

THE DEFENDING OFFICER ADDRESSES THE COURTMr. President and Members of the Court:

In defence of the accused, Sapper McPhee, I want to bring out in front of the Court that when he went absent without leave in August, 1941, it was because he had received news that his wife was laid up in bed, and that it would be impossible for her at the time to look after things in her home, or even to look after her two children. Sapper McPhee went away to see if he could fix things at home, so that he would be able to return to camp and would not have to worry about things going badly at home, and, as he explained in his statement, due to the difficulties he encountered in obtaining a housemaid, he postponed his return to Camp.

I am positive that if it had been explained to Sapper McPhee what would happen to him in the event he would stay away so long, I am very sure that he would have returned to Camp, because by staying away he would not only be making things worse for himself, but also for his family.

So I wish to put in front of the Court the fact that according to the situation at home, he was put in a very difficult position, and that many of us if we were like him not having much education and not knowing exactly the rules of the Army, we would have done the same.

I am sure, if he had known the consequences, he would have returned in a very short time.

W. J. Black
President D.C.

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