

close
Am
11/7/46

Seott. II-27-27,004-15-11-45.

EAH (1946) Department.

Le

SERIES.

G.O. No.

1350

con

Dated

11.7.1946

[Despatch Abstract.]

War - Educational concessions to a student whose
father committed suicide - Continuance - Notes recorded.

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Further Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

9030 OFFICE OF THE C.F. 304.
 Date 11. 2 1946, Hours Minutes
 TELEPHONIC MESSAGE

From D. P. J. To Secy to Govt.
 E.P.H.

Sub: War. & Educational
 Concessions to the children and
 dependents of soldiers.

Kindly let me know
 whether the concession sanctioned
 under G.O. no 610 E.P.H. dated
 20-4-45 could be continued
 in the case of a student whose
 father enrolled in military
 service and reported to have
 have ~~been~~ committed suicide.

102
 11/2/46

This seems to be a peculiar case. Whatever may be the cause for suicide it seems that since the soldier committed suicide while in service he should be regarded as a deserter from the army. For orders whether the DPI may be informed accordingly.

SS
13/2/46.

Rebels the
show
my
18/2/46

3 3

Telephone Message Edu and P.H. Dept
S. 18.2.46.

From

The Secy to Govt, Edu and P.H. Dept
To the S.P.S.

Issued
KES
19/2/46

War. Educational concessions to
a student whose father has committed
suicide. Ref your t.m of 11.2.46.

Please send a full report explaining
the circumstances under which the soldier committed
suicide.

1/11/46
18/2/46.

1/11/46
18/2/46

4

Edn and P.H. Dept

Telephone Message 2.18.46

For copy to Govt, Edn and P.H. Dept

2.9.46

From: Educational Commissioner to

to: Govt. of Madras

Subject: Ref. Govt. No. 811.2.46.

Please send a full report explaining

the circumstances under which the student

committed suicide.

2/10/46

2/10/46



POST COPY OF TELEPHONIC MESSAGE DATED 19-2-46.

The Director of Public Instruction,
MADRAS.

To
The Secretary to Govt.,
Education & P.H. Department.

13 aut REF:- Telephonic Message of date regarding grant
of military concession to a student whose
father committed suicide.

A full report has been called for from the District
Educational Officer, Trichinopoly and will be submitted to Govt.
on receipt.

Power

For Director of Public Instruction.

EPK 21-2-

2/10/46

6

E.P.H. (C7).

This may lie over till ~~20-2-46~~ 1.4.46.

SS
28.2.46 / 1/11/46
28/2/46.

one
1/3/46

21811
21/3/46
21/3/46

PC 650
From
To
28/5
W/S

1/1/46

Pl. Remnd
10.6.46.
Reminded
11/6

Telephone mt
1/11/46
2/5

Telephone Message.

The Secy. to Govt, Edn. + P.H. Dept
The D.P.I.

War - Educational concessions to a
student whose father has committed
suicide.

Your T.M's of 11.2.46 and 19.2.46.

Pl. say when the full
report in the matter will be submitted
to Govt.

one
26/4/46
25.4.46 / 1/11/46
25/4/46.

The Secy. to Govt., Edn + P.H. Dept.
 The D.P.I.
 War - Educational concessions to a
 student whose father has committed
 suicide.
 You T.M. of 11.5.46 and 19.5.46
 report in the matter will be submitted
 to Govt.

R.C.No.217-W/46

Office of the
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras, Dated 11-6-1946.

From

G.L.Lobo, Esq., B.A. (Hons.) Cantab.,
Deputy Director of Public Instruction (In charge),
Office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

32693^{To}

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort. St. George, Madras.



Sub: War - Grant of Educational concessions to a student
whose father committed suicide. *17 ante*

Ref: P.C. of T.M. dated 26-4-1946 from Government. *not used*

In continuation of my T.M. dated 8-5-1946, I am
submitting herewith a copy of the Proceedings of the Court of
Enquiry detailing the circumstances under which the soldier
committed suicide.

Brank 1946.

RVR 14/6/-

for Director of Public Instruction.

