

TALKED MONEY, COURT-MARTIAL IS INFORMED

Tries Second Charge Against Major Lavallee in Quebec Hearings

Quebec, Dec. 21 (CP) — Trial of Major Ludovic Lavallee of Neuville, Que., appearing before a general court-martial following irregularities in the medical examinations of army recruits, continued today with Capt. G. A. Grondin of Quebec, testifying "there was a question of money between us" in the cases of four men.

Major Lavallee, who is facing the court on the second of three charges against him, has been acquitted on the first count which charged him with having examined various persons prior to their examinations by an army medical board. The second charge states that he received sums of money pertaining to the examinations while in the third, he is accused of having shared the money with Capt. Grondin.

The accused, who has already entered pleas of not guilty to the three charges, is being tried separately by the court, set up to try five medical officers and four other ranks.

Capt. Grondin, one of the accused who has already stood trial, said: "There was a question of money between us" in the cases of four men — Roland Bouin of Matane, Alfred Joncas of Levis, Philippe Ouellette of Montmagny and Richard Legare of Quebec. He told me there had been gifts. . . ."

"In the case of Legare, Major Lavallee told me that he (Legare) would undergo a medical examination because he had suffered from a skull fracture while he was young. I think it was an amount of \$20 that was mentioned. There might have been other cases but I don't remember. . . ."

"The accused did not give me any further details as to why he had received the money and I don't remember if he told me where it came from. . . ." Further questioning of the witness was postponed until tomorrow.

Legare then told the court he had met the accused several times. "The first time I met him was at his home. I went for a medical and was examined but I didn't say why I went, simply that I had been sent by Mr. Theriault. (Hon. Elisee Theriault, member of the Quebec Legislative Council for Kennebec.)

"Later I saw Maj. Lavallee, again at his home, and gave him some money. He asked me what it was for, but I left the money on the table. He said he had no reason to take it. The amount was \$40." Legare then said he saw the accused a third time at the recruiting office where "the money was given back to me."

Lt.-Col. Laval Fortier, Crown prosecutor, then produced as evidence the medical reports of Blouin, Joncas, Ouellette and Legare. Col.

Fortier said the men had been examined in the regular manner by a medical board, and the evidence was accepted over the protest of Defense Counsel Antoine Rivard who claimed it had no bearing on the case.

The court, presided over by Brig. J. A. Leclaire, began hearing on the second charge after a plea-in-bar by Mr. Rivard had been rejected.

Mr. Rivard asked that the charge be dropped as it was based on the first accusation on which the accused was freed.

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