

FIRST WITNESS)
 FOR THE)
 DEFENCE)

The Accused, B.823 Private Joseph Pitre
 Guillaume COULOMBE, No. 3 District Depot, C.A.,
 being duly sworn, is examined by the Defending Officer:-

Q. Will you tell the Court your story from approximately September 1939 until you surrendered yourself at Cornwall?

Yes, sir. First in 1939 around the 14th or 15th of September when Canada declared war me and my other two brothers we enlisted. We were shifted down to Quebec City and I was rejected and my two brothers passed. I went back to work and in 1941 I received a call and I was rejected. In 1944 I enlisted myself in Kingston here on the 7th of December and I got rejected. In 1945 I enlisted myself in Hamilton and got my medical in Toronto and I passed it, got in all right. They shipped me back to Shilo for basic training. I couldn't do my basic training. I did two weeks and I fell down on account of my legs. I stayed in the hut for about ten days and went back on basic training. I did another week of basic training and failed again, so I stayed in the hut and the Army Examiner called me. He made me stay in the hut with no parade and we were supposed to get basic just the same. I was to be transferred to Kingston for some deisel outfit in the Army and from then I waited. I was transferred to a holding battery waiting for transfer to Kingston. About fifteen days after I was called to the Orderly Office and my transfer was made to A.12 as a H.W.E. so I stayed there waiting and I asked for a furlough. My furlough didn't come through and I stayed in the hut and was orderly. When I got my furlough I took my clothes and put them in my palliasse so that when I come back I could take the same bunk. When I come home all I took with me as clothes was a rain coat and shaving kit and I still have them here. I checked my rifle at the armourers and went on furlough. When I was out on furlough around the 7th or 8th of June I wired back to Shilo, to Capt. MacIntyre, asking for seven days compassionate leave to work on the farm. I got an answer back to report myself on the 13th of June. I didn't report and stayed on the farm and worked until I surrendered myself. I thought I might as well get it over with right now so I surrendered myself and that is the evidence.

Q. How were you dressed when you left Camp Shilo?
 In civilian clothes.

Q. Was that the custom?
 I was allowed to wear civilian clothes because I was going on furlough.

Q. You left your Army kit where?
 Everything was in my palliasse except my rain coat and shaving kit.