

Ref: 83/ANT/272/45.83 Special Investigation Section,
Corps of Military Police.Subject: Armed Robberies by Canadian Soldiers.Exhibit B3
L.A. NilsenTo: The Officer Commanding,
83 Special Investigation Section.

Sir,

I have to report, that, on Thursday, the 8th February, 1945, I commenced enquiries respecting a series of armed robberies, which were occurring in the Antwerp district.

From preliminary investigations made by me, with a view to obtaining information of an authentic nature as to the method adopted by the assailants when committing these offences, from various sources it was evident that these crimes were the work of a number of soldiers operating as a gang, and believed to be American or Canadian, accurate descriptions being unobtainable, as these men committed the crimes during the hours of darkness.

From enquiries made, I formed the opinion that these men would most likely frequent the lower class districts of Antwerp, and would probably be found in the company of women who visit the Cafes in such districts.

On the 10th February, 1945, I was in the Cafe 'Bolero', Oude Manstraat, Antwerp, keeping observation, when Dorothea VALKIERE, the proprietrix, to whom I was known, handed me certain papers, which, when I examined found to be the personal belongings of various civilians. I asked her where she had obtained them, and she told me, that, on the 20th January, 1945, two soldiers who were regular customers to the 'Bolero', and whom she knew as Johnny and Joe, threw the papers into the stove which was not alight. She thought this rather unusual behaviour, and called these two soldiers over to the bar, at the same time informing her partner to remove the papers from the stove. This her partner did unknowing to the two soldiers.

Later I examined these papers, and in conjunction with the Civil Police, I ascertained that they had direct bearing on at least one civilian, named Paul Raeymaekers, who had been attacked and robbed by soldiers on the 2nd. February, 1945, in Nationale Street, Antwerp.

At this stage of my investigation, I obtained certain information to the effect, that, two soldiers by the names of Johnny and Joe, and two other men named Jimmy and Arthur, also soldiers, were in the habit of visiting the Cafes 'Bolero', 'Hawaii Bar', 'Seventh Heaven', 'Athena', and 'New York Bar', all in the Schipper Street area.

From the vague descriptions available, I learned that these four men were Canadians, usually dressed in battledress, over which they wore American type Waterproof Naval Jackets, and on the jacket worn by Jimmy, were the large white letters 'U.S.N.'

On the 11th and 12th February, 1945, I commenced observations on each of the aforementioned Cafes, and on the evening of the 12th February, about 21.30hrs., I was in the Cafe 'New York Bar', when a soldier entered wearing an American Naval Jacket, similar to those worn by the wanted men. As this soldier walked towards the bar, the girl behind the counter called out, 'Hello Jimmy', and as he turned around I noticed the large white letters 'U.S.N.' on the back of his jacket. After having a drink, he said goodbye to the girl behind the bar, and told her that he would be returning about the same time the following evening.

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