

Opening address by the Prosecution

Sirs, the prosecution will prove that the accused did steal property belonging to a person subject to military law, the property of H 45523 Pte Gaunt, D.P., Lake Sup R (M), who will be produced as a witness. The stolen property was recovered from the room occupied by the accused by Sgt Beaumont, R.A., Sgt Parry, H.G., both of the Special Investigation Branch, Western Comd, accompanied by L/Cpl Britten, C.M.P. The above mentioned were directed by the accused to the place where the stolen articles could be recovered. A voluntary statement made and signed by the accused will be introduced as evidence.

First Witness for the Prosecution

H 45523 Pte Gaunt, D.P., Lake Sup R (M) being duly sworn is examined by the Prosecution.

- Q.1 Will you give your rank name and number to the court?
A.1 H 45523 Pte Gaunt, D.P.
Q.2 And your unit?
A.2 Lake Superior Regt (Motor).
Q.3 Can you identify the soldier whom you accused in Birmingham of having stolen your bag?
A.3 Yes sir (identifies the accused).
Q.4 Will you tell us in your own words all the events leading up to the disappearance of your pack from the station?
A.4 It first started in the Golden Eagle Club in Birmingham, my pack was already at New Street Station where I had checked it. I checked my pack in the morning and was going to pick it up that night and catch the 11 o'clock train for Edinburgh. I was in the Golden Eagle and was going to leave the pub at 1030 at the time it closed and during the conversation in the pub with different fellows from my unit I happened to bump into Norland and he overheard me say I was going to Edinburgh on the 11 o'clock train so he kind of came into the conversation and said he would accompany me to Edinburgh. I thought it would be alright to have company so we went over to New Street Station after the pub closed and there I picked up my pack from the baggage room and we still had about 25 mins before the train was due so we decided to go and have a cup of tea in the canteen. We went in and had a cup of tea and came outside again and while we were drinking this tea three girl workers came up and asked me to go in and get them a cup of tea.
Q.5 Why did they ask you to do it?
A.5 Because they were not allowed in sir. I came out with the tea and ~~then~~ my chum had disappeared.
Q.6 By the word chum whom do you mean?
A.6 Pte Norland sir. I asked the girls where he had gone and they said ~~that~~ he had grabbed his pack and went down the platform. I then turned around to see if my pack was there because I remembered he did not have a pack with him. My pack was gone. One of the girls said he might have made a mistake and thought it was his bag on the Edinburgh train and she took me to the Edinburgh train and we went through the whole train. Just previous to that I had taken a quick run down the platform which he had gone but could not find him he was not down that way, so the only thing I could do was to report the thing to the red caps there.
Q.7 Do you remember the names of any of the Provost there?
A.7 I believe one of them is here, I believe he was on at that time at night when I reported it to one of them. I then went back to Columbia House where I had stayed the night before and there I stayed for the night. I got up the next morning and went to New Street Station and inquired if my pack had been found around the station. I went to three or four different places and no one had seen it around.
Q.8 Did you see the accused in Birmingham again?
A.8 Yes sir, I seen him the next afternoon. From the New Street Station I went to the pub and stayed there until 2:30 with 2 or 3

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