

tween one and two o'clock Thursday morning for the scene of the fire at St. Sauveur, which was then reported burning down. He sounded the assembly and turned out the men to the number of about 130, the late Sergeant Walleck being amongst them, and the whole party in charge of the late Major Short. The men pulled down some houses and blew up others in order to prevent the spread of the fire, and some of the men assisted the people in removing their furniture. By six o'clock in the morning they had used all their powder but one barrel. At first, he thought, they had four barrels. The last barrel had been placed by witness for safe keeping in a house then out of range of the fire, at the corner of two streets which he was told were St. Sauveur and Gertrude Streets. He did not know the names of the streets in St. Sauveur himself. About half-past six or a quarter to seven Major Short sent to him for the barrel of powder, which he said he wanted for blowing up another house. He went to him with Sergeant Walleck and asked him which house, and the deceased, Major Short, pointed to a house which was then on fire. Witness told him it would be of no use to blow up that house as it was already on fire, but that if the next one was exploded a large gap would be left. The Major said "all right," and the men brought the powder, and Major Short and Walleck entered the house. Witness told Walleck to place the powder, which weighed 100 pounds, in the centre of the floor so that it would raise the house straight up. The windows were all open. There was no fire in that house, but the next house was on fire. He was in the house with them, but the Major sent him out to have the crowd kept back. To the best of his belief the Major and Walleck had each in their possession a portion of a port-fire stick. He had told Walleck before to break it as they could not cut it. Before he got to the door the Major called out "run." He ran, and when a few paces away looked to see if they were coming and the house went up. The explosion blew him across the street against a door. The first party he saw after that was Capt. Rutherford, who told him that Major Short and Walleck were blown up with the house. Rutherford called out "Major, Major." Witness told him it was no use to call him as he must be blown to pieces, and called up the men to assist in looking for the bodies. Walleck was found, he thought, in the back part of the house. There was a piece of wood in his face, but he was still alive, though covered with blood, and his arm was broken. They still looked for the Major, but at that time could not find him as the fire had made such headway. He was present when the remains were found in the debris of the same house about half past nine, by a detachment in charge of Master Gunner Lavie. He was found near the spot where witness saw him last in the centre of the house.

The barrel had its head on when sent into the house and he did not know who removed it. He thought it was Gunner Buleau who took it in. It was placed while he was absent keeping back the crowd, and when he returned he had only time to reach the door and see where the deceased was standing when he heard the Major cry "run." His opinion as to the cause of the explosion was that a spark had come in through the window from the adjoining building and entered the barrel. Fuzes are not employed by the battery. Deceased had a port-fire and slow match, but he did not believe they caused the explosion. There is no aqueduct in St. Sauveur, and where they were working they had no water at all. Both the Major and Walleck were on duty at the time of the accident. It was necessary to remove the head of the barrel to get at the powder.

There were four explosions altogether, and he believed it was Major Short, Sergeant Walleck and Master Gunner Lavie that fired the explosives. In exploding the powder the head of the barrel is removed, and one end of a slow match is placed in it, the other end being placed along the ground and then set fire to. He thought the barrel in question contained loose powder in bags. Witness produced and explained the working of a port-fire and slow match. He believed when he last saw the Major that he was stooping down as if in the act of lighting the slow match. He did not believe it was possible for the slow match to go off spontaneously. Both the deceased were close to the barrel. He believed that if there had been plenty of water the fire would have been confined, and not only so, but there would have been no necessity for blowing up the buildings.

Charles Lavie, master gunner in "B" Battery, deposed as follows: He had charge, under Col. Montizambert, of all ammunition. At 2.20 on the morning of the 16th the battery was turned out by telephone at the request of the mayor and councillors of St. Sauveur. Witness was ordered to go to a fire raging at the time in that village, and to stop behind with the express waggon and two men to bring down whatever might be necessary to blow up houses. All these orders came through the regular channel, the adjutant of the battery. He took down from the magazine five barrels of powder. Two barrels had 100 pounds each of loose powder, and three barrels made up in 24 pounder cartridges of 8 pounds each, being in each of the barrels about 96 pounds. He also took down some port-fires and slow match, and reported to the Colonel near St. Sauveur church after three o'clock. He was told to keep the

