

C.R.

CAPTAIN (HON) W.H.RENNIE

Gazetted-Captain-----December 14,1914

Musketry Officer, St. John's.

File in Experimental file

ST. JOHN'S RIFLE ASSOCIATION *W.C.S.*

MUSKETRY COMMITTEE

NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENTS

16.12.14

Executive
Captain—J. W. Morris
Convener—W. H. Rennie
Secretary—P. W. Angel
W. J. Higgins
W. H. Greene
Sergt.—Instructor
J. Moore
Assistant—J. P. Murphy

St. John's, Nfld. December 16 th., 1914.

To His Excellency Sir Walter E Davidson, K.C.M.G.

C.R. 0-244

Colonel 1 st Nfld Regiment.

May it please your excellency:-

I was deeply gratified by the receipt of Your Excellency's communication, under date December 14 th., notifying me of my appointment as Captain (Honorary) in charge of musketry instruction, Nfld Regiment.

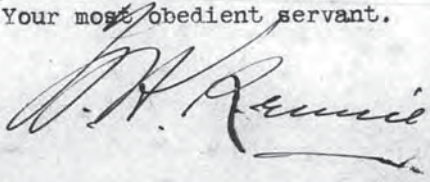
I appreciate the honour conferred upon me, not merely for personal reasons, but also because it is an official recognition of the work done by the St John's Rifle Association, an association which I have the honour to represent on the Reserve Force Committee.

The commission will place us in a better position with regard to our work in connection with the training of recruits, and confers upon us authority over the men during the time they may be under our care.

I have to thank Your Excellency most sincerely for your kindness and courtesey in this, as well as other matters, which you have shown me in connection with such work as it has been my privelege to have entrusted to me. The work has been a "labour of love", and I have had the hearty support of the members of the Rifle Association in carrying it out. Such success as we may have had has been due, in no small measure, to Your Excellency's kindly encouragement and support. It will be my endeavour to deserve Your Excellency's further confidence, and to see that the work entrusted to me is carried out as thoroughly as is possible under rather difficult conditions.

Believe me to be, Your Excellency,

Your most obedient servant.



Royal Nfld Regiment

Musketry Headquarters

St John's Nfld., October 15th 1917.

October 15th, 1917.

(Copy)

To His Excellency Sir Walter E. Davidson, K.C.M.G.
Colonel 1st Nfld Regiment.

May it please Your Excellency:-

I have the honour to report as follows on the work of Musketry Instruction, covering the period from August 4th to date.

Since the departure over seas of the August draft of two hundred Officers and Men, recruiting has been slow, and a comparatively small number of men have been available for instruction.

Taking advantage of the extra time thus available, a good deal of necessary work has been done at the Rifle Range.

The stop-but of the Service Rifle Range had proved defective, and exposed shelving rocks frequently caused ricochets.

Under the supervision of Lieut. Pippy, a fatigue squad built a substantial addition to the stop-but. The work was thoroughly carried out, and adds materially to the safety of the Range.

Repairs to targets and equipment were also made, and the iron guide framing of the target equipment was thoroughly painted and put in first class order.

Since last report the men have received lectures and instruction at the Depot from 2nd Lieut. Ellis and Sgt. Warren, and have had practice at the Range under Lieuts. Pippy and Winter, assisted by Thomas and McGilverie.

Lieut. Winter, with Thomas and McGilverie commenced a course of

15/10/17.

instruction under Musketry Instructor Ellis, but were unable to complete same because the latter had to go with the Draft overseas.

2nd Lieut Ellis has given excellent service since his arrival at the Depot, and it is to be regretted that he was unable to complete the training of his under-studies.

In order that we might have a fully qualified Musketry Instructor stationed at St. John's Depot, I recommended to the Minister of Militia, and Major Montgomery, that Lieut Winter be sent with the Draft, over seas, to take a course of Musketry, so that he might return fully qualified to carry on the work in accord with the latest regulations.

The recommendation was adopted, and Lieut. Winter was attached to the Draft as assistant transport officer. He was instructed to report to Your Excellency for leave of absence, and the approval of Your Excellency as to the proposed step.

