

10th October, 1922.

Major D.B. Martyn, D.S.O., M.C.,
The Canadian Scottish Regiment,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.

TRANSFER TO THE RESERVE BATTALION.
THE CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT.

1. Dear Major Martyn,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th October, and much regret you should think me guilty of inflicting a grievous injury in asking that you apply for a transfer to the Reserve. I cannot agree with you that there is any stigma attached to this request; personal reasons or requirements of the service have frequently compelled officers to retire from active battalions without there being any reflection on their capacity or honour.

2. Again, I would summarize the whole situation as far as I am concerned:--

(a) It was strongly represented to me that there was dissatisfaction in the Regiment, and that owing to this state of affairs I should allow my name to be forwarded to Ottawa to succeed Colonel Peck - who was unable to give personal attention to the Battalion - in the command.

(b) I ultimately agreed, but in view of the reported friction, I expressly stipulated - both to Colonel Peck and Brigadier General Ross - that you, the acting in command, be asked to retire to the Reserve Battalion. I had neither the strength nor the desire to be mixed up with differences or policy of the past, and wish to reorganize the Battalion in my own time and way.

(c) I quite understood this wish had been communicated to you, and waited from the 26th November until 22nd December, 1921, hoping to receive the expected application. As it did not come to hand I wrote you on the 22nd of December.

(d) Your reply - undated - enlightened me as to the position of affairs, and therefore so as not to be guilty of any arbitrary action, I refrained from pressing the matter at the moment. I asked that you be granted leave of absence as to 30th September, 1922, hoping that the fact that you remained on the strength of the 1st Battalion as 2nd in Command for so many months after Colonel Peck retired, would counteract any false impression, which may have got abroad, of disagreement with me.

(e) If, in your opinion, such impression has not been removed, then I am quite prepared to apply on your behalf for further leave of absence; but in justice to yourself and myself I must reiterate my desire that you apply for transfer to the Reserve as soon as possible: Otherwise, as stated in my letter to you of 22nd of December, 1921, I must apply through Headquarters Militia & Defence to have same effected.

3. I wish to again say that any action which I take is prompted by no personal feelings. I was appointed to the command of the 1st Battalion, The Canadian Scottish Regiment, by the Militia Council and the Honourable The Minister of Militia & Defence: They hold me distinctly responsible for its policy and efficiency. In a voluntary organization, such as the Active Militia, this is a responsibility difficult to shoulder at any time, dealing only with problems and domestic troubles which arise from day to day; and in my present condition it would be unjust to add to these the anxiety that old questions of personal differences be revived within the Battalion. That would be unfair to the Higher Command, the Regiment and myself.