JOURNAL ONE

THIS JOURNAL FEATURES THE LIFE AND MILITARY HISTORY OF JOHN SHORTAL (SHORTALL)

GENEALOGY FOR PATRICIA ANN CLARK, TAYLOR, NEE LAWRENCE AND PATRICIA'S FAMILY

SURNAME: SHORTALL

Core Facts About the Surname

SOIRTÉIL—XII—*Scorthals, Schorthals, Sertell, Sertill,* Shorthall, Shortall, Shortell, Shortle, Surtill; Anglo-Saxon 'Scort-hals,' i.e., short-neck, a nickname or descriptive name; Langhals also once existed. This family, which, to judge from the name, is of Anglo-Saxon origin, probably came to Ireland early in the reign of Edward I. They settled in Co. Kilkenny where they became very influential. Their chief seat was at Ballylorcan, but they had many other castles in the barony of Iverk.

Literal Meaning: "Short neck" (derived from the Anglo-Saxon Scort-hals).

Primary Location: County Kilkenny, Ireland, where the family held several castles and estates such as Ballylarkin.

First Record: The surname appears in early Gormanstown records as early as 1243.

Ballylarkin Castle (and its adjacent parish church, locally known as Ballylarkin Abbey) is a medieval archaeological site located about 3 km southwest of Freshford in County Kilkenny, Ireland. Originally established by the Anglo-Norman Shortall family, it is a fascinating, off-the-beaten-path ruin showcasing 14th-century architectural features

SOURCES FOR THIS JOURNAL

PLEASE NOTE: A lot of the international records compiled for these genealogies come from the MORMON data base in Salt Lake City, America. This database is compiled from official Parish, Church, and Archives records from all over the world. From the compiler's experience, their records (although will need checking) are almost all correct…

https://www.familysearch.org/

Some of the New Zealand records come from the database of New Zealand's historical births, deaths, marriages site at …

https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/

https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10970/new-zealand-birth-index-1840-1901

Also included are the following sites which help as well…

Archives…

Papers Past

Australia And New Zealand, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current

World War Service Records Free NZ

Births, Deaths & Marriages NZ

New Zealand Death Notices

New Zealand Electoral Rolls 1853 To 1981

International And New Zealand Census Records

Paedophiles List New Zealand

New Zealand Newspaper Archives

Free NZ Family History Search

The compiler. Roger Mold

Email rangerrodge@gmail.com

Website: www.kaihuvalleyhistory.com (50,000 views)

Note: He left school just before the age of fifteen.

There could be some grammar and spelling mistakes.

All, if any, within the eye of the reader.

Critiques will be welcome.

I am from those who have come before

And those still to come

They are me and I am them

TEMPLATE

Generation:

GENERATION

was born about:

At:

Died about:

At:

Married about:

At:

To:

She was born about:

At:

Died about:

At:

They had the following children…

Note: If born a hundred years ago or sooner there will be no records on NZ historical BDM

1/.

2/.

3/.

4/.

5/.

INFORMATION

BIRTHS OF PARENTS OF THESE CHILDREN…

MARRIAGE…

BIRTHS OF CHILDREN…

DEATHS…

ARCHIVES…

PAPERS PAST

Above records from https://www.familysearch.org/
Above records from New Zealand historical Births, Deaths and Marriages
Above records from Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s-Current
https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10970/new-zealand-birth-index-1840-1901

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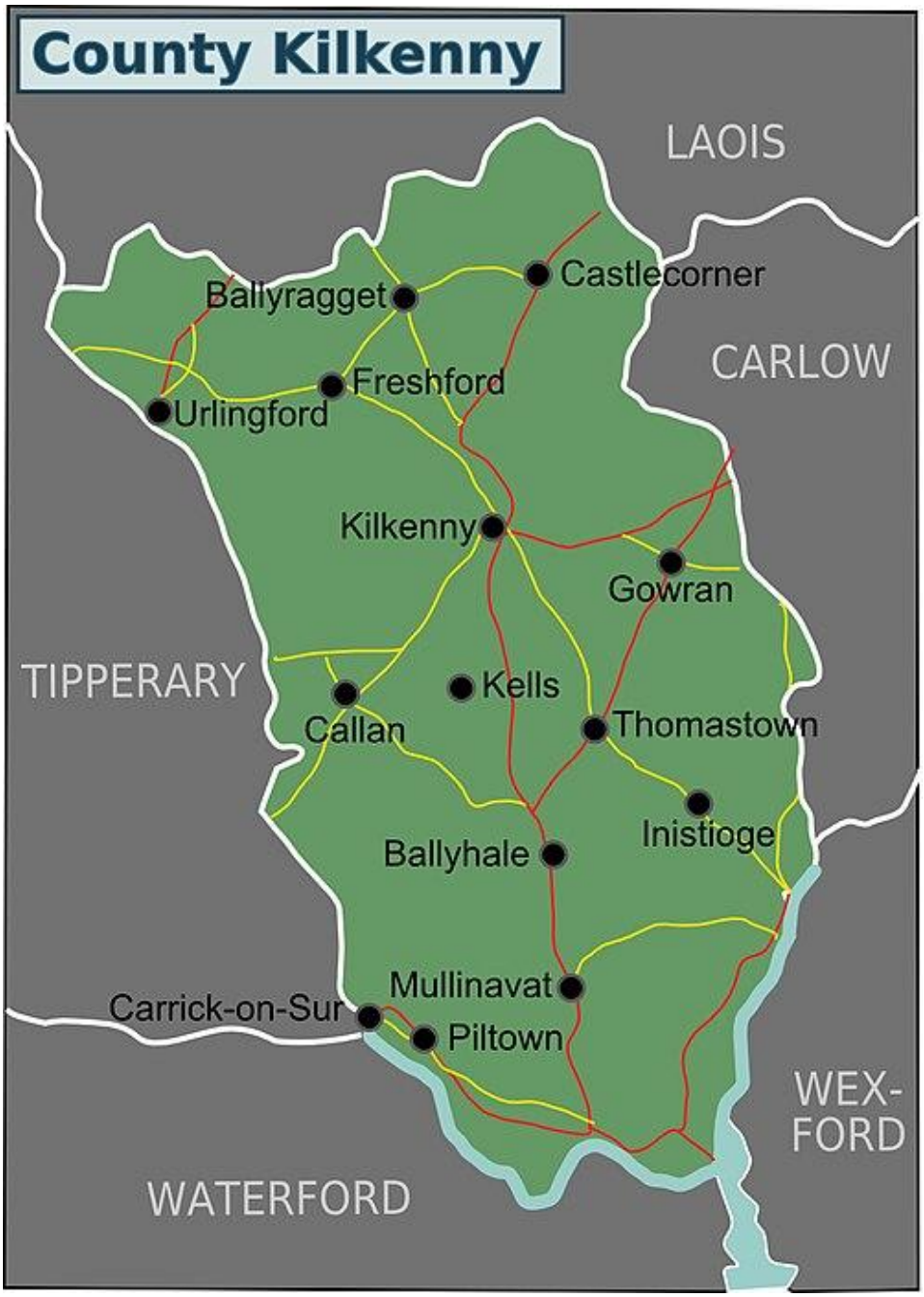
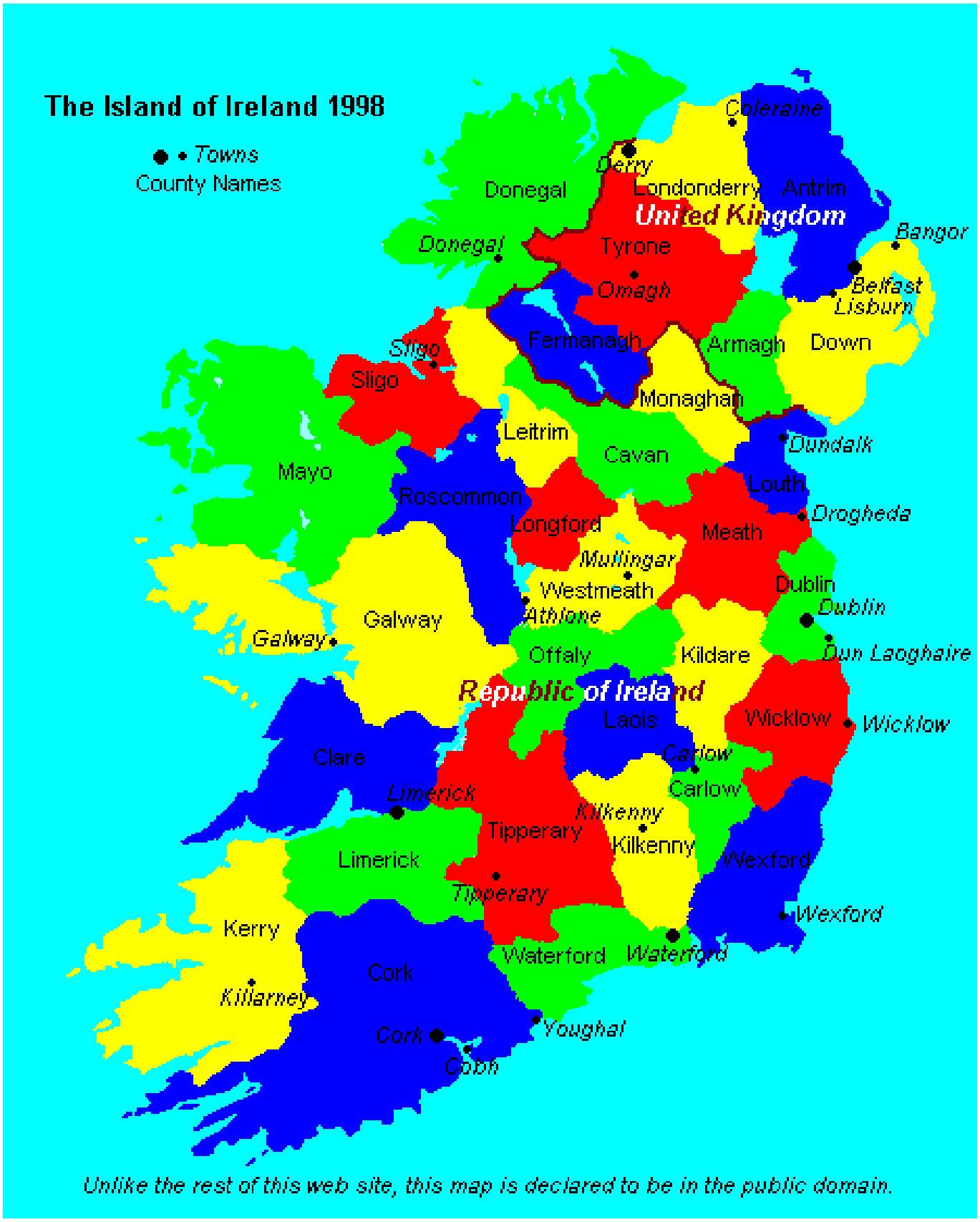
CHAPTER ONE

ANCESTERS FOR JOHN SHORTAL (SHORTALL)

(NOTE: THE COMPILER WILL ISSUE A COMPREHENSIVE GENEALOGY FOR THIS SHORTALL FAMILY WHO LIVED IN COUNTY KILDARE, IRELAND AFTER HE HAS FINISHED THIS VERY LARGE PERSONAL HISTORY FOR (JOHN SHORTAL. NEW ZEALANDS RECORDS SPELLING)




