

talking together, joking as we had always done in the kitchen and I don't know what the brawl started about but the first thing I knew I was under the bench and he was on top. We scuffled around there for sometime. I am not a fighting man, never professed to be, and all I did was take Gnr. Lecompte by the shoulders and hang onto him to protect myself. I didn't want to fight with him and tried to get him quietened down, and I told him three times to go back to his hut, but he wouldn't go. During this period, two Bdrs. came in, Bdr. Waterfield and Bdr. Daniels. They came in and I was pretty well tussled out. They asked Lecompte to break it up and he immediately let go of me and hit Bdr. Waterfield. All the grievance he had with me had passed over to the other two Bdrs, and I went on with my duties looking after my ovens. What happened between Bdr. Waterfield and Bdr. Daniels and Gnr. Lecompte I didn't see. I didn't see him being hit. He was in the hallway which leads out to the main room out of my kitchen. The last I saw of Gnr. Lecompte, Bdr. Waterfield and Daniels were taking him out of there through the door to the Guard Room.

Q.144 Did you go to the Canteen with Gnr. Lecompte?

A. No, I didn't go to the Canteen with him.

Q.145 Was he there when you got there?

A. I couldn't say. I know I had five glasses of beer in the Canteen and Lecompte had passed my table a couple of times, and from where I was I saw him.

Q.146 You weren't sitting with him?

A. No, sir. And anything that happened after they left the kitchen I know nothing about it at all.

Q.147 What was the physical condition of Gnr. Lecompte when you were talking to him in L.11?

A. I would say the man was drunk.

Q.148 Will you tell the Court who else was in this kitchen at the time of this affair, other than Bdr. Waterfield, Bdr. Daniels, Bdr. Hughes and yourself?

A. There was Gnr. Lemont and one other chap, I can't recall his name. He was a Gunner.

Q.149 Do you know what his duty was?

A. One of my cook helpers. Both these chaps, Lemont and the other chap were my helpers. This other chap we called "Curly".

Q.150 Were they on duty?

A. No, sir, they were just in the kitchen.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY THE DEFENDING OFFICER

Q.151 Were you and Gnr. Lecompte actually drinking together in the Wet Canteen?

A. No, I wouldn't say we were drinking together.

Q.152 What started the argument between you and Lecompte?

A. That I don't know. I don't know what was said, but it all started in a flare-up. We had been joking with one another and he just grabbed a hold of me and under the bench I went.