Your Excellency is aware ~~that~~ fifty service rifles and ammunition had been sent to Bell Island, for patrol work, also some miniature rifles for the training of the men.

With Lieut Winter, I paid a brief visit to Bell Island, and we were received by Manager McDougall with much courtesy. We inspected the rifles, which were stored at the C.L.B. Hall, and found them well cared for and in excellent condition. We located a suitable Service Rifle Range, and instructed those in charge how to arrange it's equipment.

Under Captain Lindsey of the C.L.B. the men had received miniature practice, and, to help on the work, I recently sent Instructor Harvey Thomas to Bell Island, where he spent several days, giving two lectures on Musketry, which were well attended.

On the afternoon of October 10th the men had their first practice with the Service Rifle, with Thomas as Range Officer, and made very good scores.

Musketry practice has been resumed at the Range, and some good marksmen are already in evidence.

50,000 rounds of .303 Mark VII ammunition has recently been received,

15/10/17.

completing the order authorised by the Finance Committee, and a large stock of ammunition is now available.

The Musketry Committee desire me to convey to Your Excellency their sincere congratulations on your recent appointment to the Governorship of the great Colony of New South Wales, and, at the same time to express their regret that you must now sever your connection with Newfoundland.

The Committee take this opportunity of thanking your Excellency for your unfailing courtesy, and ever ready help, in connection with the work of Musketry Instruction, and will remember with deep satisfaction that they have had the honour of being associated with Your Excellency in the service of the Empire.

They wish you and Lady Davidson every success and happiness in your new sphere of Empire service.

Respectfully submitted



Convener of Musketry Committee

and Captain in charge Musketry Instruction.



C.R. 0-244

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

January 2nd 1918.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTM'T OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

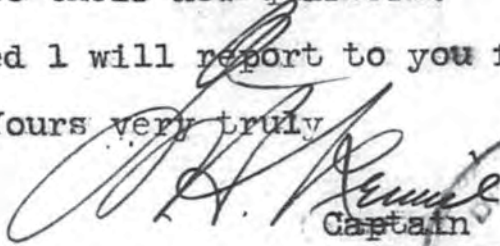
Dear Major Montgomery:-

In reply to your's of December 30th with regard to the finalising of Musketry work.

You will remember that you gave me authority to have some work done at the Rifle Range, in order that we might turn over the Range, to the Rifle Association, in good order. This work is not yet completed, but, we hope to get some men from the Barracks this week to proceed with the job. The delay was in consequence of the men being busy shifting to their new quarters.

As soon as everything is finished I will report to you for further instructions.

Yours very truly


 Captain

Major A Montgomery

District Officer Commanding. Nfld.



C.O. Do you information please
Newfoundland

THE ROYAL Nfld REGIMENT
MUSKETRY HEADQUARTERS
St John's Nfld. July 28 th 1918.

To His Excellency Sir C.Alexander Harris,K.C.M.G.
Governor.

May it please Your Excellency:-

I have the honour to enclose
herewith copy of Musketry Report(covering the period from
August 4 th 1917 to October 15 th 1917) sent to our late Governor
Sir W.E.Davidson,K.C.M.G.,the following acknowledgement being
received from His Excellency.

"

Government House

St John's Nfld.,October 20 th 1917.

" Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt (this morning)
of your report,dated October 15 th.,on the work of Musketry
instruction,covering the period of August 4 th to date.
I did not receive the report in time to lay it before the
meeting of the Patriotic Association last night.
I desire to express to you my deep appreciation of the work
which you and your associates have done in Musketry instruction
for the Regiment since the war began--work done whole-heartedly
and out of sheer public spirit.

I have the honour to be,Sir

Your obedient servant

(Signed) W.E.Davidson

Governor

" To Captain W.H.Rennie

" Convener Musketry Committee,Patriotic Association.

This report covers and completes our period of service under
the jurisdiction of the Patriotic Association.

In reply to Your Excellency's query,at last meeting of the
Association,I stated that the Musketry Committee had placed it's
services at the disposal of the Minister of Militia,and since that
time has been doing it's work in connection with Militia Department.

We will be glad to still have the honour to serve as members of the Patriotic Association, and, with the approval of the Minister of Militia, will if desired report our proceedings at the Association meetings as heretofore.

