

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM:- Captain
BATH Golf Club,
Sham Castle,
BATH.

TO:- General Officer Commanding,
South Western District,
TAUNTON.

8/Jan 1945

I regret to have to make a formal complaint against Capt. Spearman, 203 Company Home Guard.

On Saturday afternoon, 6th January, Capt. Spearman, without notification to, or permission from the Committee of the BATH Golf Club, drove an army truck up the private road to the Golf Club House, drove the truck over the fairways to the Golf Course to the Quarry, and proceeded to cause heavy explosions in the Quarry.

In company with Lieut. Col. R.R. Glyn Jones, O.B.E., T.D. (a Major in the 5th Somerset (BATH City) Battalion Home Guard), Mr. A.B. James (formerly a private in the 5th Som. Battalion), and Mr. J.C. Richardson, (the Hon. Secretary of the Golf Club), I was playing golf.

On approaching the 12th Tee, an explosion occurred in the Quarry, and rocks were scattered over that end of the Golf Course, one piece of stone whistling over our heads and falling some 100 to 150 yards from the Quarry. I went over to the Quarry and saw a Sergeant of 203 Company and told him to give my compliments to Capt. Spearman and tell him that I wanted to speak to him. On Capt. Spearman's arrival, in the presence of the Sergeant, I informed them that I was Lieut. Col Taylor, lately commanding the 5th Som. Battalion H.G. I then gave Capt. Spearman a direct verbal order (in the presence of his Sergeant) to cease firing. Capt. Spearman protested and denied my rights to give him an order; his Sergeant became abusive and shouted out some remarks about "bloody golfers playing golf whilst they (as H.G. presumably) were doing military duty". I warned Capt. Spearman to disobey my order at his peril..

I observed no red flags or danger notices, and the only precautions taken to protect the members of the Golf Club, and the public on the footpaths in the vicinity, appeared to be in the placing of some look-out men round the area of the Quarry some 50 yards or so from the explosives. I proceeded to play golf and Capt. Spearman continued his explosions in flat disobedience of my order to desist. When we again approached the Quarry hole (the 14th hole of the golf course) I gave Capt. Spearman a written order to cease fire.

We had walked some 150 yards from the Quarry, when Capt. Spearman, accompanied by a private demanded to see my identity card. I informed them that they were at that moment trespassing on private property of the BATH Golf Club and to clear off - they did so.

After completing our game of golf, on leaving the Club House, I saw Capt. Spearman driving his truck on the grass in front of the Club House. I stopped him and asked him if he had permission to trespass on the property of the Golf Club. He replied that he had in the past the permission of the Secretary, Mr. Richardson had previously told me that Capt. Spearman had given no notice of his intention to trespass on the 6th January, nor had he (Mr. Richardson) given Capt. Spearman permission to do so.

The fairway has suffered damage by the wheel marks and skid marks of the truck owing to the greasy conditions existing at the time. The greens near the Quarry have been scarred by stones and rocks, and rocks have been scattered over an area of 100 yards from the Quarry. Until all such rocks are removed the Club will be unable to use grass cutting machines.