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CHINA No. 1 (1926)

PAPERS

RESPECTING THE

First Firing in the Shameen Affair of June 23, 1925

PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND OF HIS MAJESTY

LONDON :

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Papers respecting the First Firing in the Shameen Incident of June 23, 1925.

No. 1.

Consul-General Sir J. Jamieson to Mr. Wu.

Sir,

Canton, June 22, 1925.

I LEARN from sources, which I have every reason to believe to be trustworthy, that, in the course of a patriotic demonstration arranged for to-morrow, the student element intend to make martyrs of themselves by attacking the bridges leading on to Shameen. I am informed that they went to the length of drawing lots as to which association should have the honour of sacrificing itself first in its country's cause, and that the winning number was drawn by the University of Kuangtung.

This story may, of course, be the figment of a fertile imagination, but if, on the other hand, it have any solid foundation in fact and should action of the kind be contemplated and take place, I have the honour solemnly to warn the Government of Kuangtung, through you as their Foreign Secretary, that any attempt to penetrate on to the British concession on Shameen will be resisted by force of arms, and that for the consequences the Government will be held individually and collectively responsible. As I had the honour to inform you yesterday I do not, nor have I the right to, protest against any demonstrations which Chinese citizens in Canton may choose to organise, and if there be such I have warned all my nationals to be very careful not to mix themselves up therewith, and in general strictly to refrain from provocative action of any kind in order that the present situation be not exacerbated. Due precautions are, however, being taken to guard against acts of mob violence, such as have occurred at Chinkiang, Kiukiang and Hankow, and, should unfortunately they occur here, the blood of those who call upon crowd psychology to commit deeds of violence will be upon their own heads.

I write in this serious strain so that it may not be said hereafter that brutal Imperialist rifles wantonly massacred unoffending Chinese youth. (A copy of this despatch is being sent to quarters where it will remain on record.)

I would in this connection call your attention to the urgent matter of clearing the Shaki Creek, with regard to which representations are being made to the chief of police, and would ask you to be good enough to support them in so far as you may be able to do so.

I have, &c.

J. W. JAMIESON.

No. 2.

Extract from the Hong Kong Monthly Intelligence Summary for June 1925.

CANTON.

A MONSTER demonstration was organised to take place at Canton on the 23rd June. It was learned that a procession would march round the city, not as a mark of sympathy with the Shanghai students, but as an outward profession of anti-foreignism. The consul-general, Canton, sent a very strongly-worded letter of warning to C. C. Wu, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In this despatch he warned Wu that his Government must see that the procession was orderly.

The following is the report of the senior naval officer, West River, of the events of the 23rd June :—

“Commander Scott to Commodore, Hong Kong.

*“H.M.S. ‘Tarantula,’ at Canton,
June 24, 1925.*

“Sir,

“I have the honour to report that all Chinese employees on Shameen were called out on strike on Sunday morning, the 21st June. Launches’ crews remained until the evening.

“On Sunday, the 21st June, the outlook for Shameen if trouble developed was not at all reassuring. The back creek was full of sampans and the water-level high.

“It was most important to get the creek clear, and the Chinese police promised to do so. They, however, did nothing, and next day the vice-consul called on Tscheu Wa, the Commissioner of Police, who at once, and in his presence, gave the order to have the creek cleared.

“Still, however, nothing was done, and it became obvious that the Chinese authorities would not do so. I refrained from clearing it by force because of the great danger of precipitating trouble and giving the authorities a handle.

“On this day the Shameen special police were placed under my orders, and I landed two Lewis gun detachments under command of officers, and placed one by the British bridge and one at the north-west corner of Shameen.

“News was received that evening that a monster demonstration would pass Shameen next day, and threats of attacking Shameen were made. C. C. Wu (Foreign Secretary) was seen by the vice-consul that day and again warned of their responsibilities; he rather ridiculed the idea, and said he knew nothing of any demonstration.

“I had arranged to land our complete defence force for Shameen next day directly we got any definite news of the demonstration taking place. The night was quiet.

“About 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 23rd, the demonstrators were seen assembling, and the defence scheme was put into

force. As the naval parties and the Shameen special police took up their posts they were hidden away as much as possible. My orders were that fire was only to be opened as a last resource if attacked.

