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John Wesley Davis
President, District Court Martial

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CLOSING ADDRESS BY DEFENDING OFFICER:

The accused has had a rather hard background. I understand he is 29 years of age and was in only the second grade of the usual grade school. He went to work at twelve years of age on one of those farms where the greater part of the farm, I understand, is not under cultivation. Apparently conditions haven't been very good. When he was called to the Service, apparently he had asked for leave to go home to help his parents. There is one more brother besides himself and this other brother is married and after the boy was called away the old parents were left on this farm and he then applied for agricultural leave. Whether it got to the proper authorities or not, I don't know, but it may have changed the whole situation had he been granted this leave.

After three months he went absent. His intention was to soldier so after three months he goes Active and apparently intended to carry on his Army duty. After this absence he did not leave the immediate scene of the place in which he is alleged to have deserted. I understand Fish Lake is some thirteen or fifteen miles from Picton and the accused states he was in Picton every other night in Uniform. He did intend to report to the unit, but possibly through ignorance did not know what to do, became confused, took the easiest way out, took a job and remained working on the farm.

On account of the background of the accused and the domestic trouble, I would ask the leniency of the Court.

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