

Subject: Alleged Larceny of Web Valise and contents by No. M56523 Gdsm, Norland, E.F. No.2 Sqn 22nd Guards Armoured Regt, The Royal Canadian Grenadier Guards, property belonging to M45523 Pte. Gaunt, D.F. 1st Bn The Lake Superior Regt(R) Canadian Forces, Three Bridges, Sussex.

To: The Officer Commanding,
Special Investigation Branch,
Western Command.

Sir,
On Tuesday 16th Nov 43, I was on duty at the S.I.B. Office Birmingham, when I received a request from CSM Davidson, C.M. Police to go to Lockup, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, to interrogate a Cdn soldier who had been arrested by L/Cpl Mansell, C.M.P. on an alleged charge of larceny, of a valise and contents from another soldier of the Canadian Forces on New Street Railway Station on the night of the 15th Nov 43.

Accompanied by Sgt. Parry, S.I.B., I proceeded to Steelhouse Lane Lockup, where I saw M56523 Gdsm E F Norland, 2 Sqn, 22 Cdn Armd Regt, The Royal Cdn Grenadier Gds, and I was informed by L/Cpl Mansell C.M.P. that M45523 Pte. Gaunt, D.F. 1st Bn The Lake Sup R(R) Cdn Forces had alleged that Norland had stolen the following property:- 1 W.D. Companion Valise and traces and straps, 1300 cigarettes (Sweet Caporal Brand) 1 Holdall complete, 1 Towel, 2 Shirts, 2 prs Pants, 2 Vests, 1 Handkerchief, from him outside the Services Canteen, New Street Station, on the 15th Nov 43, at about 23.30 hrs.

I questioned Norland about the allegation and he admitted that he had stolen the Valise but said that he did not know where he had put it and that the 875 cigarettes which L/Cpl Mansell, C.M.P. has seen in his own kit bag at Columbia House, were his own property which he had brought with him on leave.

Not being satisfied with his explanation I further questioned him and he finally admitted that the cigarettes that were in his kit bag were part of the stolen property and that he had given the others away. He also told me that he had left the Valise and other contents under his bed in a corner of room 12a at Columbia House.

On this information I cautioned Norland and he elected to make a statement which I took down in writing at his dictation and he read it over and signed it. (Attached statement by Norland which is self explanatory).

After taking the statement I examined the Valise in the presence of Norland and L/Cpl Eritten, C.M.P. and found the following articles:- 1 Web Valise together with braces and straps, 5 vests, 1 Shirt (knock) and 1 pr of grey socks, 1 handkerchief, 1 towel, 1 holdall complete containing shaving brush, razor, shaving soap, 2 tooth brushes, 1 tube of tooth paste, 1 tablet of soap and 2 jars of skin cream. 1 pair of shoe trees.

which Norland agreed were stolen by him and he signed a statement to this effect. (Attached statement of property found at Columbia House).

In Norland's presence, I recovered 875 Sweet Caporal Brand Cigarettes from his kit bag which I took possession of.

(F.F.G.)