

J. J. P. R.
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BY THE DEFENDING OFFICER: Mr. President and Members of the Court: The accused, as you see for yourselves, is a clean-cut lad. He is intelligent; he has 4 years high school, and personally, I am convinced by the way he spoke to me in his cell while awaiting this court-martial that he had one fear - that of detention. Having been through the detention barracks and seen how these men are cared for and looked after, I would not like to go to detention myself. But the accused seems to have an uncanny fear of detention and I feel convinced that, had the remarks of his commanding officer to the effect that: "if you appear before me again, I will sentence you to detention" not been made, that he would have returned from his week-end pass when he found himself a few hours absent. I was hoping that by putting this man on the stand that he would impress you as he did me with his sincerity. He seemed very, very, nervous, and high-tensioned. He has, without a doubt, I am convinced, a terrific fear of detention and that, I am convinced, is the only thing that kept this man from returning to his unit. On those grounds, if nothing else, I think leniency should be shown to this man.

JJP