



Reference To Evidence Of Secret Witnesses

OFFICER'S MEETINGS WITH OBST MAN OF "RATHER NONDESCRIPT APPEARANCE"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE.)

vious letter that your correspondence was being watched?—Yes.

Mr. Parkes then put a series of questions concerning the Army books which form some of the exhibits in the case.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart said he could not remember the exact day he returned "Modern Formations" to the library from which he borrowed it. He knew that he signed the book for it. He certainly did not have it for more than ten days at the outside.

He thought it would help him in his promotion examination, and his attention was first drawn to its existence by a note which was given to them in their lectures.

Mr. Parkes: "We have heard that Mr. Crowwell was with you when you borrowed that book?—He tried to borrow one as well, but I do not think there was another copy available.

As to "War Establishments," what do you say about that?—I cannot remember when I borrowed that, but they were in the possession of nearly every officer in the course. I cannot be certain about the month, but I think it was probably about September.

"Tactical Handling of Tank Battalions"—I borrowed that from Mr. Miller.

"Why did you want it?"

WHY HE BORROWED TANK PHOTOGRAPH

"Well, I was looking for something to learn up on the subject," said Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart, "and I went to him knowing him to be a tank officer. I asked him if he had anything which would help me, as was going to study for my promotion exam. He looked through his books, and he only had this.

"I asked him if I could borrow it, and I read through bits of it. There was only one short bit which interested me at all, and the rest of the time it lay on my shelf, on the top, where I imagine it must have been found.

Did you ever allow any of these three books to go out of your possession?—Never.

Or have you disclosed the contents of them to any other person?—Certainly not.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart, asked by Mr. Parkes why he borrowed a photograph of a tank from Mr. Miller, explained that Mr. Miller gave him some photographs to look through. He borrowed the photograph to compare it with a newspaper of a tank which had taken part in that season's manoeuvres.

Mr. Parkes then asked Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart about the cutting "Famous swimming tanks." Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart explained that this was from the advertisement pages of the magazine in which it appeared. He cut it out to add to his collection.

THE DAY OF HIS ARREST

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart was also asked about the cutting from another publication concerning a Vikings gun. He explained that he had cut it from "The Argonaut," which he had not taken in for over a year. He discovered it later.

Mr. Parkes then passed to the day of Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart's arrest on January 20.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart said that he went before a brigadier at command headquarters, and when Colonel Syms and Captain "B" were shown into the room the brigadier left.

What happened?—I was told to sit down and make myself comfortable and given a cigarette. Then Colonel Syms produced a paper on which there were nine points. I read it and it made no sense to me, with effect that it was all rubbish, and that I did not understand it.

What effect did the paper have on you?—It was the most extraordinary surprise I had ever had.

What did Colonel Syms say?—He asked me to give a written explanation on the spot.

What did you say?—I said I needed time to think it over as it had been thrown at me very suddenly, and that I had to have time. He said, "The truth comes out easily enough. You can write it down perfectly easily."

Why did you want time to consider the position?

"The thing had been thrown at me so suddenly," said Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart, "and every action had been misconstrued and turned round the other way that I had to have time to think it out. My explanation would not have looked well on paper at all if I had written it down. It did not dawn on me for a very long time that such a serious view of it was being taken."

"INVITED TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAST."

Did Colonel Syms say anything about what he thought the explanation might be?—Yes, he said that he thought perhaps I had got keen on secret service work, and that he could quite understand it if I had. He said it would not have been the first time these occasions had happened. He was inviting me to make a clean breast of the whole thing.

Did he say what would happen if you did?—He said, "If you will assist us and give us any code you might know or other information it is quite probable that it will be considered as enough if you resign or relinquish"—I cannot say the exact words—"your commission."

What did you say to that?—I said I could see no reason why they should think I had anything to do with the German secret service at all. As they had told me that apparently my friends were secret service agents, and as I was going back in the spring I would do my best to help them then, Colonel Syms said that was impossible.

