

COURT-MARTIAL HEARS WITNESS IN HOSPITAL

Patient Corroborates Earlier Evidence in Officers' Trial

The general court martial trying Capt. John William Jackson and Capt. William Nathan Winkler, both of the R.C.A.M.C. on charges arising out of the death of Pte. John Heeney Somerville in Stanley detention barracks on Jan. 29, held a short session at Christie Street Military Hospital yesterday. The court, presided over by Col. G. S. Stairs, adjourned in Fort York Armories and reassembled at the hospital for the purpose of hearing evidence by a patient, Sgt. J. Wade, corroborating evidence given by others about the sick parade at-

tended by Somerville on the morning of Jan. 27.

Before visiting the hospital, members of the court martial retired twice to consider the admissibility of evidence by Pte. Carl Condo, who occupied a cell near that of the deceased, concerning conversations overheard in the cell block. After inspecting the cell block in company with the witness, the court martial ruled the evidence out because they were not satisfied that Pte. Condo could sufficiently identify one of the voices as that of Pte. Somerville.

Charges Against Officers.

Captains Jackson and Winkler are on trial on charges of failure to make proper diagnosis and give appropriate treatment. Pte. Somerville was picked up drunk on Shuter Street on the night of Jan. 26 and taken to Stanley Barracks, where he died in the cells early on the morning of the 29th.

Sgt. William J. Abraham, R.C.A., who saw deceased stumble on parade on the morning of Jan. 27, said he sent a guard to bring Somerville in from the compound.

Somerville had told him that members of his family had died of epilepsy, witness said. That afternoon Somerville was excused from parade and spent the time dusting around his cell, though not ordered to do so. On the 28th, witness said, he had noticed perspiration on Somerville's brow and had told him to lie down in his cell, excusing him from parade because he did not think a man in his condition should go out in the cold. There was nothing about Somerville to indicate that he might die in a few hours, witness said. Sgt. Abraham said he had taken Somerville off duty four times, but had not told Capt. Winkler.

Staff Sergt. Frederick Pearson, who saw Somerville on Jan. 27 at sick parade, said no one had made a report to Capt. Winkler about Somerville and that he had not seen a stethoscope used on him during the 10-minute examination given Somerville by the medical officer. Somerville had not asked to be paraded before the medical officer, to his knowledge, witness said, nor did he recall any food being eaten by deceased during his stay in custody barracks.

Wanted More Bromide.

Sgt. Wilfred J. McKeown, R.C.A., said Somerville had wanted to go on sick parade on the 28th because he wanted more bromide and that he had seen Somerville sitting up in bed in his cell early on Jan. 29.

Sgt. McKeown, who had examined the body of Somerville while it was still warm after his death on January 29th, said the dead man's face was not blue and no paler than on the previous day.

Gnr. George Washington Mulholland, who appeared before the court martial in civilian clothing, and who had occupied an adjoining cell, said Pte. Somerville had seemed unsettled on the 28th and "always bothering the guards to get out for a drink of water." Witness said Somerville had seemed to have the D.T.'s, had talked strangely and given the impression that he was suffering from hallucinations, though he was quieter when the guards came around.

Toronto doctors waiting to give expert medical testimony include Dr. Ray Farquharson, Dr. I. A. Erb, Dr. W. H. Holmes, Major J. R. Brooke, Dr. C. P. Lusk, Dr. W. H. Butt, and Dr. G. Hall.

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