

S 5314 Pte PETRIE, J.E., CCOD, having been duly sworn, states:

PRESIDENT: As you are yourself charged in connection with the circumstances relating to this case you are not compelled to answer any questions which might tend to incriminate you.

WITNESS: Yes, Sir.

On the morning of 9 Sep 44 I was on duty as fireman, and it is part of my duty to drive CZ 4209900.

Q. Were you regularly assigned to that vehicle?

A. No, there are 2 drivers, a duty driver and a stand to driver, I happened to be the stand to driver. On that morning around 10 or 11 o'clock I happened to be on regular patrol at Warren's Park and after I came back Sjt Eldridge, the accused, was standing outside the Fire Hall with a bunch of the men and he asked who wanted to go for a drink to the pub. I did not hear who said "who wants to go" but at the time I was sitting in the truck and then Sjt Eldridge got in the truck with me. When we got to the pub I found Weishaupt and Gasperece to be in the back of the truck. Just before we left Sjt Eldridge specified the Red Lion and I drove them there. When we got there Sjt Eldridge bought a pint of beer please. After we had a drink there somebody asked the bar tender for whisky which he did not have and a civilian suggested that we would get whisky in the Woolmer Hotel. I got the truck and drove it up in front of the pub and the accused got in front with me and Weishaupt and Gasperece got in the back and then we started for the Woolmer pub taking a back road and on the way we stopped at the Star Pub which is in Longmoor. It was closed so we went on to the Woolmer pub. The four of us went in and stayed there until 2 o'clock, closing time, after which we got in the truck and drove home. After I came back from the kitchen after having eaten I went and laid down in the hut and had a sleep. I woke up and had a wash, had early supper and returned to the fire hall and then about 5.30 Sjt Eldridge, Sjt Warren and another Sjt came down to the fire hall in a jeep and let Sjt Eldridge off and then it went back towards the Sjts Mess. I stayed around the fire hall for about half an hour. Sjt Eldridge had a wash and a shave then gave me a direct order to go up and get Warren at the Mess. I found Warren in Hut 2 and took him down to the fire hall and when I got there Sjt Eldridge and Warren got in the back. Then I was told by Eldridge to go to the same pub as we were at in the morning. I took the Hogmore Lane Road. As we travelled south on the highway I drew up pretty close to a bus, blew my horn 2-3 times, and finally he pulled over to the left and I tried to pass him, and as we were passing we slightly rubbed together, which caused him to enter the ditch on the left hand side and it swung me over in front of him and into the ditch. I came out on the road again, slowed down to stop but was told "keep going we hit a bus" by Sjt Eldridge. I know it was him because I know his voice, so I kept going, to the Woolmer pub. Warren and Eldridge then got off and Eldridge said to me to put the truck in the side road for about 10 mins and then come back to the pub, which I did. Gasperece was with me then, and when I came back to the pub I drove the truck into the back of it and when I went in I found only Weishaupt there and he said that Warren and Eldridge had gone to the accident. I stayed and waited until they came in, and when they came in we had a drink please and then Eldridge bought a round. From there we went to the Star Pub where some people passed remarks about a fire truck that was in an accident, so Gasperece and Weishaupt and I moved. We left Eldridge and Warren there in the pub and we went down towards Liss where we stopped at a pub and a constable came in while we were drinking and wanted to know who the driver of the truck was that was outside and the landlord told him it was me. I went outside and we had some conversation and after that I went back towards Longmoor where we stopped at another pub, had a drink and then we came on to the Star pub where I picked up