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ADDRESSES BY DEFENDING OFFICER
IN MITIGATION OF PUNISHMENT

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

I would like to bring out a few points in mitigation on behalf of the accused. Since January of this year I have been Attwater's Troop Officer. He is a good Trooper and is qualified as a gunner and is a top man. While he is not a most stable person, this did not interfere with his work.

His home life is not a happy one. The mother remarried and under the circumstances this information tended to upset Attwater and, in fact, the whole circumstances of his home life is not the best.

The accused joined the Army when he was barely 17. He has now been in for barely 11 months. During this period he had no leave until June. At this time no leave was being granted due to training commitments. However, Trooper Attwater produced a letter sufficient to warrant him getting compassionate leave, which he did take. He is only a young fellow and his sense of responsibility is naturally not of the greatest degree. He did overstay his leave but proceeded without escort from Camp Borden to Calgary. He has no crimes and his conduct sheet is clean. This is a first offence.

This man is a useful soldier and while he deserves punishment, if within reason, there is no reason why he should not come back to the Troop and become a good soldier. I would further point out he has spent 27 days awaiting trial.

P. W. A.