

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

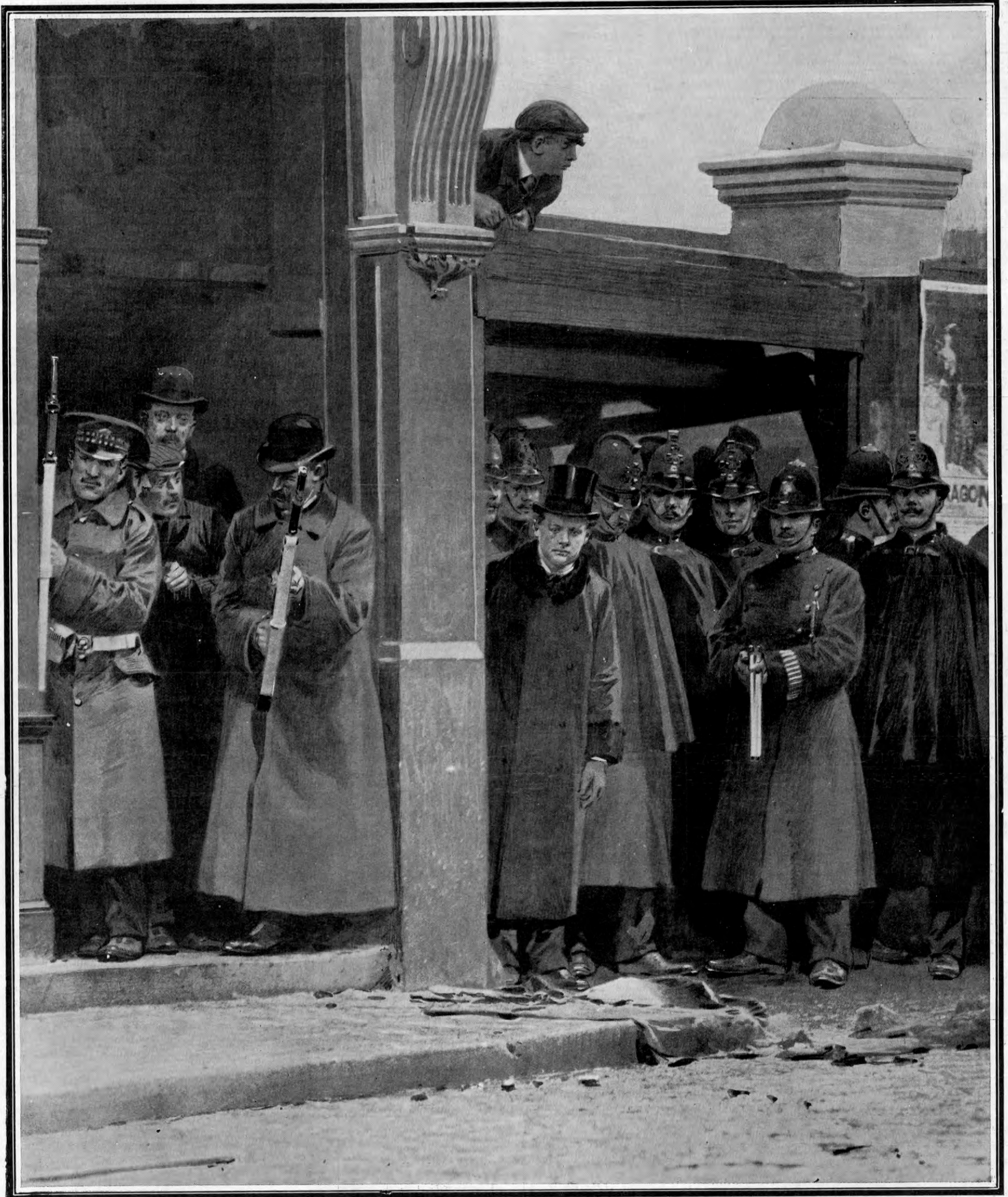
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1911.

SIXPENCE.

