

Murder in France: The Mysterious Death of Michael Jackson



On November 2nd, 1918, a man was found moving slowly along a rural road in France, heading towards Censeau. Acting Sergeant Taylor, A 931757 of the No. 2 Construction Battalion had been keeping a lookout for this lost man. When he first saw him, he did not immediately recognize Private Jackson, due to the condition of his face. No. 2 was an all-Black segregated unit formed in Canada to meet the demands of the Black community for the right to serve in the Great War. This unit would collect men from all over Canada, the USA, and the British West Indies (BWI). Taylor was an American. The following day, Jackson died from his injuries.

A Board of Inquiry was convened. The excerpt below was its final conclusion.

*DISPOSAL OF CASE Re 931*** Pte. Redacted and 931****

Pte. Redacted II, both of 2 Can. Con. Coy.:

“H.Q., C.M.F. of C. (A.G.2a. over 2-T-1802, over 2-T-1801 dated 14.4.19): states; ‘In the whole circumstances there appears to be no direct evidence upon which the accused can be tried and opinion is expressed that the whole matter should be dropped.’ Opinion concurred in by Adjutant-General .”

Attached to this activity you will find all of the witness statements collected by the Court of Inquiry. You will notice that the names of the accused have been replaced, as it would be unfair to publish their names because they were never convicted of a crime. Your task is to decide, did the members of No. 2, the Russians, or someone else kill Private Jackson?

Your team's tasking:

1. Read each of the witness statements and complete the attached evidence-gathering template.
2. With your team, to the best of your abilities, reconstruct the story of the death of Private Jackson.
3. Create a thesis that answers, "Who killed Private Jackson?"
 - a. Your position with at least three pieces of evidence drawn from the files.

Evidence-gathering:

	Name of the Witness	Key evidence provided
1	1st Witness: SGT _____	
2	2nd Witness: RQMS _____	
3	3rd Witness: 931*** Pte _____	
4	4th Witness: 931*** Pte _____	
5	5th Witness: 931*** Pte _____	

6	6th Witness: 931*** Pte _____	
7	7th Witness: Madame P*	
8	8th Witness: 931*** Pte Redacted	
9	9th Witness: 931*** Redacted 2	
10	10th witness: 931*** A/Sergt _____	
11	Capt Dr JS Clark, CAMC	

Conclusions: The evidence indicates that _____ killed Pvt Jackson.	
1)	
2)	
3)	