

WOUNDED DEPUTY TELLS OF FRAY

Saw Clyde Isenhower Shoot Sheriff Hood

BULLETS FLEW THICK

June 15, 1915

Heard Sheriff Tell Somebody "Let That Pistol Alone" Then Shooting Began.

One of the principals in the Winnsboro riot, B. R. Beckham, special deputy sheriff, who was wounded in the leg, described the incident as follows, when seen yesterday afternoon at the Columbia Hospital:

"I am a citizen of Winnsboro and was deputized by Sheriff Hood to assist him in protecting the Negro, Jules Smith, in case an attempt should be made to take the prisoner from his custody. I was one of the party which came to Columbia this morning to get the Negro from the penitentiary. We did not anticipate serious trouble but the sheriff, to be on the safe side, deputized 12 more men when we reached Winnsboro. There was not an unusually large crowd in town.

Our automobiles were stopped at the curb across the street from the Court House. - I was in advance, other deputies flanking and following the sheriff, who had hold of the prisoner. We had reached the court house door and I had just started up the steps when the crowd began to surge about.

"I heard Sheriff Hood order somebody to keep his hands away from his pistol. It was then that the trouble began. Somebody drew a revolver. Clyde Isenhower, who seemed to be leading the mob, was firing at the sheriff when I looked back. The sheriff's coat waved each time he was hit. Someone shot me here in the right leg. The bullet went through the fleshy part of the calf and I think grazed the bone.

"The Negro started to run up the steps and I grabbed at him, but missed. Then I drew my pistol for protection. The bullets were flying thick and fast. One of the other deputies pulled me around to the side of the steps into a better defensive position. I saw Isenhower fire at least one of the shots that hit Sheriff Hood in the stomach. Isenhower himself was shot all to pieces.

"Somebody whom I did not know stuck his pistol into my face, at the height of the affair, and was about to fire, when I asked him "Why do you want to kill me?" He lowered his pistol and mixed with the crowd. I have no idea how many men were in the attacking party. We were pretty busy and hadn't time to notice details. It was a fearful experience, but I tried in every way to do my duty."

Mr. Beckham's wound, made by a pistol bullet, which pierced the calf just below the knee, was dressed at the Columbia Hospital on the arrival of the train bringing Sheriff Hood and Rural Policeman Boulware.

The story of how Sheriff Hood, after having received four wounds, carried the Negro, Jules Smith, nearly to the prisoner's dock in the Fairfield County court house at Winnsboro, was brought to Columbia yesterday by J. M. Stone, a special deputy, who was among the score of officers engaged in the fight.

The Negro, Mr. Stone said, died shortly after being dropped by the sheriff. Mr. Stone suffered a slight powder burn about the face.

"The mob shot at Deputy Boulware, even after Sheriff Hood had carried the Negro into the court room," said Mr. Stone.

Mr. Stone said that he was in front of the prisoner, on the long steps leading to the court room, when Clyde Isenhower pushed a pistol through the banister and fired three times at Sheriff Hood.

"After three shots had been fired by Isenhower," said Mr. Stone, "Sheriff Hood pulled his pistol and began firing. I think that the sheriff hit Isenhower every time he fired. The sheriff had told all of the deputies not to fire until it was necessary."

Mr. Stone said that all of the attacking party stood behind posts on the steps. He had no idea how many shots were fired.

NO INQUEST HERE CORONER DECIDES

Body of Late Sheriff Hood Will Be Taken to Winnsboro This Morning

Coroner Scott of Richland County last night notified Coroner Smith of Fairfield County of the death of the late Adam D. Hood, Sheriff, at the Columbia Hospital. Coroner Scott said that an inquest would be unnecessary in this county. The body will be carried to Winnsboro on the Southern train leaving Columbia at 5:35 o'clock this morning. The inquest will be held this morning in Winnsboro immediately after the arrival of the train. The funeral arrangements will be announced later.

AMMUNITION SENT BY ARMED GUARD

Brookland Light Infantry Put Under Arms

RESPONSE WAS QUICK

Special Train Brings Winnsboro Wounded to Columbia Hospital

Governor's Office Acts.

Capt. J. B. Doty, commanding the Winnsboro Rifles, telephoned to the adjutant general's office yesterday, shortly after the bloody affray had occurred between a mob and Sheriff Hood's posse, saying that he had but a small supply of ammunition and might need more at any moment.

Maj. J. Shapter Caldwell, assistant adjutant general, his chief, Gen. W. W. Moore, being in Charleston---promptly assembled a detail of men from the Governor's Guards, together with Capt. E. B. Cantey and Capt. Phett Roman, drew a supply of Springfield service ammunition from the State Armory and left for Winnsboro with the detachment at 11:25 o'clock, using two automobiles.

