

L.H.K.

As a result of this information, on the 14th February, 1945, at about 09.30 hrs., in company with Capt. H.L. Whittaker, C.S.M. S. Carrier and Sergt. A. Kendall, all of this Section, I went to the 'Boudewyn' Cafe, Boulevard Street, Antwerp, owned by Louis VAN PRET, and found a soldier sleeping there on the second floor. I told him who I was, cautioned him, and said, "I have reason to believe that you have been concerned with other soldiers in committing a number of armed robberies in this area", and he said, "I guess you've caught me this time".

In a room on the first floor, C.S.M. Carrier found another soldier in bed with a woman. After being cautioned this soldier admitted taking part in a number of armed robberies. The man found by me on the second floor was known as Arthur, the soldier found on the first floor being known as Johnny.

Both men were arrested and conducted to the 83 S.I.S. H.Q., where they admitted being absent from their units for a number of months, their particulars being as follows:-

(3) No. H/95342 I/Opl. GALLANT, A.J.,
"B" Company,
Queens Own Cameron Highlanders,
2nd. Canadian Division.
(Known as Arthur).

(4) No. Q/102592 Pte. GIBSON, W.F.,
"A" Company,
Royal Regiment of Canada,
2nd. Canadian Division.
(Known as Johnny).

Later the same date I again saw I/Opl. Gallant, cautioned him, and asked if he would care to give me an explanation as to his activities since coming to the Antwerp district, and he elected to make a voluntary statement which I reduced to writing and which he duly signed as being true. In this statement it will be seen that I/Opl. Gallant frankly admits being concerned in at least eleven or twelve armed robberies in the Antwerp area, also admitting that he was probably concerned in a number more which he can't remember.

Pte. Gibson, on the same evening was interviewed by C.S.M. Carrier, and elected to make a voluntary statement which was taken down in writing under caution and which he signed as being true. It can be seen from this statement that Pte. Gibson admits taking an active part in at least seven armed hold-ups.

Both these men were placed in the Town Guard Room, Antwerp, pending further investigations being made regarding the robberies.

During the course of my investigations, I learned that sometimes there was a fifth member operating with the above mentioned men. Numerous enquiries were made in an effort to discover the identity of this man, but the following are the only brief particulars available:-

Canadian Pte. soldier, nickname "SNOWBALL",
Height - about 5' 9", weight - about 11st.
Complexion - Very dark (Indian characteristics).
Hair - Black, brushed straight back.
Eyes - Black, small, slant.
Dress - Khaki battledress trousers and blouse.

The above particulars, together with those of the four men in custody, have been forwarded to the A.P.M. 7 B.S.A. for circulation.

21

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