"In the event of a few hot-heads trying to storm the gates or cross over to Shameen by means of any of the many sampans our men were to come out on to the bund and push them back again with rifle-butts, &c., but not to fire unless I gave the order and in the case of extreme necessity.

"The procession started to pass about 2.30 P.M., many thousands taking part, carrying the usual banners, &c. A few unarmed Chinese police were stationed outside the two bridges, and at the last moment a few armed soldiers were distributed along the far pavement about 50 yards apart. Everybody, except the consul-general and myself and four or five others, kept out of sight, and our side of the creek appeared empty to onlookers. We took up our position alongside the British bridge.

"All went peacefully, in fact peculiarly so, for some time till, at last, the doubtful element—viz., the students—appeared. Behind them came a large number of soldiers fully equipped. I could not see how far they extended, but understand they covered about half a mile of ground.

"When the head of the students' contingent had just passed the British bridge, they halted. I noticed a man with the usual 'Red' emblems get up on the coaming just opposite us. He waved to others farther down and there was some commotion in the nearest side street. A few moments afterwards the leading soldiers suddenly opened out; their head was then opposite the Victoria Hotel. Some appeared to be shoving the Chinese onlookers away, the remainder turned round, faced Shameen and were seen loading their rifles. Then the front rank opened fire straight across the creek at Shameen, the others joined in and instantaneously the firing became intense all the way down as far as I could see. They then scattered in all directions and took up positions behind any available cover in the houses and continued the attack.

"In a very short space of time I found bullets splashing round the consul-general and myself, so we retreated hurriedly.

"The Lewis gun detachment stationed overhead (No. 1) observed the firing at us, and bullets were also coming over their sandbag protection. They opened fire on the soldiers; the other Lewis gun detachments on their right were also being peppered and also opened fire.

"Directly I got up into No. 1 gun's position I ordered 'cease firing' with the intention of avoiding all unnecessary fighting. In the nature of things it was a short time before the further guns and the specials could be stopped. Very little firing really took place on our part.

"The soldiers continued firing, sniping from various points of vantage. When they became too accurate and persistent a few rounds of Lewis gun or rifle were dealt out to them, but

soon afterwards I ordered all firing to cease unless the enemy became dangerous.

"After about an hour all firing ceased. Meanwhile, during a comparative lull about a quarter hour after the start, I managed to get to my headquarters at the consulate.

"On the left of the British bridge only a few rounds were fired by us, it being necessary to deal with some snipers in the buildings opposite.

"Similar action was taken by the French in their part of the island.

"One naval rating, Petty Officer Robert M. Chalmers, official No. J. 15613, was wounded in the hand, and three civilians, one fairly seriously, the others slightly.

"In the French concession one civilian was killed and one wounded.

"Three Japanese civilians were wounded, one of whom was close to one of our Lewis gun positions before we opened fire.

"I have no doubt myself, and all evidence confirms the opinion, that this was a deliberate 'incident' engineered by a section of the local Government.

"I understand the Chinese casualties were roughly thirty killed and seventy wounded.

"One bullet pierced the water-tank and reduces the water supply until the damage can be repaired.

"The defence forces remained on duty till 6 o'clock this morning, when the specials were withdrawn; the naval parties remain at their posts.

"The enormous handicap Shameen suffers under from defence and communication points of view was very evident. To communicate or pass from one block to another means crossing a bullet-swept street. Bullets were also coming down Central Avenue from the French bridge end. Some telephone communication was fixed up, but is not very satisfactory, there being no exchange on the island.

"The Chinese authorities have written accusing us and the French of deliberately creating this incident. In these circumstances the danger of further attacks is very prominent. I have therefore to-day asked for troops to be sent up.

"The number of men available from the gunboats is not sufficient to keep our lines manned for more than a day or two without relief.

"We are also running the water-works and freezing installation, and the danger of attack from the water side must be guarded against.

"Further report will be made when details are available.

"I have, &c.

"M. MAXWELL-SCOTT, *Commander,*
"S.N.O., West River."

"Commander Scott to Commodore, Hong Kong.

"H.M.S. 'Tarantula,' at Canton,

June 30, 1925.

"Sir,

"I have the honour, in continuation of my letter of the 24th June, 1925, to report that there is no doubt that the soldiers who started the firing belonged to that section of the Cantonese army trained by Russians at the military academy of Whampoa. Full of confidence engendered by their easy victories over Chen Chiung Ming's troops and the Yunnanese army, they may have readily thought that they could take Shameen. In any case, there is no doubt that they had expressed that intention on the previous day.