PROCEEDINGS OF A COURT OF INQUIRY ASSEMBLED AT 9 ADV.
BASE POST OFFICE ON THE TWENTY SIXTH DAY OF SEPT. 1945
BY ORDER OF OFFICIATING COMMANDER CBO SUB AREA FOR THE
PURPOSE OF INQUIRING INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH
OF P.2980 L/Naik N.P. MUTHALAM 9 A.B.P.O. WHO WAS FOUND
HANGED ON 20 TH SEPTEMBER 1945.

PRESIDENT.

CAPT. J.M.W. BADCOCK. R.SIGS.

MEMBERS.

LIEUT. R.KOCH 3 C.L.I.

THE COURT HAVING ASSEMBLED PURSUANT TO ORDER
PROCEED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING EVIDENCE.

===

1. The court proceeded to examine the Guard Room where L/NK
N.P.Muthalam was found hanged.

2. Throughout the following evidence L/Naik N.P.Muthalam
will be referred to as the "deceased".

1. Witness. Statement by 12550 Cpl. Young J.F.C. 2. C.L.I.

I am a Cpl. in 2. C.L.I. I was Guard Commander at 9 ABPO
on the night of 20-21 Sept. 1945. I had posted my sentry on the
2300-0100 shift and about 5 minutes later my sentry summoned me to
say that the deceased was not asleep on his bedding. I walked up to
the window to make certain and finding him missing I moved over to
the next window of the adjoining room. I forced open the window
and flashed the torch on and saw the deceased hanging from a beam
almost in front of the door. I reported this to O.C. 9 A.B.P.O.
and also sent a runner with a message to my Coy; H.Q. Then along with
the O.C. 9 A.B.P.O. I opened the door and went in and found the de-
ceased hanging by his mosquito net from the beam. In the meantime my
Coy. O.C., the ambulance and the police arrived. The police asked the
ambulance party to take the deceased to hospital.

Q. When did you come on duty as Guard Commander?

A. Between 18-45 and 19-00 hrs.

Q. Did you look at the deceased between 19-00 and 11-00 hrs?

A. Yes, I looked at him about four or five times.

Q. How did he appear to you during these inspection?

A. In a thoughtful mood.

Q. Did the deceased talk to you during that period?

A. Yes, about his 23 years service in the Civil Post Office
in India.

Q. Who had the key to the Guard Room in which the deceased was,
during your tour of duty?

A. I had it from about 20-30 hrs. onwards.

Q. Did anyone ask for the key from 20-30 hrs. until the deceased
was discovered hanged?

A. No.

Q. Did you open the door during that period?

A. No.

- Q. Was there any means of getting into the deceased room, other than through the door to which you had the key?
- A. No.
- Q. At what time was the last time you looked at the deceased?
- A. At about 21-30 hrs.

Signed J.F.C. Young, Cpl.

2. Witness. Statement by Capt. H.F. Gurusahney, A.P.S.

I am officer commanding, 9 A.B.P.O. L/Naik N.P. Muthalam was brought before me by V.C.O. Jem R. Subramania Iyer at about 0915 hours on 20th Sept. 45. He was charged under Sec. 27(d) of the I.A. that is using criminal force to his superior officer knowing him to be as such. I made preliminary inquiries from the VCO Jem. Subramania Iyer and witness I.W.O. 2 K.P. Pannir Selvam and found the deceased in an aggressive mood, as he had already assaulted a V.C.O. and was likely to do some injury to him. He was reduced to the rank of Sepoy and ordered to be placed under close arrest and confined to the Kotte Gurd. I ordered the A.Q.M. to take the prisoner into custody as per orders appdx. 'A' attached.

Then in the evening at 2315 hours same day, the guard Commander called me from D.A.D.A.P.S. Office and reported that the deceased was found hanging by his mosquito net in the Guard Room. I immediately ordered him to bring the key and a hurricane lamp. We opened the door to the deceased's cell and found him hanging from a beam in his room. I ordered the sentry to cut him down and then to get the ambulance and also inform the Slave Island Police Station by telephone. The fire Brigade came with an Ambulance and I asked First Aid man to give the deceased artificial respiration. I immediately went to Sub Ara H.Q. and reported to the Night Duty Officer and asked for the assistance of the Military Police. He advised me that it would take some time to get the police but that I should get the deceased to hospital. Then I ordered my Sub. Maj. to accompany the ambulance to the C.R.S. I followed them a little later.

