

QUESTION TO THE ACCUSED

Do you wish to make any statement or give any evidence upon oath? You are not obliged to say anything, or give evidence unless you wish to do so, but whatever you say or any evidence you give will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence.

ANSWER BY THE ACCUSED

I wish to make a statement, Sir.

SD-190498 PTE LAPLANTE, J.P., NO. 26 CENTRAL ORDNANCE DEPOT, RCOC (AF), OTTAWA, ONTARIO, having been duly sworn, states:

" I am charged with being AWOL since 25 Jul 49 until 5 Oct 49. I was dismissed from Borden Detention Barracks on the morning of 25 Jul 49 and I arrived in Ottawa at 2300 hrs the same day. There was supposed to be a transport to meet me on my arrival but there was none. I phoned to the Depot to see what I had to do. The Orderly NCO told me to report on Monday morning. I didn't have no money and no place to sleep.

On 23 July I went to sleep at Rockcliffe Airport. The following morning I left my kit at the guard house, telling them I was going to come back and get it at night. I went downtown and looked around for a boarding house but I couldn't find any. On that day I didn't have no meals at all so at night, discouraged, the idea of going AWOL came to me, so without any more thinking I left Ottawa to go to Montreal. I would have come back sooner but I was sick for over a month and I didn't want to come back ill.

Father Chaisson, who used to be a Major during the war, contacted the Queen Mary Hospital, telling them that I was sick. A colonel told him to ask me if I wanted to report or surrender to Father Chaisson. I said yes. So, on Wednesday morning, 5 Oct 49, we went to Montreal to have my medical. The X-Ray showed negative. That is all, Sir. "

(Sgd) SD-190498 PTE LAPLANTE, J.P.

WITNESS TO THE SIGNATURE OF PTE LAPLANTE, THE ACCUSED, WHO WAS DULY CAUTIONED IN MY PRESENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RP (C/E) AND WHO THEN MADE AND SIGNED THE FOREGOING STATEMENT IN MY PRESENCE.

(Sgd) ZL-2967 W.A. HUSTER, LIEUTENANT.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

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(W.R. Peace), Major.