

#149 War: European 1939: Canada-Army-

Ontario Soldier Tried On Charges of Mutiny

Farnborough, Hampshire, Eng-
land, Aug. 17 (CP).—Tpr. E. O. Gra-
velle, 25, of Sudbury, Ont., today
appeared before a Canadian court-
martial on charges of mutiny, arson,
creating a disturbance, causing
damage and using insubordinate
language during alleged distur-
bances at a detention barracks after
VE-Day last May.

Gravelle, a member of the Cana-
dian Armored Corps, pleaded not
guilty to the charges arising out of
incidents May 8, 9 and 10. Twelve
other Canadian soldiers are sched-
uled to appear before the court on
charges they joined in the distur-
bances, during which, it was alleged,
"a great deal of damage was done
to buildings," and a watch-tower
was set afire.

Concessions Demanded

Capt. S. C. Biggs of Toronto,
prosecuting officer, told the court
the incidents took place at Headley
Detention Barracks near Bordon in
this county. When the news of
German surrender was made known,
some 1,400 soldiers under detention
made considerable noise, and asked
prison regulations be relaxed, he
said.

Chief demand was that a no-
smoking rule be relaxed, but when
no concession was made, disorders
broke out. "A great deal of dam-
age was done to buildings and a
watch-tower was destroyed by fire.
. . . A tremendous number of win-
dows were broken, and pipes and
radiators ripped out; bars were
broken from windows and wash-
basins were broken."

Major H. F. German, officer
commanding the barracks, said an
attempt was made May 9 to set
fire to the watch tower. The fire
was extinguished, but the tower
later had to be taken down, weak-
ened by the fire. About 200 sol-
diers were involved in the attempt,
some of whom tried to cut a fire-
hose with razor blades.

Gravelle was alleged to have
been one of those cutting the hose.

The barracks commander said
some men stormed the main gate
of the compound and 37 escaped.
Ten had escaped the previous day.

S. Sgt. J. Aston of Montreal, a
member of the Provost Corps, said
Gravelle "seemed to be acting as
spokesman for the whole mob" of
soldiers setting fire to the tower.

S. Sgt. P. J. Semple of Cochrane,
Ont., described the accused as "a
ringleader."

Hearing will continue.