

First Witness } Nursing Sister M.M.E.R. HUGHES, Brandon Military
for the } Hospital, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, C.A.,
Defence: } having been duly sworn, is examined by the Defending
Officer:

Q Will you identify yourself to the Court?

A Nursing Sister M.M.E.R. Hughes, Brandon Military Hospital.

Q Will you tell the Court of your duties there and in what connection does Private Advent come under your jurisdiction?

A I am the Home Sister, Sir. I am in charge of the personnel assigned for duty in the Sisters' Quarters and Officers' Mess, and Private Advent is attached to the Officers' Mess and he comes under me for duty.

Q On the day in question, Sister Hughes, that is, the 17th day of May, 1946, along in the afternoon, were you aware that Private Advent was going to be off duty?

A No, Sir.

Q Did you inform him that he was going off duty?

A No, Sir.

Q Did you issue him instructions that he should go and report on parade?

A No, Sir.

Q Then, as far as you were concerned he was on the job?

A Yes, Sir.

Q How does Private Advent get reliefs, if any, while employed in the Officers' Mess?

A Well, all the three men in the Canteen and in our Bar alternate the night duty; that is, one is off and the other two are working -- that is for the night work. Private Advent cleans the Mess during the day, and he has no relief for that except when he goes on a ninety-six, in which case one of the other men takes over the Mess.

Q Would that mean there is one or two persons working in the Mess?

A One most of the time.

Q During the preceding days to May 17th, say, 14th, 15th & 16th, was Private Advent alone in the Mess and carrying out these duties, or were there two people?

A As far as I remember, Private Advent was alone.

Q And his duties were from when?

A Eight in the morning.

Q Until?

A To 10.30 at night; if the work permits an hour or two off in the afternoon.

Cross-examined by the Prosecutor:

Q Sister, did you instruct the accused that he was not attend this parade?

A No, Sir.