

When I took over the piquet I read standing orders ~~to the piquet~~ including the accused. I do not recall that there is anything in the standing orders to the effect that no member of the guard who relieved from his post is to leave the guard room. I did not leave anyone in charge of the guard room during my absence. There was no one in the guard room for him to report to but my order was not to depart to the guard room but to go to the guard room.

I do not know whether or not the accused went to the guard room during the 15 minutes that I was absent. So far as I know I cannot say whether my order was carried out or not. It has been the habit for men on duty to leave ^{the room} if they have permission. I do not recall that standing orders say they have to have permission. I did not read standing orders to the piquet.

To the Court ^{R.P.S.} Sirron the other piquet was not in the guard room on my return. I was about 20 feet away from Sirron & the accused when I gave the order. They were not more than 6 feet apart. Sirron answered me I think he said OK. Sirron & the accused returned at 9 P.M. to their quarters. There next shift would be at midnight. J. Johnson Major 1st