

for example a bona fide untampered discharge certificate, then we give very serious consideration to the application. There are quite a few awards which have been made at the discretion of the board when they have considered that the evidence was satisfactory, in spite of the actual lack of the official records. In other words we try to use our best judgment.

Mr. LALONDE: Wherever the best kind of evidence is available, Mr. Herridge, we use it, but if it is not available we accept secondary evidence.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I would like to know what happens in regard to an application of an allied veteran from the Polish forces, keeping in mind the 365 day clause which applies to our own veterans or veterans from the United Kingdom? You do write and receive his service record, but this does not show the length of service as being comparable to that which we require of our own veterans.

Mr. GARNEAU: The basis of our consideration in that case is the section of the act which requires that a veteran must have served on the continent of Europe, Asia or Africa. It is this veteran's good luck, I might say, that he is on the continent of Europe if he served in the French army, the Belgian army or the Italian army. If we are satisfied that he did see active service with the forces of the country concerned we will make an award in the same way as we would in the case of a Canadian veteran, or a British ex-imperial veteran whose chances perhaps would be weak on the strength of his service in the field on the continent of Europe, Asia, Africa or wherever he was called upon to serve.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: But the actual fact is that he would to some extent have an advantage over our own veteran?

Mr. LALONDE: That is true, in a sense.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I say that because his service might be of very short duration. He may have been wounded and returned to his native land and then emigrated to Canada after the war. When he becomes of age and his circumstances are such that he requires assistance he may apply and thereby gain an advantage over our own veteran.

Mr. GARNEAU: He must have served in a theater of war of the allied armies and not just sat back in Bordeaux, for instance, looking after the military post office there, or something of that sort.

Mr. LALONDE: The 35-day period to which you refer, Mr. Speakman, applies only to the Canadian veteran who served in World War I only, in England.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I realize that.

Mr. LALONDE: If a Canadian veteran served in France for one day in World War I he is eligible. If he served in Asia for one day he is also eligible. He is eligible if he served anywhere in a theatre of war.

Now, if an Imperial veteran served in His Majesty's forces in England only, during World War I, he is not eligible.

Mr. GARNEAU: That veteran would be in the same position as a Canadian veteran who served in Canada, his own country, during World War I.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Going back to the statement which was made in the presentation by the Canadian Legion yesterday particularly with respect to Canadian forces members who volunteered for services and had no choice as to where they would serve, being detailed or posted to a station or a camp in Canada and remaining there because their services were required, and being therefore at a disadvantage to the allied forces veteran who served overseas in his own country. I am referring to the Canadian veteran who, not by choice but by necessity, remained in Canada or in England and is therefore not eligible.