The following morning, I was told by Slave Island Police that the inquest would take place in 132 Ceylong General Hospital at about 1000 hours. I attended the inquest and the copy of the original inquirer's certificate of Death is attached as Appdx. "B". A verdict of death by suicide by hanging was returned.

- Q. How long have you known the deceased?
- A. Since 7 July 1945.
- Q. Did you know if the deceased had any personal worries which might cause him to take his own life?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. What is your opinion of the deceased's character?
- A. He was old, lazy, sickly and unintelligent.
- Q. Was there any light in the Guard Room?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you think that he was afraid of what the V.C.O. might do to him after he was released?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know if he had any enemies in the unit?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. What was the grievance against the V.C.O.?
- A. He did not state any grievance to me.

26-9-1945.

Signed H.F. Gurusahney,
Capt.
O.C. 9 Adv. Base Post Office.

3rd Witness. Statement by Jem. Subramanian (P. 2977). 8

I am V.C.O. in 9 A.B.P.O. I was on night duty on the night 19/20 Sept. 45. I was returning from the D.A.D.A.P.S. Office after handing over certain documents at about 0915 hrs. on the 20th Sept. 45. The deceased came up to me and asked me whether I would speak to the O.C. about a grant of leave to him. I told him that I had already spoken to the O.C. and that his leave would be granted in due course as soon as another man returned from leave. I assured him also that I would speak to the clerk concerned to get his application in time. While I was answering him he slapped me on the face with his hand. This action was so sudden that I could not parry. Then I bawled out an exclamation, I.W.O. 2 K.P. Pannir Selvam came in our direction. Then I saw the deceased removing his shoes. Some more people from the office came and held him. He was taken to the O.C.'s office where the O.C. asked him some questions. I prepared a charge sheet and handed it to him. The O.C. gave orders for the deceased to be put under close arrest. In the evening of the 20th Sept. at 19-30 hours. I came on duty again. The correspondent clerk gave me a letter addressed to O.C. 2 C.L.I. regarding the furnishing of a guard over the deceased. I got a clerk to deliver it to the Guard Room.

- Q. How long have you known the deceased?
- A. Since April 1943.
- Q. Do you know if the deceased had any personal worries, family troubles etc.
- A. I do not know. He asked me once whether he could have a week's rest in the camp.
- Q. Did he say why he wanted this rest?
- A. No.
- Q. When he asked you for his leave did he say why he wanted it?
- A. No.
- Q. What were your relations with deceased prior to his incident?
- A. Quite alright - he had never been aggressive to me before.
- Q. What sort of a character did the deceased have?
- A. He was a bit lazy and rather vague.
- Q. Did the deceased make an application to the O.C. before he asked you that morning?
- A. Yes, and the O.C. had told him that it would be granted in due course.
- Q. Has he any close friends in the unit?
- A. No.
- Q. When he asked for his leave he made no threatening remarks?
- A. No.
- Q. When he asked for his leave he made no threatening remark?
- A. No.
- Q. When the O.C. ordered the deceased to be placed under close arrest, how did the deceased behave?
- A. He said nothing.

Signed Jem. R. Subramanian
26-9-1945.

: 4 :

4th witness. Statement by P.2403 IWO. 2. K.P. Pannir Selvam.

I am an I.W.O. 2 in 9 A.B.P.O. I was working on the verandah at about 0900 hours on 20th Sept. 45 and saw Jem. Subramanian and the deceased talking also on the verandah. Suddenly I heard the VCO shout out. I immediately turned round and saw the deceased raise his hand behind his head. At the same time I ran over to them. I saw the deceased removing his shoes and the V.C.O. moved away.

Q. You did not see the deceased slap the V.C.O.'s face?

A. No.

Q. Did you hear any conversation between the two?

A. No. As I was about 30 yards away.

Q. Did the deceased say anything to the V.C.O. when you came up to them?

A. Yes, he was using aggressive language.

Q. Did the V.C.O. reply?

A. No. he said nothing.

Q. How long have you known the deceased?

A. About a month.

Q. Did the deceased have any particular friends?

A. No.

(Signed) K.P. Pannir Selvam
26-9-1945.

5th Witness. Statement by P.3110 Sepoy Pulin Byapari.

