

*Mr. Anderson*

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The following account of the incidents that took place in Prague on January 17 and 18, after which Sergeant Danko and Corporal Vanier were withdrawn from Czechoslovakia, is drawn from the reports of the Canadian Charge d'Affaires, Mr. John A. Irwin, the Canadian Air Attache, Group Captain R. A. Cameron, and the two men themselves.

On the afternoon of January 17, when Sergeant Danko left his apartment house with his wife, he saw at the street door three roughly-dressed and threatening-looking individuals who seemed to be taking considerable interest in him. He did not know who they were but feared some trouble for himself. When he returned home later in the afternoon he took the precaution of having with him Corporal Vanier and another member of the Legation staff. The three men he had seen before he now found inside the building in front of his apartment door. He asked them if they were police and what they were doing there. They replied that they were not police and were waiting to see a lawyer who lived on the same floor. They asked for no identification and offered none; nor when asked would they identify themselves.

That evening at 8:30 Danko and Vanier were in the Danko apartment with Mrs. Danko and a party of four ladies. About 9 o'clock they left the flat. Mrs. Danko was left behind in the apartment. At the door of the apartment house one of a watching trio accosted the leading pair and spoke in Czech, apparently asking for identification cards. One of the men was ill-advised enough to lay a hand on a girl in the party. Vanier demanded to see the man's own identification papers and when he would not produce them but insisted on interfering, Vanier brushed him aside. This caused him to stumble and fall. Vanier pulled him up by the coat and warned him to make off, which he and his companions did. The latter did not offer to interfere in any way. The man's coat was torn, but so little disturbance was caused by his fall that Sergeant Danko, who was standing nearby, did not know of the fall until he was later told by Vanier.

On the following day, January 18, Sergeant Danko left the Canadian Legation at about 5:00 p.m. to go home. As he drove up in front of his apartment house a number of tough-looking individuals appeared, whereupon Danko prudently returned to the Legation. The Charge d'Affaires, the Air Attache and another officer of the Legation then accompanied Sergeant Danko to his apartment before which they found gathered on the street a small crowd of men, with whom was one uniformed policeman. They stopped and questioned the policeman and learned that there was some question of Vanier having torn the coat of one of the men during the incident of the previous evening.

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