

HONEYMOON DELAYED FOR HER EVIDENCE

A bride who had delayed her honeymoon to give evidence was the first witness at a court-martial at Newcastle-on-Tyne yesterday, on Lt. Douglas Webster St. Aubyn Berneville Claye (28), of the West Yorkshire Regiment who pleaded not guilty to two charges of cashing advance of pay slips and seven charges of passing cheques without ensuring there were sufficient funds in his banking account to meet them.

The bride, Mrs. Nora Jeffares, formerly an A.T.S. subaltern had been waiting all day on Wednesday to give evidence. She was married last week and should have been on honeymoon in Ireland.

She stated that last November she was Subaltern Wyse, A.T.S., of the 576 Command Mixed Transport Company stationed at Norwich.

She was acting as President of the Mess Committee of the unit and she received a cheque for £2/10/2 from Claye. Shortly afterwards she was released from the A.T.S. and she did not know what became of the cheque.

Mrs. Jeffares then left the Court.

Wednesday charges against Claye of improper association with an A.T.S. Private, stealing Army petrol and unauthorised use of an Army car and absence without leave were heard by the Court and the findings on these charges are to be promulgated.

Claye's wife was in Court yesterday.

Major Gullaver prosecuting counsel stated that Claye returned to this country last year after being a prisoner of war, his banking account became overdrawn and the bankers requested Claye to provide funds to meet the overdraft and outstanding cheques.

Major Gullaver alleged that Claye continued to conduct his affairs without regard to his overdraft.

Lieut. Claye was found not guilty of four charges of issuing cheques which were not met. On nine other charges, including an accusation of improper association with an A.T.S. private, now married, who alleges he is the father of her unborn child, the Court will announce its findings later.