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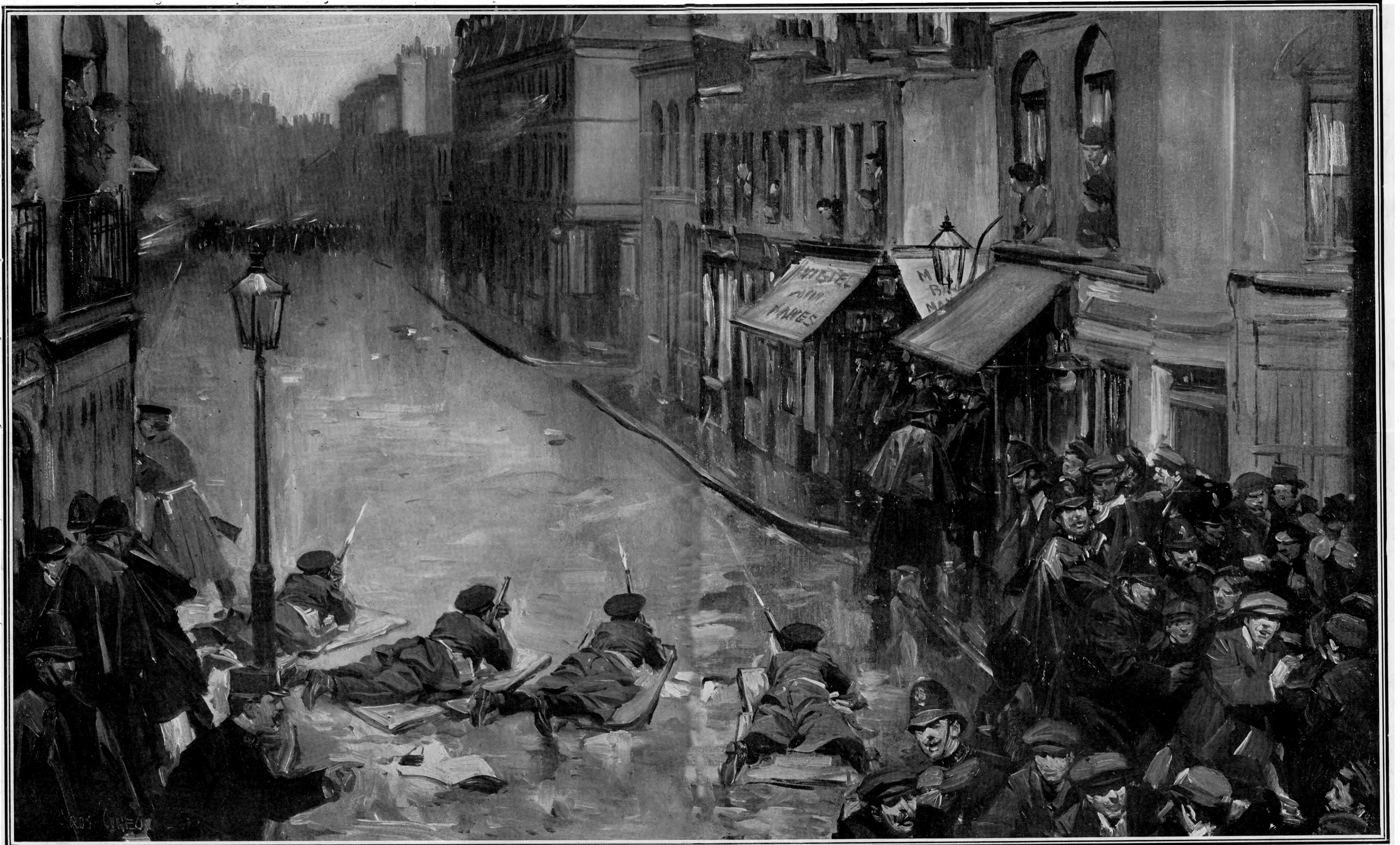


THE HOME SECRETARY AS DIRECTOR OF THE "BATTLE" OF THE EAST END: MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL DURING THE SIEGE OF THE HOUSE IN SIDNEY STREET, OFF THE MILE END ROAD.

Mr. Winston Churchill arrived on the scene of the extraordinary "battle" in Sidney Street soon after half-past eleven, and at once took active part in the direction of the operations, arranging, in consultation with the officers, the tactics of police, Scots Guards, and firemen. The Home Secretary was by no means unwilling to take risks of being hit; but was at last persuaded to occupy a position less exposed than the open street. He did not leave the fighting area until three o'clock—that is to say, until after the search of the ruins of the burnt house which had been under siege had commenced. Thus he was present when heavy fire was being exchanged between the desperadoes and troops in the brewery and houses opposite and in the streets, when the military on duty were reinforced by a detachment with a machine gun, when the house took fire, and when Horse Artillery arrived with guns.

