

ARMY DESERTERS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

# PENALTY IS CONFIRMED BY OTTAWA

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**Draft Evader, Convicted  
By Court-martial, Begins  
Serving Term**

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**STIFF SENTENCES METED  
OUT TO SEVERAL OTHERS**

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For the first time in the west, if not in all Canada, a soldier has been sentenced to life imprisonment for desertion.

Pte. Dmytro Gelenezyn, No. 5,343,978, is the man. He is now serving his term at Stony Mountain penitentiary, it was learned today.

He was sent there upon the conclusion of the court martial, but it was only Thursday that his sentence was officially confirmed by the Ottawa authorities.

#### Arrested As Evader

Gelenezyn was arrested as a draft evader by the Dominion police. He was carrying an alien enemy certificate when apprehended, despite the fact he had become naturalized shortly after war was declared. Magistrate Noble fined him \$105 and costs on each of the two charges laid. He paid and was turned over to the authorities at Minto barracks, where he drilled and did defaulter duties for several weeks until one morning he disappeared.

Word reached the military authorities that there were many draft evaders in the bush around Whitemouth. Dominion police were sent but were unable to do anything, for the evaders threatened them with shotguns and rifles. Several of the officers were fired at. They sent to Winnipeg for reinforcements and a detachment of the 34th Fort Garry Horse under Major F. W. Stoneham was sent down, accompanied by Military Police under Major Guy Harris, M.C., and Lieut. Leslie Martin, M.C.

In the round-up that followed Pte. Gelenezyn was arrested after he had strenuously resisted arrest. He was not identified at the time but papers found on him disclosed his identity.

Several others arrested at the same time were also tried by court-martial. Three of them got 10-year terms and several from two to five years apiece. In all nine have already been sentenced and had their sentences confirmed by Ottawa. Others are waiting word from the militia council to see whether they will have to serve various terms imposed by the court-martial.