

Brink's Guard Fired in Wake of Dec. Hi-jack

The Brink's Co. has fired one of three guards suspended shortly after the Dec. 28 hijacking and robbery of \$500,000 from an armored car on Canal st. in Boston.

Thomas F. Horrigan, a Brink's official, said yesterday the dismissal action had been taken against Richard Haines, 34, of Livingston st., Tewksbury.

Haines, the only guard inside the truck when it was hijacked, was handcuffed to a door handle by two bandits who surprised him.

The two men then drove the armored vehicle to a parking lot on Nashua st., behind the Registry of Motor Vehicles building, and transferred the loot to a station wagon.

Horrigan said two other guards suspended after the hijacking will go back to work next Monday.

They are John Gillespie, 50, of Village ct., Castle sq., South End, and Joseph Kelly, 44, of Mt. Vernon st., Dorchester. They were reportedly having coffee when the robbery took place.

The three guards were suspended Jan. 6 in what Horrigan described at that time as a "somewhat routine" action taken by the company "pending further investigation on our part regarding their actions."

Horrigan refused yesterday to discuss reasons for Haines' dismissal, but would say only that the guard's services has been "terminated."

The robbery took place at 6 p.m. Dec. 28 when, Haines said, two men wearing ski masks and armed with a machine gun opened the truck with a key and overpowered him.

Police investigators, still seeking a solid lead in the case, have said the hijackers could not have entered the truck, even with a key, if sliding steel bolts on the doors had been closed.

"There is nothing at all new in the case," said Deputy Supt. James Buchanan, who is heading the investigation. "We have a lot of leads we're developing, but nothing startling."