

H.Q. 1-17-103

Work Point Barracks,
Esquimalt, B.C.
5th February 1923.

To:-
The District Engineer, M.D.No.11.
Esquimalt, B.C.

Retirement.
Lieutenant R.V.C. Bessonette, R.C.E.

Sir,

In connection with H.Q. Letter of 24th ultimo, on the marginally noted subject, I have the honour to request that the question of my retirement on the 30th June next under Para. 267 K.R. and O. Canada, 1917, may be reconsidered as a special case on account of the exceptional circumstances.

My Record of Service is as follows:-
Enlisted in Royal Engineers 31-8-1897.
Transferred from R.E. to R.C.E. on transfer of Esquimalt Garrison. 14-5-1906
(with the distinct guarantee that all rights and privileges would be specially protected by the Canadian Government)
Promoted Warrant Officer (Superintending Clerk) 1-8-1913.
Promoted Hon. Lieut. and Quartermaster, C.M. 31-8-1917.
Appointed Lieutenant, R.C.E. (On Reconstitution) 1-4-1919.

My present age is 46 years and on the 30th June next I shall have completed 25 years, 10 months service.

I beg to point out that, in the ordinary course, I would have been promoted and given the appointment of Hon. Lieut. and Quartermaster, R.C.E., which was all I expected on the Reconstitution of the Corps. Having, however, received the rank of Lieutenant, R.C.E., and being placed on the Regimental List, I prepared for and passed the examination for promotion to the rank of Captain in subjects (ai), (bi) (bii) (biii) (biiii) and proposed to qualify in subject (f) this Spring and Summer when the present series of lectures, now being carried out during the winter months, was completed.

In view of the above, I respectfully submit that that I am at a great disadvantage in having accepted the rank of Lieutenant, as, if I am to be retired after six years commissioned rank it would have been more to my advantage to have remained a Warrant Officer as I then would have had prospects of promotion to Lieutenant and Quartermaster and been enabled to serve until 55 years of age, either as a Warrant or Commissioned Officer.

If my proposed retirement is to take place as stated, I do not consider that, in my case, the conditions of H.Q. Letter 856-2-1 dated 20-9-05, under which Imperial troops were taken over at the transfer of Esquimalt Garrison, are being adhered to, as a number of my contemporaries, prior to transfer are now Lieutenants and Quartermasters in the Royal Engineers, with the privilege of remaining in the Service until 55 years of age.

I therefore again beg to request that my case may be reconsidered and that on account of the exceptional circumstances noted above I may be permitted to continue in the Service in my present appointment until I reach the age of fifty years, or, failing this, that I may receive the appointment of Quartermaster, R.C.E.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant.

Lieut.,