

Recent Cases . . .

THE BOYD GANG

ABOUT 12.45 p.m. on Oct. 16, 1951, the Yonge Street and Lawrence Avenue Branch of the Dominion Bank, Toronto, was held up and robbed by two armed men, who placed their loot in a shopping bag. As the two men entered the bank, an employee was successful in ringing the bank alarm before she was ordered to the rear of the bank, with the result that the Toronto City Police arrived just as the men were making their escape. One of the hold-up men, Howard Gault, was caught in the immediate area by the police, disarmed, and found in possession of the shopping bag which contained \$12,234. The second man made a successful escape from the district in a stolen automobile which had been parked nearby.

A short time later two Toronto detectives cruising on the outskirts of the city as a result of this hold-up became suspicious of a small sedan delivery truck. The driver of this truck made efforts to elude the police, but was finally forced to the side of the road and stopped at gun point. When searched the driver was found to be armed with a fully loaded 9 mm. Luger automatic pistol. A search of the truck revealed extra ammunition for this weapon and various articles of make-up, lipstick, mascara and absorbent cotton.

It was in this manner that Edwin Alonzo Boyd first became known to the police of Toronto and district.

Also found in the rear of the truck was a complete set of dentures, later claimed by Howard Gault as his property, and which he had removed prior to the bank robbery for the purpose of disguise. The investigation by Toronto City and North York Township Police which followed the arrest of Boyd resulted in his being charged with the following armed bank robberies in Toronto and district:

Sept. 9, 1949—Armour Heights Branch of Bank of Montreal, North York Township in which \$2,200 was stolen by a lone armed bandit who exchanged shots with the bank manager; Jan. 18, 1950—St. Clair Avenue-O'Connor Drive Branch of Canadian Bank of Commerce, East York Township in which \$2,862 was stolen by a lone armed robber; July 4, 1950—Dufferin Street-Glencairn Avenue Branch of Dominion Bank, North York Township in which \$2,018 and the bank revolver were stolen by a lone gunman; Oct. 11, 1950—A lone bandit attempted to rob the Avenue Road-Fairlawn Avenue Branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada, but was observed entering the bank by the manager who fired a shot at the bandit. The latter fired three times in return and made a successful escape; Mar. 19, 1951—Armour Heights Branch of Bank of Montreal, North York Township, held up and robbed for second time by same lone armed man who this time escaped with \$2,900, and Sept. 1, 1951—Sheppard Avenue Branch of Dominion Bank, North York Township, held up and robbed by three armed men of \$8,029. Gault was also charged with this offence.

Gault pleaded guilty to the two charges of armed robbery and was sentenced in Magistrate's Court to seven years in Kingston Penitentiary, sentences concurrent. While in the Toronto Jail, Boyd for the first time met two other men who were later to play prominent parts in the future activities of what became widely known as "The Boyd Gang".

One of the two was Leonard Jackson who had been taken into custody on July 30, 1951, by Toronto Police officers co-operating with the Ontario Provincial Police. Jackson was being held for trial on armed robbery charges in connection with the hold-ups of three banks, two at Woodbridge, Ont., and one at Brad-