

POSTSCRIPT

4:15 O'CLOCK A. M.

THE ASSASSINATION.

THE CAPTURE OF BOOTH.

STATEMENT OF LIEUT. DOHERTY.

We are permitted to publish the following carefully prepared, and authentic statement of Lieut. Doherty, of the part he and his command took in the recent capture of Booth. His letter is addressed to a relative in this city:

HQES. 16TH N. Y. CAVALRY, }
WASHINGTON, April 30, 1865. }

DEAR —: In response to your wish that I should send you a correct account of my participation in the capture of Booth, I thought I might as well forward you a copy in part of my report made to my superior officer, which was prepared with much care and entire accuracy.

I have the honor to report that on Monday, April 24, 1865, I received the following order:

HQES. DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON, }
22D ARMY CORPS, April 24, 1865. }

Commanding Officer Detachment 16th N. Y. Cavalry.
SIR: The Major-Gen. commanding directs that you detail 25 men, well mounted, to be commanded by a reliable and discreet commissioned officer, to report at once to Col. S. C. Baker, Special Agent War Department, No. 217 Pennsylvania-ave., opposite Willard's Hotel. Report your action. Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

A. R. SEWALL, Lieut. and A. A. G.
HQES. DETACHMENT 16TH N. Y. CAVALRY, }
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 24, 1865. }

Lieut. E. P. DOHERTY, 16th N. Y. Cavalry.
SIR: You are hereby detailed for the duty specified in the preceding order, and will report to Col. BAKER for instructions.

J. SCHNEIDER, Capt. 16th N. Y. Cav. Com. Det.

In pursuance to the foregoing orders, I reported to Col. Baker, at the time and place specified, and received the following instructions and information. He informed me that he had reliable information that the assassin Booth and his accomplice were somewhere between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers; he gave me several photographs of Booth and introduced me to Mr. Conger and Mr. Baker, and said they would accompany me. He directed me to scour the section of the country indicated thoroughly, to make my own disposition of the men in my command; to forage upon the country, to give receipts for what was taken from loyal parties, and to land at or near Belle Plains, at all hazards, and to swim my horses ashore if I could not land otherwise, and return when I thought proper. I embarked upon the steamer John S. Ide, at Sixth-st. wharf—this vessel having been placed at my disposal by the following order:

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, }
RIVER TRANSPORTATION, }
SIXTH-ST. WHARF, WASHINGTON, April 24, 1865. }

Captain of Steamer John S. Ide.
SIR: Having received on board 25 men and horses, proceed down the river subject to the orders of the officer in charge. Having performed the duties required of you, return to this city and report to me.

Respectfully, E. S. ALLEN, Capt. and A. Q. M.

I then proceeded down the river to Belle Plains, and having landed my force I issued the following order to the Captain commanding the vessel.

HQES. DETACHMENT 16TH N. Y. CAVALRY, }
OFF BELLE PLAINS, VA., April 24, 1865. }

Capt. H. WILSON, Commanding Steamer John S. Ide.
CAPTAIN: You will please moor off, after having landed my command, to a place of safe anchorage, not to exceed one mile from this place, and there await further orders. Should you not receive a dispatch from me before the 26th inst. at 6 o'clock p. m., return to Washington. Should you see any of the enemy's force, report the fact to the gunboat. Forage will remain on board your boat.

E. P. DOHERTY,
1st Lieut. 16th N. Y. Cav., Comdg. Detachment.

I then proceeded in the direction of Fredericksburg, and after advancing about three miles I turned south-west and struck the Rappahannock River about 12 miles above Port Conway at 6 o'clock a. m. There I met two fishermen, who informed me of a number of surgeons living in that vicinity, and having previously learned the fact that Booth was crippled, I deemed it proper to visit the different surgeons and search their premises, making such inquiries and examinations as were thought necessary. This being accomplished, and finding no traces of the assassin or his accomplices, Mr. Conger requested me to furnish him four men and a Corporal, which I did, and he moved down the Rappahannock, following its course. I then marched with the remainder of my command, making a detour of some 15 miles by the way of King George's Court-House, forming a junction with Mr. Conger at Conway's Ferry at 2 o'clock p. m., April 25, 1865. Up to this time we had found no traces of the assassin or his accomplice. I then stopped to feed.

