Dinton

STOLE N.A.A.F.I FUNDS



MANAGER WHO GOT FLURRIED.

At Salisbury County Police-court Saturday, Henry Murray (52), of Phillips House, Dinton, admitted a charge of having stolen £30, the property of N.A.A.F.I. and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Inspector Bettridge told the magistrates that accused was employed as a manager of a N.A.A.F. Institute and was granted leave of absence from August 21st to Aug. 24th. He was to have been relieved by a Mr. Catchpole, but when he arrived he found Murray had left and when a check was made it was discovered that £30 was missing. Accused, in the presence of another man, had checked the money the previous evening and the £30 was then there. Murray did not return from leave, but on October 6th he surrendered at Aldershot after a warrant had been issued. When brought back to Amesbury he made a statement in which he said he took the money and absconded. There were previous convictions before 1931 for housebreaking, bigamy and perjury, theft and fraud and larceny.

Accused told the Bench that since his last conviction he had done his best to go straight. What made him commit this offence he really could not explain except possibly that he was not installed as manager and was still in receipt of a counter hand's pay and was not thoroughly conversant with the books. "I think I got rather flurried over the whole matter and lost my head. I gave myself up to the police as I thought it the only way out of this, to try to go straight again.

(Western Gazette - 17 October, 1941)

N.A.A.F.I. – The Navy, Army and Air Force Institute - is an organisation created by the British government in 1921 to run recreational establishments needed by the British Armed Forces, and to sell goods to servicemen and their families. It runs clubs, bars, shops, supermarkets, launderettes, restaurants, cafés and other facilities on most British military bases and also canteens on board Royal Navy ships.

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