Was anything said about you being placed under arrest?—I never said that," said Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart. "He said my explanation was not good enough, and it had been going on for several hours, I said, "If you cannot accept my explanation I suggest you put me under arrest."

"I was also thinking that as I had offered to give a written explanation the next morning, that would cover them for the time."

Colonel Syms tells us that you did tell



BEFORE THE DEFENCE opened.—The accused officer in the grounds waiting for the court to resume yesterday.

him about Marie Louise to some extent?—Yes, he asked for a description of her which I gave.

The president, Major-General Dugan: What description did you give of Marie Louise?—I said she was young, about twenty-two, and fair.

The president: Was that all you could think about her?—That was all I could say.

You knew they had, as it were, descended from the War Office?—Yes, Colonel Syms introduced himself as that.

Did he say anything about publicity?—Yes, he said that the Army Council were absolutely frightened, that they did not want any publicity in the matter, and wished to keep it out of the civil courts.

Did you make any complaints to him about this questioning?—Yes, after several hours—I took nearly four hours in all—I told him I was being badgered, and very nearly towards the end I said to him, "It is very like the third degree." He turned to Captain "B" and said: "That is not so, is it?" and Captain "B" replied, "No, it is not."

Mr. Parkes produced and read a letter by the accused stating that he must sever all connections with Obst and Marie Louise.

Why did you write that letter?—I was very upset to hear they said Obst or both of them were secret service agents," replied Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart. "I thought I would like to cut the thing off straight away. I was not expecting anything else, but if anything else was written so much had already been misconstrued that it would be misconstrued further and a thicker web woven.

Since that day you have been under arrest waiting trial?—Yes.

Now, have you ever obtained any information for a purpose prejudicial to the interests of the State at any time?—Never.

"DID NOT DISCUSS" MILITARY SUBJECTS.

Or attempted to do so?—No.

Or disposed of or attempted to dispose of?—Certainly not.

At the time you associated with Obst and Marie Louise had you any idea that in fact they were the secret service agents of any foreign Power?—I never thought so for a moment.

During your visit to Marie Louise in Holland?—Never.

Or when you received money from her?—Never. We never on any occasion discussed anything of military subjects. I never discuss military subjects with girls.

On your own honour would there be a word of truth in the allegations made against you?—No, not a word of truth. There is no possible reason at all. I have never been in debt in my life.

Major Shapcott then began his cross-examination.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart, replying to his questions, said that up to the end of August last it was his desire and intention to transfer to the R.A.S.C.

The book "Modern Formations" was mentioned to him in connection with the first part of the course. He asked for the book, he supposed, in September or November. He was very bad at dates.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart was asked if he had told Mr. Preston that the books "Modern Establishments" and "Modern Formations" had been in his possession or in his room all the time he was on leave.

MET MARIE LOUISE "ALMOST DAILY."

"No," he replied, "I said they had been in my room all the time I had had them."

He agreed that he asked for an overdraft from the bank before going to Germany. He had £20 from the sale of his car and some other cash in hand, though only a few pounds.

He did not stay at the address to which he said he was going in Berlin. It was one which had been given to him by a man in India, but when he arrived he could not find it, and went to an hotel to which he was recommended.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart, when asked to describe Obst, said: "He was about thirty-six, of rather nondescript appearance, something like Major 'A,' only not quite so full and a little bit shorter."

Major Shapcott: Did he speak English perfectly?—Far from it.

How many times in all did you see him?—At most four.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart said that he met Marie Louise almost daily, but there were days when he did not see her.

Major Shapcott: Do you seriously tell the court the only description you can give of her is that she is twenty-two and fair?—It is not the only description, but I am not very good at describing people. I think it is a description in itself.

VISITS TO CLUBS AND DANCE HALLS

You think it is a perfect description?—I do not know what one can add. She is about five and a half feet high, has blue eyes and a good figure. There is nothing else really outstanding about her at all.

Why did you not tell Colonel Syms of this?—I gave him some description, but he did not press me for details about her figure.

You thought "twenty-two and fair" was enough for anybody?—He accepted it. He did not go on pressing me for more.

