

2019-v1

RIFLEMAN, 3-Masted Sailing
Ship, built in Aberdeen, 1860.

MURDERER ON BOARD



STANLEY BRUCE

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Cover photograph –The 3-masted ship '**Rifleman**' (Artist unknown.)
Original kept at the Aberdeen Maritime Museum.

This book has been published on an entirely non-profit basis, and made available to all free of charge as a pdf. The aim of the book is to make the history of the '**Rifleman**' available to a wider audience. There is much available on the internet, especially on www.aberdeenships.com but unfortunately what's currently available is scattered and doesn't give the full picture.

If you have any comments regarding this book, or any further information, especially photographs or paintings of vessels where I have none. It would be historically good to show at least one for each vessel, and since this is an electronic edition it will be possible to update and include any new information.

I can be contacted at bardofthebroch@yahoo.com

If printing this book, it is best printed as an A5 booklet.

**RIFLEMAN,
3-MASTED SAILING SHIP,
BUILT IN ABERDEEN,
1860.**

BY

STANLEY BRUCE

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Whilst we have taken great care in preparing this publication, we have of course relied on some previous historic information by others; we therefore accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Authors Preface

In this modern digital age, we are lucky that we can go online and find information with a few easy clicks. However, back in Victorian times information, certainly for the working man was found in newspapers, and these were read and passed to others for reading, so the news could be days, even weeks old, certainly not instant like we are fortunate to have today. However, we are lucky that the



Victorian reporters and journalists did a very good job, giving a lot of detail in their reports, and we are very fortunate that many of these have been digitized, and we can find them and read them online today.

Police investigations in Victorian times obviously weren't as detailed as today, policing you could say was still in its infancy, and they did not have the sophisticated equipment available to the police today. However, I still find it remarkable that the murder of Harriet Buswell is still unsolved after 147-years. Perhaps it was thought it would never be solved.

If the writer of the letter in Appendix A of this book is correct, and the murderer of Captain James Riach Longmuir on board his ship the **'Rifleman'**, 16th March 1873, is the same man who murdered Harriet Buswell at No.12 Great Coram Street, London, on Christmas Day 1872, then it is incredible, certainly to my mind, to think this link has never been made before. The murderer signed onto the **'Rifleman'** as William Cross only two days after Harriet's murder, so it is likely he was in London at the time of her death. Perhaps the link was made, perhaps discounted, or perhaps due to the murderer being hanged in Australia, the link was never pursued. It seems the police thought they had caught the murderer when they apprehended German chaplain Dr. Gottfried Hessel. I guess some of the witnesses were after the £200 reward (£22,500 today's value) and were economical with the truth. This error, perhaps enabled German Krauss to escape on the **'Rifleman'** as William Cross, using the English version of his name, evading police attention.

It would be interesting, certainly for me, to see the police file / records to see if Krauss is even mentioned.

If it is confirmed that Krauss murdered Harriet Buswell as well as Captain Longmuir, then this is a bigger story than I originally thought, and I can foresee this being told in a further book and / or a film sometime in the future, as it has all the elements required to get the attention of the public.

At the time of her murder, Harriet Buswell had an eight-year old daughter Kate, if she has descendants, I imagine they would be interested in what I have uncovered, likewise any descendants of Dr. Hessel.

***Stanley Bruce,
3rd September 2019.***

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Introduction

I must admit, initially I did not have this vessel on my list of significant ships built in Aberdeen, nor did I intend to write a separate book about her, until I received a copy of a letter from one of my work colleagues Brian Bain. The letter which I believe was written by Gladys Duthie (1900 to 1978) grand-niece of William Duthie (1822 to 1896) owner of the ship, gave specific details about the murder of Captain James Riach Longmuir of Stonehaven on board his command the **'Rifleman'** by the ships steward. Gladys wasn't born at the time of the murders so must have been given the information from an older member of the Duthie family or perhaps someone who was on the ship in 1872. This story would have been much talked about by members of the Duthie family. The letter also mentioned that Longmuir's murderer also murdered an actress in London. It was this sentence that caught my attention, and immediately I did a search online for actresses murdered in London in 1872. That's when I found Harriet Buswell who was murdered at No. 12 Great Coram Street, London on Christmas Day 1872. I read about her murder and immediately saw connections. She was murdered by a man with a German accent, as was Captain James Longmuir. The **'Rifleman'** was in London loading, prior to setting sail for Sydney Australia on 28th December 1872, so Captain James Longmuir's murderer was in London around the time of Harriet's murder. Further reading told me that Harriet's murderer had never been brought to justice, and the case was still unsolved after 147-years. If Harriet's murderer is the same man, it's incredible to think he got out of London on the **'Rifleman'**, and equally incredible that he wasn't caught or even linked to Harriet's murder. I understand that there is one crucial piece of evidence that can verify if the murderer is the same man, and that is a mould of an apple with a bite out of it kept at Scotland Yard Crime Museum. I have read that it was bitten by Harriet and elsewhere that it was bitten by the murderer, so I don't know who bit it for sure. If it still exists, and was indeed bitten by the murderer, now that we have him as a suspect, and we know where he is buried; can he be exhumed, and the mould and his teeth compared?

Stanley A. Bruce, BSc, I.Eng., I.Mar.Eng., MIMarEST.

Former shipyard employee,

Hall Russell Ltd., York Place, Footdee, Aberdeen, (1980 to 1991).