THE DESPERATE "BATTLE" OF THE EAST END SCOTS GUARDS IN ACTION IN A LONDON STREET.

DRAWN BY CYRUS CUNEO, R.O.I. OUR SPECIAL ARTIST IN SIDNEY STREET.



TWO ALIENS BESIEGED BY A GREAT ARMED FORCE IN SIDNEY STREET, OFF THE MILE END ROAD: SOLDIERS AND POLICE FIRING ON THE HOUSE CONTAINING THE WANTED MEN.

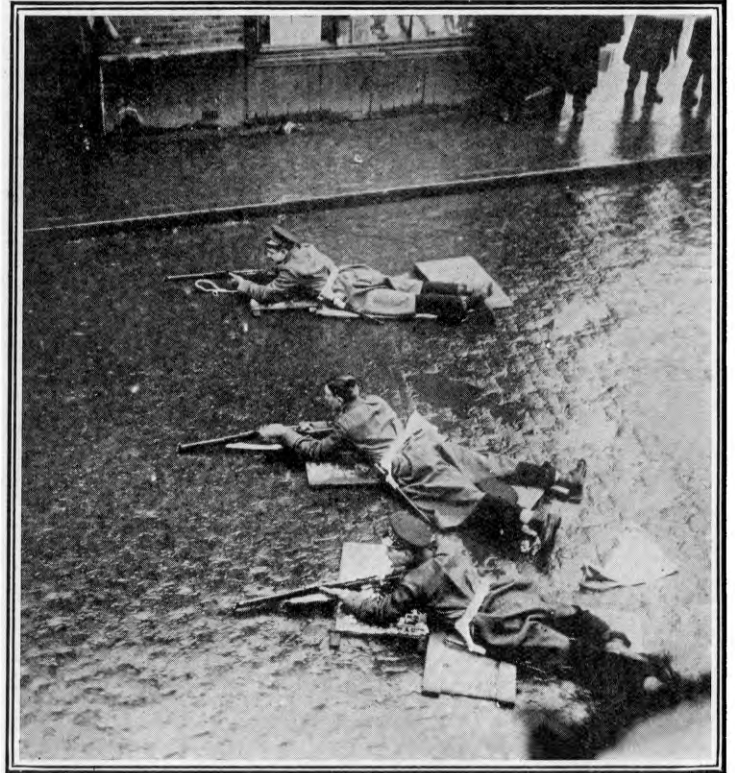
As all the world knows by this time, there was a most extraordinary sequel on Tuesday last to the recent Houndsditch murders. Information given to the police led them to believe that in No. 100, Sidney Street, off the Mile End Road, were men and a woman wanted for the attempted burglary in Houndsditch, and the subsequent murders of three City policemen. As a result, in the small hours of the morning, they drew a cordon round the block of mansions of which the house was one, saw to it that those in the building who were not concerned in the affair were conducted to safety, and detained four people, two of whom were released the same evening. At five the police attempted to take the two men left in the house, but were met with a fusillade of bullets. Reinforcements were called up. Another attack was made at about seven. Then it was that the "battle" began. Firing continued at intervals, and at nine military assistance was requisitioned. A number of Scots Guards with ball ammunition arrived from the Tower about 10.15, took up their positions, and opened fire on the house. Some of the men

were in the roadway; others in a loft of Messrs. Mann and Crossman's brewery, others in houses facing No. 100, Sidney Street. At half-past twelve the soldiers were reinforced by others with a machine-gun. At half-past one Horse Artillery with two guns arrived on the scene. Just before one the besieged house took fire, but it was not until after two that the firemen were allowed to get to work, there being fear that they would be shot. A great many shots were exchanged by the wanted men, the Guards, and the police. The whole "battle" lasted for about seven hours. There seem to have been only two men engaged in the defence: these were armed with automatic pistols. Two bodies were recovered from the ruins. On the right side of the drawing may be seen the besieged house, flashes from the desperadoes' pistols showing at its windows. Opposite are the flashes from the guns and revolvers of police sheltered in a yard. In the foreground are Scots Guards in action. In the distance are other Guards and police. Our Artist was stationed in the premises of Mr. Frederick Smith, mineral-water manufacturer, of Sidney Street, to whose courtesy we are much indebted.

