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accused has three sisters, all of whom are married and not living at home. He has another younger brother who is at the present time serving with the Royal Canadian Navy. So it leaves his mother and father home alone and his mother is in very poor physical condition owing to the other brother's accident. I think her illness has been quite aggravated. The accused, unfortunately, has no corroboration in his letters. They have been lost but, apparently, his mother is undergoing such a mental strain at the present time that she will leave the house without telling anyone and go and spend hours in the cemetery beside the grave of the boy that was killed. The father, too, is in very poor health and works only periodically. Last winter he was laid up in bed for over four months with asthma. Consequently, it can be seen that the conditions at home were, in fact, very poor.

The letter from the mother asked the accused if he could come home for a short time to try to help. Now I think the only excuse we can offer for the accused's excuse at this time in his not seeking permission for a compassionate leave was the fact that he had so much on his mind -- the separation from his wife, the loss of his brother and then this letter from his mother. Well, he just decided to go home.

He went home and spent a period of 37 days there during which time they arranged for one of the married sisters to come home temporarily to help straighten out the conditions at home. Then he returned to Camp Borden and was awarded 27 days' detention for that particular offence. During the time he was serving his detention the accused was unfortunate enough to pile up another black mark in that he got an infection in his neck and the advice of the medical officer attending was that after he had finished the sentence he was to report