

"kept by the Paymaster and as it was not necessary to give the cash box to the adjutant over the weekend I had no reason to believe that he had parted with their possession. I did not have a key to the cash box. I had no knowledge of the combination of the safe, which I understood had been changed while I was on New Year's leave by reason of the fact that it had been necessary for the adjutant to have the old combination during the Paymaster's absence on Christmas leave. After the shortage was discovered I examined the cash box with the Paymaster and saw marks which indicated an attempt to pry it open. This was the first time that I had seen these marks and they were not present when I had occasion under a former Paymaster three or four months previously to handle the cash box. The marks were not visible from the outside when the lid was closed. They were only noticeable when the lid was open.

"The safe was acquired when the former Paymaster was there but after he first changed the combination it worked very stiffly and at times required two hands to turn the dial. It is still stiff and since 8 Jan on one occasion it was impossible to work the combination at all.

Gross-examined by the accused is:-

- Q- How many times were you in or through my office between 1130 and 1150 hours on 5 Jan 45?
- A- Well, that I couldn't say. I know I had a great deal of work when I came back from New Year's leave and I know I was more or less on the run all morning. How many times it was in this specific period I couldn't say.
- Q- When was the last time you had turned the dial of the safe prior to me coming in?
- A- It would be prior to you taking over as Paymaster in October, 1944.
- Q- Was I aware of the fact that you and two other members of the staff were proceeding on short weekend?
- A- Not as far as I know, sir. I brought nothing of that to your attention.

[Signature] (G.M.H.)
No. 8-75036, (J.D. HANCOCK)
F. & S. Wing, A-35 GAGTE, C.A.