The Island of Ireland 1998
Towns
County Names
Coleraine
Derry
Donegal
Londonderry
Antrim
United Kingdom
Bangor
Donegal
Tyrone
Omagh
Belfast
Lisburn
Fermanagh
Armagh
Down
Sligo
Sligo
Monaghan
Leitrim
Dundalk
Cavan
Mayo
Louth
Roscommon
Drogheda
Longford
Meath
Mullingar
Westmeath
Dublin
Dublin
Athlone
Galway
Galway
Offaly
Kildare
Dun Laoghaire
Republic of Ireland
Laois
Wicklow
Wicklow
Clare
Carlow
Carlow
Limerick
Kilkenny
Tipperary
Kilkenny
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Wexford
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Kerry
Waterford
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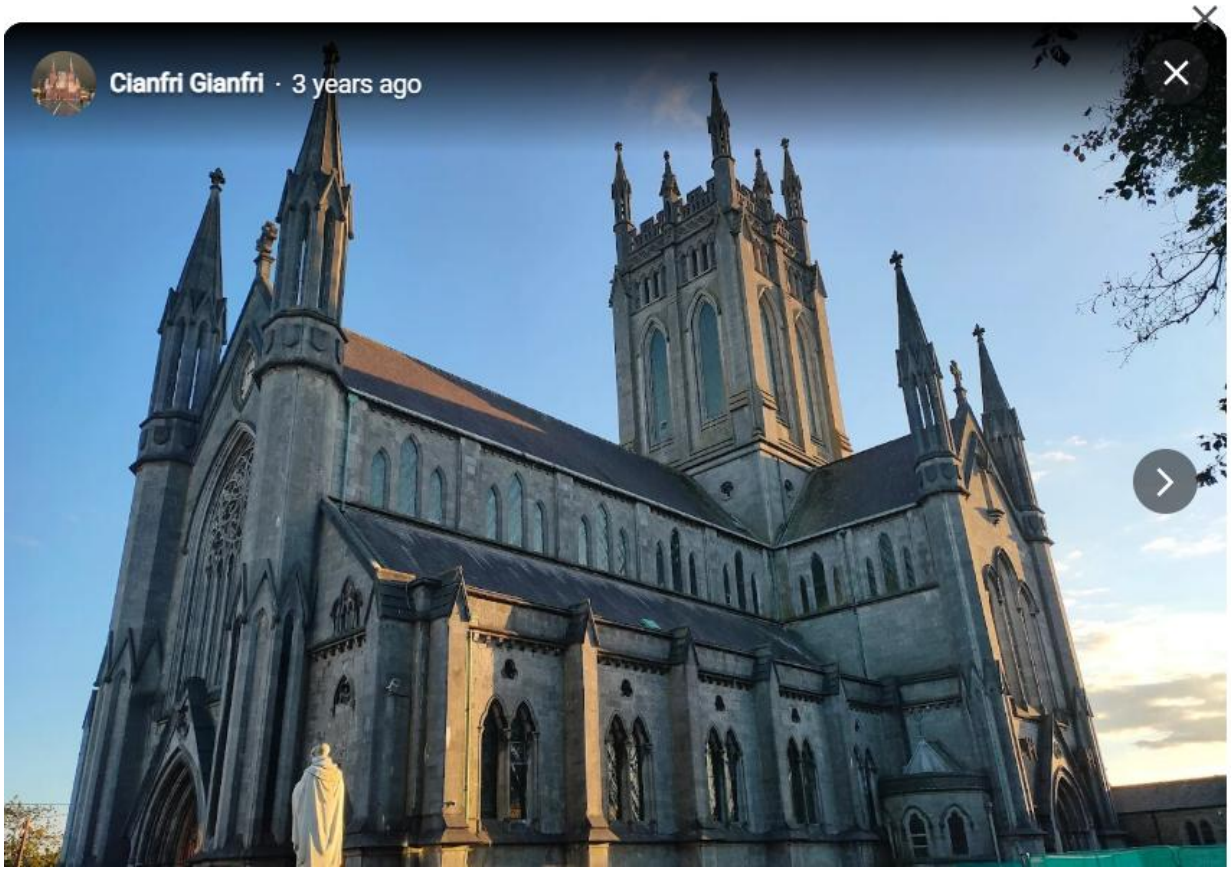
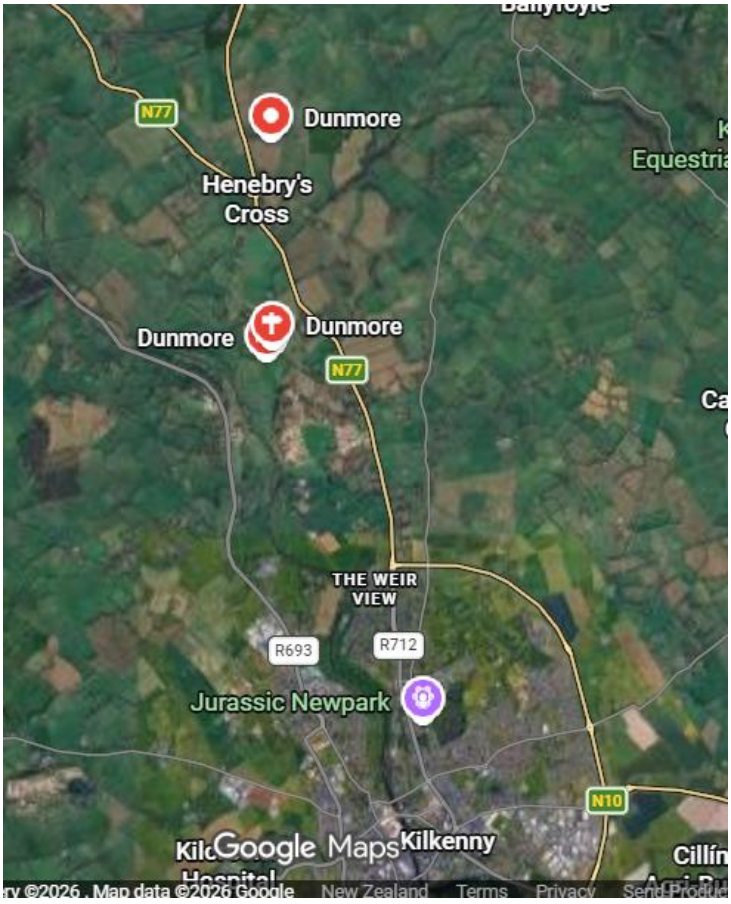
Cork
Killarney
Youghal
Cork
Cobh
Unlike the rest of this web site, this map is declared to be in the public domain.


Cianfri Gianfri · 3 years ago


N77
Dunmore
Henebry's Cross
Dunmore
Dunmore
N77
THE WEIR VIEW
R693
R712
Jurassic Newpark
N10
Kilkenny
Google Maps
New Zealand
Terms
Privacy

GENERATION

JAMES SHORTALL. (NOTE THE DOUBLE LL)

GREAT GRAND FATHER FOR PATRICIA

MARRIAGE: 27 NOVEMBER 1871
ST. MARY'S, KILKENNY, COUNTY KILKENNY, IRELAND

HIS WIFE WAS: MARY MURPHY

James was born about:

At:

Died about: Age 40?

At:

Married about:

At:

To: Mary Murphy

She was born about:

At:

Died about:

At:

They had the following children…

1/.

2/.

3/.

4/.

5/.

CHAPTER TWO

JOHN SHORTAL (SHORTALL) AND ELIZABETH MECHEN

NOTE SPELLING NOW WITH ONE "L"

GRAND PARENTS FOR PATRICIA ANN CLARK, TAYLOR, NEE LAWRENCE

GENERATION FOUR

John Shortal was born about: 2 December 1880

At: Kilkenny Town, Kilkenny, Ireland

Baptised about: 5 December 1880, at St Patrick Church, Kilkenny Town, Kilkenny, Ireland

Died about: 1969 aged 88

At: Timaru, Timaru District, Canterbury, New Zealand

Married about: 1911

At: New Zealand

To: Elizabeth Mechen. (Then married Catherine Mayhew) No children from Catherine

Elizabeth was born about: 1888

At: New Zealand

Died about: 1922

At: New Zealand

Her Parents: John and Izabella Mechen

From Antrim, Northern Ireland

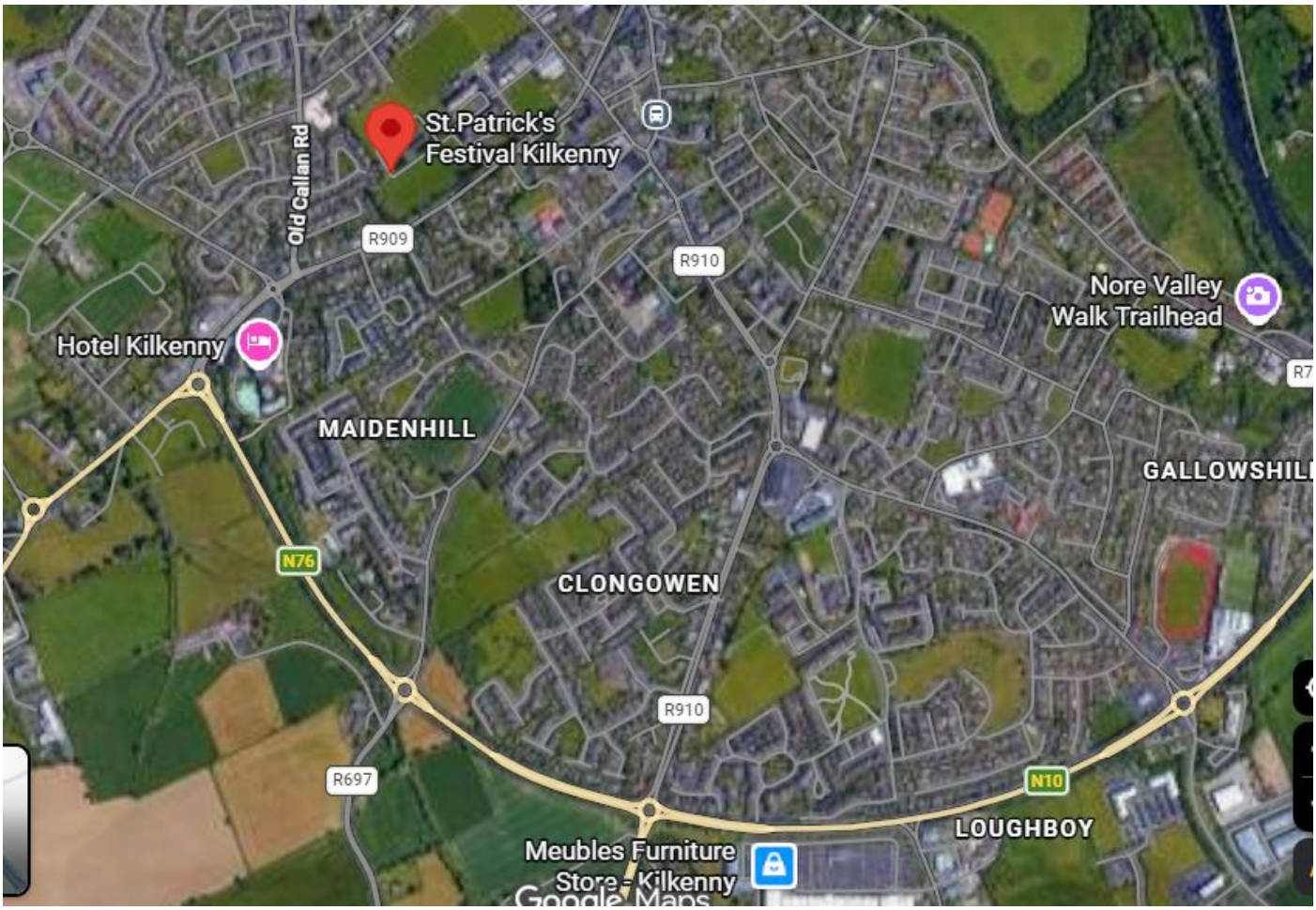
John and Elizabeth had the following children…

1/. Mary Phylliss Shortal born 6 September 1912 only child for John and Elizabeth. (Our Patricia's Mum) This girl did not see much of her dad for the first seven years of her life. He was away at war and other….