"His Britannic Majesty's consul-general is, however, willing to believe that the local Government were not directly cognizant of their intentions.

"Whether or no their attack was meant seriously or merely to create an 'incident' it is impossible to say, but, if the former, it is providential that it took place before the whole Shakee creek was lined with troops. The creek had so many sampans alongside the Chinese side and the tide was at such a height that a determined rush would have probably succeeded in getting many men into Shameen and through our defence line.

"The number of casualties on the Chinese side is stated to be thirty-seven killed, including one woman and one teacher and four students of the Canton Christian college, and eighty wounded.

"After firing the first few volleys the soldiers took up positions of vantage in the houses and behind the pillars supporting the verandahs and continued to fire rapidly. It is inevitable under the circumstances that some unfortunate civilians should suffer, especially from ricochet bullets, but the only case that I have been able to ascertain of a man not in uniform being fired at by the British forces was that of an individual who drew a Mauser pistol from under his clothes.

"In connection with the order given by me to cease firing when I reached our Lewis gun post by the British bridge, I would draw attention to the service performed by Petty Officer Robert M. Chalmers, official No. J. 15613, who ran down our front line under heavy fire and blew the signal for 'cease fire' continuously until, just as he was passing the Victoria Hotel, he was hit in both hands and fell into the hotel verandah.

"Two platoons of Indian troops arrived in 'Kharki' on the 25th June and took over that part of the line stretching from the British bridge to the western end of the island. They were at first quartered in tents, but yesterday they were moved into a convenient house, the building of which has just been completed.

"The officer in command assures me that his men are comfortable and happy. Their keenness is very evident.

"The Shameen special police have shown great keenness

and energy in carrying out many varied duties besides taking their share in guard duties; their spirit could be no better.

"Commanding officers, officers and ship's companies have one and all shown great cheeriness and devotion to duty. Their health remains good.

"The leak in the water-tank has been temporarily plugged, and I have taken the precaution of filling the swimming bath, which now holds 90,000 gallons of drinking water.

"Informal conversations are being carried on through the good offices of the American and German consuls-general and other neutrals, and the atmosphere is less tense.

"No soldiers have lately been observed in the vicinity of Shameen.

"The custom-house was partially reopened on the 29th June; this should tend to ease the situation.

"His Britannic Majesty's consul-general has assured the neutral mediators that there is no intention of bringing up more troops; for this reason I have stopped the R.E. detachment from landing.

"I have, &c.

"M. MAXWELL-SCOTT, *Commander*,
"S.N.O., *West River*."

No. 3.

Consul-General Sir J. Jamieson to Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Sir,

Canton, June 25, 1925.

WITH reference to the local political situation, I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your information, copies of my despatches Nos. 46 and 47 of to-day's date to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Peking.

I have, &c.

J. W. JAMIESON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

Consul-General Sir J. Jamieson to Mr. Palairet.

(No. 46.)

Sir,

Canton, June 25, 1925.

IN continuation of my despatches Nos. 44 and 45 of the 22nd and 23rd instant, I have the honour to report further on the local situation as follows:—

In the forenoon of the 23rd, knowing that a monster demonstration was going to take place in the course of the day, the naval and civilian defence units of the British and French concessions took up their allotted posts with strict instructions—at least on this side—to keep, in so far as it was possible to do so, out of sight, and all persons not on duty were forbidden to appear on the back creek,

opposite to the road along which the procession was to pass, so that nothing which might be construed as provocation could be charged against us. These orders were strictly observed. Through a British subject, recently engaged as liaison police officer by the city police, a request was the previous evening addressed to the French consulate that permission be given for the procession to enter Shameen by the French bridge and to leave by the British bridge, which request was of course not entertained.

