

clue as some 120 P.O.W.s had had access to it and any one of them might have taken it.

The investigation that followed is outstanding in many ways, probably ranks among the best in the annals of Canadian crime as an example of patience, perseverance and relentless interrogation.

Camp 132 held some 12,000 German prisoners. Following the murder of Plaszek in the spring of 1943 (see *R. v. Schwalg et al*, 12 R.C.M.P.Q. 194) the Nazi element had continued to dominate the camp and to maintain a Gestapo as ruthless as that in Germany. Identifying about 700 of the more rabid of these extremists, Military Intelligence had arranged to move them to a segregated camp at Neys, Ont., and all of them were put on the train during the early morning hours of Sept. 11, 1944. Shortly afterwards, at about 8 a.m., the German camp spokesman reported to the Commandant that a P.O.W. had committed suicide.

Some of the members of a minority group to which Dr. Lehmann belonged lived in constant dread, and their anxiety wasn't relieved on September 4, when the camp Gestapo under *Unteroffizier* (sergeant) Walter Wolf rounded up 28 P.O.W.s who were suspected of being opposed to National Socialism and of plotting to overthrow the camp organization.

Born in Germany in 1917, Wolf often had bragged of being in the German *sicherheits dienst* (security service) and of assisting once to hang a Jew in or near Mannheim, Germany. Known to other P.O.W.s as the Gestapo man, he seemed qualified by training and temperament for the role.

The 28 suspects were lined up on a platform and if any of them so much as dared to speak out of place, or turn round, he was given a "reminder" with a club. The strong-arm clique who had rounded them up threatened that unless satisfactory explanations were forthcoming the suspects would be hanged and their bodies burned—a threat they seem-

ed capable of carrying out, judging by what had happened to Plaszek. However this "kangaroo court" absolved the suspects of guilt and released them.

But for several days rumours were rife, and the word "chief" seemed to be uppermost in the minds of the P.O.W.s. It was believed that owing to the proceedings the camp police suspected Lehmann as being the leader of the anti-Nazi faction in the camp but had no actual proof that he was. At all events some of the P.O.W.s transferred to Neys regarded him as a menace to the camp's morale and, apparently fearing that those remaining behind might not be able to cope with him, took it upon themselves to dispose of him before they left. If not merely a parting gesture of Nazi fanaticism, the murder presumably was to serve as a warning to others against losing faith in Hitler.

Lehmann's death coincided with the arrival at the camp of a number of Germans who had been captured in the first half of July during the Carpiquet and Caen battles. Installed in each of the huts occupied by these new-comers, who were known as the Normandy draft and frowned upon by the camp Nazis as lacking in courage, was a member of the ruling group whose purpose clearly was to spy upon and drill into them that the prevailing control in the camp was to continue.

Intelligent and educated, before joining the German Army Dr. Lehmann had been a professor at the University of Erlangen, Germany. Following his capture at Grombalia, Tunisia, in May, 1943, he was interned at Oldham, England, where he is alleged to have told some of the inmates that they were being denied the facts, that Germany was a despised nation and had been made so by Hitler. The next month he was sent to Canada and arrived at Medicine Hat on July 15, 1943.

Born in Germany in 1906 Lehmann, though a strong patriot, was avowedly anti-Hitler and anti-Nazi. And he was