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DEFENDING OFFICER'S CLOSING ADDRESS

Mr. President and Members of the Court; the accused has told us that he left Camp Shilo with the intention of visiting his brother-in-law, and leave was made out to go to Regina, but, on arriving at Regina, his brother-in-law has no farm there, but has moved away and sold his farm. It is natural to say that a man would make some attempts to find out where his brother-in-law lives, and it was his intention, if not too far away, to go to his brother-in-law's. On arriving at Ravens Creek where his brother-in-law now had a farm, and finding them in the midst of harvesting and doing it all by himself having no other help, he would naturally think it his duty to his own sister and kin to give him a hand. He states that he worked for his brother-in-law harvesting until December 3rd. That may seem a long time, a matter of two months and about three days, but the season this year throughout the whole of western Canada was prolonged on account of unusually wet weather unsuitable for harvesting, and the accused tells us that he received twenty-seven (\$27.00) dollars for two months work. There is no doubt that on arriving at his brother-in-law's place he would be without funds, and would necessarily need some, even for tobacco and incidentals. As soon as the work was finished he made attempts to come back to the Army, showing that it was never his intention to stay away, but that he thought that his duty to his own kith and kin was a little stronger than his duty to the Army. I leave it to the Court to judge whether they think the man's intention was to desert or not.

*[Handwritten mark]*