Each member of the party was furnished with a 38 calibre regulation revolver, with belt, holster and ammunition. Besides Maj. Caldwell, the party comprised Capt. E. B. Cantey, Capt. Rhett Roman, Lieut. J. R. Van Metre, First Sergt. C. A. Newnham, Corporals George Naufal and Hasell Thomas, Private T. E. Montgomery and Dibert Jackson, Civilians J. Irby Koen and W. J. Cormack and Chauffeurs M. L. Garrick and J. Walter Higbe.

Maj. Caldwell armed his men because of an intimation that possibly members of the mob might try to intercept the supply of ammunition which he was conveying.

The trip to Winnsboro was made by ammunition detail in one and a quarter hours. The four cases of guard cartridge which they brought were delivered to Capt. Doty. The detail was held in Winnsboro for a few hours, in anticipation of a possible need for their services. It was seen after a while, however, that the local company had the situation well in hand. So the Columbia party returned to the capital.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE WAS QUICK TO ACT

Responded Promptly to Appeal of Winnsboro Mayor for Troops and Cartridges

Columbia's first intimation of trouble at Winnsboro came at 10:17 o'clock yesterday morning in the form of a telegram from the mayor, C. A. Robinson, to the governor "Please give me authority to call out the militia at once." Mr. Robinson wired. "Tried to kill Jules Smith, Negro, tried for here for assault today. Several parties shot already."

The governor's office telegraphed Mayor Robinson authority to call upon Capt. J. B. Doty, commanding the Winnsboro Rifles, Company K, Second regiment, for assistance, and by wire instructed Capt. Doty to hold his company in readiness to aid the mayor.

Gov. Manning had gone to Virginia to address the alumni association of the University of Virginia. Andrew J. Bethea, Lieutenant Governor, got into communication with him at Charlottesville by long distance telephone. The governor expressed deep regret at the affray, approved the steps taken in the emergency by his office and asked that the militia on duty be advised not to precipitate trouble but rather to hold the situation under control and preserve the peace. He desired Mr. Bethea to keep him informed as to the developments and said he would return if possible.

Before he talked with the Governor, Mr. Bethea dispatched a telegram to him at Charlottesville as follows:

"Am advised that Sheriff Hood and four deputies were shot this morning at Winnsboro in effort to defend life of Negro who was being taken to court house for trial and that Negro was killed by mob. Your secretary, Mr. Moses, is at Sumter, unwell, but your stenographer, Mr. Wood, has responded to request by Mayor Robinson and signed your order for militia to handle situation. Mayor reports militia have matter in hand and that everything is quiet. Those wounded are being hurried to Columbia Hospitals, and it is believed there will be no further trouble. It seems to me that your office has done everything possible to assist in the matter, but if you need me to serve you in any way during your absence, please command me."

"Gov. Manning's caution to the militia was transmitted by the lieutenant governor to Capt. Doty at Winnsboro in a telegram as follows:

"Gov. Manning, who is in Virginia, requests me to advise you not to precipitate trouble, but to use every effort to quell the riot and preserve the peace, without further loss of life if possible."

Mr. Bethea sent the following telegram yesterday afternoon to Gov. Manning at Charlottesville, Va.

"Have had conversation with Mayor Robinson of Wimsboro and he reports that situation is under control. Do not think that you could give further assistance by your presence here. Condition of wounded unchanged."

Gov. Manning is to deliver an address tonight at the annual meeting of the University of Virginia alumni. He will return to Columbia Wednesday afternoon.

"I DID MY DUTY," says ADAM D. HOOD

Fairfield Sheriff Tells Physician He Expects Death, Deputy's Condition is Serious

"I expect I'll die, but I did my duty," Sheriff Hood of Fairfield remarked, in the hearing of J. C. Buchanan, M. D., as he was being lifted into a special train yesterday to be brought to Columbia for surgical attention, after having been shot in several places in defending a Negro prisoner against a mob.

On the trip to Columbia the wounded sheriff was in a comatose condition most of the time. He was accompanied by Dr. Buchanan and by J. E. Douglas, M. D. as well as by Mrs. Hood.

Examination at the hospital indicated that Sheriff Hood had been hit by three shots, producing four wounds, three of them in the abdomen, causing 15 perforations. The intestines were resected in two places, other perforations were sewed up and wounds in other parts of the body were dressed. Early last evening his condition was described at the hospital as "critical."

J. R. Boulware, rural policeman, was hit by one shot in the middle abdomen. There were seven perforations. Resection was performed in one place and the other perforations were sewed up. His condition from the first was reported as "serious."

B. R. Beckham, special deputy sheriff, suffered only a flesh wound in the right calf.

Only these three officers were brought to Columbia.