I am the Asst. Quarter Master in 9 A.B.P.O. At 1430 hours on the 20th Sept. 45 Sub Maj. told me to sweep the Guard Room out. Then he told me to put the deceased in the Guard Room. He walked over to the Guard Room and before the deceased entered, he was searched by the Sub. Major. I locked the deceased in the Guard Room and was then told to stay on the veranda. The Sub. Maj. told me to have a look at him now and again. I did so four times. At 16-00 hours I took tea to him. At 18-00 hours I went for my meal in the camp. At that time I asked him if he wanted anything or wished to go to the lavatory. He did not require anything. At 19 00 hours I came back with his meal, blanket and a mosquito net. Then I asked Jem. Subramanian about handing the prisoner over to the guard, to which he replied that everything had been cared for. I asked him that because I do not know anything about military procedure. Then I went to the Guard Commander and asked him about giving the deceased his meal, blanket and mosquito net. He told me to take them to the deceased. The Guard Commander came with me. We gave the deceased his meal, blanket and mosquito net and then I gave the key to the Guard Commander and went off duty.

Q. When you visited the prisoner, did he say anything to you at all?

A. No except to say he did not want anything.

(Signed) Pulin Byaparai P.3110.

: 5 :

6th Witness: Statement by 15636 Pte Tallakaratna G.A.

I am a private in 2 C.L.I. I was the sentry on the 2300 01-00 hours shift on the night 20/21 sept. The Guard Commander posted me outside the Guard Room in which the deceased was at 23-00 hrs. The Guard Commander told me to keep an ~~eye~~ eye on the deceased. As soon as the Guard Commander left me, I looked through the ~~main~~ window and flashed the torch inside and found that the deceased was not in that room. Then I went to the door to see if everything was alright and went back to the ~~window~~ and looked in again. I could not see the deceased in the room. I came about 20 ft towards the Guard Room and shouted for the Guard Commander. I told him that I could not see the prisoner in the room. The guard Commander came with me and looked through the window and flashed the torch once more into the room. He shouted "Any One there?" There was no answer. The guard Commander went over to the other window and ~~it~~ wrenched it open. As he opened it, he flashed his torch in and I saw the deceased hanging from the beam. The Guard Commander told the O.C. 9 A.B.P.O. and I carried on with my normal duties.

Q. Did you actually see the deceased alive when you went on duty at 23-00?

A. No.

Q. So the deceased may have been dead when you took over.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear any scrambling or choking noises coming from the Guard Room?

A. No.

Q. When the Guard Commander posted you at 23-00 hrs. did he check that the deceased was there.

A. No.

Signed. G.A. Talakaratna.
26-9-1945.

7th Witness. Statement by 17092 pte William Singho.

I am a private in 2 C.L.I. I was on guard from 21-00 to 23-00 hrs. on the 20th September 1945.

Q. Did you know there was a prisoner in the Guard Room?

A. Yes I saw him through the window.

Q. At what time did you last see the deceased alive?

A. At about 22-30 hrs.

Q. Did you say anything to the deceased?

A. I went three times and looked through the window and saw the deceased walking about the room. I went a fourth time at about 22-30 hours and saw him sleeping on the floor on his blanket and the mosquito net beside him. I asked him whether he (the deceased) was asleep; he grunted in reply.

Q. The deceased had said nothing to you earlier in the evening?

A. No.

Q. Did you hear any odd noises between 2230-2300 hours.

A. No nothing at all.

Q. Where you near the closed window all the time between 22-30 and 23-00 hrs.

A. No., I was near the open one.

Q. Did any person go inside the deceased cell between 22-30 and 23-00 hrs.

A. No, definitely not.

(Signed) William Singh, Pte.
26-9-1945.

2nd witness recalled.

Capt. H.F. Gurusahney A.P.S.

Q. Did the deceased offer any excuse for his behaviour, when you were taking the charge.

A. No, none.

Q. What punishment did you award him?

A. I did not award him any summary punishment but I reduced him to the ranks and ordered him to be handed over to the Q.M. to be kept under close arrest until he was brought before me on a charge at a later date.

Q. When you charged him, did you ask him if he had anything to say in his defence.

A. I said, "Anything further" but he did not answer.

Sd. H.F. Gurusahney,
CAPT.

