

**THIS HIGH TREASON TRIAL  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD IN PUBLIC.**

Security reasons—that threadbare excuse of officialdom for withholding information from the public in wartime—were not sufficient justification at this time for the secret trial in which Private John Gordon Galaher of Windsor, Ont., has been found guilty on a charge of high treason.

The question may properly be asked; what reasons of security can now be advanced for withholding from the public the details of the serious charge against Private Galaher and the evidence which was offered to the military court by the prosecution and by the defense? For that matter, what justification was there for trying this soldier in a military court instead of a civil court where a jury verdict could be rendered?

Great secrecy was thrown around the trial at Farnborough of Private Galaher before a military court, presided over by Col. M. B. K. Gordon, D.S.O., of Ottawa. About all that is known is that the 34-year-old Essex-Scottish private, who was taken prisoner during the raid on Dieppe almost three years before his trial began, was arrested in the United Kingdom late in May by members of the Canadian Provost Corps. Unofficial reports are that Galaher was charged under a section of the Army Act with "having been a prisoner of war, voluntarily aided the enemy in Germany between January, 1943, and December, 1944, acting as an informer for the enemy of information useful to the enemy obtained by him from Allied prisoners of war."

The charge against Private Galaher—high treason—is as serious as can be preferred against anyone. It is an offense that carries the death penalty. In order that the public may have the evidence, and for the protection of this soldier, the proceedings at the trial should be published. As it is a Canadian military court and a Canadian soldier is involved the case is one for the attention of the Canadian Minister of Defense. Here is an opportunity for the newly appointed Minister, Mr. Abbott, to see that Private Galaher and two other Canadian soldiers facing similar charges of treason have every protection to which a citizen is entitled when he is on trial for his life.

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