



CANADA

PLEASE REPLY TO  
THE DEPUTY MINISTER

DEM.

Department of National Defence

Ottawa, Canada

—E.C.C. 55-A-76.

September 7th, 1928.

To - The Deputy Minister.

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Referring to your Minute of the 4th instant, during the course of the trial by Court Martial of Private (Acting Corporal) J.C. Armstrong, the Warder of the Detention Barracks at Esquimalt, on charges relating to the manner in which Armstrong carried out his duties, a letter was produced in Armstrong's defence purporting to be written by a woman in Victoria to a prisoner in Armstrong's custody.

Armstrong in his defence swore that this letter had been received in the Detention Barracks under the circumstances mentioned, but on minute examination the handwriting of the letter bore every indication of being that of Armstrong and if this was the case then the evidence which Armstrong gave on his own behalf was obviously false. The services of Mr. Beatty, a recognized handwriting expert, were retained by the District Officer Commanding and the evidence of Mr. Beatty at this trial clearly indicated that the letter in question had been forged by Armstrong.

The District Officer Commanding then recommended that another Court Martial be convened for the trial of Armstrong on a charge of perjury based on the false evidence alleged to have been given. At this trial, as well as at the taking of the Summary of Evidence prior thereto, Mr. Beatty's services were again required, and it is in respect of these services that he has rendered the account to which you refer.

The District Officer Commanding recommended the last mentioned trial as being in the interests of discipline and in this recommendation the Adjutant-General concurred.

So far as I was concerned I was consulted on the various legal questions involved, and if the D.O.C.'s recommendations were to be carried out it was essential that either Mr. Beatty's services or those of another handwriting expert be retained, as

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