

Last Kent Defense Witness Testifies

CLEVELAND, Aug 18 (UPI) — An Ohio National Guard officer testified today that he thought he saw two bullets strike directly behind his men on the Kent State University campus on May 4, 1970.

Dwight Cline, of Mansfield, Ohio, one of the defendants in the Kent State civil trial which entered its 14th week today, was the last defense witness scheduled to take the stand.

Cline, a lieutenant when guardsmen opened fire during an antiwar demonstration on the university campus, said he led his men from a practice football field to the top of Blanket Hill where "I saw two rounds hit behind my people. They tore up dirt behind us."

The line of guardsmen

turned and some of his men fired into the air during the volley, which left four students dead and nine wounded.

The wounded victims and families of the dead students filed the suit for a total of \$46 million in damages against guardsmen and state officials. Defendants include 30 former Guard officers and enlisted men, Gov. James A. Rhodes and former Kent president Robert I. White.

Under cross-examination, Cline said he did not know where the shots came from. He said, "it was possible" they were fired by guardsmen.

He said he was sure it was small arms fire. Nearly all the guardsmen were armed with high-powered rifles, 45-caliber

automatic pistols and shotguns.

As the volley swelled, Cline said he heard shouts to cease fire and relayed the order to the 10 or 12 men under his command.

He said he did not fire, nor did he hear any order to fire.

Ralph Tucker of Akron, now a captain in the Guard, but who was a lieutenant when the shootings occurred, testified earlier today that he heard one shot one or two seconds before a volley of firing. He added, however, that he could not determine where that shot came from.

Defense attorneys were to rest their case this week by trying to prove the Guard opened fire only after a civilian fired the first shot.