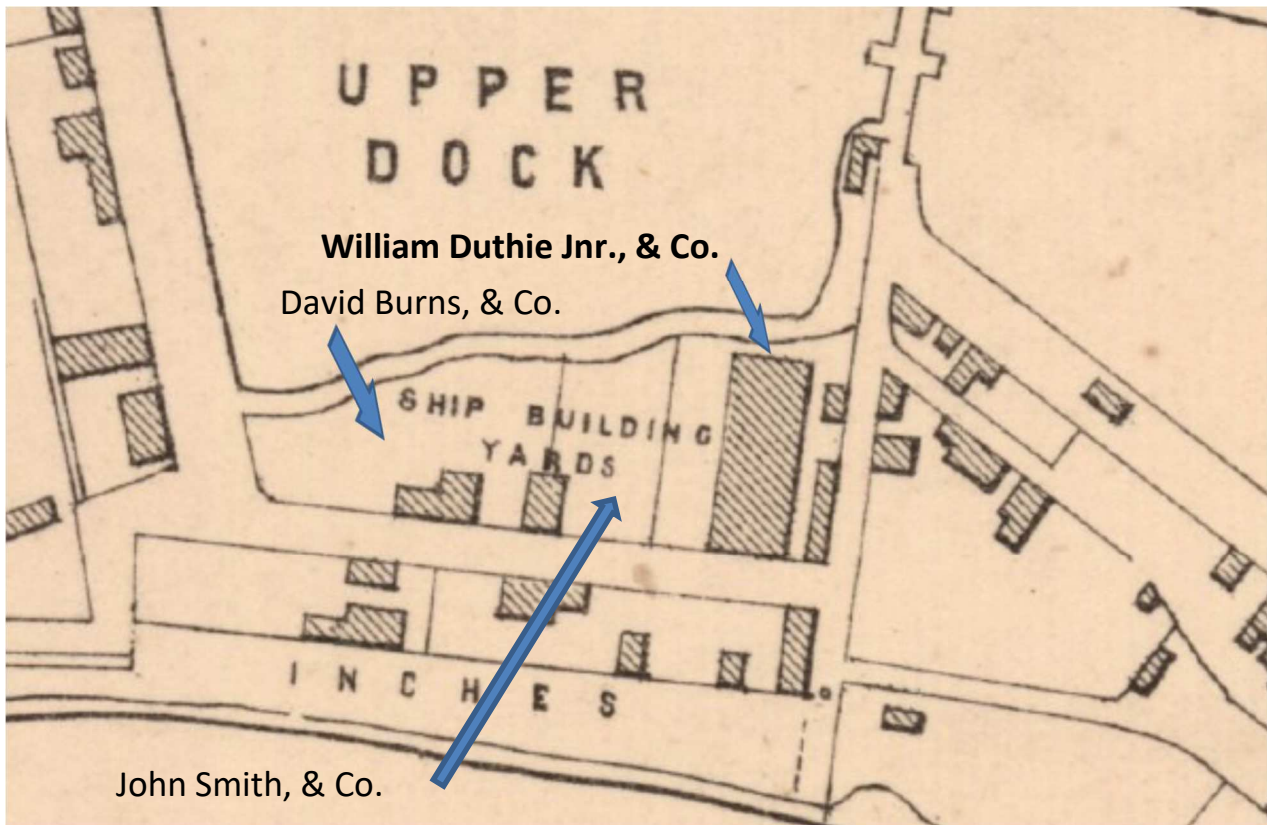
William Duthie Jnr. & Co.

William Duthie established his shipyard at the Inches (Upper Dock) Aberdeen c1856.

The shipyard of William Duthie Jnr., & Co. was the east-most shipyard of three on the south side of the Upper Dock, and had two slipways.



William Duthie Junior / Captain William Duthie (1822 to 1896).




Close-up of the Upper Dock shipyard area, 1862 map by Keith and Gibbs.

From c1856 to 1870, William Duthie Jnr., & Co. built fourteen wooden-hulled vessels, ten ships, two barques, a brig, and a schooner, ranging in size from 218 tons to 1,017 tons.

Rifleman (1860).

She was built as a general cargo ship, and made regular passages from London to the Sydney, Australia. She is known to have carried a small number of passengers.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ship Name(s) | Rifleman. |
| Rig | Ship, 3 masts, 1 deck, poop deck, a round stern, and a standing bowsprit. |
| Launch Date | February 1860. |
| Owner(s) <i>(No of shares held, out of 64 in brackets).</i> | William Duthie Jr., shipbuilder (22), John Duthie Snr., shipbuilder (4), Alexander Duthie, master mariner (4), James Duthie, shipmaster (4), George Thompson, ship-owner (4), James Monro, ship-owner (4), David Monro, ship-owner (4), James Leask, advocate (4), Robert Mitchell, ship-owner (2), and Alexander Eddie, baker (2), all Aberdeen. John Brodie, ship-owner (8), and Richard Searle (2), both City of London. |
| Registered Port | Aberdeen. Official No.: 27574. |
| GRT | 718 tons. |
| Length | 176 feet. (53.64m). |
| Breadth | 30 feet, 7 inches. (9.32m). |
| Depth | 19 feet, 5 inches. (5.92m). |
| Construction | Wood. (Carvel built). Her hull was sheathed in felt and yellow metal. |
| Figurehead | Shield. |
| Classification | Lloyds Register of Shipping. Class 9A1.  Built Under Special Survey. |
| Other information | 1872, 16 th March: while on passage from London to Sydney, her master Captain James Longmuir was murdered by the steward, who attempted to kill all other crew members. 1874-5: owned by A. McLean and registered at Sydney. |
| Date Scrapped / Lost | 1880: condemned. |

Rifleman (1860). (Continued).



3-masted ship 'Rifleman' berthed in Aberdeen (Photographer unknown).

Chief officer George Morgan, who took control of the '**Rifleman**', after the murder of Captain James Longmuir, went on to marry Ann Duthie (b.1820), the sister of the ship's owner and builder, William Duthie. Captain James Riach Longmuir had been due to take charge of the Duthie 3-masted ship, named '**Ann Duthie**' (994 tons), on his return to Great Britain, but, because of his death, the command of the '**Ann Duthie**' went to George Morgan.

For his bravery apprehending murderer William Krauss, George Morgan was rewarded with a gold pocket watch, I believe this watch is currently kept at the Aberdeen Maritime Museum.

Horrible Murder on Board The Rifleman.

From the Sydney Morning Herald, May 10th 1873.

