

plea of Mitigation

EX³
MM
C45074 Pte Craig L.

The accused Pte Craig L. has been troubled with a great deal of sickness at home. The fact that he has 20 serious charges as of A.M. against him is no indication that he is a bad soldier.

This man's first absence was caused by his catching pneumonia while on a 40 day pass in Slough. He was attended by a Dr. Cusden and if given time can submit a statement to that effect. After his recovery from sickness his wife was moving from Slough to Datchet and he stayed with her to help. When they arrived in Datchet Craig first saw that his work was settled and then he left her to go and surrender himself. On the way to Datchet he was in the accused broke his hand and that was the reason for his turning himself in at Exminster Hospital.

The accused's second charge was caused by his receiving a letter stating that his wife had bronchitis and his 4th daughter. He was extremely worried about his wife as she was pregnant at the time and expecting a baby in July. Previously it was also said that she was ill after having a miscarriage. At the time the girl's cousin was looking after them but the return of her husband from the East necessitated his return to Datchet. The accused was frantic. He immediately got a 40 day pass and proceeded to Slough to try and help his family. He visited the family doctor Dr. Cusden and was informed by her that she had tried to get his wife into the war hospital but was unsuccessful. The child missed its food every four hours. Sometime had to look after the two of them and as Craig was the only one available he had to do the job himself. He phoned a telegram from Datchet but apparently nothing happened to it as the camp never received it.

The accused is not a bad soldier. He has had 1 F.C. C.M. previous to this and for it served 90 days' detention. He was forced to go A.W.O. by circumstances beyond his control. Certainly it can hardly be considered a crime for a man to look after his wife and daughter when they are ill. I ask the court to consider this when they pass sentence on