O.C. 9 A.B.P.O.

8th Witness.

Statement by Subedar Major Abdul Quadir.

I am a sub Maj. in 9 A.B.P.O. I arrived in the office at about 12-00 hrs. on 20 Sept. and was told that the deceased had slapped a VCO on the face. I was told by O.C. 9 A.B.P.O. that the deceased was to be put in the Guard Room. I immediately sent a man to the camp to obtain the key from Q.M. As the Q.M. was out he could not get the key. At about 12-15 hours I sent the deceased with an escort to the camp for lunch. He was brought at about 13-00 hours. The A/Q.M. arrived shortly after with the key. I told him to open the guard Room and get it clean. After this, I took the deceased to the Guard Room at about 14-30 hours. The Asst. Q.M. and myself searched his pockets and took possession of the articles found there. He was put inside and locked up and the key given to the A.Q.M. who was told to look after him.

Q. Do you know the deceased well?

A. He works in my office and was very quiet. He was slow at work.

Q. Do you know if he had any friends in particular?

A. No, he was a quiet fellow and did not mix with the other man.

Q. What did you take from him when you searched him?

A. A piece of string, a handkerchief, a pair of spectacles and some small change.

(Signed) Abdul Quadir,
Sub Major 26-9-1945.

9th Witness

Statement W.O. 2 S.G. Subramanian.

I am the Chief Clerk in 9 A.B.P.O. I have known the deceased since April, 1943. One day he told me that he had volunteered for Field Service at some time earlier, thinking that he would be given a Head Postman's job. He had not however, been called up until 1943 which was later than he had expected. At that time he did not want to join as there was no chance of promotion. But as he was medically fit he had been called up.

I produced a true copy of the original Inquiries certificate of Death (att. at Appendix B) As far as I can tell from his statement of accounts, he was not indigent. He had wife and 5 children and paid a Family allotment 25 Rs. a month to his son, all of which details are in his personal file.

Q. Do you know of anythings that might have worried him?

A. No.

Q. Have you any knowledge of his previous record?

A. I heard that he had struck a Senior Officer while in Trincomalle and had been posted here as a punishment.

The court confirmed the above statement and found the details in the letter addressed to DADAPS Ceylon Army Command. The ref. of the letter is No. 10 of 643 Sy. Pl. MASC dated the 13 June 45. In this letter it is stated that L/Naik Muthalam astruck an I.W.O. T.V. Nair with a canvas shoe and suggested that he should be posted to 9- A.B.P.O. as a punishment.

The court adjourned to consider its opinion.

The court is of opinion

- (1) That P.2980 L/Naik N.P. Muthalam committed suicide by hanging between 22-30 and 23-00 hrs. on the 20-9-45.
- (2) It is hard to determine the state of mind of the deceased at that time. It seems that in view of the fact that he had committed an offence against a senior officer for the second time and had been placed under close arrest in the Guard Room, he considered that the punishment forthcoming was to be severe.

(Signed) J.M.W. Badcock.
CAPT.

President.
(Signed) R. Koch,
Lieut.

27th September 9 A.B.P.O.

Member.

OPINION OF COMMANDER CBO SUB AREA.

1. No. P.2980 L/Naik Muthalam N.P. met his death at his own hands between 22-30 hours and 23-00 on the 20 Sept. 45.
2. There is insufficient evidence to show his state of mind, but it is possible that he felt depressed and humiliated at being charged for the second time with striking a superior.
3. His death is not attributable to Military Field Service.

Sd.
FOR BRIGADIER.
COMMANDER CBO SUB AREA.

CBO 8 Oct. 1945.

Copy of the Order Book entry No. 725 dated
22- 20-9-1945.

Appendix A.

P.2980 N.P. Muthalam has been placed under close arrest.

The Q.M. and A.B.M. will take charge of him and hand him over to the CLI guard in the evening.

He will be taken to camp for lunch under escort.

Capt. belt and paybook will be recovered and kept in safe custody in the store room.

