

this item, because it deals with travel, transportation and freight. I am referring to the case of a man who was transferred from Quebec to Camp Borden, back to Quebec city and back again to Camp Borden; he was like the wandering Jew. If any case comes under this item it is this one, but in addition I have something else to say.

Mr. RALSTON: Just for the information of all hon. members I suggest to the hon. gentleman that these matters could be discussed quite properly under item No. 5.

Mr. POULIOT: Oh, yes, I could take up all these cases under item No. 5, but I should like to get rid of them and I do not want to take much more of the time of the committee. Just for a change I should like to go to the movies to-night if I am free. But there is another point. These items represent the subdivisions of a large item, and we can decide to take one item after the other only by unanimous consent of the committee. These are not like ordinary estimates, as I have stated on more than one occasion. However, I shall not be long. If the minister prefers I shall take it up later; I am in his hands. Both deputy ministers had told me this man was unfit; one had made the statement in August, and the other in September. Well, what happened? I received a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Mercier stating that he was pleased to inform me that all necessary proceedings had been taken to settle the case with the shortest possible delay. On October 16 I wrote another letter, and on October 29 I received the following from his office:

From the information received to-day about this soldier, that man has not been discharged from the army, and will be at the hospital at Riviere du Loup. It seems there has been a contradiction in the information that has been supplied, regarding the locality where he should be, and also his status in connection with the active army.

Mention is made of the letter they had received from Camp Borden. It was a long time after that the statement was made by officials of the department that he was unfit.

Then, on November 2, 1940, the lieutenant-adjutant of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps training centre at Camp Borden wrote as follows:

We are enclosing a certified true copy of M. F. B. 227, classifying the marginally named as category "E" and recommending his discharge from the army.

2. Our records show that Pte. Slight, F., was admitted to Christie Street Hospital, Toronto, 4-7-40, and discharged from there 27-7-40. He was then granted a six-day pass to return to his home in Riviere du Loup, P.Q., where his wife was ill.

That is true.

A special extension was granted by Major Ross-Smith of our training centre, permitting this soldier to stay with his wife from 12-8-40 until 26-8-40.

3. On August 23 we received a telegram from a Dr. D. Saindon at Riviere du Loup stating that Pte. Slight was suffering from appendicitis and would require an operation. From that date our information about this man is vague. We were informed that he had been admitted to Riviere du Loup Hospital 19-9-40, and awaited his discharge from hospital before proceeding with his discharge from the army.

4. Please let us have any additional information concerning the marginally named, that might help to clarify his case, at your earliest convenience.

Then here is a letter I received from the medical office of the army at Quebec:

(Translation): You will find enclosed the letter we have received from the adjutant, R.C.A.S.C. training centre, at Camp Borden.

According to a telegram dated October 22, 1940, from Dr. D. Saindon, of Riviere du Loup, this man has never been in hospital.

As you may see, there is some contradiction. The man does not belong to district No. 5. However, if I could ascertain the facts—and only the man himself can explain the extension of his leave at Riviere du Loup—I could easily find out his status.

If this man has not been admitted to the hospital at Riviere du Loup, I am afraid he will be considered as a deserter. However, his case must be cleared up.

(Text): He was considered a deserter at the time, after it had been stated by army officials that he was unfit. Then, on November 15 he received a telegram from Camp Borden, which I translate as follows:

Return at once Royal Canadian Army Service Corps training centre, Camp Borden, Ontario.

And this is signed "service training". This was received after he was declared unfit. I learned he was sent to Quebec city, and was about to be put into the clink. He was about to face a court martial, after all that. Finally he was discharged as unfit. The trouble is that this man should never have been accepted in the army. There are many similar cases respecting men who have been sick. I shall refer to a number of them. It was not because they did not wish to be in the army, but because their families complained that the men were not in good physical condition, or in a state of health to stand regular training.

I have before me the files for H.Q. 869-P-872 (DM); H.Q. 405-P-5000 (DM); H.Q. 869-L-2263 (DM); H.Q. 869-L-1578 (DM); and E/577,820. These are all files respecting men who were put into the army in error. I do not complain only about army doctors. Some of them are good and some are bad. The