



CANADA

CANADIAN PROVOST CORPS
LONDON AREA

TELEPHONE: TEMPLE BAR 8818

A. P. M.'S OFFICE.

30, HENRIETTA STREET.

COVENT GARDEN.

LONDON, W.C.2.

15 NOV 44

19:30 hrs.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SECTION

STATEMENT of:

Regt. No. U-2, Sgt. COLLIER, J.,
R.C.A.S.C., C.M.H.Q.

BEGINS:

I have been cautioned by S/Sgt. NELSON, of S.I.S., that I do not have to say anything unless I wish to do so, but that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. To show that I understand this caution, I sign my name here.

(SGD)

U-2, J.C. COLLIER.

Sgt.

STATES:

One night in August, 1944, (I can't remember the exact date, but I know it was the night of a Snooker Tournament between the two C.M.H.Q. Garages) after the Dismissal Parade at about 18:00 hrs. at the Chelsea Garage, where I am Transport Sergeant, Pte. MATTHEWS, a Cricklewood Driver, came to me and said he had some underwear and shirts for sale, and asked me if I wanted to see it. I asked him where it was, and he told me it was in his truck. I became suspicious and I honestly asked him where he was getting the stuff from. He said he was buying up surplus stuff from Americans who were proceeding overseas. I believed him. Because of the Snooker Tournament I told him I couldn't wait to see it then. Pte. TIMLICK, a Driver at Chelsea Garage, whom I have known as a close friend for over two years, was there, and MATTHEW asked him if he too wanted some stuff. He said he'd like to see it too, and suggested that Pte. MATTHEW take the stuff up to his girlfriend's place at No. 26 Redesdale Street, and we'd have a look at it after the tournament. Her name is "Maisy" - I don't know her last name. I didn't look in Pte. MATTHEW's truck, and didn't give him any instructions.

I was in a hurry and left MATTHEW and TIMLICK there. I walked, in company with Cpl. HINTON, from Cricklewood, who was playing that night, to King's Road, where we parted company for half-an-hour. I went to the "Bar-B-Q" for supper, and he went for a beer. After supper I went to the "Six Bells" Public House, where I found Cpl. HINTON. We had one beer and one round of snooker for a warm-up. From there we went direct to the Temperance Billiard Hall, King's Road for the tournament. Capt. SPRATT, Cpl. STEWART, Pte. TIMLICK, and I were playing for Chelsea, and Cpl. HINTON, Sgt. SHEPPIII, and I think Ptes. SIMS and HOWSON played for Cricklewood. Chelsea lost.

At about 22:00 hrs., at the conclusion of the game, I went with Ptes. TIMLICK and MATTHEW (who was there) to Maisie's place at 26 Redesdale Street. We went up to her room on the top floor, and she was there. Just inside the door was a plain green box like a barrack box. I did not see any lock on it, and it wasn't locked. MATTHEW opened the lid, and in it I saw a lot of clothing, like underwear, shirts, socks, handkerchiefs, neckties, three or four pairs of American dress trousers, and an American wind-breaker jacket with Sergeants' Chevrons on the sleeves; also some shaving-cream and some note-paper and envelopes. The box was not quite full.