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7393994

WO 71/594

Return by (17/03/2012)

8133539 (Mr Julian Putkowski)



232

Field General, O.M.

Pte.

D.

H. Morris

618/ B. W. Indies

In-field

7th September, 1917

67  
17

232  
H. m.



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Sheets (if necessary)  
inserted here.

3

I certify that the above Court assembled on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
day of September 17, and duly tried the persons named in  
the said Schedule, and that the plea, finding, and sentence in the  
case of each such person were as stated in the third and fourth  
columns of that Schedule.

**B.**  
Certificate of  
President as to  
proceedings.

I also certify that

1. The members of the Court

2. The witnesses

\* ~~(3. The interpreter)~~

\* ~~(4. The officers under instruction)~~

were duly sworn.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 1917.

John J. Smith Col.  
President of the Court Martial.

I have dealt with the findings and sentences in the manner  
stated in the last column of the said Schedule, ~~and, subject to what~~ **C.**  
~~I have there stated, I hereby confirm the above findings and~~ P.C.S.  
~~sentences.~~

\*(I direct that the soldier named in the margin be not  
committed to prison until further orders.)

Signed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 1917:

P. C. Klammer Lt. Col.  
Confirming Officer, O.C. XVIII. Colours Regt.

to be omitted  
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warded, the  
Officer  
is no  
ly to commit  
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thority,  
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ion.

Promulgated and extracts taken ~~in~~ <sup>by</sup> the case of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>

(Dated) 19<sup>th</sup> September 1917. (Signed) Col. Spry Capt Lt Col. Comdg  
6<sup>th</sup> Bn Buffs

Promulgated and extracts taken in the case of

(Dated) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Promulgated and extracts taken in the case of

(Dated) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Sentences duly carried out  
at POTERINBHE TOWN HALL at 6.10am  
on September 20<sup>th</sup> 1917

(a) When several cases are promulgated in one unit on the same day the Officer John J. Smith  
need only sign once. 1917

20.9.17.



DEFENCE.

The accused, Mr. Morris, elects to make an  
unsworn statement, & says:-

I am troubled with my head & cannot stand  
the sound of the guns. I reported to the D<sup>r</sup> &

he gave me no medicine of any kind

It was on the Sunday - 19.8.17 that I saw  
the doctor. He gave me no satisfaction.

The accused calls no witnesses.

The prosecutor informed the court that the M.O. was not  
in attendance.

After Finding -

Prosecutor Lieut. S.C. Burke. 6. B.W.1 regt. Swanshol.

I am assist: assistant.

I produce AFB. 122 of accused, certified  
true copy (attached).

Noted by accused:-

I have heard no complaint of accused's  
conduct except the 2 offences revealed in his  
conduct sheet.

The accused calls

St. L. Andrews 6. B.W.1.

When  
recalled

who recalled states,  
The accused has never given me any trouble.  
He is well behaved.



Labels (if necessary)  
A&D have

5.

the ct.

I have known the accused for months.  
His intelligence is higher than that of the  
ordinary man in my platoon.  
On 16.7.17 we were at Popersinghe.

3<sup>rd</sup> witness recalled by accused  
Capt. Russell

recalled states:-

The accused has never given me any  
trouble vis a vis a soldier's work.

Testified that S.S. 4<sup>th</sup> A. has before the court.

Subst. of mouth. Col.

Per. F.S.C.M.

7.9.17.

4. witness -

No. 6325. Sgt Simpson 2:8.4.17. Saw thisI am orderly room Sgt at St Martin's  
Rest Camp BOULOGNE.On 21.8.17 at about 9.15pm I was in my  
office when the accused entered & reported that  
he had been sent to our camp on the previous  
night by mistake. I questioned him &looked at his papers. The accused had  
no ticket or leave warrant, but said  
he was going to HARVE but did not know  
why he was being sent there.I sent the accused with an escort to the  
A.P.M. Boulogne.

I am able to identify the accused.

not cross examined.

My rec't: -

The accused was wearing a steel helmet  
uniform but had no rifle. Equipment or  
gas helmet.5. witness. No. 7514 Sgt Anderson 6:8.4.17. Saw thisOn 22.8.17 the accused, whom I know, was  
handed over to me at BOULOGNE by the A.P.M.I brought the accused back to the Barracks & handed  
him over to the guard.

not X'd.



1st witness:-

ESSEX Farm was whereabouts all the  
80 ft guns were in action. I should say about  
3500 yards from the front line.  
We had a very hot time of it while we  
worked there from the shelling. We had 7  
Casualties.

2nd witness.

