

Plea in Mitigation

Has the record of the ordinary soldier - one long AWL but since then only minor offences. Very small after getting to the field. Worried by his sister's death and false accusation of having a child in England and the fact that his sister had died of T.B. and he had had no reboard since 1941 he sought the counsel of his older brother. He went AWL but failing to find him tried to return to his own unit after being away only 15 days. He got a ride and a stranger in a strange country ended up in France. He went for medical help to the Americans there and told them he was AWL. The officer told him to get back to his unit. He did so but could not get a ride so it took him a long time to get back to surrender himself where he was immediately sent to hospital. It was a busy time and neither his officers or the padre ever inquired as to how things were going with him and a worried man he went AWL to seek the advice of his older brother. This is not a case to follow the policies of higher authorities but one for the Court to decide. This is a simple case of AWL and one which should never have been brought before a court martial.

"G.T. Clark" Capt
Defending Officer.