated. Unfortunately, many harmless people, who were not in the least German, suffered from the rioting, and in some cases private grudges and greed were the active motives. Pork butchers were particularly obnoxious to the crowds, probably because Germans excel in that branch of retail trade. I have sent about twenty Germans to the camp at Handforth, chiefly because they had sought protection.

8. It would have required a large force of Police to disperse the crowds quickly and make numerous arrests on the spot, and even then women and children would have been injured. The Salford Police are obviously organised on what may be called a peace footing, otherwise a County Borough with a population of more than 230,000 would not have a Police Force of only 330. Since the commencement of the war there has been no disorder and little crime in the Borough; and this is the normal state of things. The disturbances which have been described were, like their main cause, sudden and without precedent. They have died away as quickly as they arose. The Stipendiary Magistrate has been good enough to express the opinion that the Salford Police acted with "a fine discrimination," and there seems to be no bad blood between them and the people. Several persons in the crowd were injured, but only by missiles thrown by the crowd. One Constable was stunned, and many had stones thrown at them.

9. I have no hesitation in saying that the Police worked hard and did their best in trying circumstances. They lost control of the crowds at Praz's shop on Monday, and at the Royal Hotel on Tuesday, but generally they were able to prevent personal injury to Germans or others attacked, and damage to the inside of their premises.

Judging by newspaper accounts, I do not think the Police were less successful in Salford than in Liverpool, Manchester, London, and many other places. I wish to bring to the special notice of the Watch Committee the good services of Superintendent Johnson. His experience in strikes here was most useful, and he is a good leader of Police. I found him invaluable.

10. In December last the Watch Committee sanctioned my proposal that a force of Special Constables should be organised for the Borough. Great pains have been taken in this matter by Superintendent Johnson

and Inspector Duffin, and the force for general purposes is 200 strong. I am glad to say that the Special Constables did capital work during the disturbances. I have thanked them for their services. Councillors Rescoby and Gilman Jones were well to the front.

11. At the suggestion of His Worship the Mayor, the members of the Salford Volunteer Training Corps who are not already Special Constables were good enough to offer on Wednesday, the 12th May, to be sworn in as such for the suppression of the disturbances. Fortunately, it was not necessary to trouble them, but the offer might have been very useful, and I have thanked them for it.

12. The Docks Police were lent to me free of charge, but I hope the Watch Committee will be able to give them some remuneration. They are really private servants of the Manchester Ship Canal Company, appointed to be Special Constables under the Docks, &c., Act of 1847. Had the Police been borrowed from Manchester or the County, it would have been necessary to pay for them.

13. During the past week the Detective Police, under Chief Inspector Clark, have succeeded in tracing and recovering about £100 worth of property stolen during the riots, and have arrested about 100 persons in this connection. Most of them have been fined in various sums by the Stipendiary Magistrate.

14. I considered the advisability of having licensed premises closed at an early hour by an order under Section 63 of the Licensing Act, 1900. But the crowds were not drunken, and on the whole it seemed safer not to take a step which would have been disliked, and might have turned a lot of irritated men into the streets.

15. Claims for damage under the Riot (Damages) Act of 1886 have been sent in to the Town Clerk by persons who suffered from the disturbances. These will no doubt be investigated in due course, and payment of the bill may serve to impress upon the public the sound common sense in His Worship the Mayor's "Appeal to Burgesses" published on the 12th May. It is to be hoped so; for German atrocities are not likely to cease until the Germans are finally defeated; and disturbances at home hinder the British cause.

J. A. CRAWFORD,

Acting Chief Constable.

22nd May, 1915.