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THE ACCUSED ADDRESSES THE COURT THROUGH HIS DEFENDING OFFICER.

Mr. President, in the Plea in Mitigation I would like to state that this man joined Active Service a little over a year ago to fight for his country. His choice was a Field Hospital Unit but on account of his A-1 grading he was re-allocated to Recce and recently to Infantry. Through a misunderstanding, when he joined up, with the Dependents Allowance Board in the matter of his children and wife's allowance, the money did not go where it was supposed to go. I think he has been under strain. We well realize that \$57.20 isn't very much for a mother and young child and it is no wonder that he was worried. Not understanding the fact that he was making himself more liable to stoppages which would only incur more hardships, it was pretty hard for him not to feel that he should go home for awhile and try and ease the situation.

True, he should have gone to his Platoon Commander or the Padre for advice before going absent without leave and saved all this trouble and expense but he sincerely felt he was doing his duty to his family.

Now that his wife is working he feels the situation has eased a little. He asks for recommendation by you that he goes overseas at once and with a Field Hospital Unit if possible.

It would be better not to impose financial trouble on him if it could be avoidable and to let this man serve his country in the best manner that is available.

If it so please the Court I would ask that this man be given every consideration.

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