

CAPT. GAUTHIER IS NOT GUILTY

Court-Martial Frees One of Four Officers

Quebec, Dec. 15 (CP). -- Capt. Pierre Gauthier, member of Parliament for Portneuf, was acquitted by a general court martial today of a charge of conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline in that he accepted \$10 from Pte. Georges Fortin while in the performance of military duties.

After Crown Prosecutor Lt.-Col. Laval Fortier and Defense Counsel Antoine Rivard had made their closing addresses, in which Mr. Rivard asked that Capt. Gauthier be freed, the court adjourned for about 15 minutes and when they returned, Brig. J. A. Leclaire, head of the court, announced that the court, "after serious study, has decided that Capt. Gauthier is not guilty of the charge and is immediately liberated."

Following the announcement, the some 60 persons in the court applauded and a number rushed forward to offer their congratulations. Capt. Gauthier, under arrest since Nov. 2, left the court unattended.

Major Ludovic Lavallee then was brought before the court, set up to try five medical officers and four other ranks following certain irregularities in the medical examination of prospective army recruits. He was told that his trial would open tomorrow when charges laid against him would be made public.

Major Lavallee, 52, of Neuville, Quebec, is the third medical officer to stand trial. The cases of the soldiers have been completed.

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