

"N" (Sheet 3)

Monnier
Major,
President, D.C.M.

and had him write a letter telling them the boy was there and working on the farm. That was in the early part of April. Then approximately a month later..... We, by the way, have written for that letter but we only wrote for it a few days ago and it will probably arrive next week. We didn't want to hold this thing up for the letter, but I want you to know we do have it on the way here. His mother will have to have our letter translated and then she will have to find the other letter.

So, approximately a month after that--after this letter from No. 10 District Depot asking where this boy was and the answer was sent back--about a month later a Mountie appeared on the farm, a member of the Mounted Police, and at the time the defendant, the accused was in the field plowing. He didn't see the Mountie. The Mountie came to the farm and asked them a lot of questions about how large the farm was, how many cattle and this sort of thing and the whole situation. And he asked where this boy was, the accused, and he was told the boy was plowing the field and if he wanted to see him they would take him out there. He said "No," he guessed he didn't want to see him; and I think I can tell you why.

That Mountie knows the district. I mean, he knows the farmers. And he realized the situation that old couple was in, and I think probably why he didn't go out to see the boy, and why he didn't arrest him, was because he realized he was needed and so long as it wasn't an absolute duty to go and pick up that boy he wasn't going to disturb him.

That was in about May. Then the 9th of June the Mountie and a Provost came back and picked up the accused. And I want to point out a thing there. When they picked him up he was actually in Army clothes as much as you would wear on the farm. He was in Army boots and Army shirt. There was no intention on his part and no attempt to hide the fact that he belonged to the Army, or hide the fact that he was A.W.L.

Now, that brings us just about up to date. Another thing I would like you to bear in mind when you are sentencing this man: That he has already been in detention two weeks. He has planted his farm. He has wheat, barley and some oats growing there. His father and mother are still in the same shape they were and he doesn't know now--the thing he is worried sick about is how he is going to harvest it.

That brings us up to date. There are just a few things that I want you to bear in mind when you are thinking about this lad: First, obviously he is not a "city slicker" and obviously he did not intend to desert; Secondly, that visit the Mountie made and the attitude of the Mountie; Third, the commendable attitude of this lad toward his parents; Fourth, that