At 11 A.M. two motor cars passed along the Shakee Street, on the other side of the canal, and distributed leaflets, signed by the cadets of the military school of the Kuangtung army, calling upon all and sundry to eject the foreigner. At about 2:30 P.M. the procession was at the end of the Shakee Street, which commences at the gate of the French bridge, and proceeded along the north bank of the canal. The only persons in the vicinity of our bridge were myself, the British senior naval officer, the superintendent of Shameen police, one or two naval officers, a member of my staff and some unarmed Chinese police, who, being Hakkas, had not walked out with the rest of the Chinese on the island on the 21st. (The customs employees left on the 23rd and the post office employees on the 24th.) Unarmed Chinese police lined the road on the other side at intervals of about 50 yards and a company of armed soldiers took up positions under the verandahs of Chinese shops in the neighbourhood of the bridge. Three-quarters of the procession, consisting of labour, agricultural and other unions, marched along in an orderly manner with flags and banners, and I was actually on the point of leaving to send a telegram that all had passed off peacefully, when the senior naval officer remarked to me that perhaps it would be as well to wait until the students came along. In the course of a few minutes bodies of male and female students came in sight, and, on crossing the invisible line separating the British from the French concession, started to raise what I assumed to be college yells, and, in so far as I could understand, calling for cheers for the Kuo Min Tang. In other respects they did not differ from those preceding them.

Immediately following on was a body of armed military cadets, dressed in dark bluish-grey uniforms, who halted at a point some 50 yards east of the bridge-head. I had in the meantime noticed a man get on a box at the mouth of Shoe Lane, which debouches on the canal side, and wave a fan, and at the same time an excited person waving a flag shouted derision at our party.

Some members of the procession fell out, as I thought, to listen to what was being said, when suddenly a rifle shot was heard, and the procession broke up in disorder, rushing for shelter. Half a minute afterwards a volley was fired on to Shameen, and it was only when I found bullets spattering all around me that I realised that an attack was contemplated and beat a hasty retreat, as did those with me. Finding the senior naval officer and myself under fire, which was likewise affecting them, one of our posts in a building to the west of the bridge returned the fire, which was stopped on Commander Maxwell-Scott reaching it. As, however, firing at the

island still continued, the other posts opened fire likewise, as did the French posts. This is all I personally witnessed.

Firing from our side lasted intermittently for about 10 minutes, until the orders to cease fire could reach the further posts, all ways of communication being under fire. After this occasional shots were necessary to deal with snipers, who were very persistent on the other side. Even this was soon stopped by orders not to reply unless they became too dangerous. About 4:30 all firing on both sides stopped. The casualties on Shameen were 1 French non-combatant killed, 7-8 Europeans and Japanese wounded, including 1 British subject—also non-combatant—comparatively seriously, and the Commissioner of Customs slightly. The casualties on the other side are reported to be 37 killed, including 1 woman, 4 students of the Canton Christian College and a teacher, and about 80 wounded.

A despatch on subsequent developments follows.

I have, &c.

J. W. JAMIESON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

An Announcement concerning the Case of the Shanghai Butchery.

(Translation.)

BROTHERS: The great slaughter which the imperialists hoped and planned for began in Shanghai on the 30th day of the 5th month. It was extended to Hankow, then to Tsingtao, and now at last it has reached the revolutionary capital of Kwangchow. Shameen Japanese supplied weapons and incited Chinese workmen to kill Chinese workmen.

With the inner propensities of wolves and dogs the cruel and inhuman imperialists (Britain and Japan), intending piecemeal to seize China, accordingly do not hesitate to adopt primitive savagery and the most cruel methods in order to repress the movements of the Chinese people and to harass their active vanguard, viz., the labourers and students.

This is a life and death crisis for us Chinese. If we do not rise and fight them we shall be their slaves for ever, and for ever encounter their butchery.

The whole populace of our country must rise up as one and immediately cancel all unequal treaties and overthrow imperialism.

BROTHERS, HASTE TO ARISE. HASTE TO ARISE. HASTE TO ARISE.

The Military College of the Nationalist Party
(Luk Kwan).

Enclosure 3 in No. 3.

Consul-General Sir J. Jamieson to Mr. Palairet.

(No. 47.)

Sir,

Canton, June 25, 1925.

IN continuation of my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report that yesterday morning Mr. Robert Norman came to see me at 8.30 to tell me that the events of the preceding day had created a violent anti-foreign feeling not only in Government circles, but amongst the populace, and to ask me to be good enough to furnish him with a statement as to what actually took place, so that he might be in a position to correct wrong impressions.

This of course was at once furnished, and whilst we were talking there was handed to me a despatch from the Civil Governor, holding me responsible for all that had happened and accusing me of having committed a premeditated outrage. An identic despatch was addressed to my French and Portuguese colleagues.

