

WORSE THAN GALLIPOLI

REIGN OF TERROR IN NORTH QUEENSLAND.

SENSATIONAL EVIDENCE.

Innisfail, May 2.

“People at Banyan have to take direct action to protect themselves. Things are pretty hot, I can tell you. There was a revolver shot one night, and a man fell before my door, but the bullet had passed between his legs. You hear revolver shots every night at Banyan, and returned men have told me it is worse than Gallipoli.”

This evidence was given in the Innisfail Court by John Vendaleur, a storekeeper of Banyan, when Louis Mannerman was charged with unlawfully attempting to strike Peter Johnson with a bullet.

The Police Magistrate (Mr. O'Kelly) said he was pleased that the witness had made these statements publicly, and he hoped the press would give them the fullest publicity. The witness deserved thanks when such a reign of terror existed at Banyan and the Tully area, for coming forward and giving such straight forward evidence. This

such straight-forward evidence. This state of terror must stop, and if he (Mr. O'Kelly) could do anything towards it, it would be done.

Sub-inspector Reardon said that every possible action would be taken by the police to end this reign of terror. Law and order would have to prevail.

Giving evidence, Peter Johnson, employed on the railway construction works, said he was drinking with the accused and several others on the day in question at Banyan. Witness was talking to the accused, when the latter pulled a revolver out of his trousers pocket. Witness told him to put it away, as other people might have them. Witness then walked away, and three shots were fired, one of which struck him in the left breast. He did not report the incident to the police.

Dr. Leevey deposed that Johnson's wound was not likely to endanger life, or cause permanent injury.

Accused was committed for trial.

(Banyan is a small township in the Cardwell district, North Queensland, and south of Innisfail.)