

AD
1st Witness for
Defense

(7)

16512 Sgt Clarke L.M.P. having been duly sworn. States.

"At Houghton, April 14, at 0720, being in charge of A2 gun, I was put out of action by an umpire. We limbered up and went to the rear approx 50*. We parked there a while had breakfast and then the A7 BS M Sgt Neale met us on the road and took us down to a brickyard. At approx. 1025 Sgt Neale shouted to get my men up and to go and relieve Bdr Corbett's gun crew. I told him we were supposed to be out of action for 4 hours, according to an Operation Order which was given to me. He told me that it was the Troop Comm. order. On the way up, we stopped at a tea shop, to buy some tea. I ordered some tea, and Sgt Neale came back and told me to hurry up. We left the cafe and marched to the gun position. Capt Ralph then called me, and asked me what I was doing. I told him that we stopped at the tea shop to buy some tea. He told me he was placing a charge against me."