“The ship ‘Rifleman’ arrived yesterday, from London, bringing the particulars of a most cold-blooded murder, perpetrated on Captain Longmuir, and the narrow escape of the chief officer and boatswain from the same terrible fate. The steward of the vessel is charged with having committed this murder. His name is William Krauss, a German. The sworn detailed account, as set forth in the ship's log, is substantially as follows:— On March 16, in latitude 31.35 S., longitude 34 W., the chief officer, Mr. Morgan, had the middle watch, and about 4.40 the steward brought him a cup of coffee, which he drank, and then, walking aft to the compass, was told by the helmsman that the crew thought something had been wrong with their grog, as all hands had been vomiting the day before. Mr. Morgan was thinking over the matter, when the steward came on deck and said that Captain Longmuir wanted him; he of course at once went below, the steward following; when he got to the captain's cabin he called out, "Do you want me, sir," and almost immediately received a violent blow over the left temple. Although partially stunned he turned round, and as he did so received a second blow; seeing it was the steward he immediately closed with him and got his arms around him. In the struggle he got the steward against the foot of the captain's berth, calling on the boatswain for assistance, who immediately rushed in and assisted in holding the steward's hands; but unwittingly he let one go, when the steward immediately drew a revolver, and firing at the boatswain drove the bullet into his neck. Mr. Morgan seeing the boatswain fall, and thinking him killed, attempted again to secure the steward's hands, and at length got him fast by the wrists and threw him on the cabin deck, but not before he had time to fire a second shot, which, barely missing Mr. Morgan's head, buried itself in one of the beams. Mr. Newton, the second officer, hearing calls for help and the discharge of firearms, ran into the cabin with the rest of the watch, and after some difficulty Krauss was secured and disarmed. Dreading the worst, a light was procured, and on removing the coverlet a fearful sight met their eyes. There lay Captain Longmuir with his head beaten in and quite dead, and the mattress, bedding, and berth deluged with blood; he had evidently never struggled, but must have died from the effects of a single blow, or perhaps accelerated by strangulation, as a piece of long line was round the unfortunate man's throat and drawn quite tight. Krauss, on being searched, was found to have a second pistol (single barrel) concealed on him, also a dagger and long knife and 24 cartridges; and on the floor of the captain's room an iron channel-bolt was picked up, about two feet long and weighing five pounds — doubtless the*

instrument used, as the mark of the bolt head is on the beam over the berth, as if it had been caused by raising the bolt too high; five pieces of line of similar description and length were also found in the steward's berth. The captain's body was put in spirits, and has been brought on to Sydney. Krauss, after being well secured, was placed in the deck-house, and on his arrival yesterday was taken on shore by the Water Police. He denies any knowledge of the crimes which have been committed. Captain Longmuir had been for many years intimately connected with this port, in command of some of the finest ships; he was a most kind-hearted genial man, and respected by all who knew him. He has left a wife and a large family. Immediately the sad affair became known the flags on board the various vessels were lowered to half-mast as a mark of respect."

Crew and Passengers of the Rifleman.

From London 28th Dec. 1872 to Sydney, Australia 9th May, 1873.

| Surname | Given Name | Station | Age | Nationality | Status | Remarks |
|--------------|------------|----------------------------------|-----|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Longmuir | James | Master | 45 | Great Britain | Crew | Murdered |
| Morgan | George | 1 st Mate / Master | | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Newton | C. | 1st Mate | 34 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Nicol | John | 2nd Mate | 22 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Webster | William | Carpenter | 24 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Campbell | Marcus | Sailmaker | 43 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Cross | William | Steward | 29 | Germany | Crew | Murderer |
| Hall | Phillip | Cook | 28 | Barbados | Crew | |
| Williams | John | A. B. | 27 | Africa | Crew | |
| Roach | Cornelius | A. B. | 23 | USA | Crew | |
| Smith | Robert | A. B. | 40 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Thoring | John | A. B. | 26 | Hamburg | Crew | |
| Wild | James | A. B. | 28 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Peterson | Peter | A. B. | 27 | Norway | Crew | |
| Bath (White) | Nicholas | A. B. | 26 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Martin | John | A. B. | | Great Britain | Crew | |
| D Silva | C. | O. S. | 16 | Madras | Crew | |
| Haywood | William | A. B. | 34 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Sjvern | R. | O. S. | 21 | Sweden | Crew | |
| Wilson | Henry | O. S. | 19 | Barbados | Crew | |
| Maddimar | George D. | Apprentice | 17 | Great Britain | Crew | |
| Lynn | | Mr | | | Passenger | Cabin |
| Lynn | | Mrs | | | Passenger | Cabin |
| Scheulls | | Me | | | Passenger | Cabin |

Murder of Harriet Buswell.**147-year Old Unsolved Murder Solved?****No. 12 Great Coram Street, London, 24th December 1872.**

During my research into the history of the Shipbuilders of Aberdeen, I was given a copy of an unsigned letter from Brian Bain, a work colleague whose father had connections with the Duthie ship-owners of Aberdeen. This letter gives details regarding a steward serving on board the 3-masted ship *'Rifleman'* owned by William Duthie of Aberdeen, and it gave details of a passage from London to Australia which departed London 28th December 1872. Three days after the murder of Harriet Buswell. The letter states that the captain was advised the day before the ship was due to sail that the steward who was originally intended to sail with the ship could not join the ship so a replacement was sought.

While the *'Rifleman'* was still loading, a replacement steward was found, he was a German named Wilhelm Krauss, aka William Cross (aka Julius Proutz).

On passage to Sydney, Australia steward Wilhelm Krauss murdered the shipmaster, Captain James Riach Longmuir (b.1827) of Stonehaven by beating (hammering) him to death, and attempted to poison the rest of the crew, all thought to be in an attempt to take control of the ship. His plot was foiled by chief officer George Morgan and other crew members, and Krauss was handed to the authorities when the ship arrived at Sydney 9th May 1873. Krauss was tried at Central Criminal Court, Sydney (1st week of June 1873) and hanged at Darlinghurst Jail 1st July 1873 for the murder of Captain James Riach Longmuir, and was buried in a cemetery at Haslam Creek, Sydney. (Now known as the Rookwood Necropolis, the largest cemetery in Australia).

What caught my eye in this letter was the following two sentences:

"While the 'Rifleman' was loading a well known actress was murdered and no clue to her assailant was forthcoming".

"On the arrival of the ship at Sydney the man was handed over to the civil authorities and he was duly tried when it transpired that he was the murderer of the actress in London".

After doing a search online, it became apparent to me that the actress in question was 27-year old Harriet Buswell (alias Clara Burton). In the

websites that I visited it stated that her murder is **'Unsolved'**. It also stated that she was seen with a man the night of her murder (Christmas Eve) who spoke with a German accent. She is reported as having left her lodgings at No. 12 Great Coram Street, WC1 at 10pm and is reported as having been at the Alhambra Theatre, eaten dinner at a local restaurant with a man, bought some nuts and fruit, and returned around 1am to her lodgings with a man. It is thought he left at around 6.30am / 7.00am on Christmas morning. She was found by her landlady Mrs Harriet Wright on Christmas Day around mid-day, with her throat cut in two places. An apple with a bite out of it was taken as evidence and a mould made. The police investigations, I guess looking for a man with a German accent, led to Carl Wohlebbe, who was assistant surgeon on a German brig **'Wangerland'**, which was in port at Ramsgate for repairs. (The **'Wangerland'**, crew and passengers were on route to Brazil, South America to start a new German colony). An identification parade was held, but two of the witnesses picked out the ship chaplain Dr. Gottfried Hessel instead. Hessel was duly charged and appeared at Bow Street Magistrates Court. Hessel was remanded in custody as he had been picked out by five of the seven witnesses, and the police believed that he had been in London on the date of the murder. Dr. Hessel appeared at Bow Street on 29th January, and despite evidence about him having a blood saturated handkerchief, he was discharged after giving alibi evidence which was supported by Carl Wohlebbe and members of staff of the hotel he was staying in stating he had been ill and had not left the hotel on Christmas Eve.

