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Address by Defending Officer in mitigation of punishment.

I wish to draw the attention of this Court that your learned services consideration in mitigation of punishment for the following reasons.

Firstly, that although this man's conduct that bears unusual extent, you must realize that they are not of a very grave nature.

Secondly, that in his defence, he made no effort to hide the fact that he was absent without leave while endeavouring to seek the authority for obtaining his transfer, believing no doubt that he would be better suited in another unit.

Thirdly, being a young man of nineteen years of age with but one year of soldiering behind him, he could be excused in not realizing the responsibilities of his actions.

Fourthly, that during his confinement, and in a moment of depression, he was prompted to commit this act.

In consideration of these reasons, I would ask the Court for leniency.

WAS