

*E. Chandler*  
(E.S. Chandler) Major  
President D.C.M.

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THE DEFENDING OFFICER ADDRESSES THE COURT FOR THE ACCUSED:

Mr. President and Members of the Court:

I would like to make a sketch for the benefit of the Court. I feel that this man should have been referred to the psychologist. This may be due to the fact that he is worrying constantly about home conditions and the fact that he lives in a rural community where, apparently, they have no facilities, and that his wife and children are living there alone. Constantly through his evidence there is worry concerning his conditions and this has caused him to run afoul of the military authorities.

I do not know just to what extent his financial distress is due to his own fault, but I do know that the fact of a family being in financial distress is an immediate cause of the man going absent in order to remedy that condition and pay his debts. This is probably one of the oldest stories the army has had to contend with. We all know a great many families are left in similar conditions, but the ones that live in these isolated communities have more hardships to contend with than those who live in the settled districts. My personal contact with the accused has made me feel that he is not intentionally bad, but seems for the past six months to have been living in a sort of mental turmoil that prevents him from thinking clearly. He seems to me to be rather dazed, and while he definitely does not want to be in trouble, he seems to be carried away by the circumstances in which he finds himself. I feel that an interview with a psychiatrist would have the effect of making a change in this man's pulse rate, and his record in the past six months, I think, bear me out.

*gk*