On Hessel's discharge, a month had passed since the murder, and Krauss (Written as William Cross on the ship crew list) was now well on his way to Australia on board the **'Rifleman'**. Wohlebbe and Hessel seem to have been the focus of the police investigation, while Krauss sailed off a free man, his William Cross English name perhaps aided him as cover.

It is evidently clear that Krauss was indeed a murderer, and according to the writer of the letter also murdered Harriet Buswell. I wish I knew if the apple was bitten by him, and the mould still available, as an exhumation of his body and comparison of the mould to his teeth would confirm if he was the murderer or not. I saw on some websites reference to Jack the Ripper as being the possible murderer, however this is

unlikely, and if we believe the writer of the letter, an exhumation of the body could confirm it was Krauss.

She Took A Chance.

She was bright, she was pretty,
She knew how to dance,
And at night, in the city,
She looked for romance.

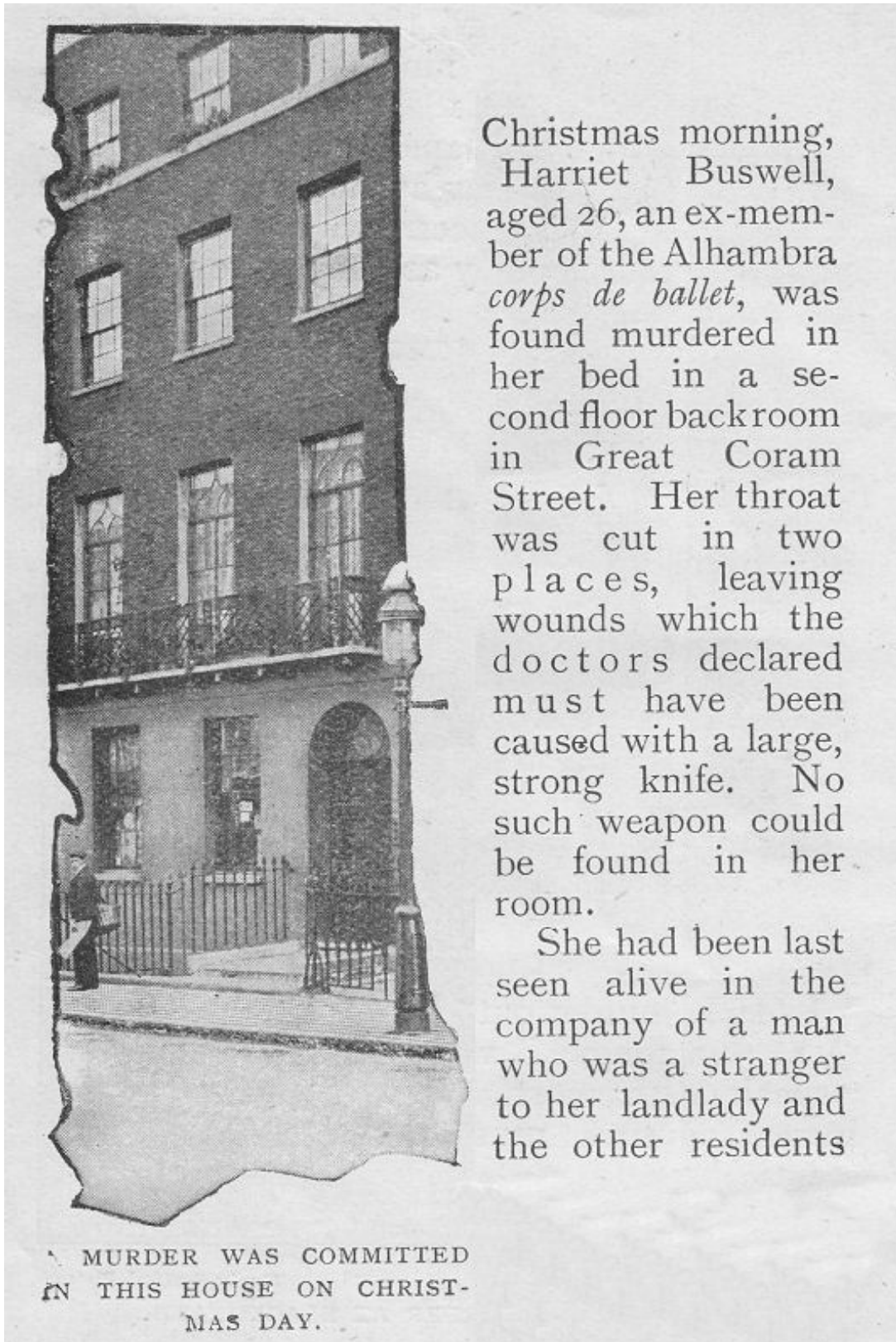
She looked for romance,
And would take it, given the chance,
With someone to care for her,
In love's wonderful trance.

She found herself a man, and she took that chance,
Could he be the one, to give her romance?
Could he be the one, to change her life?
To be a husband, and she be a wife?

No, oh no, he wasn't, for he was a beast,
A murdering brute, he had her fleeced.
He took her life, and ran to save his own,
A century and a half later, his identity still unknown.

Stanley Bruce.

Harriet Buswell was born at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, between 1841 and 1845. (<https://criminal.media/teeth-marks-in-an-apple>)



1872 Newspaper clipping.

Harriet Buswell ex-member of the Alhambra corps de ballet.

£200 REWARD

MURDER

Whereas **HARRIET BUSWELL**, aged 26, was found with her throat cut, at No. 12, Great Coram Street, Russell Square, on the 25th December, 1872.

The Murder is supposed to have been committed by a Man of the following description, who was seen in company with the Deceased on the evening of the 24th, and to leave the house at 7 a.m. on the 25th: Age 25, Height 5 feet 9 inches, Complexion swarthy, red spots on face, Black Hair, no Whiskers or Moustache, but not shaved for two or three days, Stout Build; Dress, dark tight-fitting Coat, dark Billycock Hat, a Foreigner (supposed German).