It was thought by the Detectives that we would not find any track of the assassins. After feeding, however, I determined to push across the ferry. Mr. Conger—one of the Detectives—remained at the house; Mr. Baker—the other Detective—accompanied me to the ferry, where I met a negro, who informed me that men answering the description crossed the day before, and that one of them had been into Mr. Rollins's house. Mr. Baker and myself proceeded to the house of Mr. Rollins, and there, after exhibiting the photographs, we concluded that we were on their track. I dispatched three men in a small boat to bring over a scow which was on the other side of the Rappahannock River. I also dispatched one man to inform Mr. Conger that we had track of the assassin, and to come down immediately. Mr. Rollins at the ferry informed me that two men were brought there from Mathias Point by a negro, to whom they had paid \$15, and wanted to engage him (Rollins) to take them to Orange Court House. That he refused to go so far, but they engaged him to take them to Bowling Green for ten dollars; that these men showed great anxiety to get across the river, and wished him (Mr. Rollins) to use his small boat and they would pay him extra; that Harrold told him that they were brothers and that Booth was wounded at Petersburg; that he refused to use his small boat for the reason that he was using it putting out his fishing net; that at about this time three Confederate soldiers came up and shook hands with one of them; Harrold then came to the house and apologized for not taking the horse, and said he had met an old schoolmate, and that they were going to ride in "twain;" Mrs. Rollins said the soldiers were Capt. Willie Jett, Lieut. Ruggle and Burbridge; that Capt. Jett was courting a young lady by the name of Gold-man, whose father kept hotel at Bowling Green.

In the meantime the horses and men were being ferried across as rapidly as possible.

At 6 o'clock p. m. my whole command was across and I moved on toward Bowling Green. On the road about three miles from Port Royal I met a negro on horse-back; not wishing to lose time I rode ahead of the column and directed the negro to turn back and ride beside myself. I learned from him the party we were in quest of had all returned, except Capt. Willie Jett (Rebel). Proceeding along we arrived at a house seven miles from Bowling Green. I learned here from a negro that some of Mosby's men had been along the day before and taken three horses from three Yankee soldiers. Con-

ger and Baker entered the house and were informed that the party who had passed there the previous day had all returned except Capt. Jett. The house of Mrs. Clark, some four miles distant, was spoken of as a place where some of the party might be. I determined, however, to push on to Bowling Green and secure the said Capt. Jett. Arriving within about half a mile of town, I dismounted ten men who were ordered to accompany Mr. Baker to town. Mr. Conger, Rollins (the guide) and myself rode ahead and surrounded the house; this was about 12 o'clock midnight. We knocked about fifteen minutes at each door without receiving any reply. At length a negro appeared on the street who showed the way to the negro house in the rear, and on entering I asked a negro where Willie was, (meaning Capt. Jett.) He replied that he was in bed. Mr. Conger inquired where the room was, &c. In a few moments Mrs. Gold-man opened the door, and we asked for her son. She showed us up stairs, and we found Jett and her son in bed partly undressed. We took Jett down stairs and informed him of our business, telling him if he did not forthwith inform us where the men were, he should suffer; that no parley would be taken, &c. He requested two of the party to withdraw, and leave him with one, and he would make a full statement of what he knew of the assassin's whereabouts. This was granted. Mr. Baker and myself had scarcely left the room when he told Mr. Conger that he would show us the place. On learning this I took him in my own charge. His horse was got out, and he was mounted, and we went back to the house of Mr. Garrett, about twelve miles from Bowling Green. I ordered my command to surround the house, and as a precautionary measure sent six men in the rear of the barn and out-buildings. While I was placing my men around the building, the detectives knocked at the door, which was opened by the elder Mr. Garrett, who was much excited. He said the men who had been there, went to the woods the previous evening. While engaged in conversation, the son of Mr. Garrett came in, advising the father to tell where they were. I seized this man by the collar, and pulled him out of the door and down the steps, put my revolver to his head, and told him to tell me at once where the two assassins were. He replied, "In the barn." I said, "Show me the barn." We started on the run for the barn, holding him by the collar, and calling on my men to follow me and surround more closely the building I should indicate. In the meantime another of the Garrett sons appeared, who was seized by one of the detectives and ordered to get a candle, he immediately procured a candle. On arriving at the barn I left the Garretts in charge of some of my men, and posted my men around the barn. This accomplished, I returned to the front of the barn and found Garrett coming out of the barn, it appeared he had been sent in there during my absence to summon Booth to surrender; this I disapproved as there were soldiers enough present to perform such duty. Booth however, refused to surrender. The detectives were in favor of burning the barn, which I opposed, declaring my intention to wait until daylight and I would send my men through the four different doors and overpower the assassin. After consultation the project of burning the barn was abandoned for the time being. In the meantime considerable conversation took place concerning the surrender of Booth between Mr. Baker, myself and the assassin (Booth). Sergt. Corbett asked permission to enter the barn alone, which I refused. Booth all this time was very defiant, and refused to surrender. At one time he said if we would draw up in line 50 paces off he would come out, adding that he was lame and had only one leg. This, however, I refused. Booth up to this time had denied that there was any one in the barn besides himself. Considerable conversation now took place between myself, Booth and the detectives. We

