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Kent State juror tells why

CLEVELAND — The judge's decision to divide defendants into separate groups in the Kent State University civil damage trial influenced the jury to exonerate the defendants, a juror reported yesterday.

The case arising from the May 4, 1970 shooting deaths of four KSU students and the wounding of nine others, ended Wednesday when the jury absolved all 29 defendants.

Ellen Gaskalla, a dissenter in the 9-3 verdict, said the judge's instructions to the jury colored the verdict because he divided Ohio National Guard officers and enlisted men into two groups, making it impossible to consider the defendants on an individual basis.