TWO HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD

Will be paid by Her Majesty's Government to any person who shall give such Information and Evidence as shall lead to the discovery of the Murderer; and the Secretary of State for the Home Department will advise the grant of

Her Majesty's most Gracious Pardon

To any Accomplice not being the person who actually committed the Murder, who shall give such Evidence as shall lead to a like result.

Information to be given to SUPERINTENDENT THOMSON, Police Station, Bow Street, London, or at any of the Metropolitan Police Stations.

METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICE,
4, Whitehall Place, London.
14th January, 1873.

E. Y. W. HENDERSON,
The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Reward Poster

(c£22,500 today's value)

Bibliography.

Various newspaper articles regarding the murder from 1872 / 1873.

(I have included a selection of these from London and Australia as appendices to give a feel for the story, but there are many more).

Acknowledgements.

Brian Bain, Aberdeen and his Father Len Bain for giving me a copy of the Duthie letter.

Barrie Leslie, Sydney, Australia for pointing me in the right direction for the Australian newspaper articles.

Alastair McIntyre at www.electricscotland.com for providing The Shipbuilders of Aberdeen webpage.

Websites.

www.electricscotland.com

www.aberdeenships.com

www.clydeships.co.uk

The Shipbuilders of Aberdeen.

Information on over 3,000 Aberdeen built vessels.

Information on over 35,000 Scottish built vessels.

www.victorianlondon.org

www.thehistorypress.co.uk

www.listverse.com

Great Coram Street Murder (Harriet Buswell).

Unsolved murders of women in Victorian London.

10 Gruesome Murders From Scotland Yard's Early History. No.4: Great Coram Street Murder, 1872.

www.marinersandships.com.au

Crew and passenger lists.

APPENDIX A

Copy of the Duthie Letter.

The following five pages show the actual letter, and for clarity it reads as follows:

*About the year 1870, the **Rifleman** lay in the London Docks loading for Australia, the day before she was due to sail the master received word to the effect that the steward could not join the ship. Notices advertising the immediate need of a steward were posted and a man who seemed suitable was signed on for the voyage.*

***While the Rifleman lay loading, a well known actress was murdered and no clue to the assailant was forthcoming.** The ship sailed to time and all went well until she was nearing the end of the voyage, when the following cablegram was received by Mr Wm. Duthie at Aberdeen.*

“Rifleman arrived, steward attempted poison crew. Murdered Captain, wounded officers, Prisoner secured.”

It was of course only on the return of the ship that the full story became known in this country.

One day when the mate was on watch, the steward came and asked him to go to the captains room at once, just as he was about to enter the cabin door some slight sound made him turn round just in time to save him from receiving a terrific blow on the head with a huge iron bolt. He struggled with the steward until assistance was forthcoming and they finally overpowered the man and got him locked up, but not before many of them had been infused. The mate then entered the captains cabin and found that he had been hammered to death while asleep.

The mans plan it seemed was to kill all the crew and finally run the ship aground on some of the rocks and he was to be the only survivor.

On the arrival of the ship at Sydney the man was handed over to the civil authorities and he was duly tried when it transpired that he was the murderer of the actress in London.

APPENDIX A - LETTER PAGE 1

1.

About the year 1870, the Rifleman lay in the London Docks, loading for Australia, the day before she was due to sail, the master received word to the effect that the steward could not join the ship. Notices advertising the immediate need of a steward were posted, and a man who seemed suitable was signed on for the voyage.

While the Rifleman lay loading, a well known actress was murdered

APPENDIX A - LETTER PAGE 2

2.

and no clue to her assailant was forthcoming. The ship sailed to time and all went well until she was nearing the end of the voyage, when the following cablegram was received by Mr Wm Ritchie at Aberdeen.

"Rifleman arrived. Steward attempted poison crew. Murdered Captain, wounded officers. Prisoner secured."

It was of course only on the return of the ship, that the full story became

APPENDIX A - LETTER PAGE 3

3.

known in this country.

One day when the mate was on watch, the steward came and asked him to go to the Captain's room at once, just as he was about to enter the cabin door. Some slight sound made him turn round, just in time to save him from receiving a terrific blow on the head with a huge iron bolt. He struggled with the steward until assistance was forthcoming & they finally overpowered

APPENDIX A - LETTER PAGE 4

4

the man and got him locked up, but
not before many of them had been
injured. The mate then entered the
Captain's Cabin and found that he
had been hammered to death while
asleep.

The man's plan it seemed was to
kill all the crew & finally run
the ship aground on some of
the rocks, and he was to be the
only survivor.

APPENDIX A - LETTER PAGE 55

On the arrival of the Ship at Sydney
the man was handed over to the
civil authorities and he was
duly tried, when it transpired
that he was the murderer of
the actress in London.

APPENDIX B

Melbourne Argus, 6th June 1873.

At Central Criminal Court, Sydney, **William Cross** (otherwise Wilhelm Krauss) found Guilty of Murder of **Capt. James Longmuir** on board British Ship **Rifleman** whilst the Ship was a few 100 miles off the South American coast on 16 March. Plea of insanity rejected and Cross sentenced to death. The Judge said *“you availed yourself of your position of Steward of the Ship to mingle narcotic poison in the Cabin Food & Grog served out that night to the Crew. Capt. Longmuir appears never to have stirred in his bed nor resisted either the savage blow by which you fractured his skull or the fatal cord with which you strangled his dying breath. The 7 other cords found on the same night ready to your hand in your own Pantry, the Revolvers & Dagger found upon you, the long Iron bolt with which you attacked the Chief Officer and the general stupefaction of the Ship’s Crew who had drunk the Grog all prove beyond the slightest that yours was a cunningly devised plan to obtain possession of the Ship. No evidence to implicate a single individual on board that Ship”*.

Grog – spirits (originally rum) mixed with water.

APPENDIX C

Aberdeen Journal, 9th July 1873.

Well attended meeting of Shipmasters and others connected with the Trade of the Port of Sydney was held aboard the Ship ‘**Ann Duthie**’. Mr Williams stated meeting had been called to convey the Family of the late Captain Longmuir sympathy in their great bereavement [poisoned, beaten & strangled by Ship’s Steward]. Chairman spoke at some length on high character of deceased and hoped those who knew him would lighten the heavy blow fallen on Widow & Orphan children. Captain Moodie proposed and Captain Benzie (**Ann Duthie**) seconded resolution that subscription is raised – £300 already received.