threatened to burn the barn if he did not surrender; at one time gave him ten minutes to make up his mind. Finally Booth said: "Oh, Captain! there is a man here who wants to surrender awful bad." I answered, and think Mr. Baker did at the same time: "Hand out your arms." Harrold replied: "I have none." Mr. Baker said: "We know exactly what you have got." Booth replied: "I own all the arms, and intend to use them on you gentlemen." After some little parley, I said, "let him out," some one objected; I ordered Garrett, the younger son who had the key, to unlock the barn, which he did. I partially opened the door, told Harrold to put out his hand, which he did. I told him to put out his other hand. I took hold of both of his wrists and pulled him out of the barn. Almost simultaneously with my taking Harrold out of the barn, the hay in rear of the barn was ignited by Mr. Conger, and the barn fired. Sergt. Boston Corbett, Co. I., 16th N. Y. Cav., shot the assassin Booth, wounding him in the neck. I entered the barn as soon as the shot was fired, dragging Harrold with me, and found that Booth had fallen on his back. Mr. Conger and Mr. Baker, and some of my men, entering the barn, took hold of Booth. I proceeded with Harrold to find a rope to secure him, there being no irons for that purpose. The assassin, Booth, lived about two hours. In the mean time, a doctor was procured, who remained with Booth until he died. I procured a wagon, sewed up the dead body in a blanket myself, and placed it in the wagon, proceeded to Fort Royal, where we arrived at 9 o'clock a. m., April 26, 1865, and crossed in a scow. While crossing my command, Mr. Baker, without authority, moved off with the body, taking with him the two men who had been previously detailed as a guard to the body, and also one of the prisoners, Capt. Jett. I was some time crossing my command, and experienced some difficulty in bringing Harrold and the two Garretts along, I having only one horse to mount the three, thus delay was occasioned. After proceeding some distance, I procured an additional horse. Fearing some accident might happen to the body of the assassin and the prisoner Jett, who Mr. Baker had taken with him, I dispatched an orderly to tell Mr. Baker to halt. The orderly rode at full speed, over four miles and told Mr. Baker to halt until the column came up. This, however, Mr. Baker did not do, but continued on, missing me and the road. I arrived at Belle Plains at 6 o'clock, p. m., and found the corpse had not yet arrived. I felt great anxiety, and was about to apply to Maj. Bosworth, 16th New-York Cavalry, (who was at Belle Plains with his command) for a detachment of men to go in search of the body when Mr. Baker arrived. I immediately asked him where the prisoner Jett was. He replied, he did not know, he had escaped.

After short delay the body was placed on board the steamer John S. Ide, and we proceeded to Washington, where I delivered over the body of Booth, Harrold and the two Garretts to Col. S. C. Baker, at 3 o'clock a. m., the 27th of April, 1865.

The command consisted of twenty-six enlisted men and myself; the two gentlemen, Messrs. Conger and Baker, sent by Col. Baker, making a total in all of twenty-nine men. I would say that great credit is due to all concerned, for the fortitude and eagerness they displayed in pursuing the murderers. For nearly 60 hours hardly an eye was closed or a horse dismounted until the errand was accomplished. I would call the attention of the commanding General to the efficiency of Sergt. Boston Corbett, Co. I., 16th N. Y. Cavalry, who was untiring in his efforts to bring the murderers to justice, and whose military capacity is second to none in the service.

I would also say that Mr. Rollins, at Port Conway, is worthy of notice for his willingness to impart all the information he possessed.

In conclusion I beg to state that it has afforded my command and myself inexpressible pleasure to be the humble instruments of capturing the foul assassins who caused the death of our beloved President, and plunged the nation in mourning. All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. P. DOWNEY,
First Lieut. 16th N. Y. Cav., Com. Detachment.

Confession of Payne.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, May 2, 1865.

Payne, the assassin of the Seward family, has made a confession of his guilt. He said it was useless for him to withhold it longer. He had been fully identified by six persons, and the Government had other evidence in its possession that he was the party assigned to that horrible crime.

TRIAL OF THE CONSPIRATORS.

The trial of the conspirators has not yet commenced, but a special court will soon be ordered for that purpose, before which will be brought an enormous mass of evidence now being prepared, with scores of persons already in custody.