

fashioned a network of irrefutable evidence around Teale.

In the morning of the day of the murder Teale had no money. An hour before noon he left his room in Melfort and walked out on the highway, resolved to rob the first motorist who happened along. His own account of what followed was essentially correct, except that he had worked alone. Once in the car he withdrew the .22, which he had concealed under his greatcoat and from which he had removed the stock to facilitate handling, and shot Vansickle in the neck. He became panicky when the wounded man fell over on him and, using the rifle barrel as a club, inflicted cuts and bruises on his victim's face. When the car stopped he got out and went around to the other side, shot Vansickle in the back as he lay on the seat, robbed him and then left. Shortly afterwards he was in Price's truck being driven back to Melfort.

Dr. Francis G. McGill of Regina, Sask., provincial pathologist, performed the *post mortem* examination on November 19 and concluded that death had been caused by internal hemorrhage resulting from a gunshot wound through the right lung.

Check of the records at Saskatoon, Sask., at which point the suspect claimed to be stationed, revealed that he had never been a member of the R.C.A.F. and that he was wearing the uniform, chevrons and service ribbons illegally. He had, however, belonged to the air cadets in Winnipeg, Man., and when he left his unit apparently did not turn in his uniform; moreover he stole several articles of equipment, including the dunnage bag, from an airman he met.

The trial opened on Apr. 3, 1945, at Melfort before Mr. Justice H. V. Bigelow of the Court of King's Bench and jury. W. M. Rose, K.C., Moose Jaw, Sask., and A. E. Cairns, K.C., Melfort, represented the Crown; H. E. Keown, K.C., B. Moore and E. M. Woolliams, all of Melfort, appeared for the defence.

Teale, charged with Murder, s. 263, Cr. Code, pleaded not guilty.

Much of the Crown's case was based on scientific findings involving ballistics, handwriting, footprints and various laboratory tests for blood.

Microscopic comparison showed that the two bullets recovered from Vansickle's car and an empty cartridge case found on the ground nearby could have been fired only from the rifle seized from the accused. Tests for propellant powder residue on the coat which the deceased was wearing when killed gave positive results, while comparative tests made with the seized weapon, the same clothing material as that in the coat and ammunition of the type used in the murder established that the shot in Vansickle's neck had been fired from a tight-contact muzzle range and the one in his back from a muzzle range of between half an inch and two inches.

Several hours after the murder Teale had taken some washing in the dunnage bag to a Chinese laundry. At the trial an R.C.M.P. document examiner identified the bag by testifying that the handwriting on a tag attached to it and the accused's signature on his statement to the police were written by the same person.

Laboratory tests also disclosed that stains on this bag, on the blankets taken from the car and on the rifle were of human blood, and that a new air force greatcoat found in Teale's room bore human blood stains high up on the left sleeve near the shoulder—made when the wounded man slumped against his assailant.

Plaster casts of footprints found in a field near where the murder was committed coincided in size with impressions made by the accused's boots.

The prosecution adduced that on November 15 the accused departed from his home in the Golburn, Sask., district, taking with him his brother's rifle; that when he entered the boarding-house on the 16th, the day before the murder, he