You were intimate with this woman on a number of occasions?—Yes.

Did she ever give you any money then?—She never actually gave me any money, but she paid the expenses of the places we went to.

The Judge-Advocate: What were they?—Night clubs, dance places, restaurants, all those places.

The Judge-Advocate: Where did intimacy

take place?—The Wansae, a very big lake district.

The Judge-Advocate: On the water?—No, no. It is a very good place. It has a lot of shores to it.

Major Shapcott: Did you ever ask whether the canoe you went in was hers?—No, it did not interest me.

What did you talk about?—I really could not remember. A great many things.

What was Marie Louise like?—I should think they were very great friends.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart said that he saw them together only on the one or two occasions when he came along with her.

Major Shapcott: Did you ever ask her anything about him?—No. I took them both very much for granted.

Did you ever ask him about Marie Louise?—No. I do not make a practice of asking questions about people.

But you got very friendly with this woman?—Yes.

She got fond of you?—I imagine so.

And you of her?—Not particularly, no.

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart, further questioned, said that he never asked her name and took things very much as they came. He saw no reason to doubt Obst when he introduced the girl as Marie Louise.

Major Shapcott: That is quite a common name in Germany?—I do not know. It might be a stage name.

Asked what he would have done if anything had gone wrong with his arrangements to see her in Berlin, he said she knew his hotel and could easily have rung up.

The Judge-Advocate: Presumably the conversation was held in English?—Yes, sir, all in English.

Did she speak English well?—No, sir, she did not speak it well.

Did she put her words together well?—No; some of them were rather bad mistakes that she made on different occasions.

There was a reference to a secret witness called yesterday morning when the Judge-Advocate asked: "Did she (Marie Louise) speak it as well as that witness we had here to-day?"

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart: I should think a little better. Not much.

The Judge-Advocate: Was there any reference to what she was doing or her business?

NEVER KNEW WHERE SHE LIVED

"No sir," replied Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart. "I several times made inquiries, and could not get any further at all. I never actually knew where she lived even. When I took her home I always left her at the end of a road. Where she went after that I do not know.

The president: Did she strike you as a mysterious woman?—All foreigners are mysterious in a way.

There was another reference to a secret witness when Major Shapcott asked a question about a journey on a night train to the Hook.

Have you heard a witness say here that you appeared frightened, that you were on your toes, is that so?

Mr. Parkes: Did she use that expression?

"No, she did not," replied Major Shapcott, and then read from the witness' evidence, "Very nervous, looking very worried."

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart: I imagine it is an invention of hers.

Mr. Shapcott: Did you say you had a job of work to do over there?—I think I said I had something difficult to do.

What was this difficult job you had to do?—To meet Marie Louise and get her to finance me.

The Judge-Advocate: Is the court right in taking it that this journey was undertaken solely for the purpose of getting money from this girl who did not care much about?—That is what I hoped to do.

HIS ACCOMMODATION IN THE TOWER

The Judge-Advocate: I do not quite see what Marie Louise was doing in Holland. Did you know she would be there?—Yes. The last day I saw her in Berlin she told me she would in a few days be leaving for Holland to stay with friends.

Major Shapcott: She was always very mysterious. Wherever she goes you know no address?—That is true.

"This woman who is absolutely infatuated with you! Did she meet you at the boat?—Yes.

Any one else?—No.

Are you sure that Mr. Obst did not come as well?—Quite.

The president intimated that the court would adjourn. "Before it does," he said, "I wish to address Mr. Baillie-Stewart upon a point not directly connected with this offence. It is about the accommodation at the Tower. I understand that Mr. Baillie-Stewart is occupying an ordinary officer's quarters in the Tower?"

Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart: Yes.

The president: And you are quite comfortable?—Yes.

The president, addressing the court, said:—

"I mention this because there is a popular impression that an officer under arrest in the Tower is put away into a dungeon."

The court adjourned until 10.30 this morning, when Lieutenant Baillie-Stewart's cross-examination will be resumed.



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