

Notes on Recent Cases

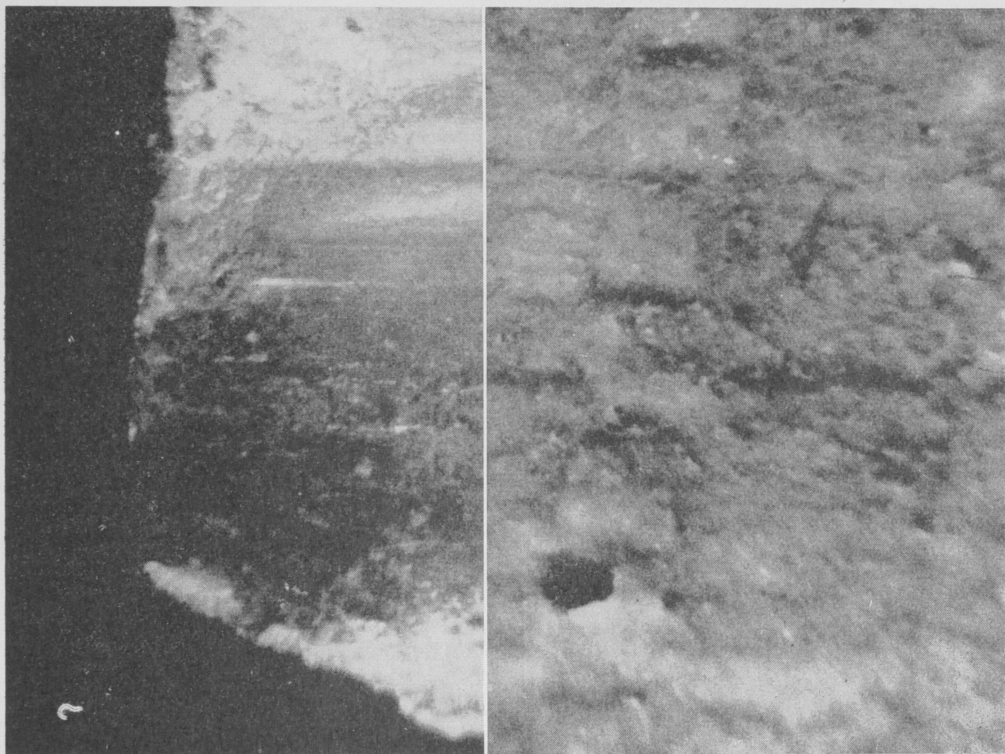
R. v. Barton et al

Wilful Damage to Property—Wounding With Intent—Dangerous Fun—Scientific Laboratory—Unique Evidence

On July 7, the R.C.M.P. detachment at Minnedosa, Man., received a phone call to the effect that an R.A.F. training plane while in flight had been fired at by two unknown civilians. One bullet had grazed the right arm of a student pilot in the rear cockpit.

The next day, investigators interviewed the complainant at the air training school and learned that apparently the offenders were farmers. An examination of the plane showed where one bullet, obviously from a .22 calibre rifle, had gone through the hood covers of the front and rear cockpits. The covers were taken as exhibits.

The complainant couldn't locate the field from which the shots had come, on the map, but said he would recognize the place from the air. The investigators accordingly boarded his plane and were flown to a farm owned by Geo. R. Drysdale. This man's father, David Drysdale who lived about a mile west, when interviewed, said he knew nothing about the shooting, although he admitted there were two .22 rifles in his house—one his own, the other his son's; but neither had been used the previous day. The investigators picked up three empty .22 cartridges on the lawn in front of the house.



Part of a chart presented in court showing: (left) impression on part of metal frame of plane; (right) impression on plasticine made with test bullet.