I enclose copy of my reply thereto. M. da Horta contented himself with a two-line note denying that the "Patria" had fired a single shot. The other consuls—*de carrière* and merchant—received an identic communication couched in the usual terms of protest, and my American colleague was requested to visit the Civil Governor at 1 p.m., with a view to seeing what could be done by way of mediation. Accompanied by Captain Constien of the United States navy, Mr. Jenkins went into the Yamen, where he was met by Mr. Fu Pinghsiang, the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, and the upshot of the conversation appears to have been that ultimately some sort of commission of investigation is to be set up, on which it was suggested that the American and the German consuls might sit, with a view of collecting statements on oath as to what actually occurred.

I have let it be known, and my French colleague concurs in this with me, that I am quite prepared to assist in procuring such evidence, but that I will not permit any Chinese official or commission to impugn the veracity of my statement as to what I actually saw with my own eyes, *i.e.*, that fire was opened from the Chinese side.

This morning Mr. Norman came to see me again, and we once more had a desultory talk over things in general. In the course thereof he informed me that the strictest instructions had been issued to all concerned that anyone guilty of provocative acts would be shot. I again informed him that, whilst from our side no cause of offence would be given, we could not afford to relax precautions, and asked him to convey to the authorities that the seventy to eighty Indian troops which arrive from Hong Kong to-day have been brought up for the sole purpose of relieving the naval ratings and special civilian police from duties, which they obviously cannot be expected to efficiently discharge for more than forty-eight hours on end, adding that in so far as it may be possible they will remain out of sight.

According to Mr. Norman a new Government of the Province, consisting of nine members, is in process of formation and is to

Enclosure 5 in No. 3.

Consul-General Sir J. Jamieson to Civil Governor, Canton.

Sir,

Canton, June 24, 1925.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the communication which you have been good enough to address to me on the subject of the shooting which took place in the Shakee Street yesterday afternoon.

I would in the first place point out that, in this unfortunate affair, the Portuguese gunboat took no part whatsoever. It was the defence forces of the British and French concessions alone, who replied to the attack made on them by Chinese troops or military students on the other side. I can, from the evidence of my own eyes, make a statement on oath that the firing was first started by the Chinese. As it was, the British senior naval officer and myself, who were standing unarmed by the bridge for the special purpose of guarding against any precipitate or nervous action on the part of the defenders, only escaped with our lives out of the hail of bullets which was directed at us. It was only then that, in self-defence, fire was opened from this side, and by the French forces, which were similarly attacked. Firing from this side ceased even before sniping from the tops of the houses opposite by Chinese soldiers was discontinued.

You state that the action taken by the British and French authorities was premeditated. This I absolutely deny. The premeditation was on the part of Chinese troops or military students, who, as was well known beforehand, and as was pointed out by me to Mr. C. C. Wu, had determined to create an incident with a view to posing as martyrs afterwards. It was well known the day before in Chinese circles in Hong Kong and Canton that an attack on Shameen was contemplated and would take place the following day. The compradore of the Banque industrielle in Hong Kong told the French manager that the French concession would be looted on the 23rd, and requested him to send a wireless message to his colleague in Canton to place all valuables on board the French gunboat. In the forenoon of yesterday two motor cars were distributing leaflets throughout the city, signed by the Students' Union of the Military School of the Kwangtung army, inciting all and sundry to rise and chase out the foreigners.

I repudiate in the most emphatic manner the charge that the responsibility rests with the foreigners. It is the Chinese who have to bear this heavy burden, and I hope shortly to lay before you evidence on oath of eye-witnesses in support of this assertion.*

I would, in the meantime, ask you to be so good as to take most complete measures for the safeguarding of the lives of British subjects who are resident in and around Canton.

I have, &c.

JAMES JAMIESON.

* See No. 4.

take office on the 1st July. Therein Mr. C. C. Wu will hold a portfolio as Mayor of Canton. Negotiations would appear, however, to be hampered by the uncompromising attitude of Chiang Chung Cheng (Chieh-jen), the head of the Military School, who is anti-imperialist and an ardent Bolshevik.

All women and children have been cleared off the island: the British at Tungshan (eastern suburb) reached Hong Kong by train; others, such as a New Zealand mission at Kongchuen—on the Yueh-Nan Railway, some 20 miles north of Canton—have been told to remain where they are, as I consider that it is preferable to remain stationary rather than to move about.

