Plea of mitigation in the case of L 12423 Pte Hydichuk M. of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada on the strength of #1 CIRU.

Sir,

Pte Hydichuk enlisted on the 12 Oct 39. This is his first crime. When a soldier has kept his record spotless for four years there must be some reason for the sudden outbreak. The story behind this man's offence is a series of events which thwarted an ambitious soldier and finally ended up in souring the man.

Pte Hydichuk was in the field with the South Saskatchewan Regiment. He was a truck driver with a very good record as such. He was anxious to get ahead. He asked for courses, particularly a driver mechanic's course. But for some unknown reason could not get one. In Jan 1941 when on leave he became sick and was admitted into a civilian hospital. When he got out he was sent to #2 CIRU and found out that he had been put down as being AWOL for 98 days. His wife's allowance was stopped. After some trouble he had this straightened out.

Here at #2 CIRU he was again employed as a truck driver. Again he looked for a course but without success. When the trained soldier's pay was raised to $1.50 a day Pte Hydichuk applied for his. This soldier ~~who~~ had enlisted on the 12 Oct '39 and now in May '43 his status as a trained soldier was questioned. After quite some trouble he was finally given the $1.50 rate a month and one half later. Pte Hydichuk felt that since he enlisted he was doing a good job and couldn't see why things were being made so difficult for him.

Finally in June 1943 Pte Hydichuk and approximately 11 others were drafted to 1 CBRD. All the others were placed in coys. Pte Hydichuk, left to the last, was placed in the Seaforth coy. He did not desire leaving the SSR but, if he had to, he wanted to go to the Saskatoon Light Infantry where his friends were. He was paraded to the O.C. Seaforth Coy and requested to be posted to the S.L.I. coy. The O.C. told him if he could get a man from the SLI he would agree. Nothing was being done so Pte Hydichuk asked to be paraded to the O.C. SLI. But this was refused.

Also during this time the RSM told the chaps that those with clean records would get breaks for stripes and week ends. Pte Hydichuk decided he would try for a stripe. But with his clean record the only break he got was kitchen fatigue over the week end. A growing suspicion became a reality to Pte Hydichuk. He could see no reason why he should be treated in such a manner continually since enlistment. The only reason that he felt might be the basis for such treatment was his name. There was certainly discrimination and of because of his name he would no longer soldier with such people. So when this suspicion became a reality he found himself unwilling to put up with it any longer and committed his first crime in four years of good soldiering.

Consequently, sir, in view of the shabby treatment given this ambitious soldier I pray the court to consider it and show all leniency possible to Pte Hydichuk.

H. D. Theo[illegible] all on go

Pte Murphy, R.S.
Defaulting Officer.