

Continued.]

Lt.-Col. FRANK JOHNSON.

18-40 hours and passing down the Anarkali Bazar, gathering strength as they proceeded, made for the Central Telegraph office.

14. The sight of 40 British soldiers with fixed bayonets in possession of the Telegraph office appears to have caused the crowd to change its plan, as, after a little hesitation, it passed on down the Mall with the declared intention of getting to Government House. I have recently learned on the authority of one of the leaders of this mob, who escaped conviction at a Special Tribunal, that the object of that crowd was "only to insult, not murder Europeans." For such a mob of Indians to insult a Briton is but the equivalent for his murder, as such action must obviously lead to forcible resentment, which in turn would mean the beating to death of the European. The small detachment of Police collected to bar their way was pressed back and it was at this critical point that the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Fyson, and the Deputy Inspector-General, Criminal Investigation Department, Mr. G. A. Cocks, came on the scene and, realizing that less than half-a-mile further on over 100 ladies and children would be at the Gymkhana Club, ordered the Police to open fire.

This action inflicted casualties amounting to one killed and five wounded, checked the mob and enabled the Police, now reinforced, to drive it back towards the City.

15. I think there can be no two opinions that the action of Messrs. Fyson and Cocks saved Lahore that night from scenes of outrage and murder, compared to which those at Amritsar would almost have paled into insignificance.

16. Later on that night at about 22-00 hours the Police in the Anarkali Bazar, after being heavily stoned, were compelled to fire on the crowd whose casualties on that occasion amounted to one killed and five wounded. During this night owing to the seething excitement and hostile attitude of the population in the city it was thought desirable to withdraw all police from their numerous stations within the city—which was thus left in the hands of uncontrolled mobs. Personally I consider this action entirely justified by the situation.

17. In the meantime, during the night of 10th-11th April, strong detachments of Indian troops had been posted at the Pumping Station, Reservoir, Power Station, Central Jail, Ravi Railway Bridge and the Headquarters of 43rd Brigade moved into Lahore.

18. It was doubtless owing to these precautions that no outbreaks occurred in Lahore on the next day, 11th, although in the City, still uncontrolled by the Police, many meetings were held besides those in the great Badshahi Masjid, at which Muhammadans and Hindus fraternized. These meetings of the two races in the mosque, at which sedition and rebellion were openly preached, were, I think rightly, regarded as one of the most serious factors in the situation and as adding largely to the gravity of the military situation.

19. On 12th April it was decided at all costs to re-establish control of the City. Accordingly at 09-30 hours I arrived at Delhi Gate in command of a column of Cavalry, British and Indian Troops and Police—about 800 all ranks.

That we succeeded in forcing a passage through angry and excited crowds with such little bloodshed I believe to be due to the excellent co-operation of the Royal Air Force with four aeroplanes, which, as arranged, were to bomb the route in advance of the column on a given signal being made. I informed the leaders of the crowd at the entrance of the city that should a bomb be thrown or a shot fired at the troops, the aeroplanes would clear the route for the column by bombs. I then halted for some minutes to enable this fact to be made known to the crowd.

20. During the march through the city and excited crowd emerging from the Badshahi Masjid managed to surround the rear guard which was attacked by sticks

and stones, whilst bricks were thrown from the roofs of houses. To reduce the pressure and clear the mob I had to order the Police to fire a few rounds, less than 20, which resulted in the death of 1 and the wounding of 3 or 4 men among the crowd, which at once fell back. Posts were established at 3 points in the city, garrisoned by detachments of British and Indian Troops and armed Police.

21. On 13th April a very large meeting was held in Amritsar in defiance of orders, issued, I believe, under the Defence of India Regulations. A small party of Indian troops broke up this meeting by fire, inflicting severe casualties among the crowd. It is only fair to record my opinion that this incident had a far-reaching effect on the seditionists and agitators in Lahore and was probably no small factor in enabling me, as subsequently shown, to re-establish and maintain order in the area under my command without further bloodshed.

22. On the 13th and 14th April no further actual disturbances took place, but the leaders of the people apparently devoted their attention to perfecting the *hartal* or strike, which was paralysing life and industry in Lahore, holding up all means of locomotion and threatening to close down the all important railway workshops at Moghulpura.

23. This was the position in Lahore on the night of 14th-15th April, when the Government of India authorized the introduction of Martial Law, but the military situation in Lahore itself can only be properly appreciated by a study of the events that were taking place in other parts of the Punjab, a *resumé* of which, as previously stated, is given in Appendix No. I.

Section 2.—The Period under Martial Law.

24. At 06-00 hours on Tuesday, 15th April, the Headquarters of 43rd Brigade and all Cavalry were withdrawn to Lahore Cantonment, and the separate military area referred to in paragraph 3 was created and placed under my command.

25. The troops and the police at my disposal at that time consisted of the following:—

	All ranks.
Armoured Cars	3
Royal Garrison Artillery (in the Fort)	19
British Infantry	387
Indian Infantry	381
Indian Defence Force, approximately	250
Armed Police	460
	— 1,497
Unarmed Police	800
	—
TOTAL	2,297

In Appendix XI, will be seen the bi-monthly strength of the garrison of the area.

26. On the declaration of Martial Law becoming known about 10 A.M. on 15th April, the following officers, then in Lahore on leave or duty, at once reported themselves for duty, *viz.*:—

Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Lindsay Smith	Supply and Transport Corps.
Major Barnes, XIX-Punjabis	Divisional Recruiting Officer.
Major D. Vanrenen	Army Remount Department.
Captain Rigby	3rd Punjab Light Horse.
Captain DeBrath	Indian Cavalry.