

First witness for the Defence) A.48538 Spr. Malcolm Keith MacDONALD
) No. 6 District Depot (CA)

being duly sworn, is examined by the defending officer

Q.18 What is your number, name rank and present unit?

A.18 No.A.48538 Sapper Malcolm Keith MacDonald, No. 6 District Depot.

Q.19 When did you join the army?

A.19 July 22, 1940.

Q.20 Where at?

A.20 London, Ontario.

Q.21 Where did you go from London?

A.21 To the Thames Valley and then to Petawawa, Ontario.

Q.22 From Petawawa where did you go?

A.22 To Halifax,

Q.23 Why did you go absent from Halifax?

A.23 For two or three reasons sir. First of all I came to Halifax in August of 1941. I was stationed at the depot and after I had been here for a matter of two weeks or so I was short of money, so I went to the Paymaster to secure my army pay. I was informed at the pay office that there was no money coming to me on account that they could not find my documents--they were lost or mislaid I don't know which. After two or three days I went to the paymaster and again asked for money and I still could not receive any for the same reason. By this time I was without any funds whatsoever and I was borrowing from my relatives until I was ashamed. I did not go to the paymaster again for sometime because it was necessary for me to go to hospital, on account of a very embarrassing reason. Even as a child I have always had weak kidneys, always trouble with my kidneys and bladder, so much so that it caused me several times intense embarrassment and worrying. I have had this trouble all my life. On several occasions I have been embarrassed by this weakness. I remember years ago, I lived in California where it is more or less damp and I had the same trouble. At that time I was young and was under the impression that I would grow out of this weakness, at least I had been told so. Upon enlisting I mentioned this to the examining officer and no other mention was made of it in the service for quite sometime; or until it was absolutely necessary for me to complain about it. At different times I have gone to the doctor about it and nothing has been done to help me. Still I have been in the service for sometime and have been badgered by my fellowmen about this weakness which did not make life in the army pleasant for me. And made it very difficult for me to soldier among my fellowmen. This trouble together with my family troubles caused me to be more or less an unfortunate victim, so I went home to try and correct this weakness. I could not stand the situation any longer in the service with this weakness for when I enlisted I expected to do a lot to help the service in this war. When I got home I did not get any better so I went to teach war emergency classes in Ontario. I had to study a lot in order to be able to teach. I taught "Wireless Theory of Flight" and Aircraft Recognition". I have taught more than fifteen-hundred men in my classes and I believe that it was a worthy project and one which would contribute towards winning the war which we have on our hands. I have two letters here one is from my pastor and the other from the principal of Central Technical School where I taught which I would like to tender as evidence.