

credits are concerned, there is a special board of review set up, consisting of departmental officers at the present time, who consider whether in the case of a discharge other than honourable the man has not given sufficiently good service to entitle him to all or some portion of gratuity.

Mr. HERRIDGE: This board does not cover pensions of the permanent force?

The WITNESS: No, sir.

*By Mr. Harkness:*

Q. There seems to be amongst some of the members who served in the permanent forces a lot of misunderstanding in connection with what their rehabilitation rights are. As I understand this the only member of the regular force who is entitled to these rehabilitation benefits is one who has been discharged more or less immediately after his service in the special force. Is that correct?—A. No, sir.

Q. (c) says:

Every member of the regular forces who, prior to the 27th day of July, 1953, served in a theatre of operations on the strength of the special force, and who has been honourably discharged from the regular forces . . .

When can that discharge take place and the man still be entitled to the rehabilitation benefits?—A. At the end of his current engagement.

Q. Could it be seven years from now?—A. No. It would be a three year engagement.

Q. If he re-engages in the permanent forces then he has no right to these rehabilitation benefits?—A. So I understand.

Q. I have run into one or two cases of people who still thought they had these rights and as far as I could make out they would not have them under the regulations which exist.—A. At one time, Mr. Chairman, the rehabilitation benefits, these educational or vocational training benefits, were only given to personnel who were serving on regular force engagements if they were discharged by reason of some disability incurred in the operations. But, after the operations were over that policy was changed and those who take their discharge in the ordinary way from the regular forces now have the benefits provided by this Act.

Q. Provided that they were discharged at the end of the term of service which they were serving at the time in which they were in the special force.—A. I believe that is so. If you wish we can look up the regulations and refer them to you.

Q. It is a point which I think should be cleared up so that there will be no misunderstanding.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Before we pass on from that, Mr. Herridge referred to the possibility of a dishonourable discharge due to inconsequential so-called crimes. I do not think that they apply. Certainly it did not apply in the First War because I myself got an honourable discharge and I had previously in my earlier days bopped a lieutenant in the nose. I think that that was an inconsequential act and as a result of that it did not in any way affect the honourableness of my discharge, and I think the same thing applies now.

The CHAIRMAN: Of course even if there is discharge that is not honourable this committee of which General Burns is chairman can recommend payment of the grant, and as I recall it if they make a recommendation that the grant be paid then these other rights follow.