APPENDIX D

Aberdeen Journal, 10th September 1873.

No clue as to the motive for the killing of Captain and attempted murder of rest of Crew. The theory has been advanced that Krauss [the murderer] had some hope of obtaining sole possession of the Vessel, running in upon the Coast of Brazil, in order to secure everything valuable in the ship and then abandoning her.

(There is further information on the 'Rifleman' and Captain Longmuir, in the Journal of the Aberdeen & NE Scotland Family History Society, issue February 2010, page 38 / 39).

APPENDIX E

Execution of Krauss, Monday 7th July 1873.

The Sydney Morning Herald of Wednesday gives the following account of the execution of William Krauss, the murderer of Captain Longmuir:

*"On Tuesday morning, William Cross, alias Wilhelm Krauss, alias Julius Proutz underwent the extreme penalty of the law in Darlinghurst Gaol for the murder, on the 16th March, of Captain Longmuir, of the British ship **Rifleman**. The crime, with its attendant circumstances, must be still fresh in the memory of the public, but nothing has transpired that would give a clue to the motive which led to the killing of the unfortunate captain and the attempted murder as it would seem of the rest of the crew. The theory has been advanced that Krauss had some hope of obtaining sole possession of the vessel, running in upon the coast of Brazil, in order to secure everything valuable in the ship and then abandoning her.*

The desire for revenge in return for imaginary injuries received at the hands of Captain Longmuir has also been suggested as the motive but if this be the true elucidation of the mystery the feeling of hatred must have extended to captain, officers, and crew alike. Krauss from the date of the perpetration of the murder up to the time of his death firmly maintained that he remembered nothing of the crime for which he was convicted, but it is rumoured that he has left a written statement with his spiritual advise (the Rev. Mr Wörner) on the subject.

The wretched criminal since his conviction and sentence appeared tolerably resigned but signs of weakness were apparent to those who watched him during his last hours The Rev. Mr. Wörner of the Lutheran Evangelical Church has been in constant attendance upon the criminal and succeeded in leading him to a proper appreciation of the awful change which was shortly to take place. Krauss passed a very fair night but in the morning was evidently suffering, physically more than mentally, and it was feared that he would not have sufficient strength to walk to the place of execution. Soon after 9 o'clock the usual demand was made for the body of the prisoner, who after being pinioned, was led to the scaffold, preceded by the gaol chaplain (the Rev. Canon Rich) who read the service and accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Wörner, who administered words of consolation and hope to the doomed man. After reaching the drop Krauss bore the sickening preparations of the executioner with a good deal of fortitude, but a second or two before the drop fell he began to give way, the bolt was, however, immediately drawn and all was over. The criminal made no remark on the scaffold, except that he remembered nothing of the murder. Prior to his execution Krauss wrote several letters in German, French, and Latin, which will be forwarded to the persons for whom they are intended, after being interpreted. Krauss was about 34 years of age, and a native of Germany."

The Sydney Evening News reported that: "*Julius Georg Proutz, alias Krauss was born in 1838 at a village near Stettin, a large town on the banks of the Oder, North Germany. He did not study at any university, but received a first class private education; he spoke several languages. After the completion of his education he engaged in the shipping and brokerage business and was well acquainted with mercantile matters, but became discontented with home life and took to roving. Since then he has travelled in England, India, Turkey, Mexico, and was through the American war, where he states that he was an officer. While in India he saved the life of a Rajah from drowning and for this was presented by his Highness with a golden amulet, which he wore for several years but in Mexico he met with an accident by being thrown from his horse, and lay insensible for some time, when on recovering he found himself robbed of everything, including the talisman. He had visited the Netherlands, and in Dortrecht, Holland, he had a sweetheart, to whom he seemed to be much*

devoted. The following letter was written in reply to one sent him here by her -

'My beloved Cornelia, I send you a few lines, my dearest, to state that I am dead. I send you my love. I wish that God may be with you always, may bless you, may lead you in the right way. I send you my kind regards, my farewell to all my friends and acquaintances - Your affectionate Julius.'

She will be advised that her lover has been executed, but his request to the Rev. Mr. Wörner was to tell her in 'as soft and mild a manner as possible' of his sad end."

APPENDIX F

The Times, Wednesday, 1st January 1873.

As stated yesterday in The Times, the woman left Great Coram-street shortly before 10 o'clock on Tuesday, and went to the Alhambra Theatre. Before she started she borrowed a shilling of her fellow-lodger, Mrs. Nelson. The deceased is supposed to have walked to the Alhambra, and the police are earnestly searching for information as to her movements there. She was dressed in a manner to attract attention, wearing a black silk dress, black velvet jacket, and a dark green brigand hat, with a red feather. She was next seen at Regent-circus at 12.25, waiting for the omnibus, and she then rode to the corner which leads to Hunter-street with her murderer, in the last Islington and Brompton omnibus, in which there were seven passengers. Two of them, who are barmaids, and who knew her, spoke to her. These have come forward. None of the other seven passengers have yet given any information, and the police are looking to some of them to aid the cause of justice by volunteering their testimony. The conductor of the omnibus has made a statement. It is apparent from this that the time stated by the landlady at the inquest as that at which the deceased came home is inaccurate, she having stated that it was a little after midnight, when it must have been 1 o'clock or later, if the pair waited, as the deceased told the landlady they did, to hear the "waits."

APPENDIX G

The Coram Street Murder – Examination of Dr. Hessel.

Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, Friday 11 April 1873.

The further examination of Dr. Hessel, accused of the murder of Harriet Buswell, at 12, Great Coram-street, on Christmas morning, took place on January 29th at Bow-street, before Mr. Vaughan.

Mr. Poland conducted the prosecution on behalf of the Treasury; Mr. Douglas Straight defended the prisoner.

Mr. Poland, in briefly referring to the circumstances under which the prisoner was arrested, remarked that all cases of identification arrested upon the manner in which the evidence was obtained and given, Fleck, the greengrocer, at whose shop the deceased purchased some fruit on the night of Christmas Eve, was positive that the prisoner was the man who accompanied her; the barmaid at the Alhambra was under the belief that he was the man who entered the 'bus with the deceased at Piccadilly-circus; the waiter at the Cavour Restaurant believed that the prisoner was the man who paid for a cold supper for her at that establishment; and the servant living opposite the house in which the woman lodged thought he was the man she saw leaving it about half-past seven on Christmas morning. However, a witness who rode to Islington in the 'bus in which the deceased and her male companion were, was prepared to say that the prisoner was not the man and the two assistants in the greengrocer's shop were of a different opinion from that given by their employer.

