

*W. Madley & Co*  
*Incident - 61*

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THE DEFENDING OFFICER: Sirs; I would like to point out to you the age of the accused. It is obviously owing to the fact of his leaving there and travelling all over the Country, having his mother trying to locate his Unit, and perhaps a certain lack of responsibility which has led up to this charge. He had a job, although he was in uniform, and the evidence pointed to the fact that somebody else got him that job. I think possibly that "somebody else" had more influence over him, than his own powers of discretion, and that might possibly have contributed to his lengthy absence, more than anything else.

He did give himself up, because there was no intention on his part to desert. He came back and voluntarily gave himself up and that should be in his favour.

As to the kit shortage; I think we all know individually that far too many kit shortages are made up from kits picked up from absentees. It is my opinion that his kit is still with the Unit. There has been no proof that anybody has tried to contact the Unit to get the kit back, and I think it is unfair and unjust to charge a man with the loss of kit, when no attempt has been made to recover that kit.

I would like to ask the Court that this kit be replaced at public expense.

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*JF*