
British Provost Marshal Aided Lusk Probers with Documents: Nathan, Who Took Leading Part in Raid, Just a “Junior” Officer: Head of Organization Says He Furnished Record of Martens but Didn’t “Butt In.”

Unsigned article in the *New York Call*, v. 12, no. 176 (June 25, 1919), pp. 1-2.

Proof that the office of the British Provost Marshal, at 44 Whitehall Street, furnished aid to the Lusk Committee investigating Bolshevism was obtained officially by *The Call* yesterday [June 24, 1919].

The Provost Marshal, Norman Thwaites, admitted that a man named Nathan of his staff had taken some records concerning L.C.A.K. Martens to the raiders following the seizure of documents in the invasion of the offices of the Russian Soviet Bureau by committee agents.

Nathan was mentioned by Feliciu Vexler in the statement announcing his resignation from the Lusk Committee because he wouldn't be associated with attempts to frame up and “bust” the whole radical and liberal movement, as one of the men who had access to the room where the seized documents were stored. Vexler said Nathan was pointed out to him as the chief of the British secret service in America.

Only a “Junior.”

Thwaites, while admitting that some records had been supplied to the raiders, denied at the same time “taking part” in the activities of that committee. Nathan, he said, was attached to his staff. He would not define his exact position on it, but finally classed him as a “junior” in the organization.

In direct contradiction to Thwaites' statement that neither he, Nathan, nor the office of the British War Mission, located in the same place, was in any way identified with the raid, Vexler informed *The Call*

last night that Nathan had not only been given free access to the storeroom in the 42nd Street building, but took copious notes and excerpts from the letters and correspondence and other papers taken from the bureau.

He also stated that Nathan carried away several booklets or pamphlets.

Thwaites said he wasn't sure of Nathan's initials, but thought they were J.R.

There seems to be a great deal of mystery about this “Junior” attached to the staff of the British Provost Marshal.

A reporter for *The Call* went to the office of the Mission yesterday and asked for “Mr. Nathan.” The man on the inside of the railing regretted that there was no such person there. A younger man soon joined the first, and he, too, explained there was no “Mr. Nathan” connected with the office.

Nothing to Do with Luskers.

When Thwaites was interviewed he admitted readily enough that “Mr. Nathan” was employed there.

“But this office had nothing whatever to do with the Lusk Committee,” Thwaites said. “The only thing we were asked by someone connected with that organization was whether we knew of Martens when in England. I sent Nathan with the record. If he happened to be at the place where the documents were stored when they were being examined it was a coincidence. Of course, he had nothing to do with that part

of the matter. If he went into the room at all he may have been invited to do so as a courtesy or perhaps the men he wanted to see were in the room.”

Thwaites said he had talked to Nathan since that time, but declared emphatically Nathan had taken no notes, and that his office was not at all concerned with that phase.

Wouldn't Butt In.

“As a matter of fact,” he stated, “this office would not think of butting into such an affair as this. Even if we had been invited to participate — though, since this is not our business, I don't see why we should have been — I should have absolutely refused to take part.”

Thwaites explained that during the war the various Allied missions in this country freely exchanged information and aided each other in various ways, and, of course, cooperated closely with the United States diplomatic and war organizations. However, he declared that his office did not interfere in any way with any purely domestic issues or local questions.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.