

Grenadier Guardsman jailed 6 months for "gross indecency" and dismissed from service.

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M.P. Sir Robt. Boothby calls for law change: "The whole business of homosexuality is shrouded in a horrifying miasma of blackmail since the Victorian Acts were passed. Homosexuality is a mental sickness which may be cured; not a crime. What consenting adults do may be an issue between them and their maker, but is certainly not an issue between them and the Government." . . . Edw. Richardson, Q.C.: "The same" (about the mental aspect of homosexuality) "could be said about shoplifting."

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Hardwicke Debating Society: "Moved: That penal laws relating to homosexual offenses are outmoded and should be changed."

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Blond Teresa Viars claims she spent 6 months at Burtonwood camp disguised as a G.I. Army orders investigation.

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Court-martial sentence of dismissal against an army chaplain, on charge of indecently assaulting a soldier, annulled.

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## MARCH, 1954 —

Mystery raider breaks into home of Peter Wildeblood — no apparent motive. Police guard posted . . . Thieves had broken into tenant's quarters at Montagu's Palace House a week earlier, made off with two coats, 40 cigarettes.

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Press releases, with bosomy photos, claim Robert Cowell, once famed racing motorist and Spitfire pilot, father of two children, has physically and legally become Roberta, may someday be a mother. Learned Sunday Supplements "prove" no such change can be claimed without microscopic examination of ovaries, skin, teeth, hormones, hair and other features in which men differ from women.

Wimpole-street gynaecologist Charles Dusseau who'd issued change-of-sex-characteristic-declaration for altering birth certificate, stated: "Re-registration was not meant to prove Cowell had become, physiologically, a complete female — rather a working certificate to enable plastic surgeons to carry out operations."

Roberta's father, former honorary surgeon to King George VI, angered at fraud charges, said, "I had a son who is now my daughter. . . her bust is fully developed . . . Perhaps she can never be, strictly speaking, a complete woman physiologically . . . this is not a case of hermaphroditism." Roberta reportedly "hiding out" in Italy, with police keeping visitors off.

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BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL: Shortly after release of above story: "465 people wrote the surgeon asking him to alter their sex."

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DAILY MIRROR CRUSADE editorial again demands Minister of Education rid private schools of teachers charged with immorality.

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Montagu-Pitt-Rivers-Wildeblood trial opens with repeat of testimony of airmen McNally and Reynolds as to their alleged entertainment by the three men. Queen's-Council reminds jury to take into account the base character of the witnesses, but maintains the trio, vastly their social superiors, had used the all-too-willing servicemen for gross and indecent pleasures.

Lord Montagu and his cousin, Michael Pitt-Rivers, merely denied in detail the charges, adding that they'd been embarrassed at finding the airmen were homosexual.

Peter Wildeblood, recently successful press correspondent, denied indecent behavior: "I am an invert," he said, "but I've always kept my desires under control . . . but it was flattering anyone should take such an interest in me." He had been incapable of any physical expression for three years, he said.

Queen's-Council: "Where are the witnesses who could have testified to the innocence of the beach-hut party? . . . Someone is lying . . . You are dealing with the dark and mysterious realms of sex . . . How little do we know of the sex lives of our neighbors."

Defense seemed mostly concerned with proving the degeneracy of the airmen, a point already gratuitously put forward by the Q-C.

Mr. Justice Ormerod, summing up, warned that if any crime had been committed, the witnesses had been willing parties. Of the eighteen charges, he instructed the jury to drop two against Montagu, one against Wildeblood. "It is dangerous in the extreme to convict a man on the evidence of an accomplice" without corroboration "by outside and independent evidence."

The jury returned a guilty verdict (the first time a peer of the realm had ever been found guilty by a jury) and Justice Ormerod, "in the most lenient way I possibly can" sentenced Montagu to twelve months, Pitt-Rivers and Wildeblood to eighteen months each. Crowds booed the airmen as they left the court.

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DAILY SKETCH: "The trial is over . . . Yet doubts remain . . . not concerning the trial itself — conducted with scrupulous fairness . . . The court had to deal with the law as it stands. If the law is a bad law, then it should be altered . . . but that is for the future — and for Parliament to decide.



"THE ENGLISH LAWS PUNISH VICE; THE CHINESE LAWS DO MORE, THEY REWARD VIRTUE."  
GOLDSMITH