

TRIAL BY COURT/MARTIAL

PLEA FOR MITIGATION OF SENTENCE

F45979 Pte. Geddes, George William

This soldier enlisted in the Canadian Army on the 15th of April, 1943, immediately on attaining the required age for service Overseas. He had previously tried to enlist but was not accepted because he could not obtain his Mother's consent.

On the 2nd of September, 1943, he arrived in the United Kingdom and was posted to No. 1 CASC.RU. He passed through the various refresher courses at this R.U. and then was posted to No. 1 Cdn. Base Staging Camp. While with this Unit, Pte. Geddes seized the opportunity to better his education and was posted for a 6-week course to No. 7 Educational Wing, C.T.S. While in civilian life, Geddes had only had the opportunity of attaining Grade III standard. At the completion of this educational course, he was re-posted to No. 1 CASC.RU. From there it has been a continual round of postings; No. 2 Cdn. Spec. Driving School; back to CASC.RU; No. 1 Cdn. A.P.I.S.; No. 1 Cdn. Arm'd Car Coy. RCASC; H.Q. 1st Cdn. Army Service Increment; back to CASC.RU; then his present Unit, No. 1 Adm. Tpt. Coy., RCASC.. He has been in three different Field Units but has not been wanted on account of his Category. In March, 1944 he was categorized L-3 under Pulhems for an injury which happened to him at the age of 16. Yet he was sent Overseas as A-1 and twice had that category re-confirmed.

Approximately 2½ months ago, Pte. Geddes received word from his Mother (who is partially crippled) that her husband had left and was not supporting her. This worried Pte. Geddes to no little extent. At this time Pte. Geddes was sending his Mother an assignment of \$20.00 per month, and he made application for an allowance for her but was refused on the grounds that husband and wife were not legally separated and that the husband was a wage-earner. Geddes tried several times with different Units to which he was posted, but to no avail. It is quite possible, gentlemen, that this charge of A.W.L. against Pte. Geddes originated while he was under mental stress directly due to the futility of all his efforts to obtain financial aid in supporting his Mother. His case is now in the hands of the Unit Padre who is attempting to obtain a new ruling from the Dependant's Allowance Board in favour of Pte. Geddes.

Gentlemen, I would strongly plead for leniency in this case, firstly on account of this soldiers' extreme youth, (he is, even now, only 20), but even more so on account of the family troubles under which he is labouring.

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Defending Officer.

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