

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## SPECIAL SIEGE EDITION.

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No. 13 Mafeking, November 17th, 1899.

### The Mafeking Mail.

MAFEKING, 17TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

### The Market Square Fatality.

The Court Martial again assembled on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Lord C. Bentinck, Judge Advocate in place of Lord E. Cecil, unable to attend through illness.

The witness (Forsyth) was cross-examined by Mr. De Kock as to the nature of the discussion between prisoner and deceased, and Mr. O. Fodisch gave his opinion as a gun expert on the similarity of the bullet taken from the skull of deceased and those remaining undischarged in the revolver.

Mr. Geyer, A.R.M., proved the course of the bullet from Dr. Hayes to the hands of the Chief Staff Officer.

Leonard Thomas Stevens, Protectorate Regiment, proved that accused, while in the passage immediately after the shot, used the words: "He threatened me. It was an accident I didn't mean to shoot the man."

Mr. De Kock notified to the Court the lines his defence would take. He will submit that from the evidence there is no case before the Court. There may be an explanation necessary but that he is prepared to give.

Dr. Hayes, re-called, gave his opinion as to the direction from which the shot must have been fired, and the Court adjourned.

On re-assembling last evening the accused made a statement as follows:—

"About 5-30 p.m., on the 1st of this month, I was at the school house with my guns, placing them into position (for firing). I suddenly turned round and saw the deceased standing with a rifle in his hands, holding it at the port. I knew him by sight. He told me that he wanted to have a shot at the enemy and that he had leave from Colonel Baden-Powell. He asked me where was the best place to go to and I told him Ellis' corner. Just then someone came in sight, and he, Mr. Parslow, asked me if I would go and dine with him that night. I told him I was busy and he went off in the direction of Ellis' Corner. I found a place that suited me and fired these four rounds. As I came back I walked with Major Panzera and left him at 7 o'clock. It was dark. I did not see deceased again till a quarter to eight the same evening at Riesle's Hotel. He was outside. I got there first. He came in afterwards. I dined with him and Mr. Hamilton. Mr. and Mrs.

Riesle also came in and they sat at the same table for perhaps the last half hour we were there. The party broke up about 9-30 or 9-15 and came out on to the verandah. I said good night and asked jocularly if anyone was coming to see me home. I had previously dined at Riesle's with Mr. Hamilton and he had walked part of the way back with me. On this occasion Mr. Parslow volunteered to come along with me. We walked across the Square towards Dr. Hayes' Consulting Room, next to Dixon's Hotel. We got nearly opposite Dr. Hayes' and then I knew why Mr. Parslow had volunteered to come home with me. He suddenly stopped and accused me of having said something against him, I concluded, during dinner. I was so taken with the suddenness with which he challenged me to fight. I practically apologised to him, telling him that I had said nothing against him. He persisted, said I was no gentleman, and as I am a much stronger man than he, I concluded he wanted to ruin me by getting me to strike him a blow. Had I done so I should have been up for an assault—or that he wanted an excuse to shoot me. So convinced was I that he was going to assault me that I went round so as to get on the other side of him, moving round on to deceased's right so that I could use my right arm, my left having been injured in 1892. I wanted to protect myself in case he tried to attack me by hitting him straight out. I asked him to wait till the following morning and I would discuss the matter with him. I said I had to go to Dixon's for a copy of the orders. He laughed at the idea of this. I got away by walking on in front and went to Dixon's. Forsyth was in the recess. I asked him for a copy of the orders. He gave me one. Deceased followed me there and also asked Forsyth for a copy of the orders. He imitated my tone. I took no notice. He went away out of the hotel. I walked into the passage and stood near the card rack. I was very much upset at the suddenness of the attack and thought that Forsyth had noticed it; that my manner had shewed it, and to account for this to Forsyth I said: 'That man is a Stinker.' I said it in a very low tone. Immediately, almost at once, the deceased, Parslow, rushed down the passage from the door. He rushed up to me, quite close to me and said that I had called him 'Stinker.' He said that he was determined to fight. I tried to pacify him by saying I didn't allude to him. I touched a card in the card rack—I don't know

what card it was, there was only one there—and said: 'I was alluding to that.' He said something about shooting and as he said this I said to him—to pass it off jokingly—'What do you want me to do? Do you want me to fight you with fists, seven-pounders or what? for I won't.' I had previously told him to go away. As I said that, I moved round him, as he had practically shut me against the wall, and went and sat in a chair in the recess. Forsyth was just going away with his papers. Deceased came up to me while I sat on the chair, bent over me and said: 'You are no gentleman.' I laughed and said: 'Oh! yes, I am, by education. He went away and I thought he was gone. I took my revolver out of its case and laid it on the table, keeping the cord round my neck. I did this for two reasons; one, because it was my custom always to sleep with the lanyard round my neck. I have slept so every night since the siege. I was very tired, partly through the interview with Parslow, and also wanting sleep. I take my revolver out always and put it in my great coat pocket, or my trousers, because when it is in its case it is in the way when I attempt to lie down. I have often crossed the Square in the same way with the revolver in my hand; preparatory to turning in, when I slept on the stoep at Wirsing's where my detachment was, I always slept in uniform either on the verandah or in the yard. The other reason was to protect myself in case the deceased, Parslow, should shoot at me on my way back. I got up from the chair, picked up the revolver in my hand, a few seconds after deceased went round the corner, I went along the passage a short distance, the revolver in my hand, I was weary, I bumped against the wall through weariness and carelessness combined. I did not care whether I bumped against the wall or not; the revolver exploded about that time. I don't know what caused it. I didn't see Parslow fall. I had seen him going towards the door, the light was not very good. It was a dim light, very poor. I continued down the passage to go home when Waterston came towards me and said something about ———. I could not give his

exact words, which made me conclude that somebody was hurt. I think I went down to the recess. I was very much upset. I sat down and tried to think. Forsyth came up and I recollect the Sergt. of Police coming up. When I got near to the jail I told him I, never before in my life had I, fired off a revolver. I recollect Forsyth coming up and shaking me by the hand, and I recollect several other people coming up, also the witness, Stevens, rushing past. I have never fired a revolver before as I explained to the Sergeant of Police on reaching the jail. I carried one for about eighteen months, but I never fired one before. I don't even know now how it went off."

Examined by Mr. De Kock; I did not render any aid to deceased therefore I am not sure in my mind that the shot from my revolver, killed deceased I did not aim at him. I didn't see him fall, and only know now from hearsay that he is dead.

By the Court; I take it the intention he means to convey is that the revolver might have gone off by accident without his pulling the trigger.

Mr. De Kock, not being well, here left the Court.

Prisoner continuing, said: "That is so, Sir. I should like to say that this explanation was reserved at the suggestion of my legal adviser. I was ready to give it at the preliminary examination but of course I could not have recollected the whole then."

Accused asked that his evidence might be read over to him, which was done. He took exception to the clause referring to his placing the revolver in his overcoat pocket, which, he said, was not correct, he usually held it in his hand. Noted accordingly.

The Court adjourned till this evening.

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### NOTICE.

Telegrams on hand for the following persons may be had on application to Mr. Campbell at Dixon's Hotel. All other telegrams have been duly delivered;—

Cole, Melesi (Saul),

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