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Regina Leader Post  
9 Sept. 1943

## Stonechild Guilty Of Manslaughter

A King's Bench jury Wednesday afternoon reduced a charge of murder against Pte. Eddie Stonechild, an Indian attached to Regina's 12th district depot, and found him guilty of manslaughter.

A strong recommendation for leniency was made by the jurymen.

Mr. Justice Donald Maclean assured the jury that he would not overlook its recommendation and said that he would give the case considerable thought before making judgment. Sentence will be pronounced at 10 o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 14.

Stonechild, a 25-year-old full-army Indian who enlisted in the overseas service and has seen murder following was charged with Aug. 8 of Evelyn Sever's death on Indian of the Kamsack district. Miss Severwright died early that morning at the home of Mrs. Margaret McKay, 470 McIntyre street, and her death was attributed to a beating allegedly administered by the accused a few hours earlier. The girl and Stonechild, together with two other Indians, Thomas John and Mrs. Grace Carrier, had been at the Carrier home, 482 Albert street, late on the night of Aug. 7.

A fracture on the left side of the head and an ensuing hemorrhage which pressed on the brain caused the death of the 16-year-old girl, according to testimony of Dr. Maurice Powers, of the R.C.M.P., who performed the post-mortem. The fracture had been caused by a very violent blow, possibly a fist, said Dr. Powers. He reported that two contusions had been found on the face, one on the right upper cheek and one in front of the left ear.

No evidence of the girl having been criminally assaulted had been found.

### "Rather Drunk"

Witnesses Wednesday afternoon testified that Stonechild had been "rather drunk" on the afternoon of Aug. 7 and one Indian girl said that he had struck her on the jaw with his fist.

The defence called no witnesses.

Mr. Justice Maclean, in his address to the jury, suggested that the jurymen "would be going too far" if they found Stonechild guilty of murder. "The evidence before you doesn't prove he was intending to kill," he said. He was of the belief that the evidence justified a verdict of manslaughter.

The jury considered the case for one hour.

While the jury was out, the court was told by E. D. Noonan, K.C., that Stonechild had enlisted with

the Saskatoon Light Infantry on Sept. 9, 1939, and had been returned to Canada after eight months' overseas service because of ill health. Discharged, he re-enlisted at Vancouver a few months later and served as an instructor with the rank of lance-corporal on the west coast. More recently he had been a cook with the 12th district depot in Regina where he was looked upon as a good soldier. He is married and the father of two children.

P. G. Hodges, K.C., and E. D. Noonan, K.C., appeared for Stonechild. H. E. Sampson, K.C., represented the Crown.

Jurymen were J. Clifford Ryan, Vincent J. Quinn, Robert Rogers, Sam Promislow, James Shepherd and Donald Reeyes.