On October 23rd 1917 a deputation from the Musketry Committee was received by His Excellency Sir W.E. Davidson at Government House, and asked his acceptance of an enlarged photo of the Musketry Instructors.

His Excellency was pleased to accept the photograph, and sent the following acknowledgement.

Government House

St John's Nfld., October 24th 1917

"Dear Captain Rennie:-

I shall greatly value the large mounted photograph of those marksmen who formed the Musketry Committee for the Regiment, and have borne the brunt of turning our recruits into the famous fighting battalions of the 1st Nfld Regiment. I value the gift the more because it was presented to me by Morris, Higgins and yourself, all valued friends of mine.

Believe me to be

with kind regards to you all

your sincere friend

(signed) W.E. Davidson.

(" To Captain Rennie

First Nfld Regiment.

As stated in last report lieut Winter proceeded over seas for the purpose of qualifying as Musketry Instructor. He took the course at St Andrews, and passed with a "First Class".

During his absence the work of instruction was carried on by Lieut Pippy, Sgt Warren, and instructors Thomas and McGilverie. Owing to the small number of recruits enlisting, the work at the Range was temporarily suspended on December 22nd., instruction being confined to the Depot, where it was carried on in regular sequence.

Work at the Rifle Range was not resumed until May.

Thomas Horan and James Kelly, honourably discharged Soldiers, were taken on for Range work, and are giving satisfactory service.

Practice with the service rifle at the range has been confined to "C" Company, young recruits popularly known as the "War Babies" but made up of fine material.

Special attention was given these recruits as they were required for patrol work, and it was necessary to make them proficient with the rifle in the shortest possible time.

"C" Company developed a number of promising marksmen, and the majority of the Company are now on active Patrol Service.

Two machine gun teams have been formed, one has received firing instruction at the Range, and the other is receiving instruction at the Depot.

This work is being carried on by Corp Cooper, a returned Lewis Gun veteran.

Respectfully submitted


O. H. Russell
Captain

In charge of Musketry Instruction.

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1918

THE ROYAL Nfld REGIMENT
St John's Nfld
September 4 th 1918.

To Hon J.R.Bennett
Minister of Militia, Royal Nfld Regiment.
From Cpatain W.H.Rennie
in charge of Musketry Instruction.

Sir:-

I have the honour to enclose herewith copies of Musketry Reports covering the period from August 4 th 1917 to July 28 th 1918, which were submitted to their Excellencies Sir W.E. Davidson, K.C.M.G., and Sir C. Alexander Harris.

During the month of August training was confined to recruits of "E" Company, required for guard and patrol duties. These recruits received a short course of instruction both at the Depot and at the Rifle Range, but no regular course was attempted, as ~~that~~ it was necessary to give the men just enough training to make them available for guard and sentry duty.

Now that a number of recruits are available, a regular syllabus of instruction becomes once more possible.

With the approval and assistance of Captains O'Grady and Tait Lieut Winter has drawn up a course of instruction, in accord with the latest Musketry regulations, and recruits are now being instructed at the Depot, in regular sequence, to be followed with ~~minutiae~~ practice with the Service Rifle at the miniature ranges either at the Armory or at the Rifle Range, using light explosive .303 ammunition. As soon as the men show sufficient proficiency they will proceed to the Service Range, and go through the regular course with service ammunition.

As our stock of .303 gallery ammunition was running short, I sent in a requisition for 10,000 rounds, and am pleased to report that this is now on the way from Ottawa.

Awaiting your further commands

I have the honour to be Sir
Your obedient servant

W.H. Rennie
Captain

Copy. For Original see
File M-71

C.R. 0-244

September 7, 1918.

Sir:-

I have received your communication from the Minister of Militia enclosing a letter from you under date of 4th September having attached copy of report made by his Excellency The Governor.

I have the honour to point out that since the formation of the Militia Department, all responsibility for carrying on the Military Work of this dominion has been in their hands, and has been carried on under the authority of the responsible officers.

The Musketry Committee, so called by you, ceased to have any connection whatever with the training of the Forces from that time.

