

J. W. ...  
V. ...  
1944

CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE DEFENCE  
IN THE CASE OF  
Spr. TURPIN G.L.

1 Cdn Road Constr Coy. R.C.E.

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Gentlemen, the law says that to convict the court must be satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt. Are you satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt? You are not. Did anyone actually see Spr. Turpin take this can? Did anyone actually find this can in his possession? Did anyone catch him as a thief? Because somebody tosses a can or places a can on your bed, is it necessarily yours? Has anyone shown that the accused is not to be trusted, that he does not speak the truth, that he is not honest? How could you possibly convict a man with a record like the accused has to his credit?

The accused has five years service from Canada without a crime. He joined one of Canada's finest fighting Regiments the West Nova Scotias on Sep 8 1939. That is a long time ago. He was overseas Xmas of that year 1939. He served faithfully without a crime as Driver, D.R. and Rifleman. During that time he married in England. In Feb 1943 the Bn Medical Officer advised Spr. Turpin to transfer to a less active corps due to an old knee injury received from D.R'ing. He joined No. 3 Cdn Pioneer Coy and was attached out to a Cdn Battle School. He was promoted to L/Cpl. 1/c Cookhouse. 9 months later on disbanding of the school he was sent to 7 Cdn Const Coy. Here he served for a short time and due to a change of establishment a number of the unit were sent to 1 C.E.R.U. He was one. I remember this myself because I noticed the influx to C.E.R.U. of Const Coy. personnel. At C.E.R.U. he was employed as L/Cpl. on the Bridging Platoon. All this time, nearly five years, he is holding places of confidence and trust. In Aug 44 he reverted to Spr. to be available as reinforcement for France. He came over immediately and was posted to No. 1 Road Constr Coy.

In No. 1 Road Constr Coy. he was well liked and made friends. His witnesses have shown as N.C.Os that he was trusted and they held no doubt as to his honesty. On Nov 18, 1 Ech, 21 A Gp wished to send people back to Canada <sup>who had</sup> with five years service. Spr. Turpin was the only man in 1 Cdn Road Constr Coy. with this record and to top it off he had an absolutely clean crime sheet for five long years. Five years of