Wm. Stalker, waiter at the Cavour Hotel firmly adhered to his statement that the man he served with supper on the 24th Dec, was the prisoner, Dr. Hessel.

Sophia Douglas: a barmaid at the Alhambra, who rode in an omnibus with Harriet Buswell, on the night of Dec. 24th, gave evidence as to the man who accompanied her.

Did you go to Ramsgate? - Yes, to the Town Hall, where there were about forty people. I looked at them one after the other, and walked round them all.

Did you recognise anyone? - Yes.

Who is the person you recognised? The prisoner.

To the best of your belief is the prisoner the man you saw with deceased in the omnibus? - I thought the gentleman I saw in the omnibus was taller than the prisoner. He is very much like the gentleman, but not so tall.

I don't want to press you in anyway, but have you a strong belief one way or the other? - The other man was taller.

The Magistrate: but irrespective of the height, what would you say? - If he had been taller? I should have said he would have been the man.

James Griffin, a waiter at 62. Hay-market, who also rode in the omnibus with the victim and her murderer, could not identify Dr. Hessel as the man in question.

Can you say whether the prisoner is like the man you saw in the omnibus?

He is not like him.

In what way does he differ? - He is too wide across the top of the face.

George Fleck, who sold some fruit to Harriet Buswell on Christmas Eve, said: I kept my shop open till past one on the morning of the 25th of December. The deceased came to my shop with a man. He was a German. I served the deceased with a pint of almond nuts and four oranges. The man handed her the money, and she gave it to me. Altogether they remained in the shop seven or eight minutes. On the 19th of January I went to Ramsgate with Inspector Harriett and saw eighteen or twenty men who appeared to be foreigners.

When you went into the shop did you recognise the man who was with that woman? - I did, sir, directly.

Who was the man? - That man (pointing to the prisoner.)

How was it that you recognised him? - Inspector Harnett opened a door and took me into a room. I passed down by a number of men, and recognised the prisoner. I then went to another room and someone asked me whether I had seen anyone. I then explained the position of the man I recognise.

Have you any doubt at all about him? Not the slightest.

Mary Lester, a servant who saw a man leave the opposite house, No. 12, in Great Coram Street, on Christmas morning, deposed to the identity of the prisoner. She said "To the best of my belief he is the man."

The housemaid at the Royal Hotel, Ramsgate, deposed: The prisoner and his wife stayed there from the 15th till the 22nd. They went away, and returned on the 28th. The prisoner asked me for a clothes brush and some turpentine. I gave him both, and then he shut the door of his room. The prisoner's linen was packed up, and on the 1st January I took it to the chambermaid to have it sent to the laundress. The linen of the different rooms is kept separate.

Margaret Lednor, laundress, deposed to the state of some linen received by her from last witness. The bundle marked "17." It contained ladies' and gentlemen's things. There were thirty-five white handkerchiefs in it, and some of them were stained, one of them being particularly noticeable. The stains were blood stains.

Cross-examined by Mr. Straight: I did not take any notice of them at the time. In fact, I thought nothing about the matter until the police came to me. I might say that half-a-dozen of them were more or less stained with blood.

Elizabeth Gosby: I live at Ramsgate. I wash for Mrs. Lednor. In the first week in January I received upwards of thirty handkerchiefs from her. Several of them were stained with blood, and one of them was quite saturated with it.

John Murray, a boy in the service of Fleck, the greengrocer, said, I was taken to Ramsgate, and saw the prisoner there. He is not the man I saw in our shop. He has not such a rough look and he is not so tall as the other man.

James Connolly, another boy in the service of Fleck, agreed with last witness in denying that the prisoner was the man he saw in the shop. "I went to Ramsgate, and saw Dr. Hessel. He resembles the man, but I am quite sure he is not the man. He resembles him in the spots on his face, the round shoulders, and in his not being shaved."

RELEASE OF DR. HESSEL.

On January 29th, Dr. Hessel was again brought up before Mr. Vaughan, at Bow-street, on the charge of having murdered Harriet Buswell, at 12, Great Coram-street, on Christmas morning.

Mr. Poland, instructed by the Solicitor to the Treasury, conducted the prosecution; the prisoner was defended by Mr. Douglas Straight and Mr. Humphreys.

Mr. Straight, in opening the case for the defence, referred to the terrible crime of which his client had been suspected, and to the evidence of some witnesses as to the prisoner's identity. The evidence, he said, he would completely controvert through the witnesses whom he intended to produce. But before dwelling further on this particular point, he wished to tell the Court who the man in the dock was. Dr. Hessel was now thirty-one years of age. He was born in Prussia, and was ordained in that country as a clergyman in 1867. Subsequently to that, being a person interested in the study of philosophical subjects, he passed an examination which resulted in his being raised to the position of Doctor of Philosophy by one of the Universities. In 1868 he married a very young woman, and in 1869 he was appointed to the cure of St. Peter and Paul, at Dantzic, which brought him into close communication with maritime persons frequenting that port. There he remained until the summer of 1872. At that time a distinguished countryman of his proposed to found a German colony in Brazil, and, according to the old-custom and fashion, he desired to have a pastor associated with it. The person selected for that duty by persons who were enabled to form an opinion of his qualification was Dr. Hessel, who was now charged with the highest crime known to the law. He sailed from Antwerp with his young wife on the 1st of December, 1872, as the spiritual guide of a shipful of German emigrants. The vessel, which was named the 'Wangerland', seemed to have been an unfortunate one. On the 15th of December she stuck on" the Goodwin Sands, and in consequence of the damages she sustained, she was brought into Ramsgate Harbour. Dr. Hessel, his wife, and two friends remained at the Royal Hotel, at Ramsgate, from the 16th till the 22nd of December, and on the latter day they all came to London, to spend the Christmas. Mr. Straight then went on to refer to the arrival of the party

at Kroll's Hotel, America-square, Minories, and to Dr. Hessel's illness in that establishment. Having forcibly illustrated the possibility of mistaken identity, he went minutely into the evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution. Devoting most of his remarks to an analysis of the evidence of Fleck, the greengrocer, and Stalker, the waiter, both of whom swore-the former positively, and the latter nearly so to the identity of Dr. Hessel with the man they had seen with the murdered girl, and asserted, amid applause, that their impressions of the features which they had seen were photographed not by the aid of the sun or the gaslight, but by the £200 reward.

