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Summary of Evidence in the case of K49849 Rfn Russell, L.C., 1st Battalion, Royal Winnipeg Rifles, a soldier of the Canadian Army, Overseas, charged with deserting His Majesty's Service. (AA Sec 12) (1).

By direction of the Commanding Officer the evidence is taken on oath.

1st Witness

H43054 Sgt Hrankowski, J., Royal Winnipeg Rifles, having been duly sworn states:-

On 7 Nov 44 I was Pl Sgt of 12 Pl, B Coy, R Wpg Rif. At that time K49849 Rfn Russell, L.C., the accused, whom I recognize, was a member of my pl. The pl was billeted out in private houses. On the morning of 7 Nov 44 I instructed H9443 Cpl Goodall, J., to have his sec ready to move off at 1245 hrs. At about 1000 hrs Cpl Goodall reported to me that he was unable to find the accused at his billets. I sent him back about one and a half hours later to make a further search and he returned with the same reply. At 1245 hrs the pl was formed up and I called the roll and Russell was not present. At about 1300 hrs we received orders to load on vehicles. Rfn Russell was still absent and I reported the fact to the CSM. After this I did not hear of or see Rfn Russell until 15 Dec 44 when I was advised that he had been apprehended.

The accused declines to cross-examine this witness.

*J. Hrankowski*  
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Signature of Witness

2nd Witness

H9443 L/Sgt Goodall, J., Royal Winnipeg Rifles, having been duly sworn states:-

On 7 Nov 44 I was a Cpl in charge of 8 Sec, 12 Pl, B Coy, R Wpg Rif. The accused, K49849 Rfn Russell, L.C., whom I recognize was in my sec. On the morning of 7 Nov 44 I was warned at breakfast time to prepare my sec for a move at 1245 hrs. I went around to the billets of my sec and warned them. I was unable to find the accused in his billets or in the area. I reported this fact to Sgt Hrankowski. I made a further check about one and a half hours later. I could not find the accused although his equipment was in the billet. The pl was paraded at 1245 hrs and the roll called. The accused was not present. I did not see or hear of the accused until 15 Dec 44 when I was informed that he had been apprehended.

The accused declines to cross-examine this witness.

*J. Goodall*  
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Signature of Witness

3rd Witness

H17362 CSM Whitlock, B., Royal Winnipeg Rifles, having been duly sworn states:-

On 7 Nov 44 I was A/CSM of B Coy, R Wpg Rif. At 1300 hrs on 7 Nov 44 I formed up the coy and checked them for the number of men on parade. I was informed that K49849 Rfn Russell, L.C., the accused, whom I recognize was absent from 12 Pl. I have not seen or heard of him until 15 Dec 44 when I was advised he was apprehended.

The accused declines to cross-examine this witness.

*B. Whitlock*  
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Signature of Witness