By virtue of your commission in Newfoundland Regiment, you were retained for duty and placed in charge of Musketry instruction. This had nothing to do with any Musketry Committee, and you were in a purely individual position and responsible as an officer to your superior officers. The responsibility for Musketry Training as well as all other instructions rested upon Officer Commanding Depot and the work of carrying out musketry instruction is carried on solely by the Military Authorities of their representatives.

This being the position, it was considered highly improper that you, as an Officer of the Regiment, should have in any way made any report to His Excellency the Governor on any matter affecting Military training.

I have the honour to request that this will indicate to his Excellency the Governor that the work done since the Militia Department was created was done by and under the responsible officer of the Regiment and that you were in error in forwarding to him any report of Military training since that time.

I have the honour further to request that you

Copy. For Original see
File M-71

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I have the honour to request that this will indicate to his Excellency the Governor that the work done since the Militia Department was created was done by and under the responsible officer of the Regiment and that you were in error in forwarding to him any report of Military training since that time.

I have the honour further to request that you

2. define your present position that the information of the Military authorities, and indicate what duties you are performing, and what personal and continued attention you are giving to such duties.

I have the honour to be,

Sir.

Your obedient servant.

Major.

District Officer Commanding,

Newfoundland.

Captain W. H. Rennie,

CITY.

0-244

Sept. 9, 18.

Capt. W.H. Rennie,
City.

Sir:-

I have received communication from the Minister of Militia enclosing a letter from you under date of 4th September, having attached copy of report made to his Excellency The Governor.

I have the honour to point out that since the formation of the Militia Department, all responsibility for carrying on the Military work of this Dominion has been in their hands, and has been carried on under the authority of the responsible officers. The Musketry Committee ceased to have any active connection with the training of the Forces from that time.

By virtue of your commission in the Newfoundland Regiment, you were retained for duty as officer i/c of Musketry instruction. This had nothing to do with the Musketry Committee, and you were in a purely individual position and responsible as an officer to your responsible officers. The responsibility for musketry training as well as all other trainings rests upon the Officer Commanding Depot and the work of carrying out musketry instructions is carried on solely by the Military Authorities or their representatives.

This being the position, it is considered improper that you, as an officer of the Regiment, should have in any way made any report to His Excellency the Governor on any matters affecting Military Training.

I have the honour to request that you indicate to His Excellency the Governor that the work done since the Militia Department was created was done by and under the responsible officers of the Regiment and that you were in error in forwarding to him any report on Military training since that time on behalf of the Musketry Committee.

There would appear to be a mis-understanding on this matter and as it is desired that all Military work should be placed on it's proper basis under the Department of Militia, I shall be glad to know what are the exact duties you are now performing as an officer of the Regiment and what duties you will in future be able to undertake as such.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major
District Officer Commanding
Newfoundland.

Musketry

OKE BUILDING

C.R. 0-244

ST JOHN'S NEED

September 14 th 1918.

Major A Montgomery
District Officer Commanding
Royal Nfld Regiment, Nfld.

Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication, under date September 9 th Inst.

It is very opportune, as I have been desirous of having my position, in relation to the Militia Department, clearly defined.

I note your statement that I was retained as Officer of Musketry Instruction by virtue of my commission in the Nfld Regiment, but, have never received any communication from the Department to that effect, nor has my name appeared in any of the notices relating to the duties of the various Officers and Officials which have been Gazetted from time to time.

As you suggest, a misunderstanding has existed on my part with regard to the Musketry Committee, but, I had some foundation for thinking that it was still in being because of the fact that its Executive, Messrs J.W. Morris, W.J. Higgins, H. Winter and myself had been invited by the Minister of Militia to confer with him with regard to matters of Home defence, and formed part of a deputation which waited on His Excellency the Governor re same. Prior to the last meeting of the Patriotic Association I was requested by the Secretary to furnish my report on Musketry Instruction. At that meeting I stated, in reply to a query made by His Excellency Sir Alexr Harris, that, so far as the Patriotic Association was concerned my work was finalised, and that the Musketry Committee was now working under the Militia Department. I did not make any report to the meeting.

In accord with the tenor of your letter, I will advise the

Members of the Musketry Committee that their services are no longer required.