THE "BATTLE" OF THE EAST END: THE SEVEN HOURS' FIGHTING IN SIDNEY STREET, OFF THE MILE END ROAD.



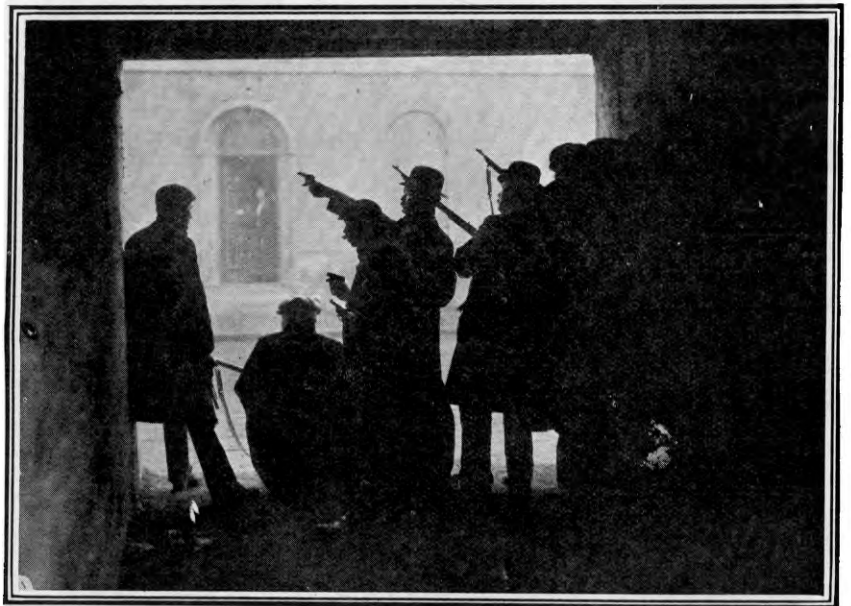
WELL IN THE DANGER ZONE: A DETECTIVE APPROACHING THE BESIEGED BUILDING WHILE IT WAS BURNING—TOWARDS THE END OF THE "BATTLE."



WAITING TO "SNIPE" AT THE "WANTED" DESPERADOES BESIEGED IN NO. 100: SCOTS GUARDS ON THE WATCH AT ONE END OF SIDNEY STREET.



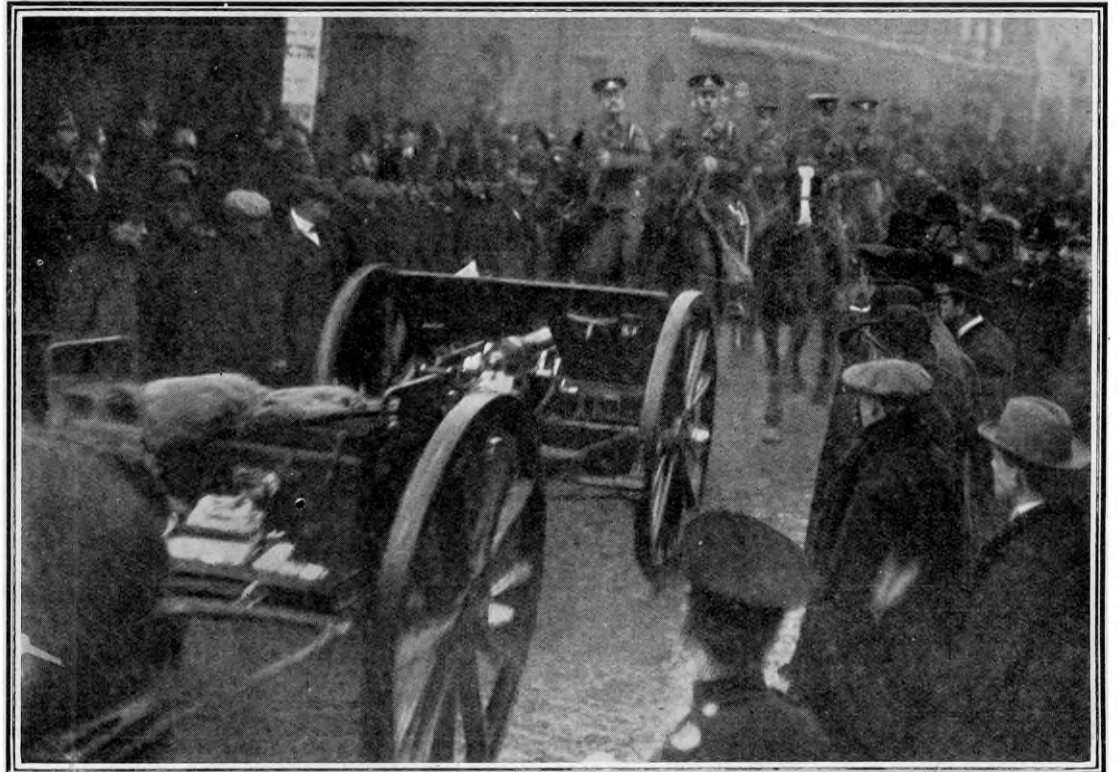
CONSTABLES ARMED WITH DOUBLE-BARRELLED GUNS: HANDING OUT AMMUNITION TO THE POLICE.



