# Digital Item Description

Private Franz

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| **Excerpt From** | Deserters |
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| **Repository** | Laurier Military History Archive<br>Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada |

London Ont
Dec. 3. 1916

Sir

My statement regarding my attempt of desertion is absolutely true.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from an old friend of mine who has deserted the army, asking me to join him in the United States. Of course I had to answer and give an excuse. which was I had not enough money So he promptly sent me $10.00 and stumped me to do it. And I like the food I was made an attempt and got nipped. Which I am not a bit sorry for.

This mans name is Alexander Lorentz. his folks resides on 34 Charon St. Kitchener Ont. I have kept company with his sister since January 1915 And I got him to enlist but I had nothing to do with his deserting. One reason for me trying to desert is I have been in the Army for fifteen months and guess the same drill every day kind of had an affect on me. I can't place all the blame on him I was guilty of taking his advice to a certain extent I admit I deserve punishment

There is another deserter by the name of Loyd Burkholder who was to meet me at the station in Windsor. He also wrote me a few letters asking and coaxing me to come I am ashamed of myself for listening to him I feel as if I can't be trusted by anyone. If I ever get out of this mess I will show them that I can soldier. This concludes my statement I am Yours to Comand

Pte A. Franz
118th Battn

D 303 - 2106

London, Ont. Dec. 4th 6.

O. C. 118th O. S. Battalion, C.E.F.,
London, Ont.

O.A., M. D. No. 1,
London, Ont.

No. 126085, Pte. A. Franz.

Sir:

I have the honour to advise, with reference to the man marginally named, that I received an anonymous letter from Detroit, stating that it had been planned by a deserter from this Battalion, living there, to induce Pte. Franz to desert and go over to Detroit.

Our Provost Sergeant watched the train on Saturday and got Pte. Franz at the G.T.R. Depot, prepared with a ticket to travel to Windsor. He was arrested and is now awaiting trial for attempting to desert. The man admits that this was his intention and signs a confession accordingly, which is enclosed herewith.

He gives as his reason that he was tired of drilling and that there was no immediate hope of getting overseas.

The seriousness of his offence has now come home to this man and he promises never to do such a thing again.

In view of the recent Order in Council, regarding deserters, I would recommend that trial by District Dourt-Martial be dispensed with.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Lieut.-Col.
O. C. 118th O. S. Battalion, C.E.F.

HAF/WEB.

G602 — 2098

London, Ont. Dec. 4th 6.

Adjutant 118th O. S. Battalion, C.E.F.
London, Ont.

Grand Trunk Ticket Officer,
London, Ont.

The owner of enclosed ticket was a man of this Battalion who tried to desert on Saturday but was arrested before he got away.

I would consider it a favour if you would be good enough to take back the ticket and refund the amount to the bearer.

Captain.
Adjutant 118th O. S. Battalion, C.E.F.

HAF/WEB