

FOURTH WITNESS:

P.C. 286 George William Keeping of Surrey Joint Police Force, Ashted, being duly sworn, states:

At approximately 1450 hours on the 15th of August 1944, I attended the scene of a Road Accident on the Epsom road Ashted. I saw two vehicles, one a commercial lorry No. C.T. 2717 Layland, 8 tonner and a Military vehicle No M5397823 on the nearside of the road facing Ashted. Both vehicles were off in the roadway facing Ashted, the military vehicle being in front. The lorry had broken through a fence on nearside of road and had come to rest with its radiator against a tree. The military vehicle was on footpath and had come to rest with offside of radiator against a lamp standard. I saw the following tire marks which were clearly visible. Two tire marks made by lorry, one six feet long commencing two feet out from nearside curb; the other forty feet long commencing seven feet out from nearside of curb and finishing on pavement. One tire mark made by offside front wheel of military vehicle sixty two feet long commencing twelve feet out from curb and finishing on pavement. Width of road twenty-one feet, width of pavement four feet. About sixty feet of wooden fencing was damaged. Khaki paint and dents were found by me on the offside front wing of civilian lorry. On the nearside rear wing of military vehicle I also found dents. These markings would be consistent with the military vehicle having collided with the civilian lorry. I saw at the scene No. C4656 Pte Robbins, L.H. who informed me that he was the driver of the military vehicle and No. F-14323 Gnr MacDonald, J.B. and No. F-9194 Gnr Inglis, A.T. who said that they were passengers. I also saw Mr Frederick Laws of 1 Bush Cottages, Putney Bridge Road, London, S.W. 18 who told me that he was the driver of the civilian lorry. He appeared to be shocked so I despatched him to hospital. I also saw at the scene No 1886740 Spr Greasley, James of 241 Field Coy, R.E., Hertford, Hertfordshire who told me that he had witnessed the accident. I ascertained that the owner of the civilian lorry which was extensively damaged to be William Hampton LTD 394 York Road, Wandsworth, London, S.W. 18. The lamp standard which the military vehicle hit and damaged is the property of the Wandsworth Gas Company Fairfield Street, London S.W. 18. The owner of the fence is Mrs Beswick of North Lodge Epsom Road, Ashted.

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Signature of Witness:

The accused soldier declines to cross-examine the witness.