ATTACKING THE BESIEGED HOUSE: A PARTY OF DETECTIVES FIRING AT THE BUILDING FROM THE SHELTER OF A YARD-ENTRANCE.



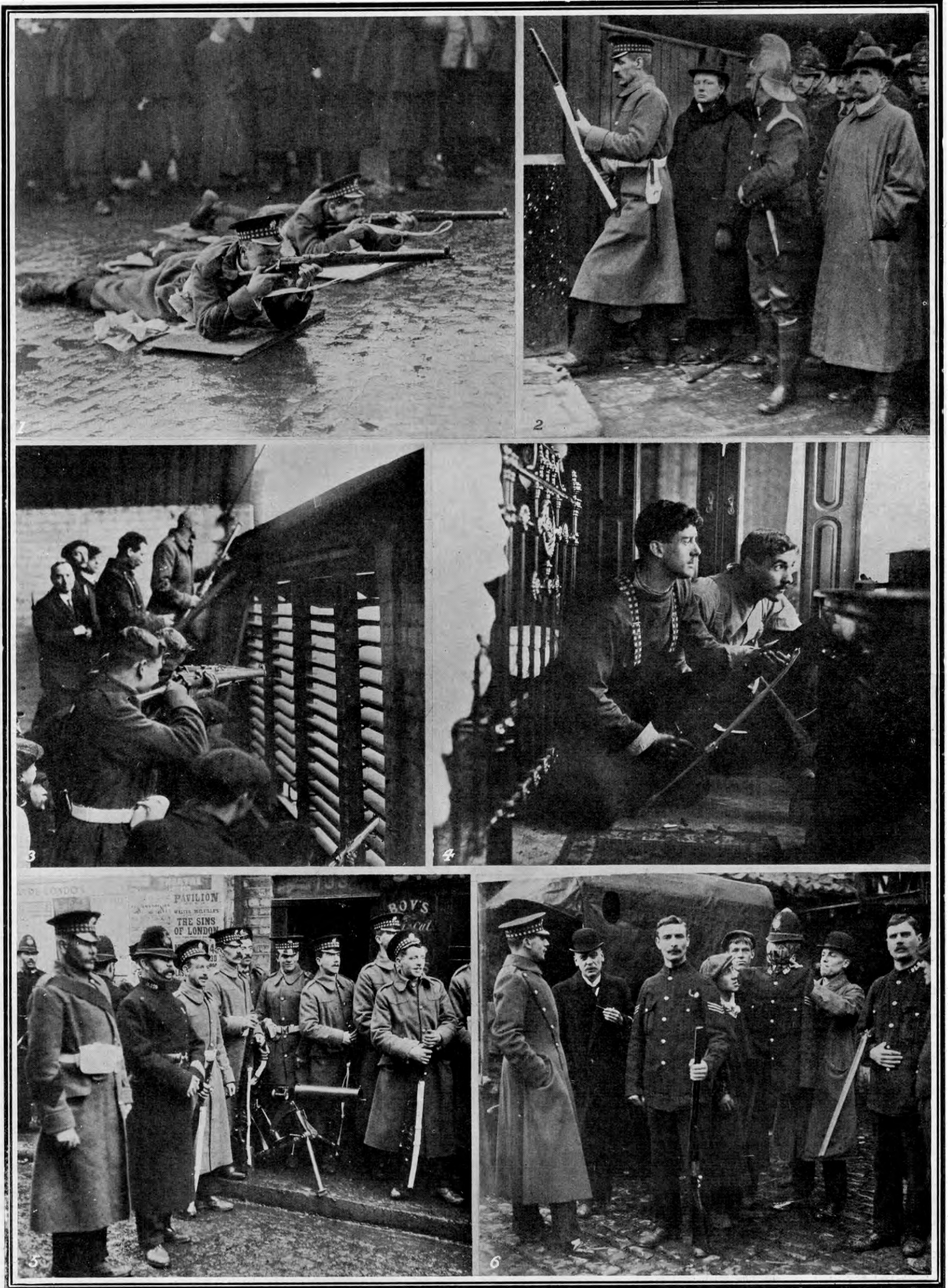
THE END OF THE SIEGE BY SCOTS GUARDS AND POLICE: FIREMEN AT WORK ON THE BURNING BUILDING.



