

*J. H. Campbell Major
Judge Advocate*

*H. Lawson
Pres. S. C. M.*

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FINAL ADDRESS BY DEFENDING OFFICER :-

Mr. President and Members of the Court, as a plea in mitigation of the punishment of the accused, SC 135686 Private Earl William Blakeley, I would like the Court to take the following list of extenuating circumstances into consideration in arriving at punishment for the accused.

We have all at one time or another had recounted to us hard luck stories of one kind or another. I think this one is unparalleled. During the war the accused spent approximately two years in service with the RCAF during which time he was overseas as an LAC driver. He had an exemplary character and no crimes during that period. When he returned from overseas the accused volunteered for service in the Far East and was stationed down near Kingston. He secured his 30 days' leave on returning to Canada from overseas and went back to his home town of Almonte, Ontario. It is approximately 30 miles from Ottawa. There he met up with his ex-girl friend or his girl friend of his younger days and in that period he was married.

Now I would like to point out at that time the accused was only 19 years of age. He had been away from home overseas for two years.

He returned after his 30 days' leave to continue his training and during that period of time down there he was told by members of his own unit that in his absence his wife was running around. Now he discounted these stories and didn't take any action. Subsequent to that he was discharged from the RCAF. He went back to his home town and started working at civilian employment. He found, much to his horror, that the facts presented to him had been true, to the extent that he would return from work in the evenings or on week-ends and