

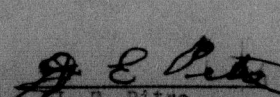
SECOND WITNESS E-5314 Pte. Pitre J.E., Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps, on strength of MT Tech. Stores Coy., 1 C.C.O.D., a soldier in the Canadian Army Overseas, having been cautioned for the prosecution that he need not say anything, give any evidence or make any statement that may tend to incriminate him and having been duly sworn, states:

On Saturday morning, 9th Sept. 44, some time after 1000 hours, Sgt. Eldridge, whom I now recognize, asked who would like to go for a drink, and Pte. Weishaupt, Gasperec and I went with him. He told me to drive the truck to the pub. After we got to the Red Lion, which is in Oakhanger, we had one drink each and then went to the Woolmer Hotel. We stayed there until closing time, 1400 hours, and then returned to the Fire Hall in Bordon. We had something to eat, and I then stayed around the Fire Hall till about 1800 hours, at which time I was told by Sgt. Eldridge to go up to the Sgts. Mess for SQMS Warren, which I did, and then returned to the Fire Hall. Sgt. Eldridge and Weishaupt got in the back of the truck with SQMS Warren, with Gasperec in the front with me. He then told me to go to the same pub we were in in the morning, the Woolmer. On the way between Bordon and Petersfield we had an accident with a bus, the truck went into the ditch on the left hand side of the road. As I came out I slowed down to stop, but I was told to go ahead by Sgt. Eldridge. After that we kept going until we got to the other side of the Woolmer Hotel. Eldridge told me to stop and let them off. After I stopped Sgt. Eldridge, SQMS Warren and Pte. Weishaupt got off. He then told me to put the truck in a side road, and come back ten minutes after. I drove the truck in a side road with Gasperec, stayed there for about ten minutes and then came back to the Woolmer Hotel, at which I found only Pte. Weishaupt. Sgt. Eldridge and SQMS Warren joined us there later. We had a couple of drinks there and then moved up to the Star Hotel, and the five of us went in. I heard somebody talking about the accident when they noticed the truck in the yard. We went down the road to another pub, and then a constable came in and he asked for the driver of the truck. I told him I was the driver, so he told me a constable wanted to see me outside. After I went out he asked me if I was the driver of the truck, and I said yes, at the time. He took my particulars, he also asked me for the Work Ticket. I showed it to him, and he told me I would hear more about it. I turned the truck around and we came back towards Bordon. We stopped in a hotel and had a few drinks. From there we came towards home. I stopped at the Star pub, and picked up SQMS Warren and Sgt. Eldridge and a couple of other soldiers. I came along to the entrance of C.T.S. where I left the two soldiers off. From there I came down to the Fire Hall, I stopped and left Pte. Gasperec off. I was then told to drive Sgt. Eldridge and SQMS Warren to the Mess by Sgt. Eldridge. When I got to the Mess I stopped to let them off. Just then two Provosts drove up and told me to turn the truck around and drive back to the Fire Hall, which I did. When I got to the Fire Hall they asked me to show them my pay book, which I did not have. I had Part II from which they took my name and number. The Orderly Sgt. put me under arrest, and took me to the Guard Room.

Questions from the Officiating Officer:

- Q.1 How can you be sure it was Sgt. Eldridge who ordered you to go ahead after the accident?
 A.1 Because I know his voice.
 Q.2 When you left the Fire Hall in the morning was Sgt. Eldridge drunk or sober?
 A.2 Sober.
 Q.3 When you left the Fire Hall in the evening was he drunk or sober?
 A.3 I would say he had been drinking heavily.

The Accused declines to cross-examine.


 J. E. Pitre