

# COURT-MARTIAL DROPS CHARGE

Fortin Being Tried  
for Accepting Bribes

Quebec, Dec. 7 (CP).—Trial of Pte. Georges Fortin of Quebec ended before a general court-martial today with the court dropping a charge that the accused distributed among various medical personnel sums of money which he allegedly accepted during the performance of military duties.

Fortin, who had previously pleaded not guilty, still faces a charge of having accepted bribes. Findings of the court, set up to try five medical officers and four ranks following certain irregularities concerning the medical examination of prospective army recruits, will not be announced until they have been submitted to the Adjutant-General's department at Ottawa and until all the men have stood trial.

Defense Counsel Antoine Rivard objected to the second charge on the grounds of lack of proof. The court adjourned for a half-hour, and upon its return decided to drop the charge.

After Crown Prosecutor Lt.-Col. Laval Fortier had made his closing address, Rivard charged that the Crown had not proved that Fortin had accepted bribes during the performance of his military duties.

The defense also said that there had never been an agreement between anybody as far the corruption of medical officers was concerned, and that the accused had not asked for the money. The charge, however, was maintained.

Major Louis Lacasse, officer commanding No. 5 Company of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, of which Fortin was a member, gave character evidence, saying that up to the present time he had "nothing but praise for the work of the accused. He was most helpful at all times and always ready to carry out extra duties cheerfully and competently."

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