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ADDRESS BY DEFENDING OFFICER  
IN MITIGATION OF PUNISHMENT

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

Corporal Dobish has pleaded guilty to the two charges and in doing so throws himself on the mercy of the Court. I would like to refer to certain circumstances surrounding the case.

The lead referred to in the charges comes from two main sources:- First, the old cable yard in which cable lies around haphazard and unguarded and with no accurate check on it at all. The cable there is not used in the normal course of signals work. The second source is from salvage cable ends which result from work done and it is a fairly common practice for members of the Signal centre to dispose of it.

There is a dearth of regulations in effect regarding collection and proper disposal of such metal and this left an unnecessary temptation in the way of the men working with it which was difficult to withstand.

Captain Coombe has given character evidence. Corporal Dobish's work is satisfactory and he has five years in the army without one blemish. He is a married man with two children and has had a great deal of illness in the family. His wife has been ill and while she is recovering, it has been a big drain on his resources.

The accused has come forward and admitted his guilt and has co-operated with the civil and service authorities from the very first. And in view of his past good record I would ask the Court to consider the matter very carefully and award a sentence that is as lenient as possible.

Judge Advocate: Again, Captain Button - with respect to the matters mentioned by you - these are raised only as factors in mitigation, is that correct?

Defending Officer: That is right, sir and there is no intention of trying to excuse the accused completely for what was done.

*J. M. A.*