

January  
Sixteenth  
1923.

Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Urquhart, D.S.O., M.C.,  
1030 Cook Street,  
Victoria, B. C.

My dear Urquhart:-

Thank you very much for your letter of 16th December and for your good wishes which I most cordially reciprocate.

It encourages me to learn that the doctors did not insist on the operation. If nature will only effect the cure it will be easier on you and more likely to be permanent. Operations are always such a shock to the system, though you have had so many that you must almost be accustomed to them.

The correspondence regarding the transfer of Martyn to the Reserve of Officers came to hand. I read it carefully and approve of your action in every way. You were patient but firm and I think Militia Headquarters should use its influence to help you. I do not know how the matter stands now, but if there is no change I think General Ross should send for Martyn and let it be known to that officer that Headquarters is behind you. Martyn is an exceedingly gallant officer and a very good fighting man, but he was never able to get along well with his brother officers.

The other officers in the Regiment ought to prove useful with the exception of Gordon Smith. I like Gordon personally and I think he likes me, but as an officer in peace or war he is absolutely no use at all. He does not look like a soldier, does not act like one, while I cannot think that he would have any influence at all with the men. He served a short time in the field with the 72nd, but that service was unsatisfactory. This information is, of course, confidential. It may be that