

they were innocent of any wrong intent, no such plea will be open to them hereafter. The evidence of Major W. J. Keightley has established clearly that shells treated as they were treated in this factory at the time when your offence was committed would be rejected by the Government inspectors if to their knowledge such treatment had taken place. To put it shortly, holes in shells must not be plugged, and nothing whatever must be attempted to deceive the Government inspectors. If hereafter any such things are done, either in the factory concerned in this present prosecution or in any other factory in the Dominion of Canada, it will be done at the peril of prosecution not only under section 436A for an act of dishonesty, fraud or deception upon His Majesty, punishable as aforesaid, but also under section 74, clause 1, for an act of treason punishable with death. For the appalling possibilities of a weakness in the base of the shell are these (it being borne in mind that the striking force which it is expected to resist is 13 tons to the square inch): The shell may explode within the gun, blowing it to pieces and killing the gun crew and every living being within a wide area; or even if it leaves the gun intact it might fall short, dealing death and destruction within our own lines instead of to the enemy. So that one is not surprised to hear Major Keightley say that thousands of shells have been 'scrapped' for a speck no larger than a pin point.

"I do not forget, but I entirely ignore, the evidence given by witnesses for the defence to the effect that if there was the specified depth of solid metal in the base after deducting the depth of the plugged hole, the strength of the shell would not be impaired. I do not find this to have been proved. It is opposed to the evidence of Major Keightley, and even if it had been proved, I would consider it quite negligible, and foreign to this inquiry. The bald fact remains that holes were plugged and the surface then so treated by planing off that no inspection could detect it, even with the aid of a glass, and this is fraud and deception under the Code."

The accused gave his own recognizance to appear for sentence when called upon. It may be hoped that this case will become widely known and be a deterrent both to ignorant and traitorous persons engaged in such occupations.