SAINT PATRICKS CHURCH, KILKENNY, IRELAND

Address: Bohernatounish Road, Loughboy, Kilkenny, Kilkenny, Ireland, R95 +353 56 776 4400 St. Patrick's Parish, Kilkenny where John Shortal was baptized

Map shows St Patricks gate for St Patrick's Church



Map shows Old Callan Rd at left hand top in relationship to 'Loughboy' where John was baptised.

Note: Family knowledge tells us that number '4 Old Callan Rd' is where John Shortal lived in his youth.

OFFICIAL RECORDS FOR JOHN AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH MECHEN

John Shortal

Principal
Ireland, Civil Registration, 1845-1913

Birth 2 December 1880
County Kilkenny, Ireland

Parents James Shortal, Mary Murphy Shortal

John Shortall

Principal
Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900

Baptism 5December1880
St. Patrick's, Kilkenny, County Kilkenny, Ireland

Birth 2 December 1880

Parents James Shortall, Mary Murphy

Registration Number	Family Name	Given Name(s)	Date of Birth/ Age at Death
1969/42529	Shortal	John	88Y

Registration Number	Bride's Given Name(s)	Bride's Family Name	Groom's Given Name(s)	Groom's Family Name
1911/8033	Elizabeth	Mechen	John	Shortal

Elizabeth Mechen

Principal
New Zealand, Civil Records Indexes, 1800-1966

Birth 1888
New Zealand

Parents John Mechen, Isabella Mechen

Registration Number	Family Name	Given Name(s)	Date of Birth/ Age at Death
1922/7915	Shortal	Elizabeth	34Y

Registration Number	Family Name	Given Name(s)	Mother's Given Name(s)	Father's Given Name(s)
1912/23299	Shortal	Mary Phyllis	Elizabeth	John

BURIAL FOR JOHN SHORTAL IN NEW ZEALAND

BILLIONGRAVES GPS HEADSTONES

Timaru Cemetery

Timaru, Timaru District, Canterbury, New Zealand

Memorial ID

166580450 · View Source

JOHN SHORTAL'S NEW ZEALAND WILL FOR HIS FAMILY

3.

P. 30/1970

Dated 16th day of August 1961.

Will

OF

JOHN SHORTAL

THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

SUPREME COURT
2 FEB 1970
TIMARU

/1970

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND

CANTERBURY DISTRICT,

TIMARU REGISTRY.

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SHORTAL

late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor deceased.

I, ARTHUR COLIN ROWDEN DALEY of Timaru in New Zealand, District Public Trustee, make oath and say as follows:

1. THAT I am duly appointed the District Public Trustee for Timaru and am authorised by the Public Trustee to make this affidavit.

2. THAT JOHN SHORTAL late of Invercargill, in New Zealand died at Timaru, in New Zealand, on or about the 21st day of November, 1969, as I am able to depose from an affidavit of death of the said deceased now in my possession and intended to be filed herein.

3. THAT I believe the paperwriting now produced and shown to me, bearing date the 16th day of August, 1961, to be the last will and testament of the said deceased.

4. THAT the Public Trustee is the executor named therein.

5. THAT the Public Trustee will faithfully execute the said will by paying the debts and legacies of the said deceased so far as the property will extend and the law binds, and will whenever ordered so to do after the grant of probate to him file in this Court and verify by affidavit a true, full, and perfect inventory of all the estate, effects, and credits of the said deceased which shall have come into his hands, possession, or knowledge, and also a full, distinct and proper account of his execution of the will which shall set forth the dates and particulars of all receipts and disbursements and show which of the same are, in his opinion, on account of capital and on account of income respectively.

SWORN AT TIMARU aforesaid this 30th day of January, 1970, before me,

A.C.R. Daley

A Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

Public Trust
No. 316

In the Supreme Court of New Zealand,
CANTERBURY District
TIMARU Registry

In the Estate of JOHN SHORTAL

late of Invercargill,
in New Zealand, Retired
Army Instructor, deceased.

I, MARY PHYLLIS LAWRENCE
of Timaru, in New Zealand,
Married Woman, make oath and say as follows:

1. That I knew JOHN SHORTAL of
Invercargill, in New Zealand,
Retired Army Instructor, now deceased, when alive, and
that the said deceased was resident or was domiciled at Invercargill.

2. That the said deceased died at Timaru
on or about the 21st day of November, 1969, as
I am able to depose from having been present at his funeral.

SWORN at Timaru
this 5th day of December,
1969, before me—

M. P. Lawrence

A Solicitor of the Supreme Court
of New Zealand.

200 pads/9/65—9603 W

2.

P. 30/69 70

In the Supreme Court of New Zealand
CANTERBURY DISTRICT
TIMARU REGISTRY

In the Estate of JOHN SHORTAL late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor

, deceased

AFFIDAVIT OF DEATH

of the Deceased

SUPREME COURT
- 2 FEB 1970
TIMARU

THE SOLICITOR,
PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE,
TIMARU.

Public Trust,
No. 27

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND,

CANTERBURY DISTRICT,
TIMARU REGISTRY.

No. 30/70

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SHORTAL

late of Invercargill,

in New Zealand,

Retired Army Instructor, deceased.

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN that on this 9th day of February, 1970 the last will of JOHN SHORTAL late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor, deceased, who died on or about the 21st day of November, 1969 a copy of which is hereunto annexed, has been exhibited, read, and proved in Chambers before Mr Registrar Clancy at Christchurch acting under rule 426H of the Code of Civil Procedure

and administration of the estate, effects, and credits of the deceased has been and is hereby granted to the PUBLIC TRUSTEE, the executor named in the said will, being first sworn faithfully to execute the said will by paying the debts and legacies of the deceased so far as the property extends and the law binds and, whenever ordered so to do, to file in this Court and verify by affidavit a true, full and perfect inventory of all the estate, effects, and credits of the deceased which shall have come into his hands, possession, or knowledge, and also a full, distinct, and proper account of his execution of the will.

GIVEN under the seal of the Supreme Court of New Zealand at Timaru this 9th day of February, 1970

D.G.L. STEED

Deputy Registrar.

L.S.

REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT
TIMARU

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
DEPUTY Registrar.

NO. 30/70
IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND,

CANTERBURY DISTRICT,
TIMARU REGISTRY.

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SHORTAL

late of Timaru, in New Zealand,

Retired Army Instructor, deceased.

Copy PROBATE

THE SOLICITOR,
PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE,
TIMARU.
19 FEB 1970
TIMARU

Probate No. 30 /1970 P.1.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND

CANTERBURY *District*,
TIMARU *Registry*.

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SHORTAL
late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor, deceased.

EX PARTE:
NOTICE OF MOTION FOR PROBATE AND AFFIDAVIT TO LEAD GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that ~~Counsel~~/Solicitor for the applicant will move the ~~Judge~~ Registrar in Chambers for an order that Probate of the will of the above-named deceased be granted to the Public Trustee, the executor therein named, upon the grounds appearing in the affidavits filed herein.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 1970.

To the Registrar of the Supreme Court at Timaru

Certified pursuant to the rules of Court to be correct.

This application is made in reliance on section 4 of the Administration Act 1952 and rule 518 *et seq.* of the Code of Civil Procedure.

J.A. Callaghan

~~Counsel moving~~
Solicitor engaged in the proceedings.

OA 21.11.69

Accordingly,

G.D. Clancy

Registrar, Christchurch
9/2/70

-2 II 70 1720 -5.00

JUSTICE DEPT
-2 FEB 1970
TIMARU

THE SOLICITOR,
PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE,
Timaru.

Public Trustee - 3 FEB 1970
Solicitors 16 FEB 1970
Stamp Duties Dep 20 FEB 1970

P.T.—199

This is the Last Will

of me, JOHN SHORTAL

of Invercargill

in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor.

1. I REVOKE all former Wills, AND I APPOINT THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE of New Zealand to be my Executor and Trustee.

2. I GIVE AND BEQUEATH the sum of One hundred English pounds (£Eng.100) to my second-cousin DELIA O'SHEA.

3. I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH the whole of my estate both real and personal of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situate not hereinbefore otherwise disposed of unto my trustee UPON TRUST to pay thereout my just debts funeral and testamentary expenses and all death duties payable in respect of my estate and to stand possessed of the residue for my daughter MARY PHYLLIS LAWRENCE should she survive me but should she predecease me then for such of them her children as survive me and if more than one in equal shares.

This is the paper writing now produced and shown to Arthur Colin Rowden Daley District Public Trustee for Timaru, and referred to in his affidavit to lead grant of probate to the Public Trustee as sole executor, sworn at Timaru, this 30th day of January, 1970, before me:-

A Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

As witness my hand, this 16th day of August 1961.

Signed by the above-named JOHN SHORTAL as his last Will, in the presence of us, together present at the same time, who at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

John Shortal

Solicitor
Invercargill

Civil Servant
Invercargill

:00 pads/2/60—18517 W

CHAPTER TWO

IRISH AND ENGLISH MILITARY HISTORY FOR JOHN SHORTAL

NOTES

John served with the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) for about 12 years in Ireland, South Africa, Mauritius and India from about 1899 until about 1911 before being posted to the New Zealand Army in 1911. Here he helped to train and prepare troops which would eventually take part in World War One.

John would also serve in World War One with the Otago Infantry Regiment as part of the New Zealand forces at Gallipoli in Turkey before being invalided back to New Zealand about 1916.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. [Form No. 3.

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

No. 5839 Name: Shortal, John

	Country.	From	To	Years.	Days.	Initials of Officer making Entry.
1. Service record ...	Home	8/2/1899	18/10/00	1	253	
	South Africa	19/10/00	8/6/1901		233	
	Home	9/6/1901	1/4/1902		297	
	South Africa	2/4/02	22/1/1906	3	295	
	Mauritius	23/1/1906	25/10/07	1	276	
	India	26/10/1907	12/11/08	1	18	
	Home	13/11/08	26/4/11	2	165	
	New Zealand	27/4/11				

2. Certificates ... 3rd.class 15/11/02
2nd.class 10/11/03

3. Passed classes of instruction† Group 1.1st.class Oct.1909
† This includes any authorized class of instruction. Signalling Asst.Instr.Authy.G.O.No.6 of 22/04.
physical training cert.d/ Dublin 1/3/10

4. Active service ... Qualified at Hythe 19/8/10 I.C.O.982 d/ 31/8/10

5. Wounded ... active service - South African 1900,1901,1902.

6. Effects of wounds ...

7. Special instances of gallant or meritorious conduct

Name of Medal.	Clasps.	Date of Grant.
South African 1900/1901/1902.		

8. Medals and decorations

9. Injuries in or by the Service

10. Name and address of next-of-kin Sister. Mary, Callan Road, Kilkenny.

...rs as to ...ge.

(a.) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether Spinster or Widow.	(b.) Place and Date of Marriage.	(c.) Name of Officiating Minister or Registrar.
(a.)	(b.)	(c.)

The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) was established in Ireland during the British Army reforms of 1881.

The 100th (Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian) Regiment and 109th Regiment of Foot merged, passing on their historic associations with both Canada and India.

The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) became the local regiment for Meath, Westmeath, Longford, King's County (now Offaly) and Queen's County (now Laois); counties in the Irish province of Leinster.

The 100th Foot became the new unit's 1st Battalion and the 109th became the 2nd Battalion.

Left: Cap badge of The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians), 1881-1922 (c)

This unit's badge depicts the emblem of the Prince of Wales. It consists of three feathers emerging from a coronet. A ribbon below bears the motto 'Ich dien' (I serve). At the bottom is a title-scroll inscribed with the regimental name.

