

# Awaits Finding Of Court-Martial On Treason Count

Farnborough, Aug. 29 (CP).—Pte George Hale of the Essex Scottish Regiment, was returned to Reading Detention Barracks tonight to await promulgation of the finding of a Canadian general court-martial. Late today the court completed the four-day trial of the 25-year-old private from Vassar, Mich., on a charge of voluntarily aiding the enemy while a prisoner of war.

Some time will elapse before announcement of the court's verdict on the former Windsor, Ont., resident captured in the Aug. 19, 1942, Dieppe raid. The case will be reviewed by higher military legal experts with authority to confirm or throw out the decision. The maximum penalty on conviction is death, but the court is authorized to impose a lesser sentence.

The tall, dark-haired soldier, whose admitted association with a German under-officer known as "South American Joe," was a feature of most of the evidence, stood at attention between two unarmed Provost Corps escorts when, after the court had deliberated 45 minutes, the president, Col. M. S. K. Gordon of Ottawa, told him:

"Private Hale, the finding of the court being subject to confirmation, will be promulgated later."

Hale, who had waited outside the courtroom while the members deliberated, replied "No, sir," when Col. Gordon asked him if he wished to make a statement or call character witnesses.

The full charge against him was that he "voluntarily aided the enemy in that, in Germany between November, 1942, and March, 1943, he voluntarily acted as an informer for the enemy of information useful to the enemy obtained by him from

Allied prisoners or war."

Following the president's announcement that the finding would be promulgated later, the prosecuting counsel, Lt.-Col. J. D. Watt of Ottawa, produced Hale's conduct sheet which showed that apart from one detention period of 28 days for being A.W.L. his army record was clean.

The defense counsel, Lt.-Col. F. H. E. Walker, a quiet-speaking artillery officer from Montreal, who argued throughout the hearing that Hale accepted German attention and consideration in and around the Landsdorf Prison Camp with a view to getting information for the Allies, made a brief statement when the trial concluded.

He asked that "if the court had considered the accused guilty" certain points be taken into consideration. He spoke of Hale's "change of heart" and good conduct from the end of February, 1943, until he escaped from a column of prisoners last April and joined up with Gen. George Patton's United States 3rd Army troops.

His voluntary service as an American with the Canadian forces and his participation in the Dieppe raid should be a considering factor as should his age and the fact that he was under German pressure.

He said, too, that Hale's case should not be considered with that of Pte. J. Galaher of Windsor, Ont., another Essex Scottish soldier charged with aiding the enemy, whose trial was held in camera.

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