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OCT 10 1946

REFUSE TO FREE ACCUSED OFFICER UNDER AMNESTY

Bramshott, Surrey, England,
Oct. 10— (CP Cable) — Before
Capt. R. G. Davidson of Mon-
treal was charged with desertion
at a general court martial to-day,
defending officer Lt.-Col. Victor
Jones pleaded that Davidson had
been condoned and pardoned by a
Privy Council order issued in
Ottawa Aug. 14.

The plea was not allowed.

The order, read in court for the
first time in Britain, referred to
the amnesty granted 14,100 des-
erters or absentees from the Can-
adian services, 6,000 of whom had
been conscripted under the Na-
tional Resources Mobilization Act.

Col. Jones said the order is "in-
consistent" in that "a conscript
who deserted in Canada during
his first leave and hid in the back-
woods walks the streets free but
the volunteer who went through
the hell of active service, if he
commits an offence, is hounded
and perhaps cashiered from the
service."

Denies Desertion

"Is that consistent?" asked Col.
Jones, saying that Davidson had
"languished in custody since last
Aug. 27 in agony and torment of
mind."

Capt. C. B. Knox, prosecuting
officer, submitted that the words
"in Canada" in the order precluded
any condonation of Davidson and
that therefore the plea before the
bar should fail.

Davidson pleaded not guilty to
the charge of desertion from July
6, 1944, until his surrender at Can-
adian Military Headquarters in
London Aug. 27, 1946.

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WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
ARMY
DESRETION

043-009-007