NAM Accession Number

NAM. 1970-12-234-11

Copyright/Ownership

National Army Museum Copyright

Location

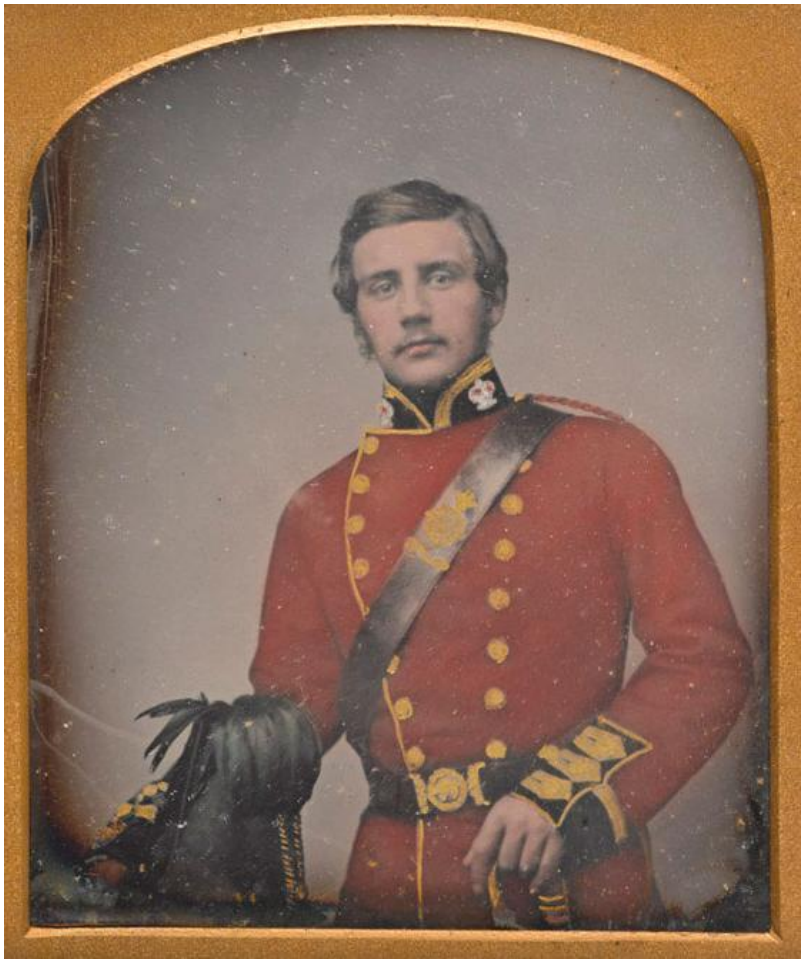
National Army Museum, Study collection

Object URL

https://collection.nam.ac.uk/detail.php?acc=1970-12-234-11

War (1899-1902).

ABOUT THE 100TH (PRINCE OF WALES'S ROYAL CANADIAN) REGIMENT OF FOOT



Above: Surgeon James Thompson, 100th (Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian) Regiment of Foot and Army Medical Staff, 1860

ORIGINS

During the **Indian Mutiny** (1857-59), there was a sudden surge in Canadian loyalty to Britain, to the extent that Canada wanted to raise a unit to send to India. However, by the time the new regiment was ready to embark, the Mutiny had already been suppressed and the unit sailed for England instead.

Since Canada was still a colony, the regiment was a British Army unit right from the start, with the number 100 and the title 'Prince of Wales's', after the future King Edward VII.

The 100th Foot served in Gibraltar from 1859 to 1863 and was then transferred to Malta. The regiment was posted back to Canada in 1866 and participated in the ceremonials inaugurating the Dominion of Canada on 1 July 1867. On that day, it decorated its headdress with maple leaves, the national symbol of Canada.

Although the number of Canadians serving in the regiment declined over the years, the 100th Foot maintained a great pride in its Canadian origins. It had a tradition of decorating its Colours with maple leaves and its cap badge also featured a maple leaf.

Above: Glengarry badge, 100th (Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian) Regiment, c1874

Left: 'Shako' worn by Lieutenant W Richie, of the 100th Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian Regiment, 1864.

SUCCESSOR

In 1875, the regiment was officially recognised as the successor to another 100th Regiment of Foot, which had been raised in Ireland in 1804, stationed in Canada for 13 years, and finally disbanded in 1818. As its successor, the regiment also took on that unit's only battle honour, **Niagara,** won in Canada during the War of 1812 (1812-15).

LEGACY

The regiment left Canada in 1868 and served at various stations in Britain and Ireland. From 1877, it was in India as part of the garrison of the Punjab. It was still there in 1881, when it merged with the **109th Regiment of Foot (Bombay Infantry)** to form **The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)**.

The 100th (Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian) Regiment and **109th Regiment of Foot** merged, passing on their historic associations with both Canada and India.

It became the local regiment for Meath, Westmeath, Longford, King's County (now Offaly) and Queen's County (now Laois); counties in the Irish province of Leinster.

The 100th Foot became the new unit's 1st Battalion and the 109th became the 2nd Battalion.

The Leinster Regiment was an infantry regiment of the British Army, which recruited in central and eastern Ireland. Created in 1881, it was disbanded in 1922 on the establishment of the Irish Free State.

EARLY DEPLOYMENTS

After amalgamation, both battalions undertook garrison duties in England, Ireland, India, Nova Scotia and Malta.

The regiment also sent a detachment to the Composite Battalion that fought in the Third Ashanti War (1895-96) and both its battalions served during the Boer War (1899-1902).

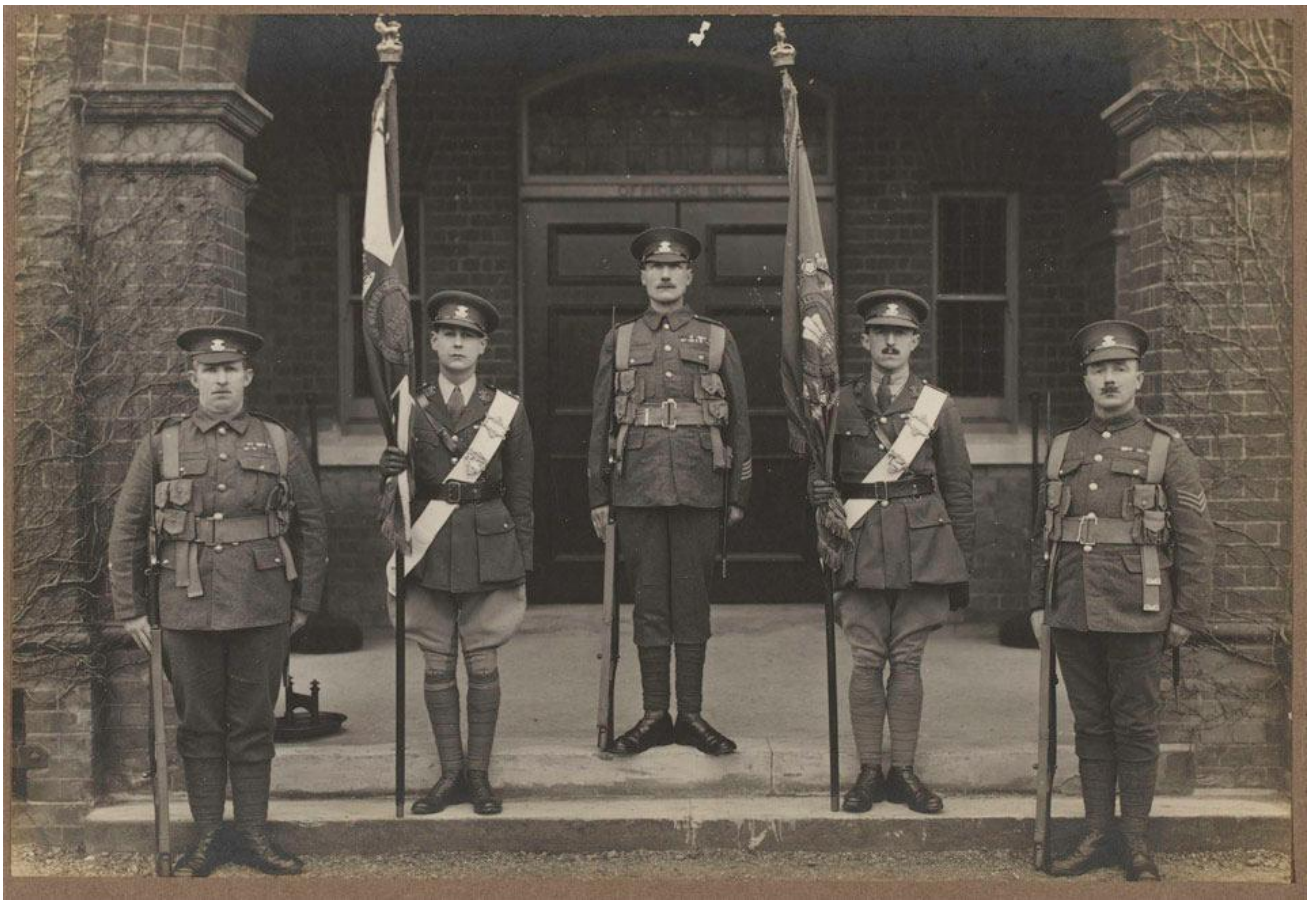
The 2nd Battalion deployed to France soon after the outbreak of the **First World War** (1914-18), landing at St Nazaire in September 1914. It remained on the Western Front until the end of the war. In 1921-22, it joined the Army of Occupation in Upper Silesia.

1st Battalion arrived in France in December 1914, but in November the following year it was posted to Macedonia. In September 1917, it moved to Egypt and Palestine for two years, and at the end of the war to India. It stayed there until 1922.

The regiment raised two service battalions (6th and 7th Battalions), which served at Gallipoli, Salonika and Palestine. Its three Reserve battalions (3rd, 4th and 5th) remained at home in a reinforcement role.

Below: Colour party and escort, Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians), 1921 (c)

Photograph, Ireland, 1921 (c).



The two colours were collectively called a stand. In British infantry units the King's Colour was usually a union flag trimmed with gold fabric, and with the regiment's insignia placed in the centre. The Regimental Colour was a flag of a single colour, usually the colour of the uniform facings (collar, lapels and cuffs) of the regiment, again often trimmed and with the insignia in the centre.

NAM Accession Number

NAM. 1992-04-224-3

CHAPTER FOUR

MILITARY SERVICE IN NEW ZEALAND

A/. Following news clips from 'Papers Past' for John Shortal will give you, the reader an insight into what you might expect to read from Johns military records and other…

Bruce Herald, Volume LII, Issue 1, 6 January 1916, Page 5

Regimental Sergeant-Major John Shortal, who left with the main body, and was reported invalided to England, has returned by the Ruahine, which arrived at Auckland yesterday morning. It is reported that the genial sergeant-major will arrive at Milton on Saturday.

Bruce Herald, Volume LII, Issue 1, 6 January 1916, Page 5

Regimental Sergeant-Major John Shortal, who left with the main body, and was reported invalided to England, has returned by the Ruahine, which arrived at Auckland yesterday morning. It is reported that the genial sergeant-major will arrive at Milton on Saturday.

RUAHINE'S PASSENGERS.

AUCKLAND, January 3.

A list was published on December 22 giving the names of 141 officers and men who are returning by the Ruahine. A supplementary list containing 10 names has been received by the Defence Department. It is as follows:—

Trooper Alfred George Saunders, Auckland Mounted Rifles (next-of-kin, Mr A. H. Saunders, Wairere, Auckland).

Trooper William John Perkins, Auckland Mounted Rifles (next-of-kin, Mrs C. Perkins, Albert street, Onehunga, mother).

Farrier Joseph Wilson, Otago Mounted Rifles (next-of-kin, Mr David Wilson, Hamilton).

Private Charles Edward Maguire, Otago Battalion (next-of-kin, Mr John Maguire, 5 Woodhaugh street, Woodhaugh, Dunedin).

Regimental Sergeant-major John Shortal, Otago Infantry (Mrs Elizabeth Shortal, Milton, Otago, wife).