==

Copy of the original Inquiries certificates of Death

APPENDIX 'B'

I, Albert Peries of St. Davies Ward Place, Colombo, Inquiries into deaths of the Colombo District certify that I have this day at 10-30 O'Clock A/N held an inquiry, at the Ceylonese General Hospital, Regent Street under the provisions of Chapter XXXII of the Ceylong Criminal Procedure Code, on the dead body of N.P. Muthalam (Full name not known) of the Army Postal Services and that the particulars stated in the schedule hereto are true and correct and I hereby authorize the burial of the dead body.

Dated at Colombo the 21st Day of September, 1945.

Sd/ Albert Peries,
Inquiries into Deaths, Colombo Dt.

SCHEDULE.

1. Date and place of Death On 20-9-45 at the Base Military Post Office, Slave Island.
2. Name in full M.P. Muthalam (Full name not known)
3. Sex and Nationality Male-Indian-Tamil.
4. Age About 50 years.
5. Rank or Profession Lance Naik P.2980 Army Postal Services.
6. Names in full of parents Not known.
7. Cause of death Ashyxia from Hanging.
8. Whether Homicide, Suicide or Accident Suicide.
9. Place of Burial or Cremation: General Cemetery-Kanathie.

For Director of Public Instruction.

For Director of Public Instruction.

Please issue message
How give Co number

127
6/7
8/7/46 Zam

Depd
6/7/46
16.7.46

Mr. Peay to Govt, Edn and P.H. Dept

Mr. D.P.S.

war. Educational concessions
to a student whose father
committed suicide.

Ref D.P.S. L. no 11.2.46 and
letter No: 217.W/46 of 11.6.46.

11.1.8 of

ISC for
Block 11

The educational concessions
may be continued in the case referred to
in the Director's letter.
8/7/46 B.P.S.

Edm. No 9388 (1/46-1)
27.6.46

[Faint handwritten notes, mostly illegible]

4943 all 701-10
Father

11-8-174

From the D.P.I. T.M. dated 11-2-46 and 23-46 dated 11-6-46.

13 of

11-10-174

2281 (1/46-1)
27.6.46

C/2

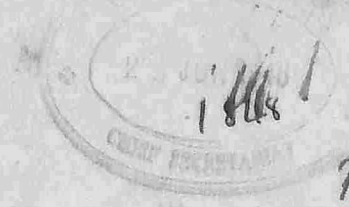
He ought not to
start. Speculating.
Punishment is a vague
term, and unless it
comes within any of the
categories mentioned
above will not make
himself ineligible for the
concession. It may be
continued. 27.6.46

Edm. No 9388 (1/46-1)
27.6.46

The papers in the c.f. relate to the continuance of educational concessions in the case of students whose father was serving in the Military and who ~~committed suicide~~ committed suicide. A full report about the matter was called for and the D.P.I. has forwarded a copy of the proceedings of the court of enquiry ^{detailed} ~~describing~~ the circumstances under which the soldier committed suicide. From the Proceedings it will be observed that the soldier had assaulted one of his superior officers, that he was arrested and kept in the military lock-up pending regular enquiry and that he committed suicide ~~while~~ ^{while} was in the military lock-up. Under the orders issued by this Government the concessions will ~~not be~~ ^{not be} granted or continued where the soldier or officer was discharged from Military Service ^{by} ~~of~~ order of court martial or misconduct or inefficiency or has been declared a deserter ~~or deserter~~ and has not been apprehended. It does not seem that the soldier in the present case can be brought ^{under any of} ~~within~~ these categories. For orders whether the D.P.I. may be informed that concessions ^{may} ~~be continued in the present~~ ^{the} case. Public (war) may see.

It seems that the soldier committed suicide to avoid the ~~from~~ punishment coming to him. The concession need not be continued.

26/6/46
27.6.46



Public (war)
Public (Military) Dept.

This Dept. may agree with the F.P.H.

We may conclude in the
view taken by Secy. E. H. H.

217/40

~~A.C.S.~~
Jury
8/7/46

1/E + P.H. 35697



Pub (only) dept

60 @ 1845/46-1
3.7.46

Edn and P. H. Dept
C1.

Order (Litha) 1350
MS - ERI d. 11-74

A draft t. m. is subd.
After issue these papers may be
recorded.

577146

RM
6/7/46

Q. 6.7. e

Abstract

War - Educational
concessions to
a Student whose
father committed
~~suicide~~
bankruptcy -
Notes recorded

[The handwriting is extremely faint and illegible.]