

U.28084

Qualicum Beach, B.C.,
July 25th, 1940.

Senator Arthur Meighen,
Senate of Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Meighen --:

I have just received a letter from the Department of National Defence which appears to be a master-piece even for Canada's present "war effort". The implications of this letter are so serious that I think it should be in the hands of the Opposition, and I am enclosing a copy, with a copy of my reply.

I am a Canadian, born in Saskatchewan; age, 43; was commissioned in 1915 from the Royal Military College of Canada into the Indian Army; war and post-war service on the North-West Frontier of India, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Palestine, and with the Iraq Army; retired in 1923.

In 1919 I qualified as a "Distinguished" instructor in rifle and bayonet, under an instructor from the School of Small-Arms, Hythe, England. This is the highest instructor's certificate obtainable in this field in the Empire. I was later in charge of the training of all Indian instructors in Egypt and Palestine, and subsequently was chief rifle and bayonet instructor at the Iraq Military College at Baghdad, with the Iraq Army on formation.

On my retirement from the Army I brought back to Canada almost complete instructor's equipment, including service rifle privately purchased after the war, which I have kept intact in readiness for the present emergency.

I offered my services to the Headquarters, Military District No. 11, at Victoria, B.C., on January 15th, 1938; and later on August 27th, 1939.

Believing that there might be a need of instructors in other military districts, I offered my services to the Department of National Defence at Ottawa, on April 2nd, 1939; August 31st; November 2nd; March 10th, 1940; and July 16th, 1940.

My training is in the post-war and current system. I have the official manuals and find that my work is up-to-date and that I have not forgotten it.

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