

Original Statement by Millar Buzzard to President
& Members of General Courts Martial

1/6
17
The accused being duly examined
is examined by accused's friend
I was detailed in the early
part of last December to go to
Charleroi on special duty
connected with the canteen.
I spent approximately £1230.1231
I did not get all the goods I
purchased back to the canteen.
There was a certain amount of
pillage. The value of the goods
pillaged was approximately three
hundred francs, my living
expenses were about £20. I was
held responsible and had to pay
for the pillaged goods. Lt. Holgate
was on similar duty from the
same brigade as myself. He gave
me five hundred francs and
debited the amount to the 112th
Kamtyer Battery Canteen account.
He gave me this money to purchase
potatoes for the brigade. I gave
him a receipt. I did not buy the
potatoes. I returned the money to
Lt. Holgate, who gave me back
did not get back my receipt. Lt.
Holgate subsequently asked me
to pay the five hundred francs.
He denied that they had been
repaid. I subsequently gave Lt.
Holgate another five hundred francs.
I did this because he held my receipt
still and he took certain steps to
force me to pay. He appealed to
the CO of the Brigade. About the
28th or 29th of December the
canteen accounts in connection
with the purchases in Charleroi
were squared up. On account of the
loss of the five hundred francs
and having to make good the
pillages and my living expenses in
Charleroi I did not have sufficient
money to square the account. I was
in Charleroi just over three weeks.
To get the money I thought of overdrawing
my pay book. I regarded the
losses and expenses at Charleroi as
being incurred on the Brigade
account, and overdraw on that

While I was in Charleroi besides my 19
canteen business I was very busy buying
for the Brigade dinner. I had
in my private banking account
more funds than sufficient to
cover the amounts. I am charged
with overdrawing. Could I have
got the money in time through
my bank I ~~also~~ would have
done so.

The Prosecutor does not desire to
re-examine.

To the President

I did not place the
matter before any of my seniors before
overdrawing. Time was too short.
I paid myself. This is quite usual
in the Brigade. Battery to which I
belong. After I had overdrawn
I took no steps to square my account
except that I did not further draw
until I drew £5-15 at Harne on 24/2/19.
which was field allowance.

re-examined by the accused's friend

On the 30th December 1918 I
paid certain men at the battery.
When the rolls were checked I
found myself short £1-14-6.
I drew that amount on my pay book.
Lt. Holgate is not now with his
unit.

Rule 83 B complied with
recalled by leave of the Court

I knew there was an order
against overdrawing. I thought as
I drew this money to square official
accounts it did not apply to me. I
had not at the time actually read
order no 723.

Prosecutor declines to examine.

Rule 83 B complied with

Prosecutor addresses the Court.

The overdrawing has been proved
and the accused has given no
evidence to show a legal
excuse for overdrawing.

Accused friend addresses the Court

The defence is that accused
misunderstood the order.

30th

1890