powder away from the fire, in a back street, where it could be sent for when wanted. There were several requests by St. Sauveur people to have the buildings blown up, but he was told to give out no ammunition unless under orders from the Colonel or Major Short. Some time after it was decided to blow up houses, and four were safely blown up. One barrel of loose powder was left, which he had handed to Sergeant-Major Lyndon by order of Major Short. It was that barrel that caused the accident. He had been sent to the citadel for more powder, and arrived, to report to the Major when, just as he made for the house, it went up. He had seen the Major and Walleck in the room, and when he heard the Sergeant-Major say, "The Major and Walleck are blown up with the house," he marked the spot that he might know where to look for the bodies. He was there when Walleck was taken out, and having marked where the Major was, he was deputed to the charge of the detachment that searched for his remains, and found them about half-past nine. After he returned home he dressed and went down to the Marine Hospital to see Walleck, who was still alive, and recognized him. He was conscious for a while, and witness asked him how the accident occurred, and how he got outside. He said: "I was not outside, but the Major was on one side of the barrel and myself on the other. I had the slow match, and the Major was trying to light the port-fire." Then he lost his head again, and amongst his ravings he cried several times, "Look out, Major, there's a spark coming," which witness thought were probably the last words the poor Major heard.

Louis Buleau, gunner of "B" Battery, being sworn, deposed that by order of Major Short he had removed the head of the barrel which was used to blow up the house where Major Short lost his life. This was about a minute before the explosion. Had there been a proper supply of water, he thought they would not have been obliged to blow up the houses. He and Walleck had together placed the barrel in the cellar; it was then he had removed the head of the barrel, or rather had loosened it on the top. All that time sparks were flying round the house.

Dr. Colin C. Sewell being called deposed that he had examined the body of Major Short and found both legs and one arm gone and the face completely smashed, the brains protruding on one side, and the chest smashed in. Was of the opinion that death was instantaneous and caused by an explosion of gunpowder or some other explosive.

Laurent Catellier being sworn deposed that he was the resident physician of the Marine and Emigrant hospital in this city. Deceased, George Walleck, was brought to said hospital by Hospital Sergeant Labat and others at about eight o'clock Thursday morning, the 16th inst. Ascertained that the left foot and forearm were frightfully mangled, the flesh being torn off and the face badly burned.

The jury returned the following verdict:—"That Charles John Short and George Walleck, on the 16th day of May, died from the wounds caused by the accidental explosion of a certain quantity of gunpowder from a spark from one of the adjacent burning houses in a house situated in the village of St. Sauveur. The jurors wish to place on record their high appreciation of the coolness and self-devotion displayed by Major Short and Sergeant Walleck in thus sacrificing themselves for the lives and property of their fellow citizens. Furthermore, the jurors regret that owing to the neglect and delay of the municipal council of St. Sauveur in obtaining a proper supply of water for that municipality a fire has occurred resulting in such a loss of valuable life and great destruction of property.

THE FUNERAL.

Never, probably, has Quebec been the scene of a more imposing demonstration than that which marked Major Short's funeral on Saturday. It was a day of general mourning in Quebec. Nearly all places of business were closed. Hundreds of citizens of all classes and creeds thronged the citadel square before the hour fixed for the funeral, and all the military corps of the city were represented in the group of officers that congregated at the entrance to the late quarters of the deceased. Sorrow was plainly marked on the countenances, of all present, and all through the city were to be seen evidences of general mourning in the shape of flags at half-mast upon public and other buildings, including the Parliament House, the City Hall, Central Fire Station, the Citadel, the Custom House, Laval University, the United States, French, Spanish and Belgian Consulates, etc. Flags were also at half-mast at the St. Louis hotel and on board all the steamers in the harbour, including the Montreal boats and the Levis ferries. Flags were at half mast also upon a number of private residences and offices. The procession was formed up in the citadel square about eleven o'clock, in the following order:

Fifty men of the City Police Force, under Command of Col. Vohl, who brought up the rear, Deputy Chief Walsh leading.

The Firing Party, composed of the 8th Battalion Royal Rifles, 150 strong, under command of Major Jones.

Band of the 8th Royals.

"B" Battery Band.