With regard to my report, submitted to His Excellency the Governor, I followed previous practice, but, had my position been more clearly defined prior to that time, this inadvertance would not have occurred.

I will, in accord with your request, inform His Excellency that my report was sent to him in error, and should have been made to the Responsible Officers of the Militia Department solely.

With regard to the duties which I have been performing, in connection with Musketry Instruction, they are briefly as follows. The management of the Rifle Range, and the supervision of the equipment thereof. The control of the men employed at the Range, and care that they perform their duties efficiently, and with due regard to Public Safety.

The general supervision of Musketry training, both at the Range and the Depot, with the assistance of Lieut Winter, Sgt Warren, and Instructors Thomas and McGilverie, or such other officers as may be designated by the Adjutant or other responsible Officer from time to time. My suggestions with regard to these matters have as a rule been approved.

The supervision of ammunition supplied and used, the training of the recruits in musketry, and the records of such training, and of the scores made.

The requisitioning of all necessary supplies that may be required from time to time, the proper use of same, and the supervision of repairs and care of arms, used in musketry work.

Consultations with Officers of the Regiment with regard to the general syllabus of musketry training, and how it may be best carried on to the best advantage, with the least interference with the regular work at the Depot. Visiting the Range from time to time during rifle practice etc., etc.

If my services are required, I will gladly continue this work, and await your further commands.

I have the honour to be Sir
Your obedient servant

W. H. Lewis, Captain

C.R. 0-244

September 24, 1918.

Dear Captain Rennie,

I have your favor of 14th instant acknowledging my communication of 9th instant. As the Minister of Militia is desirous of having all matters in connection with the administration of Military affairs brought into line, I shall be glad if you will arrange to see me when convenient, when the matter will be discussed and arranged.

Yours very truly,

Captain Rennie,
City.

C.R. 0-244

Extract of Militia Orders No.31 by J.R.Bennett Esq., Minister of
Militia, dated Jan.7th 1919.

RETIREMENT.

The following Officer has retired on completion of his
special duties and placed on the Reserve of Officers from this date

Capt.W.H.Rennie, M.B.E.

Copy in File 0-156

C.R. 0-244

January 7, 19.

From: District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

TO: Chief Staff Officer,
Department of Militia.

Captain W.H. Rennie, Lieut. H. Winter.

The above noted officers who have been attached to the Regiment in connection with Musketry work can be retired and placed on the reserve of officers at any time as their work is about completed.

Capt. Rennie

The marginally named officer has been in charge of musketry instruction since the formation of the Regiment and has rendered very valuable service in this connection. He has served without remuneration and I would suggest that in retiring him, special mention should be made of the nature and value of the services rendered.

Lieut. H. Winter.

This officer has also rendered valuable service both previous to and since receiving his commission as an officer of the Regiment. His services have likewise been given without remuneration.

Major.

District Officer Commanding.

Newfoundland.

C.R. 0-244

FEBRUARY 6th 1919.

CAPTAIN W.H. RENNIE,
Musketry Instructor,
C i t y.

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 25th inst., having reference to the various services and matters in connection with The Royal Newfoundland Regiment during the past four years.

I hope to take this matter up with the proper Military Authorities in the near future with a view of coming to a decision in relation thereto.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Militia.

St John's ~~Head~~

February 25 th 1919

Hon J.R. BENNETT
Minister of Militia.

Dear Mr Bennett:-

My work in connection with The Regiment being finalised, I have a request or two to make for your kind consideration, and some suggestions which I respectfully put forward for your approval, or otherwise, as it may seem to you fit and proper.

As you know, I have been connected with the work of Musketry Instruction since September 1914 to date, and am thoroughly conversant with the work of those who have been attached to this department, both as paid employees, and as Volunteers without pay.

I think I may say, without undue vanity, that the work of Musketry Instruction here in St John's has been carried on with little friction and with efficiency, both as regards the Instruction given the Recruits, and also as regards the cost. We have handled a large quantity of ammunition and other supplies ordering same and securing at low rates, and keeping careful tag on supplies and the careful use of same.

