

PLEA IN MITIGATION OF PUNISHMENT.

The accused is just twenty years of age. Volunteered for active service as soon as he joined up. He has been in the army just nine months and so hasn't had the training nor the practical experience in handling weapons that most of the other soldiers who are fighting in this area have had. This was his first experience in battle and as his section leader testified was doing a fine job.

When this accident took place it was in the heat of battle, a time when many are apt to become a little bit excited and the necessity of cleaning a rifle before cleaning it was forgotten for the moment. The accused had heard rumours of a counter attack was hurriedly trying to get his rifle in good working order, doing this in dark and cramped space, which he was not used to. So far his army record has been good and his crime sheet clean, that he is young enough to learn a lesson from this accident.

"JH Tamara"
Defending Officer.