CASE FOR THE DEFENSE

1st Witness for Defense

K49849 Rfn RUSSELL, L C, sworn states:

I am K49849 Rfn RUSSELL, L C of 8 Sec 12 Pl "B" Coy R Wpg Rifs. I joined the army 3 Feb 43 at the age of 19. I joined a Lt AA Regt. Shortly after I was posted to ENGLAND where I became an Aircraft Recog Instructor. I held that position for about 8 months. The Regt was called to Active Service in another area and I was left behind as an instructorand I was told in April that I would be transferred to Infantry. I did not like this as I wanted to stay with the Lt AA. At the end of June I was sent to FRANCE as an infantry man where I joined the R Wpg Rif. I had tried before to get back to the AA but as I could not transfer out of the infantry I thought I might as well stick it out. I have been with the R Wpg Rif from the time of CARPIQUET to the SCHELDT pocket with a line company.

Cross-Examined by Prosecutor

I went absent because I wanted to get back to ENGLAND and see my girl friend. Some English soldiers had told me it was easy to get there and back by plane. In ENGLAND I stayed with my girl friend for awhile and then went with Rfn WASS to RAMSBOTTOM to see his girl friend. I had the intention of coming back but I knew a charge of absence without leave would be laid against me. I intended to go to MANCHESTER and give myself up to the Cdn Provost Corps. I had tried to fly back once but was unable to manage it. I flew to ENGLAND with the American Air Force. They did not know we were on the plane until it was in the air as we had stowed away. After the plane took off we showed ourselves to the engineer. He was the only one who knew we were on the plane.

Examined by Court

We tried to get a ride back after we had been away for about 16 days. The airfield that we landed at and tried to get back from was near GRANTHAM. I was not with WESS when a police constable came over and apprehended me.

RP 83 (B) has been complied with

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]