Private Romana Ratima, Maori Contingent (next-of-kin, Whare Romana, Poroporo, Bay of Plenty).

Particulars regarding the next-of-kin are not available in regard to the following:—

A. Baxter, Canterbury Battalion.

M. L. Clarke, Auckland Battalion.

J. Duncan, Auckland Battalion.

C. Jones, Auckland Mounted Rifles.

PERSONAL.

Clutha Leader, Volume XLII, Issue 54, 11 January 1916, Page 5

Dr Stenhouse, senr., of Dunedin, is now taking his son's place in Owaka, and may be consulted at either the Railway Hotel or at Mr G. B. Hutchins' pharmacy. Owaka and surrounding districts are lucky in having such an experienced practitioner at this time.

Regimental Sergeant-major John Shortal, who left with the Main Body, and was reported invalided to England, has returned by the Ruahine. Prior to the war he was drill-instructor in the 14th Regiment, and was held in popular esteem by South Otago Territorials.

Sergeant-Major Sargeant and Private Farquhar, who were invalided home by the Ruahine, returned to Owaka last Saturday (writes our correspondent). They were met by a large crowd at the railway station, and the chairman of the Patriotic Committee welcomed them home with a few well-chosen words. Sergeant-major Sargeant is still unable to raise his right arm up to his head.

Hawke's Bay Herald-Tribune, Volume 91, Issue 15, 10 October 1947, Page 6

WELLINGTON, Oct. 10.

The House devoted practically the whole afternoon to a discussion of the Defence Committee's report on the petition of Mr John Shortal, Invercargill, seeking an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the Army and compensation. The committee reported that it had no recommendation to make.

Disappointment was expressed by several members that the recommendation was not more favourable, as petitioner had put his case before the House on several previous occasions. The report was referred back to the committee for further consideration.

The discussion, which lasted more than two and a-half hours, was an interesting example of the readiness of Parliament to devote valuable time to ensuring just treatment of one member of the community.

Mr J. A. Roy, (Opp., Clutha) said that petitioner was one of six sergeant-instructors brought to New Zealand in 1911 under an agreement between the New Zealand and the British Governments. Petitioner was allocated to the 14th South Otago Regiment. There were some unfortunate incidents concerning irregularities by senior officers, and petitioner had reported them. An adverse report was made on petitioner in 1912 and in 1918 another adverse report was made about him. Between the adverse reports and after 1918 there were good reports.

It seemed that some sinister influence had been at work. He was convinced that had it not been for the action of petitioner in reporting the irregularities petitioner's agreement would have been renewed in 1920. He was also convinced that an injustice had been done to petitioner and his career ruined.

Mr Fraser, Prime Minister, said he was quite prepared to go to any lengths to see that an injustice was not perpetuated, but nothing was gained simply by condemning officers of the Army in the past to ease the lot of a man living today. It was better that a matter be gone into a dozen times than that a sense of injustice should remain.

Southland Times, Issue 18739, 26 November 1919, Page 2

CIVIL CASES.

POSSESSION CLAIM.

John Shortal (Mr H. Macalister) v. Robert Buchanan (Mr Haggitt)—a claim for the possession of land and for £18 profits thereon.

Mr Macalister said that the plaintiff was a labourer until recently employed by the N.Z. Forces. Somewhere about the beginning of July the plaintiff was leaving Invercargill. He had been approached by a salesman in the employ of Meek & Oughton to sell his house. This he had undertaken to do for £925. It was contended that the agent had exceeded his authority in selling on certain terms. Shortly afterwards Shortal went to Ranfurly. There he received a wire from the agent dated July 7 which read: "Have spot cash offer your house of £925, less £25 commission." As a matter of fact the telegram despatched from Invercargill had read £825. Shortal had replied accepting the offer, the telegram being mutilated in transmission and being received with the signature, "Shortland." Prior to sending the telegram the agent had had an offer from one Cockroft —of £825 who, in the meantime, bought another house. The agent had then searched for another buyer and had sold to the defendant, Buchanan, for £825, an agreement being signed by Buchanan. About July 23 Buchanan paid a deposit and was given possession by Meek & Oughton. A day or two after Shortal came to Invercargill. When asked to sign the sale note he had noticed the discrepancy in the price and had refused to sign. On October 11, Meek & Oughton had written to Buchanan that Shortal required possession of the house from a month from date. He was prepared in the meantime to lease it for £1 per week.

The telegrams passing between the agent and the plaintiff were handed in.

John Shortal, the complainant, gave evidence on the lines of his counsel's statement.

To Mr Haggitt: He paid £775 for the house. There was one-eighth of an acre section and there was a similar house built on the other side and he had heard that £785 was paid for it.

Evidence for the complainant was also given by Oughton & Meek's salesman and R. P. Meek. Both declared that the offers to sell the house for £875 had been made without the plaintiff's knowledge.

Mr Haggitt claimed that whatever plaintiff's remedy was it was not action of that sort—it might be an application through the Court for an equitable action to have the agreement set aside.

His Honour remarked that, apart from the sending of the telegram, there appeared to be no agreement.

The case will be resumed this morning.

Southland Times, Issue 19662, 13 October 1922, Page 8

BY ORDER OF THE REGISTRAR.

MESSRS D. W. McKAY, LTD., have received instructions from the Registrar of the Supreme Court at Invercargill to sell by public auction at their auction rooms, Invercargill, at 12 noon on Friday the 13th day of October, 1922—

Lot 1—ALL THAT piece of land containing 196 acres more or less being Section 10 Block XIII Waiau Survey District, the property of and occupied by John Shortal.

This property is situated about 1½ miles from Tuatapere by good road. About 35 acres bush balance in grass and stumps. Good soil.

Buildings: Dwelling and outhouses, stable and byre, implement shed.

Southland Times, Issue 20247, 4 August 1927, Page 11

INQUIRY ASKED
EX-SOLDIERS' DISCHARGE
A PETITION TO PARLIAMENT.
STATEMENT BY MR J. SHORTAL

With reference to the special message from Wellington appearing in yesterday's issue of the Southland Times concerning a petition to Parliament from John Shortal, Invercargill, in which it was stated that he was discharged from the New Zealand Defence Forces without being given an opportunity of replying to certain charges, Mr Shortal, in the course of a conversation with a reporter yesterday, stated that there had been no charges against him. While he was not prepared to describe the position in detail as the matter would soon be fully dealt with in Parliament, Mr Shortal stated that he wished to remove any wrong impression created by the message that there had been charges against him.

Furthermore he showed the reporter the certificate of discharge from the New Zealand Military Forces which stated that Mr Shortal was discharged in consequence of the termination of his engagement with the New Zealand Government. The certificate also stated that during his period of service Mr Shortal's character had been "exemplary," this being the highest character of seven enumerated in the King's Regulations.

A certificate of discharge from the Imperial Forces referring to Mr Shortal's character states that it was that of an honest, sober, intelligent, very well educated, reliable and thoroughly trustworthy man.

Southland Times, Issue 20855, 17 August 1929, Page 7

DISMISSAL OF MILITARY OFFICER.

QUESTION URGED IN PARLIAMENT.

(Special to the Times.)

Wellington, August 2.

An investigation by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives or other competent Court or Board of Inquiry into the circumstances leading up to his discharge from the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces is sought by John Shortal, of Invercargill, formerly Sergeant-Major in N.Z. Permanent Staff.

Shortal whose petition was presented to Parliament to-day by Sir Joseph Ward, desires compensation for his alleged wrongful dismissal. He states that he was victimised for an action performed in the interests of the State and that the attitude of certain of his superior officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to, had a direct bearing on his discharge. He was denied the protection afforded him by the Army Act, he says, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the proper channel impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior officers, no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever set up whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

Ex-Soldier Petitions House About His Discharge From Army

Hawke's Bay Herald-Tribune, Volume 91, Issue 15, 10 October 1947, Page 6

WELLINGTON, Oct. 10.

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Disappointment was expressed by several members that the recommendation was not more favourable, as petitioner had put his case before the House on several previous occasions. The report was referred back to the committee for further consideration.

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Refers Ex-soldier's House Petition Back to Committee Hawera Star, Volume LXVII, 10 October 1947, Page 3

Parliament Bldgs., Oct. 9.

Most of the afternoon in the House of Representatives today was devoted to discussion of the Defence Committees report on the petition of John Shortal, of Invercargill, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the Army and for compensation.

The committee reported it had no recommendation to make.

Disappointment was expressed by several members that the committee had not made a recommendation more favourable to the petitioner, who had petitioned the House on several previous occasions.

The report was referred back to the committee for further consideration.

The House adjourned for tea at 5.30 p.m.

B/. MILITARY RECORDS SOURCED FOR JOHN SHORTAL FROM NEW ZEALAND ARCHIVES AND OTHER

Online Cenotaph

AM

Auckland Museum

https://www.aucklandmuseum.com

AM

War Records and Stories — Online Cenotaph records range from the South African Wars to Afghanistan. Contribute notes, images and data to the military records of Online Cenotaph. Begin your search. Celebrating 25 years. Highlights: Donation Option Available, Membership Option Available.

Nominal Roll Vol 1, Page: 660 - No known copyright restrictions

No Known Copyright Restrictions AWMM

Hunaia ngā mātāwai kōrero

Whakaatu mai ngā āpure e wātea ana

Tuakiri

E pā ana ki

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

- Ngā ingoa tuatahi

John AWMM

- Ingoa whānau

Shortal AWMM

- Nama hōia

WWI 8/1154 AWMM

- Ira tangata

Male AWMM

Mātātuhi me ngā tuhinga

Mātātuhi

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

-

Ngā tuhinga

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

Tauoranga kirirarau

Te whānautanga

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

- Wāhi noho i mua i te whakaurunga

Unknown AWMM Milton, Otago, New Zealand AWMM

- Uri kiritahi i te wā o te ekenga waka

Mrs Elizabeth Shortal (wife), Milton, Otago, New Zealand AWMM

- Mēnā he hoa rangatira tōna

Pre 16 Whiringa ā-nuku 1914 AWMM Married AWMM

Ope taua

Ngā pakanga me ngā whawhai

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

- Pakanga

World War I, 1914-1918 AWMM

- Te Ope o Tū / te peka

Army AWMM

- Nama hōia

WWI 8/1154 AWMM

Te Whakangungu me te Urunga atu

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

- Te urunga

WW1 Unknown AWMM AWMM

Te maha o ngā ekenga waka

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

- Taipitopito ekenga waka

WW1 16 Whiringa ā-nuku 1914 AWMM from Port Chalmers, Dunedin AWMM to Suez, Egypt AWMM

HMNZT 5 or HMNZT 9 AWMM Vessel was Ruapehu or Hawkes Bay AWMM Sergeant Major AWMM Otago Infantry Battalion AWMM Main Body AWMM

Kōrero taurongo

Matenga

Ngā maumaharatanga

Rārangi Ingoa Whai Hōnore

Maumahara John Shortal mā te whakatakoto i te papi

- **William Duff Short**
- **William H. Short**
  - John Shortal
- **Eric Robert Shortall**
  - **H. J. Shortall**

Whakatakototia te papi mā 2026

Waiho atu he tuhinga

Waiho atu he poroporoaki, he maumaharatanga ki a John Shortal

Waiho atu he tuhinga

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

Ngā mātāwai

Ngā mātāwai

Tāpirihia he kōrero ›

- Hononga ki waho

Military personnel file
https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena/search/#/entity/aims-archive/R7816894
Further Reference

- Ngā tuhinga

New Zealand Army Expeditionary Force. (1914-1919). Nominal Rolls of New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Volume I. Wellington, N.Z.: Govt. Printer. AWMM
Page No: 660 AWMM

E hangaia tonutia ana te Maumaharatanga Tuihono; tāpirihia ai ngā whakahoutanga me ngā pūkete i ia wiki. I ētahi wā, kāore anō kia whakaūhia ngā pūkete e ngā kaimahi o Te Whare Taonga, tēnā pea he hapa kei roto i ngā kōrero.