ARTILLERY FOR THE "BATTLE" OF THE EAST END: GUNS ARRIVING ON THE SCENE OF THE DESPERATE FIGHTING IN SIDNEY STREET.

With particular regard to the photographs on this page we may make the following notes: The police engaged were armed with revolvers and with double-barrelled guns; the Scots Guards, who came from the Tower, used, of course, their service rifles. The police were present in great numbers, not only uniformed but in plain clothes and disguised. At about half-past one, Horse Artillery with two guns arrived on the scene, but were not pressed into service. They had come from St. John's Wood Barracks in forty minutes, a remarkable feat considering the density of the City traffic. Just before one o'clock it was seen that the besieged house had taken fire. The place was allowed to burn, although the Fire Brigade were on the spot, until it was deemed certain that the firemen could get to work without running the risk of being shot.—[PHOTOGRAPHS BY ILLUSTRATIONS BUREAU, TOPICAL, AND RECORD PRESS.]

BALL-CARTRIDGES IN A LONDON STREET: SCOTS GUARDS IN ACTION AT THE "BATTLE" OF THE EAST END, IN SIDNEY STREET.



1. OF THE MEN WHO EXCHANGED FIRE WITH THE DESPERADOES IN 100, SIDNEY STREET; SCOTS GUARDS COVERING THE BESIEGED BUILDING WITH THEIR RIFLES.
3. FIRING AT THE DEFENDERS OF THE BESIEGED HOUSE FROM A BREWERY LOFT; SCOTS GUARDS SHOOTING BEHIND THE PROTECTION OF SHUTTERS.
5. A STRANGE WEAPON FOR USE IN A LONDON STREET; SOLDIERS WITH A MACHINE-GUN AT THE "BATTLE" OF THE EAST END.

2. THE HOME SECRETARY DURING THE FIGHT; MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL ON THE SCENE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY "BATTLE" IN SIDNEY STREET, OFF THE MILE END ROAD.
4. SCOTS GUARDS ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN SIDNEY STREET; TWO OF THE MEN FIRING FROM A BEDROOM OPPOSITE THE BESIEGED HOUSE.
6. MADE TO DRAW THE FIRE OF THE BESIEGED; THE DUMMY POLICEMAN, WHICH WAS EXPOSED AT THE WINDOW OF A HOUSE FACING No. 100.

It will be noted that those Guards who held the road stretched themselves out on newspaper-poster boards, on mats, or on sacking. Half-a-dozen or so picked shots took up a position in a loft of Messrs. Mann and Crossman's Brewery and fired from there. Others had place in a bedroom of a house opposite that which was under siege. At one time a dummy policeman with a brown paper "face," on which features were painted with stove-polish, was used by the police at one of the windows of a house facing No. 100. This drew effectually the fire of the besieged men, and helped the police to locate them.—[PHOTOGRAPHS BY ILLUSTRATIONS BUREAU, RECORD PRESS, AND C. N.]