

J. C. Allan
(J. C. Allan) Major
President DCM

PLEA IN MITIGATION BY THE DEFENDING OFFICER

Mr. President and Members of the Court:-

Gnr. Gazella joined the Army in Toronto when he was 18 years of age. He wished to follow the Army as a career, and he was influenced in joining the Army by his father's example. His father was a member of the NPAM prior to the war for a good many years, and he served with the CASF. He went Overseas, and attained the rank of RSM in the Royal Canadian Artillery.

Gazella joined the Army, and he came to Shilo, where he did his basic training. During the course of the basic training, as you will remember, we had the big floods in B.C., and Gazella, together with a large group from Shilo, went to B.C., and stayed there for six weeks or more, living outdoors, stemming the flood. After about six weeks, they came back to Shilo, and found that their quarters had been taken over by Reserve Force soldiers who were there for a week's camp, and instead of coming back into nice quarters, they found themselves in tents again. It was raining this particular week, and this caused a bit of resentment in the minds of these young soldiers, so a group of them went absent, Gazella included. He went home to Toronto, and told his folks he was on a 14 day leave. At the end of that time, he started out for Shilo, but fear of the consequences caused him to change his mind and he remained absent. Gnr. Gazella admits he has made a mistake and he is sorry for it.

I would like to call the attention of the Court to the fact that Gnr Gazella is a young man, and this being the first time he had been absent from home, perhaps his decision was made from inexperience.

In passing sentence, I would like the Court to take into consideration the fact that Gnr Gazella has been in custody awaiting trial for nearly sixty days. This is nearly half as long as he has actual days of service in the Army.