No. 14222 Scot Goldson. 6th B.W.D. Rgt Swiss State

I was acting platoon leader of No 8 platoon  
on 20.8.17. The accused is in No 8 platoon  
I paraded the working parties on 20.8.17  
& saw them enter the crosses at 9 AM.  
The accused paraded with the others at the start.  
On arrival at ESSEX Farm there was a man  
short & in civilian clothes. I found the accused  
was about. The accused was not present  
with the party while we worked at ESSEX Farm.

Not xx?

3rd witness.

No. 7453 Tom Russell J. 6th B.W.D. Swiss State

On 20.8.17 at Farm I paraded the accused  
among a party of men & then Scot Goldson  
warned them not to leave camp as they were  
going out in buses at 10 AM.  
At 10 AM I saw the accused get into  
the last lorry. On arrival at Essex Farm  
the accused was about.

Mat of No. 7429. Ho. H. Morris.  
6<sup>th</sup> B.W.I. Regt.

Prosecution

1<sup>st</sup> witness. Lieut. L.R. Andrews. 6<sup>th</sup> B.W.I. Regt. Summ. Status -

I am in command of the platoon to which  
he accused belongs.

On 20<sup>th</sup> August 1917 I detailed a party of  
60 men, of whom he accused was one, to go  
up by train to ESSEX Farm which lies East  
of the Yperle Canal. Kert Goldson was  
in charge of this party.

I saw the accused  
in a lorry when the party moved off from  
XCP dump near Dopermeche.

Personally warned all my men on the day  
we started & also in the previous day that  
they were going out on detachment back at

Burnt Farm for the heavy artillery. He  
accused was present at his parade when  
I warned the men.

On our arrival at ESSEX Farm a report was  
made to me by the platoon serjt.

We worked at Essex Farm for 14 days  
& during that time I did not see the accused  
there.

Cross-examined accused:-

I am perfectly sure that accused was  
present when I warned the platoon.

X 200 W of  
YSER Canal

± 750 yds E of  
YSER Canal. 1 mile  
N of Eastern edge of  
YPRES.







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Army Form A. 3.

Form for Assembly and Proceedings of Field  
General Court Martial on Active Service.  
**PROCEEDINGS.**

On Active Service, this Sixth day  
of September, 1917.

**A.**  
Order con-  
vening the  
Court.

Whereas it appears to me, the undersigned, an officer in  
Command of XVIII Corps Reinforcement Camp, on active service, that the  
persons named in the annexed Schedule, being subject to Military  
Law, have committed the offences in the said Schedule mentioned.

**D.A.A.G.,**  
**FIFTH ARMY.**  
No. cm 4579  
Date .....

And whereas I am of opinion that it is not practicable that  
such offences should be tried by an ordinary General Court Martial;  
\*[and that it is not practicable to] delay the trial for reference to  
a superior qualified Officer.]

Omit except  
where convening  
Officer is not a  
Commanding  
Officer, and is  
below rank of  
Field Officer.

I hereby convene a Field General Court Martial to try the said  
persons, and to consist of the Officers hereunder named.

\*[I am unable to appoint :-

- \* (1. Three Officers to form the Court)
- \* (2. A Field Officer as President.)
- \* (3. Three Officers having more than one year's  
service.)

*R.B.G.*  
*Col.*

*R.B.G.*  
*Col.*

for the following reasons, namely :-

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S  
BRANCH  
OF THE STAFF.  
No. 13640  
1091

DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL  
No. cm 5/30  
Date .....

SUPPLIES  
FOR THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE

Rank.	Name.	Regiment.
<u>Colt Hon Colonel</u>	<u>H. J. NUTT, D.S.O.</u>	<u>7th R. Warwick</u>

Rank.	Name.	Regiment.
<u>Major</u>	<u>A. LLOYD-BAKER</u>	<u>1/4th Oxford &amp; Bucks</u>
<u>Major</u>	<u>M. GRIMES</u>	<u>9th Bn. North Devon</u>
<u>Capt.</u>	<u>F.S.A. BAKER</u>	<u>3rd Bn. Seaforth Hds</u>

\*Signed R. B. Gaisford Colonel  
Comd Reinforcement Camp  
Convening Officer. XVIII Corps

\* Must be  
signed by the  
Officer actually  
convening the  
Court at the  
time, and all  
provisions in  
the composition  
of the Court to



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Closure status: Open

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04/02/2012 12:55:42

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This document records that

Pte Herbert Morris of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
British West Indies Regiment

who was executed for desertion on  
20 September 1917 is pardoned under Section  
359 of the Armed Forces Act 2006.

The pardon stands as recognition that he was  
one of many victims of the First World War  
and that execution was not a fate he deserved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'J. Jones', is written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State for Defence