Kua whai mana ngā raraunga a Tāmaki Paenga Hira i raro i te mana o te raihana Āhuatanga a Creative Commons 4.0 Raihana ā-ao

- Ngā hua o te rapu
- pūkete nō mua

- Te pūkete e whai ake nei

Shortall John - Sims William

R25834227

Wellington repository

Physical

Date unknown

Item

SHORTALL John

R23631353

Wellington repository

Physical

1972 - 1981

Item

SHORTAL, John, , 8/1154 - Army

R24201733

Wellington repository

Physical

1899 - 1945

Item

SHORTAL, John, , 8/1154 - Army

R24201734

Wellington repository

Physical

1899 - 1945

SHORTAL John - Invercargill - Army Instructor

R21860539

Christchurch repository

Physical

1970 - 1970

Item

SHORTAL, John - WW1 8/1154 - Army

R7816894

Wellington repository

Physical

1914 - 1918

C/. COMPILERS NOTE:

As you read through the following records you will see that John spent a lot of time and ink by writing continuously to the New Zealand Military board and the New Zealand Government about a grievance which occurred about 1919 when John was released from his long army career after the first World War.

The following 100's of copies of information are in no 'particular' order of date or place because the compiler has found that to rearrange them in order of date or place from the many unorganised army files for this soldier would be very time consuming.

As you read through this massive missive, I am sure you will be able to fit the jigsaw puzzle together and hopefully make some sense of the many claims for reimbursement that John was adamant he should receive from the army or New Zealand Government for a wrongful dismissal.

It would appear he started this marathon about twenty years after the event of 1919 and it would finally end in the year of 1948.

Good luck with your journey through the coming unadulterated maze…

1911 CENSUS IRELAND

Recorded in the 1911 Irish Census, John Shortal is a Seargent in the British Army Barracks at Abbeyleix just south of Dublin, Ireland. Here he was officially a solder of the "Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment Royal Canadians"

Soon after he was transferred to the Otago Infantry Regiment in New Zealand 1911. Pre–World War One.

JOHN SHORTAL AND BOARDING HOUSE MATES AT:

Clonminam, part of Abbeyleix Road. (Maryborough Urban, Queen's Co.), Ireland

Name	**John Shortal**
Sex	**Male**
Age	**31**
Birth Year (Estimated)	**1880**
Birthplace	**Kilkenny**
Marital Status	**Single**
Occupation	**Sergt Army**
Religion	**Roman Catholic**
Relationship to Head of Household	**Boarder**
Event Type	**Census**
Event Date	**1911**

Event Place	**Abbeyleix, Queen's County, Ireland**
Event Place (Original)	**Clonminam, Part of Abbeyleix Road. (Maryborough Urban, Queen's Co.), Ireland**
Household Identifier	**17**
Note	**-**

Other People on This Record

Close All

Albert P J Hayden person details

Murtagh Lennon person details

Denis Kelly person details

Margaret Coyle person details

Margaret Coyle F72 Queens Co

Name	**Margaret Coyle**
Sex	**Female**
Age	**72**
Birth Year (Estimated)	**1839**
Birthplace	**Queens Co**
Marital Status	**Widowed**
Occupation	**House Keeper**
Religion	**Roman Catholic**
Relationship to Head of Household	**Head**

Event Type	**Census**
Event Date	**1911**
Event Place	**Abbeyleix, Queen's County, Ireland**
Event Place (Original)	**Clonminam, Part of Abbeyleix Road. (Maryborough Urban, Queen's Co.), Ireland**
Household Identifier	**17**
Note	**-**

Denis Kelly M36 Tipperary

Name	**Denis Kelly**
Sex	**Male**
Age	**36**
Birth Year (Estimated)	**1875**
Birthplace	**Tipperary**
Marital Status	**Single**
Occupation	**C S I M Army**
Religion	**Roman Catholic**
Relationship to Head of Household	**Boarder**
Event Type	**Census**

Event Date	**1911**
Event Place	**Abbeyleix, Queen's County, Ireland**
Event Place (Original)	**Clonminam, Part of Abbeyleix Road. (Maryborough Urban, Queen's Co.), Ireland**
Household Identifier	**17**
Note	**-**

Murtagh Lennon M39 Dublin City

Name	**Murtagh Lennon**
Sex	**Male**
Age	**39**
Birth Year (Estimated)	**1872**
Birthplace	**Dublin City**
Marital Status	**Single**
Occupation	**Cr Sgt Army**
Religion	**Roman Catholic**
Relationship to Head of Household	**Boarder**
Event Type	**Census**
Event Date	**1911**

Event Place	**Abbeyleix, Queen's County, Ireland**
Event Place (Original)	**Clonminam, Part of Abbeyleix Road. (Maryborough Urban, Queen's Co.), Ireland**
Household Identifier	**17**
Note	**-**

Albert P J Hayden M32 London England

Name	**Albert P J Hayden**
Sex	**Male**
Age	**32**
Birth Year (Estimated)	**1879**
Birthplace	**London England**
Marital Status	**Married**
Occupation	**Sergt Army**
Religion	**Roman Catholic**
Relationship to Head of Household	**Boarder**
Event Type	**Census**
Event Date	**1911**
Event Place	**Abbeyleix, Queen's County, Ireland**

Event Place (Original)	**Clonminam, Part of Abbeyleix Road. (Maryborough Urban, Queen's Co.), Ireland**
Household Identifier	**17**
Note	-

1911: JOHN IS POSTED TO THE NEW ZEALAND ARMY FROM IRELAND

DATED 24th. April, 1911.

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND

and

SERGEANT JOHN SHORTAL,
4th Battalion, Leinster Regiment.

A G R E E M E N T.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT made the twenty-fourth day of April One thousand nine hundred and eleven BETWEEN THE HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM HALL-JONES the High Commissioner in England of the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand (hereinafter referred to as the "High Commissioner") of the one part AND SERGEANT JOHN SHORTAL of the 4th Battalion Leinster Regiment of the other part

THE said John Shortal engages himself in the service of the New Zealand Government for a certain period of five years computed from the date of his embarkation for New Zealand on the following terms and conditions

1. THE said John Shortal shall proceed to Wellington New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company's steamer "Athenic" leaving London on the twenty-seventh day of April One thousand nine hundred and eleven and while in New Zealand shall employ himself as Instructor in the Defence Forces of the Dominion or in such other like capacity as may be required of him by the said Government or by any Authority appointed for the time being by the said Government

2. THE said John Shortal shall faithfully and diligently employ the whole of his time in the service of the said Government and he shall in all things be subservient to and obey the orders and directions of the said Government and the Authorities appointed as aforesaid

moneys paid out of pocket for travelling and it is hereby mutually agreed between the High Commissioner on behalf of the Government and the said John Shortal in manner following:-

4. IF the said John Shortal shall at any time neglect or refuse or from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under this Agreement his suspension or removal shall be conducted under and be subject to the regulations in force at the time in New Zealand under the Defence or any other Acts or Government regulations applicable to the case of the said John Shortal under this Agreement thereupon in case of suspension or removal this Agreement shall be cancelled

I N W I T N E S S WHEREOF the said William Hall-Jones as such High Commissioner as aforesaid and not so as to incur any personal liability has signed these presents on behalf of the Government and the said John Shortal has hereunto set his hand the day and year first above written

WITNESS to the signature of William Hall-Jones } William Hall Jones

Sidney R. Skinner
Clerk
New Zealand Government Office.

WITNESS to the signature of John Shortal } John Shortal Sergt
4th Leinster Regiment

Chas. D'Arcy-Irvine Capt
Leinster Regt

NEW ZEALAND RECORDS START

[E.F. Form No. 3A.

No. 8/154

Zealand address:

Home Service. Years. Days. 214

Foreign Service: 325

Total Service: 1 173

Service

Wounds ...

Sick ... ...

	11.9.15.	England Netley Hos. (slightly sick. 3-9-15)
47B 103 Emb on H.S. 21-5-17		Admtd to Hos. Malta ex H.S. Valdivia 20.8.15 Influenza Diarrhoea & Piles
47B 103		Emb. on H.T. Ruahine for N.Z. from England & struck off strength NZEF 17-11-15

Killed in action ...

Died of wounds* sickness*

Missing ... ...

Prisoner ... ...

Injuries in or by the Service ... ... Struck off Strength N.Z.E.F. No longer phys. fit for War Service (Dysentery & Ague)

Discharge ... Provisional: 28-3-16 (Date.) Final: ~~17-11-15~~ (Date.) Intended address: ~~White Home Hotel, Milton.~~ Inglewood.

Pension ...

ISSUE AUTHORISED
Gallipoli Lapel badge A608
Gallipoli Medallion
Date 11/6/67

* Strike out words not required.

N.Z.E.F. WAR ACCOUNTS AND RECORD OFFICE,
Government Buildings,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,—

As it is hoped that it may shortly be possible to issue the British War Medal and Illuminated Certificate of Service, it is desired to give you an opportunity of agreeing with the information held by this office concerning yourself, and which will be contained on the medal and certificate or other documents yet to be issued, as medals and documents once issued can only be altered at the recipient's expense.

Will you please, therefore, check the particulars on the back hereof and return this form complete to me as early as possible after appending your signature in the space provided at the foot.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. HUTCHEN,
Officer in Charge.

19 OCT 1920

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of Shortal (Surname.) John. (Christian Name.) No. 8/1154.

Regiment or Corps.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank.	Date.	Authority for Entry.
O. J. B.	Sgt. Mjr (temporary) not to effect pay allowances	W. Officer	15.11.14. (GB 102 (17.10.14))	
	Trans/to Otago Dist.		10.6.16.	TRO. 539/2

CONDUCT-SHEET.

Regiment or Corps.	Place.	Date.	Offence.	Punishment.	Authority for Entry.

Special instances of gallant or meritorious conduct :

Medals and Decorations	Name of Medal.	Clasps.	Date of Grant.

PARTICULARS OF MARRIAGE.

Wife's Maiden Name (in full).	Place of Marriage.	Date.	Officiating Clergyman or Registrar.
Elizabeth Mecken. Spinster.	Milton Otago	6. 12. 11.	Rev. Jas. Howard.

PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN.

Christian Names.	Date of Birth and Age.	Where born.	Where registered.
Mary Phyllis.	6 9. 12.	Milton Otago	Milton Otago.

[50,000/10/15—15774

3rd.

HISTORY-SHEET.

Notice dispatched to soldier:
Authority to Headquarters: 29/1020.

(E.F. Form No. 3A.)

Unit.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.	No.
O.T.B. 14th Coy.	R.S.M. (W.O.)	Shortal	John.	8/1154

Occupation: Soldier.
Last employer: N.Z. Government.
Religion: Kilkenny R.C. 8-12-1880
Last New Zealand address: Milton Otago

Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand): Mrs Elizabeth Shortal - Wife. Milton Otago.

Ser		of Officer Entry.	Home Service. Years.	Days.
				214
			Foreign Service:	325
			Total Service: 1	173

No. 8/1154. Rank: R.S.M. W.O.I.
Name: John Shortal
Address: Inuatapere

Periods of Service.		Theatres of Operation.	
In New Zealand:	– years 213 days.	Australasian	
Overseas ...	– years 325 days.	Egyptian	1915
Total service ...	1 years 173 days.	Egyptian ~~E.F.~~	
Date commenced duty:	7.10.14.	Balkan	(Gallipoli) 1915
Date finally discharged:	28.3.16.	Western European	
		Asiatic	

Decorations: 1914-15 Star. BRITISH WAR MEDAL VICTORY MEDAL ... MEDAL ACTION COMPLETE. 11/4/24

The foregoing particulars are correct.