The first witness called was Carl W. Wohlebbe, a passenger on board the 'Wangerland', from Antwerp to Brazil. He deposed to the fact that he and Dr. and Mrs. Hessel went to Kroll's Hotel, London, together; and that on Tuesday, the 24th December, he saw Dr. Hessel in the dining-room at half-past 8 in the evening. He was then very unwell, and said he was going to bed. Witness prescribed for him. This person, who, it will be remembered, was first arrested by the police on suspicion, said with reference to this:-"I was kept in the Town Hall on Saturday night, and was seen by some people at noon on Sunday. Dr. Hessel came also. I did not hear him ask to be allowed to stand in the row, but he did so, and he also stood with them on Monday. He put on his sea boots purposely. Dr. Hessel placed himself in the row of persons of his own free will."

Christian Cazolet, a waiter at Kroll's Hotel, proved that Dr. Hessel went to his room on Christmas Eve, being unwell. At half-past eleven witness took some rum to him in his room, and then saw the Doctor in bed and his wife sitting by the bedside. He also saw him in bed on Christmas morning at eight o'clock and received his orders.

E. P. E. Kroll, proprietor of Kroll's Hotel, proved that on Christ Eve Dr. Hessel visited him in his private room where a Christmas tree was being prepared. Dr. and Mrs. Hessel wished him good night, and went up to bed about eleven o'clock that night. On Christmas Day Dr. and Mrs. Hessel attended the Christmas party, and the Doctor made "a nice little speech."

Other evidence was given showing conclusively that Dr. Hessel could not have been absent from Kroll's Hotel on the night of the murder.

Mr. Vaughan, the magistrate, closed the proceedings of this painful case of mistaken identity, as follows:

Mr. Vaughan: To my mind it has occurred beyond all doubt that Dr. Hessel was not the companion of the murdered woman on Christmas Eve. (Applause.) The evidence of witnesses who have been examined in this court undoubtedly pointed to Dr. Hessel as having been the companion of the unfortunate person, and no doubt justified the police authorities in taking the steps which they did in preferring the charge against him. The case has been most fully investigated here. The witnesses on both sides have been subjected to a very searching cross-examination, and that cross-examination satisfies me that the witnesses who came to speak to the identity of Dr. Hessel as being the companion of the murdered woman, are entirely in error in the evidence they gave. Even supposing that their evidence had been stronger, and not open to the discrepancies which exist between the statements made here by the several witnesses, I should have considered that the case on the part of the prosecution had been destroyed by the evidence for the defence. It is therefore my duty and a duty which I discharge with great satisfaction to say that the prisoner is released; and, so far as I can say, that he leaves this court without any suspicion at all on his character.

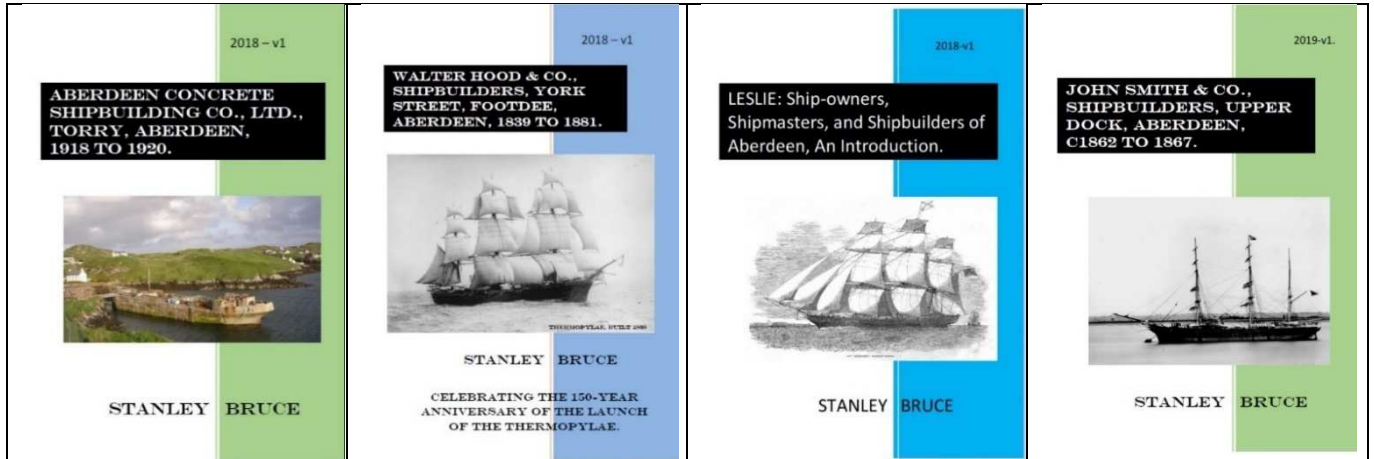
The decision was received with loud cheers both inside and outside the court.

Dr. Hessel, on leaving the dock, bowed to Mr. Straight, and was conducted to one of the ante-rooms where he remained with his friends until the crush in the neighbourhood of the court had sub-sided.

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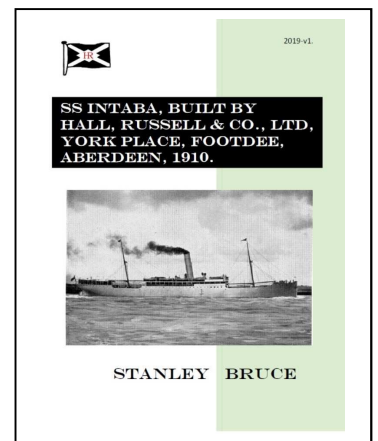
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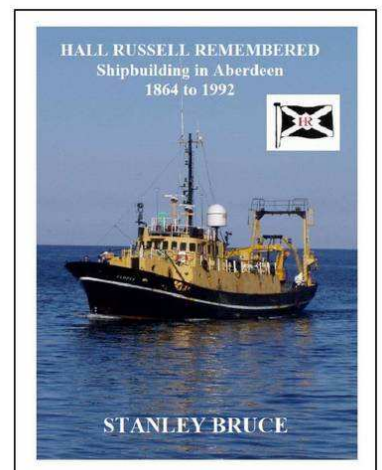
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