

Mr President and members of the Court may I state, a few facts re Pte Cunningham's life and career.

He was born in McMasterville, P. Que., ~~24~~ years ago on the 24 Aug 1925.

His father died when Cunningham was 7 and the court must admit, even if there was a foster father later on, the close paternal guidance of a blood father was missing.

He served his country during the past war in the navy for two years, enlisting at the age of 17 years having a very good record there.

He enlisted in the army again in the Army (AF) 24 Dec 47 at 4 Personnel Depot at Montreal, P. Que.

He was transferred to The RCASC School at Camp Borden, Ontario and was allotted a place in the Basic Cooks Course.

According to different reports at the outset of his army sojourn the summary was always the same that is Pte Cunningham will make a good soldier.

You will notice from the man's MFM 6 where he always received a sort of maximum sentence in comparison to others.

You will also notice for stealing a car or should I say taking an automobile without the owners permission, he was ~~given~~ given a year in civilian custody when others get off sometimes with a small fine. In this regard the army was not represented.

In this last case Pte Cunningham went away without leave. Being away for awhile and being afraid to come back added one day to another until on a drinking spree took a joy ride with a friend of his in someone else's car without that person's permission. After serving his time his courage overcame his fear and he surrendered himself on the ~~7th~~ November, 1949.

Will the court please consider the long time that this man spent in civil custody.

Sirs I'm ~~not~~ to make a martyr out of Cunningham and do hope he does not consider himself such. It just so happens that ~~the~~ he doesn't speak up for himself at the right time or says the wrong thing at the wrong time. May I recommend to this court that an interview with the psychiatrist might be of untold value.

*Ben by  
President*