Signature:

N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

1,000 pads/8/20—12058]

Decorations: 1914-15 Star. BRITISH WAR MEDAL VICTORY MEDAL ... 13 DEC 1920 5 AUG 1921 10 JAN 1922

The foregoing particulars are correct.

Signature: J. Shortal

N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

1,000 pads/8/20—12058]

Killed in action ...

Died of wounds or sickness ...

Missing ...

Prisoner ... ...

Injuries in or by the Service ... ... Struck off Sgts of R.S.M. No longer phys fit for War Service (Dysentery & Ague)

Discharge ... Provisional: 28-3-16 (Date.) Final: 17-11-15 (Date.) Intended address: ~~White Horse Hotel, Milton.~~ Inuatapere.

Pension ...

ISSUE AUTHORISED
Gallipoli Lapel badge A608
Gallipoli Medallion
Date 11/5/67 mk

B.R.20 25

* Strike out words not required.

[E.F. Form No. 3A.

No. 8/1154

Zealand address:

Service

			Years.	Days.		Home Service. Years.	Days.
N.Z.	7.10.14 ~~15.11.14~~	14.2.15		130			214
Foreign.	14.2.15	4.1.16		325		Foreign Service:	325
Returning N.Z. Rualine 4.1.16.							
N.Z.	5.1.16. ~~28.3.16~~	28-3-16		84		Total Service:	
			1	173		1	173

CABLE.

Wounds

Sick ...

Killed in acti

Died of wou sickn

Missing ...

Prisoner ... ...

Injuries in or by the Service ... ... Struck off Strength of N.Z.E.F. (Dysentery & Ague) No longer phys. fit for War Service

Discharge ... Provisional: 28-3-16 (Date.) Final: ~~17-11-15~~ (Date.) Intended address: ~~Wide Home Hotel, Hamilton.~~ Tuakapere.

Pension ...

No. 8/1154. Rank: R.S.M. (W.O.I)

Name: John Shortal

Address: Tuakapere

Periods of Service.		Theatres of Operation.
In New Zealand: years 2 days 13		Australasian
Overseas ... years 3 days 25		Egyptian 1915
Total service ... 1 years 178 days		Egyptian ~~E.F.~~
Date commenced duty: 7.10.14		Balkan (Gallipoli) 1915
Date finally discharged: 28.3.16		Western European
		Asiatic

Decorations:

1914-15 Star 13 DEC 1920

BRITISH WAR MEDAL 5 AUG 1921

VICTORY MEDAL 10 JAN 1922

The foregoing particulars are correct.

Signature: J Shortal

N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

1,000 pads/8/20—12058]

ISSUE AUTHORISED
Gallipoli Lapel badge A608
Gallipoli Medallion
Date 11/5/67

* Strike out words not required.

MEDICAL HISTORY

OF

Surname: Shortal *Christian Name:* John

Examined: On 13th day of October 1914
At Wellington

Birthplace: Town, Kilkenny
Country, Ireland

Declared age:

Trade or occupation: Soldier

Height: ft., in.

Weight: lb.

Chest-measurement: Minimum, in.
Maximum expansion, in.

Physical development:

Small-pox marks:

Vaccination marks: Right. Left.
Arm,
Number,

When vaccinated:

Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease:

Approved by
Lgd. / C. Y. Baigent
Medical Officer, Wellington

Examined for re-engagement:

day of , 1

* Considered:

Medical Officer,

*If unfit, state disability.

Re-vaccinated on day of , 1

Arm: Number:

Result:

Medical Officer,

Enlisted on 7th *day of* October, *1914*, *at* Wellington

	Corps.	Regimental No.	Date.
Joined on enlistment	Otago Infantry	8/1154	7/10/14
Transferred to			

PROPOSED FOR DISCHARGE BY A MEDICAL BOARD.

Station.	Date.	Disease.	Result.

N.B.—This sheet to be disposed of in accordance with instructions in the Regulations for Army Medical Services on th man becoming non-effective, the date and cause being stated at the foot of next page.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. [Form No. 3.

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

No. 8/1154 Name: SHORTAL, John

	Country.	From	To	Years.	Days.	Initials of Officer making Entry.
1. Service Record ...	New Zealand	7/10/14.	15/10/14.		9	
	~~Foreign~~	~~4/10/14~~	Disembarked Alexandria			
	At Sea Transport	15/10/14.	3/12/14.		49	
	Egypt	3/12/14.				
2. Certificates ...						
3. Passed classes of instruction† ... †This includes any authorised class of instruction.						
4. Active service ...						
5. Wounded						
6. Effects of wounds ...						
7. Special instances of gallant or meritorious conduct ...						

	Name of Medal.	Clasps.	Date of Grant.
8. Medals and decorations			
9. Injuries in or by the Service... ...			
10. Name and address of next-of-kin ...	Mrs Elizabeth Shortal (Wife) MILTON Otago, New Zealand		

	(a.) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether Spinster or Widow.	(b.) Place and Date of Marriage.	(c.) Name of Officiating Minister or Registrar.
	(a)	(b)	(c)
11. Particulars as to Marriage.	Elizabeth Mechen (Spinster)	MILTON Otago 6th December 1911	Revd. James Howard

	Christian Names.	Date and Place of Birth.		Where registered.
12. Particulars as to Children.	Mary Phylis	6/9/1912	MILTON Otago	MILTON Otago

NOTE.—These entries are to be made from time to time as they occur, and initialled by the officer making the entry.

Intended place of residence on discharge: MILTON Otago New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. [Form No. 3.

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

No._____ Name: SHORTAL, John

	Country.	From	To	Years.	Days.	Initials of Officer making Entry.
1. Service Record ...						
2. Certificates ...						
3. Passed classes of instruction† †This includes any authorised class of instruction.						
4. Active service ...						
5. Wounded						
6. Effects of wounds ...						
7. Special instances of gallant or meritorious conduct ...						

	Name of Medal.	Clasps.	Date of Grant.
8. Medals and decorations			

9. Injuries in or by the Service... ...

10. Name and address of next-of-kin ... Mrs Elizabeth Shortal (Wife)
M I L T O N
Otago, New Zealand

11. Particulars as to Marriage.

(a.) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether Spinster or Widow.	(b.) Place and Date of Marriage.	(c.) Name of Officiating Minister or Registrar.
(a)	(b)	(c)
Elizabeth Mechen (Spinster)	MILTON Otago 6th December 1911	Revd. James Howard

12. Particulars as to Children.

Christian Names.	Date and Place of Birth.		Where registered.
Mary Phylis	6/9/1912	MILTON Otago	MILTON Otago

NOTE.—These entries are to be made from time to time as they occur, and initialled by the officer making the entry.

Intended place of residence on discharge: M I L T O N Otago New Zealand

1/2989/16

Rec'd on. T 43

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE

TRENTHAM CAMP

May 8th 1916

Camp Sergeant Major

Trentham.

Re Sergt. Major J. Shortal.

Please note Medical Certificate has been received to effect that the above-named N.C.O. is suffering from acute gastritis and insomnia, and will require one week's (at least) extra Leave of Absence as from 5th May.

CAPTAIN.N.Z.S.C.

CAMP ADJUTANT

Shortal — J —

Records.] [E.F. Form No. 53F.

RECEIVED 12 FEB 1916 DISCHARGE DEPOT.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

EXTENDED SICK-LEAVE CERTIFICATE.

This is to certify that the undermentioned soldier has been granted an extension of sick-leave from 8-2-1916 to 8-3-, 1916 and is resident at White House Hotel Christchurch

Reg. No.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian name.
8/1154	L.S.Cl.	Shortal	John (W.O)

The soldier ~~is not~~ is permitted to travel whilst in possession of this certificate.

Signature: Brockelen. S. Cl.
For Director of Base Records.

Date: 8/2/16.

FILED BASE RECORDS FEB 14 1916

Noted by R. (5): FEB 14 1916

[20149—15

Opinion of the Medical Board.

NOTES.—(i.) Clear and decisive answers to the following questions are tobe carefully filled in by the Board, as, in the event of the man being invalided, it is essential that the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital should be in possession of the most reliable information to **enable them to decide upon the man's claim to pension.**

(ii.) Expressions such as "may," "might," "probably," &c., should be avoided.

(iii.) The rates of pension vary directly according to whether the disability is attributed to (*a*) active service, (*b*) climate, or (*c*) ordinary military service. It is therefore essential when assigning the cause of the disability to differentiate between them (*see* Articles 1162 and 1165, Pay Warrant, 1913).

(iv.) In answering question 20 the Board should be careful to discriminate between disease resulting from military conditions and disease to which the soldier would have been equally liable in civil life.

(v.) A disability is to be regarded as due to climate when it is caused by military service abroad in climates where there is a special liability to contract the disease.

20. (*a*) State whether the disability is the result of (i.) active service, (ii.) climate, or (iii.) ordinary military service. — Active Service

(*b*) If due to one of these causes, to what specific conditions do the Board attribute it? — Strain

21. Has the disability been aggravated by

(*a*) Intemperance? — No

(*b*) Misconduct? — No

(*c*) Any of the conditions mentioned in question 20, and if so, which? — No

22. Is the disability permanent? — 3 months

23. If not permanent, what is its probable minimum duration?

To be stated in months.

24. To what extent is his capacity for earning a full livelihood in the general labour market lessened at present? — Nil

In defining the extent of his inability to earn a livelihood, estimate it at ¼, ½, ¾, or total incapacity.

24A. Is the man suffering from a disability which would *obviously*, as far as you can judge, cause him to be rejected by an Approved Society under the National Insurance Act?

25. If an operation was advised and declined, was the refusal unreasonable?

26. Do the Board recommend — Fit for Home Service.

(*a*) Discharge as permanently unfit,
or
(*b*) Change to England?

Signatures :— [illegible] Stewart Major AMC President.

[illegible] Capt AMC

Station _____ Members.

Date _____

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND A. M. C. 10 NOV 1915 No. ..... PASE DEPOT, WEYMOUTH

Approved.

Station _____ [illegible] Major AMC

Date _____ Administrative Medical Officer.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND A. M. C. 10 NOV 1915 No. ..... PASE DEPOT, WEYMOUTH

Copy 8/1154 Shortal. J.

Army Form B. 179.

Medical Report on an Invalid.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND A. M. C. 10 NOV 1915 No. BASE DEPOT, WEYMOUTH

Station

Date

1. Unit O.I.B.
2. Regimental No. 8/1154
3. Rank S.S.Major.
4. Name Shortal.J .
5. Age last birthday 34.
6. Enlisted { on 8th.Aug.1914. at Dunedin.
7. Former Trade or Occupation { Staff. Sergt.Major.

8. Disability.

DIARRHOEA.

VOMITING.

AGUE.

Statement of Case.

Note.—The answers to the following questions are to be filled in by the Officer in medical charge of the case. In answering them he will carefully discriminate between the man's unsupported statements and evidence recorded in his military and medical documents. He will also carefully distinguish cases entirely due to venereal disease.

9. Date of origin of disability. 12th.Aug.1915.

10. Place of origin of disability. Anzac.Gallipoli.

11. Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability, noting entries on the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case.

Was invalided from Peninsula. with dysenteryof a severe type.

Has had a recurrence of ague;--Contracted prior to enlistment.

in Mauritius.

12. (a) Give your opinion as to the causation of the disability.

(b) If you consider it to have been caused by active service, climate, or ordinary military service, explain the specific conditions to which you attribute it (*See notes on page 8*).

ACTIVE SERVICE.