The Governor of Hong Kong handed to Reuter's Agency yesterday my anticipatory message of warning, addressed to Mr. C. C. Wu on the 22nd June, and it was transmitted in full by a "clear the line" cable to London.

I have, &c.

J. W. JAMIESON.

Enclosure 4 in No. 3.

Civil Governor of Canton, Hu, to Consul-General Sir J. Jamieson.

WITH reference to the procession to-day on account of the Shanghai case, when it had almost entirely passed the Sha Kei, the Shameen British concession soldiers and police suddenly opened fire with machine guns and rifles on the crowds in the procession on the other side of the canal. The soldiers and police of the French concession, hearing the sound, also at the same time opened fire. Likewise the Portuguese gunboat followed suit and opened fire with their big guns. The killed and wounded reached to a hundred and several tens in number.

The procession on this occasion was purely to show in the most civilised way the righteous indignation caused by the Shanghai case. But the British, French and Portuguese soldiers, police and gunboats nevertheless utterly disregarded the principles of humanity, and behaved with savagery. Moreover, this brutal killing was premeditated and secretly planned. When the Civil Governor heard of the particulars he was exceedingly amazed, and forthwith, in the first instance, is in duty bound to enter a most serious protest, as well as to state clearly that the entire responsibility for this affair rests upon the civil and military officials of the British, French and Portuguese soldiers, police and gunboats concerned.

As to the circumstances of the butchery and the number of the killed and wounded, investigation is now being made.

After thorough investigation there will be further communication as to the adequate mode of dealing with the matter.

June 23, 1925.

No. 4.

Consul-General Sir J. Jamieson to Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Sir,

Canton, July 1, 1925.

WITH reference to the local political situation, I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your information, copy of my despatch No. 55 of to-day's date to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Peking.

I have, &c.

J. W. JAMIESON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

Consul-General Sir J. Jamieson to Mr. Palairet.

(No. 55.)

Sir,

Canton, July 1, 1925.

As corroborative almost word for word of the report, with regard to the commencement by the Chinese of the firing which took place on Shakee on the 23rd of June, contained in my despatch No. 46 of the 25th June, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement, handed to me yesterday by Captain E. T. Constien, United States Navy, and of which the particular value lies in the fact that the first signatory thereto is a military officer.

2. The rounds of artillery fire to which allusion is therein made were the three rounds of blank, fired by a saluting gun on board one of the French gunboats—that being the pre-arranged signal for “general alarm” on the French concession.

I have, &c.

J. W. JAMIESON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

*Statement of Four Eye-Witnesses of the Attack on Shameen,
Canton, China, this Date.*

U.S.S. “Asheville”, Canton, China,

June 23, 1925.

AT about 3:15 P.M. to-day we were watching the demonstration procession from two different positions; this procession was composed of various guild organisations. Included in which were members from the mechanics, the servants (male and female) and the seamen's guild; school girls and boys, boy scouts and a body of uniformed but unarmed cadets, these cadets are reported to be from Whampoa Military Academy. These cadets were followed by several companies of soldiers, some of whom had bayonets fixed.

When the first company of soldiers were about opposite the Victoria Hotel the procession stopped, and the shouting on the part of the cadets increased; at a moment later there seemed to be disorder among the soldiers, who went out of close order formation,

and several assumed a firing position on one knee with rifles pointed towards Shameen.

A shot was fired by the Chinese from Shaki and was immediately followed by two other shots. This appeared to us to be the pre-concerted signal and was instantly followed by a heavy volley of rifle fire from the Chinese. This heavy firing continued for the space of about one minute, when machine guns were heard firing from the direction of the French concession. About this time a few rounds of artillery fire was heard from some ship off the French Bund.

JOHN T. THORNTON,
1st Lieut., U.S. Marine Corps.
 H. F. BAUER,
International Bank; U.S. citizen.
 T. G. STOKES,
Dairy Farm; Australian.
 F. W. DENDER,
International Bank; U.S. citizen.

A copy of the above document, which I knew to be in existence, but of the contents of which I had no previous knowledge whatsoever, was handed to me at 4:15 p.m. on the 30th of June, 1925, by Captain Edward Theodore Constien, U.S. Navy, Commanding the South China Patrol.

J. W. JAMIESON,
His Majesty's Consul-General.
