

REPORT OF DEBATING SECTION
ON EVIDENCE OF ACCUSED

gentleman, you have seen fit to find the accused guilty not of desertion but of absence without leave. You have made allowance for a certain portion of his stay away from the unit, which you considered involuntary. I would ask you to consider, from the point of view of a private soldier with little more than a year's service, just how far the remainder of his absence was involuntary. We, being officers who have had considerably more service, know the proper procedure for having leave extended and knowing what to do in the event no reply is received, and must therefore take allowances for the lack of general military knowledge of people such as this accused.

As for the evidence given by the accused, it was undoubtedly straightforward and without hesitation in any way. In fact it was given exceedingly rapid, sometimes much to the confusion of the Sergeant recording the evidence. There was nothing rehearsed or contemplated about it. He told his story and we have very little reason to doubt his good faith in all things. I hope all this will be duly considered in deliberating on the sentence to be awarded. That is all I have to say.

W. A. H.