

SECOND WITNESS

For the Prosecution

H.36593 Spr. (A/L/Cpl.) JOHNSON, L.W., No 1 C.E.R.U., a soldier of the Canadian Army (Overseas) having been duly warned that he cannot be compelled to answer any question tending to incriminate him, and that he can remain silent, but that anything that he does say, may be used in evidence; and having been duly sworn, states:-

On 29th Sep 44, I was night duty N.C.O. at the M.T. Garage. Between 1930 and 2000 hrs, Spr. Gendron and another Spr. whom I did not know, came into the dispatcher's office and asked me if I had any vehicle going in the general direction of the Eli Hotel or Camberly, I said no, that there was nothing going in that direction. He asked me if I would drive him down to the Eli Hotel. I said no. He asked me a couple of times more, so I finally consented, as I thought he would take a vehicle and drive up himself if I didn't consent. As we were leaving the office, I met Cpl. Parsons and I asked him if he would like to come along. He came along. We proceeded to the Eli Hotel, arriving there about 2030 hrs. We went into the hotel and each had a drink, I figured that I had better not stay around, because I knew that I would get drunk if I did stay with Gendron and his pal. We left and went down to the Forrester's Arms, where we each had a drink. We then started back to the Eli, and arrived there about 2130 hours. We had another drink and about 2200 hours we all went out to the station wagon and started back to camp. We brought a sergeant with us, who had asked for a lift. I did not know who the sergeant was. Just as we had passed the "Crown and Cushion" Hotel, I saw two soldiers on my near side of the road, going in the same direction as I was. I swerved to miss them, and as I swerved toward the other side of the road, I felt a slight jar as if I had hit a curb or a bump. I was going to stop, but before I had time to, I heard more than one person in the car say "Keep going, it's alright", I kept going, and drove in to camp, and stopped at the gate, and someone from the back of the car shouted out the number 72-S. The guard passed us through, and I drove on to between Spider No. 9 and the N.A.A.F.I., where I stopped and let out the sergeant and Spr. Gendron, and the sapper with him. I drove on to where we had taken the vehicle from, parked it, and Cpl. Parsons and I went in to the dispatcher's office.

Q. Did you have any authority to take the vehicle out?

A. No, Sir.

Q. When you felt the jar on the road, did you hear a crash of glass?

A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know who it was that told you to keep on going, after you felt the jar?

A. No, sir, there was more than one, and I could not give any definite names.

*my*