

PLEA OF MITIGATION

The accused in 1943 was sent to #2 CARU. He was doing there fatigue work. He asked for a transfer from the Army to the Merchant Navy. All the facilities were given to him to have that transfer. Furthermore it had been strongly recommended by Col Despasties and Col Walter. All papers from CMHQ came through all right and Campbell was sent to NETD on the 1st Feb 44. There he had to wait 16 weeks for the consent of his wife, to be discharge in this country and to enrolled himself in the Merchant Navy. All his letters were sent back to him and his wife could not be found. At last at the end of all resources he saw the Padre. The padre wrote to the Mayor of Toronto. The Mayor got in touch with his wife. The answer from his wife as to the transfer was No. Then he was sent back to 2 CARU. From there he was sent to 22 SCEC in June 44. During the three years that Campbell have been overseas he received exactly two letters from his wife. Naturally for him the life was dull and specially after the refusal of his wife his moral was really at a low ebb. He met a young lady in Godalming and started to go out with her. During the period of the doodle-bugs her house was blitzed. She sold all the good furniture that was left and she told Campbell that anything he might need to take it. He went to the house and in cupboard underneath the stairs he found a small hand sewing machine. He took it to Alton figuring it was hers. Any way the police came to know that he was in possession of a sewing machine and they put him up on a charge of looting a blitzed house. His girl friend at the time went to the witness box and concur that she had given the permission to Campbell to help himself in the house. He was set free and one month after on the evidence of a person to whom his girl friend had sold something he was sentence to 6 months. The statement that the lady made was that when she bought things she did not see the sewing machine underneath the stairs because if she had seen it she will have bought it.

The accused came out of prison and went back to 22 SCEC in February. When he went to NETD in 1944 the boys up there give him some stock they had in surplus saying you are going to be discharge of the Army in this country and that will save you some coupons. That his the stock that he sold to the civilians, thinking that he was within his rights because it was surplus stock that he had been given by some lads going back to civilian life and by the same fact that stock will have become their personal property. As I said Campbell was thinking he was right to sell the stock. Furthermore the accused did not asked the civilians to buy the stock. They asked him if he had something to sell. I asked you to take that into consideration and to be very lenient with Pte Campbell. He has not been happy so far in the service and leniency from your part will do him a lot of good.

EMM