In this connection I wish to make special reference to Mr Harvey Thomas. He served for a time as a Volunteer Instructor, and for a considerable time on small pay. This was during the existence of The Musketry Committee. Since then he has been attached to the Depot at \$1.50 per day, and was paid off with 28 days pay, and clothing.

During a six weeks leave (without pay) in 1916, he visited Toronto and studied Range Work, and Rifle Instruction, and returned with a lot of valuable information, also locating the .303 Gallery Ammunition, 15000 rounds of which we afterwards secured and used, effecting a considerable ^{saving} in the Regular Service

ammunition.

During his time at the Rifle Range, when some of the men used to camp there over-night, he had a gramophone stolen from the Range House, which has not been recovered. Of course we accepted no responsibility in the matter, but Thomas is at the loss of the phone. As he has given especially good service I think he is justly entitled to something more than he has received, and would respectfully suggest that he be given \$100.00 extra in consideration of his good work.

*OK
in these
volunteer
works as
officer serve*

As for myself, I have appreciated the privilege of doing volunteer work for the Regiment, but think that I should be re-imbursed for actual out-of-pocket expenses, such as uniform and sundries which were outside my civilian expenditures. I may say that I had a valuable field glass stolen from the Highlanders Armory during the time we were doing musketry work there.

OK

I figure my expenses, as above outlined, at \$294.50, over my four years of service.

I beg to express the opinion that some of the Volunteer Instructors who gave much time and attention to musketry instruction, free of charge, deserve some tangible recognition for their services.

I would suggest that the following gentlemen be presented with Short Lee-Enfield Service Rifles, with a silver plate on each, carrying a suitable inscription, viz.

J.W. Morris Esq.

W.E. Wood Esq.,

John Deay Esq.,

John Baxter Esq.

P.J.O'Reilly Esq

Lieut H Winter.

W.B. Slater

The Rifle Association deserves some consideration for handing over to the Regiment the Rifle Range and the Club House.

Would it not be possible to present, say 50 rifles and 25,000 rounds of ammunition to the Association? The former could be in trust, and available

(3)

available when required by the Military Authorities.

It would assure the Rifles being kept in good condition, which my past experience does not assure me will be done if they are left at the Depot.

As regards the service ammunition on hand, some 150,000 rounds.

This will deteriorate in a few years. I think that it is usually scrapped,

after lying up about three years, both in the Army and the Navy.

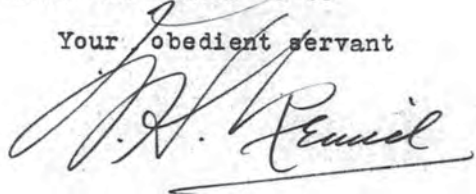
So that a grant of ammunition to the Rifle Association to encourage Rifle practice would be a good way to dispose of some of the stock on hand.

If it is the intention of the Government to keep the Regiment in being, in some form or other of Volunteer or Rifle Companies, I feel sure that the Rifle Association will be only too glad to give every assistance in its power in this direction.

If you desire to question me on the foregoing, I will be glad to call and see you at any time that may suit your convenience.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. H. Russell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Your obedient servant".



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

FEBRUARY 28th 1919.

From: Minister of Militia.

To: Chief Staff Officer.

Herewith you will please find a report from Ex-Captain W.H. Rennie, formerly in charge of Musketry Instruction in St. John's.

Captain Rennie has made many suggestions and recommendations which require careful consideration before decision, and I shall be glad if you would go into the different items therein set forth, and let me have your views in relation thereto.

The question of reimbursement for out-of pocket expenses, etc., likewise tangible recognition for services rendered, are questions which require special consideration. To obtain the necessary information it will be essential to have the reports and opinions of these Officers of the Regiment who have been connected with this work, and who are in a position to give an opinion on the subject.

As to the disposal of rifles and ammunition, this is a matter which will come under the general policy as to the disposal of all property of the Regiment after demobilization.

Minister of Militia.

C.R. 0-244

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Minister of Militia.

Reply 19/5/19

St John's Nfld
May 16 th 1919

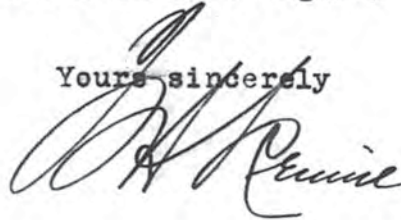
lieut-Colonel W. Rendell
Militia Department.

