

PROCEEDINGS OF A FIELD GENERAL COURT
MARTIAL HELD IN THE FIELD ON THE
31st DAY OF AUGUST 1942.

Trial of No. B73202 Pte. Stowell F.S 48th Highlanders of Canada

Prosecutor: Lieut. J.A. Wilson 48th Highlanders of Canada

Defending Officer: Lieut. F.D. Handley 48th Highlanders of Canada

Officers under instruction: Nil.

1. The order convening this Court is read in the presence of the accused.

2. The accused is asked the following question:-

"Do you object to be tried by the President, or any members of the Court whose names you have heard read over?"

Answer:- No Sir.

3. The President, Members and Shorthand Writer are duly sworn.

4. (a) The accused answers his name and number and is duly arraigned on the charges.

(b) The accused having pleaded not guilty to the charge, R.I. 35 (b) is complied with.

5. The accused is asked the question at the foot of page 2 of A.F.A. 3 and his answer is recorded beneath the question.

6. The prosecutor makes the opening address:

I mean to establish to this court that Pte. Stowell when acting as canteen clerk did receive the money in question from Cpl. Comm and that he misapplied it therefore I mean to prove that Pte. Stowell is guilty of embezzlement.

7. Evidence for the Prosecution:

First Witness:

Lieut. W.J. Leadbetter 48th Highlanders of Canada

duly sworn states:-

I was in charge of the Central Canteen and in charge of books Pte. Stowell (then L/Cpl. Stowell) was clerk of the canteen. This canteen operated as a sort of clearing house for company canteens, we would order the goods and the company canteen clerks would come to the central canteen and draw from us what they required for which we would invoice them. Company canteen clerks were required to bring their previous day's receipts daily to the central canteen for which we would sign their receipt and bank the money the following day. The purpose of this was to have a central book-keeping system with a minimum of book-keeping within the companies. I was responsible for accounting to the Audit Board monthly for these transactions. On return from leave on 2nd November 1941 I found that Pte. Stowell had a large amount of money on hand not having banked any of the money since 22nd October, there were several mistakes in the book-keeping and the position at the end of the month was not very clear and it took the two of us some time to sort it out.

Second Witness:-

Lieut. J.A. Wilson 48th Highlanders of Canada

duly sworn states:-

I produce herewith the ledger account of the Central Canteen and ask you Mr. Leadbetter the following questions.

Q. Page 45 Accounts Receivable Miscellaneous an entry 30 June 1941 L/Cpl. Stowell shortage of petty cash £3/15/0-