

Case of B29509 Spr Bressette A.J. 3 Bn RCE.

Prosecution makes no opening address.

Documentary Evidence:

Certified Extract of Part II Order No.15 of 3 Bn RCE dated 7 Apr 45 signed by Pres and attached as Exhibit "A".

Prosecution closes.

Defence submits that prosecution has not established a prima facie case of desertion.

Prosecution replies.

Court closes to consider submission.

Court re-opens - submission allowed.

Accused pleads guilty of A.W.I.

Accused, sworn, states:

I joined the Army on 10 Jun 41 in Toronto. From there I went to North Bay and from North Bay to Petawawa. I came Overseas about 5 Apr 43. When I arrived in England I was sent to the PPCLI. I was with them 2 months then went back to Cove and from there was sent to the 3rd Bn. I came to France on 2 Aug 44 and we were working on road repair and bridging until we came to a place just outside of Bruges. From there we went to a place just outside of Brussels. During this time I got news from home that my young sister had died. This was about 4 Feb 45. She died of T.B. I also received news from England from a friend of mine that there was a girl in trouble and that I was being blamed for it. I was not to blame for it. I have a brother older than I with the 4th Armoured Div in Holland and I went absent and went there to see him, and find out what I should do. When I didn't see him I returned back. I got a lift and went down into France. This was about 15 days after I left my unit. When I got to France I found myself in very bad need of medical treatment and reported to an American medical place where they told me they wouldn't have anything to do with me and I would have to get back to my unit. This was after I told them I was AWL. Then I started back. There were not many lorries on the road and so I had to do a lot of walking and it took me quite a while. When I got back to the unit I was sent to the hospital. I was worried about my health. I have asked for a medical reboard several time but have never had one since I joined the Army. My sister's death caused me additional worry in that respect.

Cross-examined by Prosecution:

I didn't go to the padre about my trouble. I didn't want anybody to know about it until I got my brother's advice. I was never very strong on religion and I don't think my platoon officer could have done much about it. I was worried and didn't know what I was doing, I guess. I asked for a reboard after I had received the letter stating my sister had died. I didn't think of asking my officer about my trouble.

Re-examined by Defence

The officers and padre did not speak to me about my affairs.

Questioned by Court

I thought I had V.D., but didn't. I had skin disease.

(R.P. 83(B) complied with)

"GBC"