

K. 21
Schorge, C. C. C.
President V. C. C.

PLEA OF MITIGATION

The court has heard the statement made by the accused. The accused realizes full well that he is not justified in having gone absent for the reasons that he has stated but feels that his reasons warrant a certain degree of leniency.

It is quite understandable that a man of his age and with as little service as he has should resort to going absent to settle his problems, because in his short service he would not be able to appreciate that had he put up his case properly to his company commander he would quite likely have been granted compassionate leave long enough to enable him to look after this girl whom he got into trouble.

However the harm has been done, and the court should consider the statement made under oath by the accused and give him credit for the manner in which he conducted himself as a man in getting his girl friend to live at his home, supporting her and looking for her father until he could be found to obtain his permission to be married.

Under normal circumstances had this girl's family not been separated in the manner in which it was the accused would not have felt that he had to be absent to look after the girl or wait the length of time he did to marry her. He quite likely would have been able to obtain normal leave to do the right thing by the girl without resorting to absence to get his personal affairs straightened out.

Consideration should be given the accused in that he has suffered mentally since he absented himself and much more so since he ~~xxxxxxx~~ surrendered for fear that he won't be able to take the proper care of his family.

I ask on behalf of the accused that the circumstances leading up to his absenting himself be weighed carefully and leniency be shown him in view of the circumstances leading up to this final outcome.

He has been in some amount of trouble since he was arrested for approximately 2 1/2 days. It is felt that this should be considered in arriving at a disposition.