



THE TOTTENHAM OUTRAGE: a brief excerpt

I'm sure that all visitors to this site will have read of the 'Tottenham outrage' which occurred in 1909.

The robbery and two subsequent murders in Tottenham sparked a chase which passed largely through Walthamstow before its grisly climax just across Wadham Road in Highams Park.

The local roads and landmarks which featured in this shocking crime will be well-known to anyone who has ever lived or worked in E17.

Higham Hill, Folly Lane, Salisbury Hall farm, Chingford Road, the Victory Pub (Now the Dog and Duck), Kenilworth Avenue and Forest Road were the stage on which the drama was played out.

Of the many books and articles which tell of the incident, a very good accounting can be found in Gordon Honeycombe's , 'The Complete Murders Of The Black Museum' (Leopard Books, 1995)

What's especially interesting about Honeycombe's retelling is his inclusion of extracts from police reports which were compiled by officers who were involved in the chase and its denouement. The author features a host of fine detail that can't be found elsewhere.

Among these reports, one especially caught my eye. It was written by Supt. Jenkins:

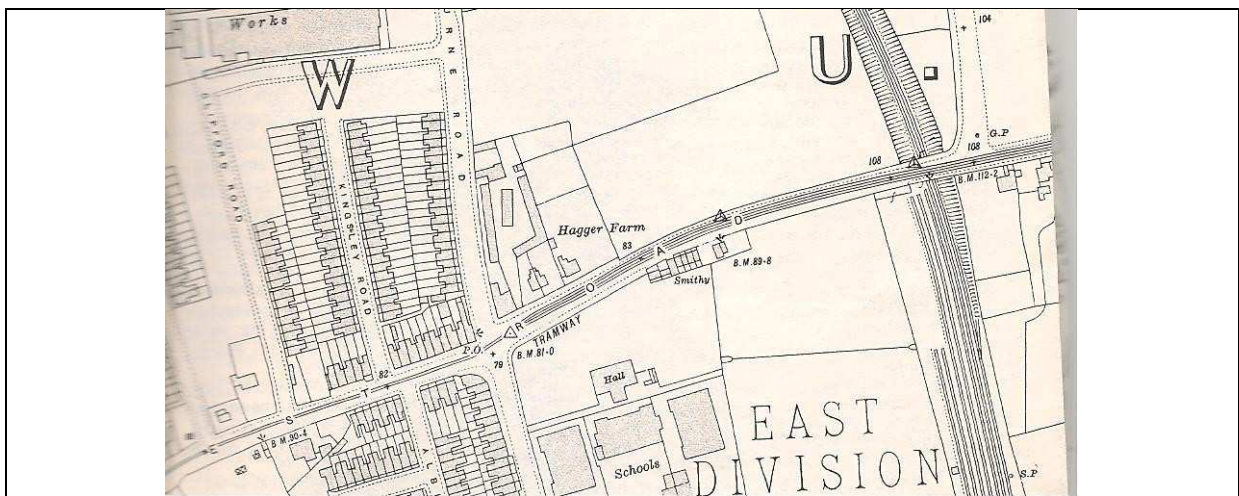
"PC Adams attracted the attention of PS Jowitt and PC Francis, on duty at Hagger Bridge. These officers made an attempt to stop the van, and one of the murderers fired at them. The bullet passed between them and broke the glass panel of the side door of a green-grocer's at 849 Forest Road. But the action of the officers diverted the miscreants' course, and they turned into Kingsley Road, before driving across wasteland [northwards] to Fulbourne Road".

This is the very shop at the corner of Kingsley Road and Forest Road. It has traded here as 'Cogger's' since 1952 and is a florists.



The side door shown here isn't the one which was struck by the bullet; it clearly isn't a hundred and twenty four years old! However, its position in the wall may be a close approximation of the original.

The reference to 'Hagger Bridge' probably refers to the stretch of Forest Road between Fulbourne Road and Hale End Road. This bridge, then as now, passes over the Liverpool Street to Chingford railway line.



In all likelihood the 'Hagger' name comes from the 'Hagger' farm which used to occupy land on the north-east corner of the Wood Street/Forest Road/Fulbourne Road crossroads.

This is the site of Hagger farm today.



Forest Road sweeps upward (top right) before bridging the railway-line. Wood Street is in the right foreground.

Barry Ryder April 2015.