

AUSTRIAN IS AFRAID TO SERVE WITH ALLIES

Has Two Brothers Serving With Austrian Army—Court- Martials To-day

When the General Court-martial reconvened at the Armories yesterday afternoon, Pte. Manlak, of the 2nd C.O. R. Battalion was the first prisoner called and, owing to his inability to understand the questions put to him, one of the other prisoners acted as interpreter.

After considerable cross-examination Manlak agreed to plead guilty to the charge of refusing to put on a military uniform. He stated that he had been married for six years and that his wife was still in Austria. The accused claimed that he had been compelled to take out naturalization papers while employed by the C.P.R., or lose his job. He had only been in Canada a year at that time.

On being questioned as to whether he would serve in the army in non-combatant capacity defendant said, "I do not want to fight against my friends in Austria." He had served one year in the Austrian army previous to the war.

Defendant stated that he wanted to go back to Austria after the war, and was afraid he would be shot if he served in the Canadian Army.

Col. MacDonald, the Judge Advocate General, told the prisoner that there would be no danger of this, and Manlak then agreed to perform non-combatant service in Canada.

"Have you any brothers in the Austrian army?" asked Col. MacDonald. "Yes, two," replied the prisoner.

The fifth offender to be charged with refusing to wear the King's uniform, was Steve Pidskalny. Through an interpreter he pleaded guilty. He said his wife lived in Galicia.

Pidskalny, on being questioned by Col. MacDonald, stated he would be quit willing to do non-combatant service, so long as he did not have to go to the front.

The court was then closed for the consideration of sentence.