Dear Colonel Rendell:-

In my recent interview with the Mininter of Militia it was understood that the matter of payment of \$294.50 to me, covering my expenses in connection with Musketry work, and the payment of \$100.00 to Musketry Instructor Mr Harvey Thomas, for services prior to his being attached to the Regimental Instructors, would be dealt with immediately.

As this matter has been standing over since Feby 25 th last, I would be very much obliged if you ^{could} get it finalised in a few days, if possible. Thanking you for your attention in this regard.

Yours sincerely



C.R. 0-244

May 20th 19

Captain W.H. Rennie

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of May 16th dealing with the matter of payment to yourself and Mr. Harvey Thomas for expenses in connection with musketry instruction. I hope that this matter may be settled in the near future. I might say that the Minister is anxious to discuss this matter with Major Montgomerie with whom he wishes to take up the various points of your previous letter of Feb. 28th, and have the whole question settled at once. Major Montgomerie is expected to arrive in this country very shortly.

Yours faithfully,

Lient. Col.,

Chief Staff Officer.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

June 26, 1919.

From:-

District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:-

Chief Staff Officer,
Department of Militia.

Reference communication from the Minister of Militia to the Chief Staff Officer dated February 28th 1919 covering a letter from Captain W. H. Rennie on various subjects connected with Musketry Instruction.

1. Captain Rennie's expenses, \$294.50.

I am of opinion that these out of pocket expenses should be paid.

2. Instructor Thomas.

Having in view the recommendation of Captain Rennie and noting that this instructor served for a time voluntarily and has been at personal loss through circumstances in connection with his duties; I would suggest that Captain Rennie's recommendation be approved. This is not to be considered as a precedent but is dealt with on the merits of the case as put forward.

3. Disposition of rifles and ammunition.

I am not in a position to make any recommendation in this connection as I am of opinion that the ultimate disposition of equipment, accoutrements etc. is a matter for the decision of the Minister of Militia or the Executive Government and altogether depends on the future position of the Regiment. The handing over of any portion of Government property used in connection with the war to any body of private citizens raises a large question which it is not in my province to discuss. I presume that if the Regiment is ultimately disbanded that the proper Government Authority to take over the rifles and ammunition should be the Inspector General of Constabulary.

W. H. Rennie

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

3 copies please

C.R. 0-244

copy

July 3rd, 1919

To: Paymaster

From: Chief Staff Officer.

The Minister has authorised the issue of a cheque for \$294.50 for Capt. Rennie for out-of-pocket expenses in connection with musketry instruction; he has also authorised the issue of a cheque for \$100.00 to Mr. Harvey Thomas to cover the period when he was voluntarily giving his services as Musketry Instructor. I should be glad if you will have these cheques issued and sent out as soon as convenient.

Lieut. Col.,

Chief Staff Officer.



Dept St Johns Musketry
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

-----September 5th 1919.-----

From: Minister of Militia.

To: District Officer Commanding.

The enclosed communication from Captain W.F. Rennie,
Officer i/c Musketry Instruction was received by me to-day.
I have acknowledged receipt of same informing him that I was
passing it to you for whatever action you may deem desirable.

Minister of Militia.

C.R.

O-244

WFR/ME

January 13, 1921

Captain W. H. Rennie, M.B.E.,
City.

Dear Captain Rennie,

I am forwarding the presentation rifles in accordance with the instructions of the Government. You are already aware that the wish of the Government was that this rifle, together with those for the other Musketry instructors, should be presented publicly but that in accordance with your wishes they are now being sent out individually.

As far as I am aware this rifle is as good as any in the Quartermaster's Stores. However there are about a dozen others there and if there are any parts which you would like to get changed or if you would like to change this rifle for any other in the hands of the Quartermaster I shall be glad if you will call at the Quartermaster's Department, H. J. Stabb and Company's premises and choose

another according to your fancy. It would be an easy matter to transfer the silver plate from this rifle to another.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Staff Officer.

Captain W. H. Rennie.