FILE.—BASE RECORD
Initials: L.C. 17/3/16

Duplicate

Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps Otago Bdn 14th

Regimental No. 8/1154 Rank R.S.M. (wo) Name Stortel, John

Enlisted (a) 7/10/14 Terms of Service (a) Duration of War Service reckons from (a) 7/10/14

Date of promotion to present rank 7/10/14 Date of appointment to lance rank Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		Embkd for Dardanelles	Alex	17.4.15	Embarkation Roll
	Malta. 31.8.15.	Admitted to Hospital ex H.S. Valdivia.	Malta.	25/8/15.	Influenza - Diarrhoea and Piles. Nominal Roll. A.5758.
	Malta 26.8.15.	Embarked for England. Per H.S. Caisarlooke Castle.	Malta.	26.8.15.	Nominal Roll. B.1883.
	London.	Admitted: Royal Victoria Hospital.	Shelley Eng Cdn.	3.9.15.	War Office Lett. No H. 1231.
	High Comm. 12.2.16	Embkd on H.T. Ruahine for New Zealand & Struck off Stgth of N.Z.E.F.	England	17.11.15	Embarkation Roll

Original handed out 11. 3. 16.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be ente-
(b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. [P.T.O.

Shortel J.
11/854

Records.] [E.F. Form No. 53F.

NZ

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

EXTENDED SICK-LEAVE CERTIFICATE.

This is to certify that the undermentioned soldier has been granted an extension of sick-leave from 1st June to . , 191

and is resident at Wellington

Reg. No.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian name.
11/854	Pte	Shortel	J.

Address: Home Newtown

The soldier ~~is~~ is permitted to travel whilst in possession of this certificate.
~~is not~~

Signature: Gardiner Sgt.
For Director of Base Records.

Date: 1-6-15

Noted by R. (5) 5/6/16

FILE.
5 JUN 1916

[2320—16

[E.F. Pay Form 37.

N.Z. EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

SEPARATION ALLOWANCE.

Quartermaster-General (4)
WELLINGTON.

I hereby apply for the shilling per day separation allowance granted to the wives of members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I enclose my marriage certificate for noting and return.

My husband's full name is J. Shortal

, and he is a member of the {*Main Body.* N.Z. Ser. Staff ~~Reinforcements.~~ ~~Otago Infantry~~ ~~Bde.~~

If in camp, state what camp he is attached to:

Transferred to Otago Dist. R/O 539/2

~~August 1914~~

28th March 1916

~~New~~ Schedule

31 MAY 1916

Applicant's full name: Elizabeth Shortal

Address: White Horse Hotel
Milton
Otago.

EXTRACT FROM MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

Man's full name: John Shortal

Wife's maiden name: Elizabeth Meehen

Date of marriage: 6th Decr ~~1910~~. 1911. (J.P.)

Place of marriage: R.C. Church Milton

TRUE EXTRACT.

Signature of Officer: A.H. Williams. A.H.

Date certificate produced: 31st May 1916

CHECKED.

Audit Exr. 191

Card noted: 13/6/16.

Ledger noted: 14/6/16.

5,000/9/15—15031]

File 2 Board 21. 6. 16

ENTERED ON HISTORY SHEET, 22.6.16.

Shortal John

[E.F. Pay Form 37.

N.Z. EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

SEPARATION ALLOWANCE.

Quartermaster-General (4),
WELLINGTON.

I hereby apply for the shilling per day separation allowance granted to the wives of members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I enclose my marriage certificate for noting and return.

My husband's full name is John Shortal
, and he is a member of the Main Body. ~~Reinforcements~~.

If in camp, state what camp he is attached to:

Applicant's full name: Elizabeth Shortal.
Address: White Horse Hotel, Milton, Otago

EXTRACT FROM MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

Man's full name: John Shortal.
Wife's maiden name: Elizabeth Meeken.
Date of marriage: December 6th 1911.
Place of marriage: Tokomairiro, Milton.

TRUE EXTRACT.

CHECKED.

Signature of Officer: D. Lapsford
Date certificate produced: 19/6/16

Audit Exr. 1/- 191 Separation Allowance.

Card noted:

1/- Separation Allowance.

Ledger noted:

2,000/1/16—159]

E.V.D. 20/6/16

Q.M.G. (4). FILE. 26 JUN 1916 W. H. W.

Miss

[B.R.—156.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

RECORD OF SERVICE.

No. 8/1154 Name: Shortall John.

	Country.	From	To	Years.	Days.	Initials of Officer making Entry.
1. Service record ...	N. Z.	7. 10. 14	13. 2. 15		130.	
	Foreign	14. 2. 15	4. 1. 16		325	
	N. Z.	5. 1. 16	28. 3. 16		84	
				1	173	
	C. Discharge. 28. 3. 16.					M.S.

5,000/5/18—8092]

no. 1

Staff Sergt.Major, J.Shortal.	An excellent instructor, but is continually complaining about the amount of work he has to do. He has also been admonished twice for being absent without leave owing to having missed his train. In regard to S.M. Shortal the results he obtains are very good, his case seems to be one of personal aberration at times.

Records Copy.] [B.R. No. 84.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

SICK-LEAVE CERTIFICATE.

THE undermentioned soldier is hereby granted sick-leave from 13th January 1916 to 4th February, 1916. He is ordered to report for instructions at the nearest Defence Office on the last day of his sick-leave if prior to that date he has not been ordered to attend a Medical Board or has not received any further certificate of status from Base Records. During such sick-leave, except when granted temporary leave as specified on the back hereof, it is his duty to be every night at the address specified below or such other place as may be authorized in writing by Base Records at the request of the soldier.

(Reg. No.)	(Rank.)	(Surname.)	(Christian name.)
8/1154	S/S. Major	Shortal	J.

Full postal address White House Milton Otago

Date of issue: 26 — 11 —, 1918

Signature: W. White for Lt.
For Director of Base Records.

Attention is called to the conditions laid down in the Returned Soldiers' Handbook.

100 pads/6/18—o2111

Noted by Cabinets: 6 to 26/11/18

[Form R.—35.

CONFIDENTIAL.

C. Series: Sub-No. 7

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

Royal New Zealand Artillery and New Zealand Permanent Staff.

EXTRACT from Confidential Return of Non-commissioned Officers for Year ending , 191

(Original on Headquarters C 44/1 (Sub-n).

District: Milton, Otago. Unit: 14th Regiment (S.O.R)

Rank: Sergt Major. Name: Shortal. J.

1,000/6/18—8948]

Year.	Enlisted.	Promotion to Present Rank.	Character.	Zeal.	Educational Qualities.	If smart and soldierly.	If recommended for Promotion.	Ability in imparting Instruction.	Remarks.
1912.		27/4/11	Excellent	Excellent	Good.	Yes.	No.	Excellent	
1913	27.4.11	27/4/11	Good	Good	Fair.	Yes.	No	Excellent	An excellent Instructor but very excitable, causing him to forget his position. Have had to reprimand him on two occasions.
1914		No Report.							
1915	Report of Offs. Otago Batt on Active Service								This N.C.O (Temporary W.O) is very capable but apt to get a little black.
1916									
1917	27.4.11	R.S.M (Temp W.O) 1.7.16	V. Good	Excellent	6th Std	Yes.	Yes	V Good.	5th (Mr Crowther Hay) 1/c Group 4 I concur 5th (Howie Nichols) 9.5.17
1918	27.4.11.		Exemplary	Good.	Secondary	Yes.	No	Good.	see that No. 2 attd. 5th Mr Crowther Hay) 1.4.18 I concur 5th (J.C. Nicholls) Capt.
1919	27.4.11	27.4.11	Exemplary	Good	Secondary	Yes	No	V Good	

File No. W.G. 13066

I.A. 161

RECEIVED
16 MAR 1970
BASE RECORDS
WELLINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION OF DEATH

m 1st N.Z.E.F.

Service No. 8/1154 Rank: RSM WOI Name: SHORTAL (Surname) John (Christian Names)

Regiment: OIB Born at Kilkenny Date: 8.12.80 Religion: R.C.

War Service* (Yes or No): yes Discharged: 28.3.16

Decorations (if any): —

Place: Timaru Date: 21 November 1969

Next of kin (Relationship and Address):

*Between 4/8/14 and 31/8/21 or 3/9/39 and 31/12/47.

To

DEPUTY SECY. OF DEFENCE (ARMY)
ARMY HEADQUARTERS
PRIVATE BAG
WELLINGTON

Please verify and complete the above particulars (where blanks exist) and return urgently.

Date: 12 March 1970 Signature: (A. H. Sprosen)
Secretary for Internal Affairs.

(STRIKE OUT ADDRESSES WHICH DO NOT APPLY)

~~To the Secretary,~~
~~Department of Internal Affairs,~~
Wellington.

To the District Officer,
Department of Internal Affairs,
Christchurch.

~~To the District Officer,~~
~~Department of Internal Affairs,~~
Auckland.

Checked and returned as requested.

DESPATCHED
19 MAR 1970
No. 2

Date: 17 Mar 70 Signature: Mrs Crobie for

FILE.

Deputy Secretary of Defence (Army)

15,000/4/68—46448 W

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. [Form No. 3.

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

No. _____ Name: SHORTAL, John

	Country.	From	To	Years.	Days.	Initials of Officer making Entry.
1. Service Record ...						
2. Certificates ...						
3. Passed classes of instruction† ...						
4. Active service ...						
5. Wounded						
6. Effects of wounds ...						
7. Special instances of gallant or meritorious conduct ...						

†This includes any authorised class of instruction.

	Name of Medal.	Clasps.	Date of Grant.
8. Medals and decorations			
9. Injuries in or by the Service... ...			
10. Name and address of next-of-kin ...	Mrs Elizabeth Shortal (Wife) M I L T O N Otago, New Zealand		

	(a.) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether Spinster or Widow.	(b.) Place and Date of Marriage.	(c.) Name of Officiating Minister or Registrar.
	(a)	(b)	(c)
11. Particulars as to Marriage.	Elizabeth Mechen (Spinster)	MILTON Otago 6th December 1911	Revd. James Howard

	Christian Names.	Date and Place of Birth.		Where registered.
12. Particulars as to Children.	Mary Phylis	6/9/1912	MILTON Otago	MILTON Otago

NOTE.—These entries are to be made from time to time as they occur, and initialled by the officer making the entry.

Intended place of residence on discharge: M I L T O N Otago New Zealand

EF/JMS. D.1/306/1/A.

6th June, 1941.

Dear Mr. Holland,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st May regarding Mr. John Shortal. This ex-soldier was one of six Serjeant-Instructors engaged in April, 1911, from the British Army for service in New Zealand for the period of five years. On expiry of that period, his engagement was extended for nine months, and was thereafter extended a second time for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. These extensions were made with the consent of the War Office. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919, when his pay terminated. In the absence of express statutory authority, every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government, and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none. The agreement in the case of Sjt.-Major Shortal was honestly interpreted by the Department as terminating six months after the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919. He was, however, retained in the Service until 31st August, 1919, and as the result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919, to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on loan to New Zealand. At this time their engagements had expired, and it was desired to place many ex-soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces.

The action of Sjt.-Major Shortal in reporting an Officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimized in any way. His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament, and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and other members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

In 1931 the Government set up a special committee to thoroughly investigate the case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was nomerit in his petition. The Government fully considered this report and decided to take no action. It is noted in his letter to you that he is prepared to place his services at the disposal of the Government if he is given a military court of inquiry. There is no reason why a court of inquiry should be held into his case, and his request, which has been made by him on many occasions since 1920, cannot be met. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th idem, I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose, and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him.

Yours faithfully,

MEMORANDUM 6 JUN 1941

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

S.G. Holland, Esq., M.P.,
74, Derby Street,
CHRISTCHURCH, N.1.

no (2)
[Form R.—14.

EXTRACT.

7

From Confidential Report on Permanent STaff.

Date: 12.12.18.

(Original on C.6/4/18.)

[10,000/4/17—4733

S.S.M. J.SHORTAL.

Training qualifications - A poor instructor.

Administrative qualifications for General Office routine. Poor in Office.work.

Qualifications in handling stores, expenditure, etc., This N.C.O. ACTED as Q.M.S. 7th M.R. for a period but did not prove satisfactory.

Mtd Rifle Training.	Nil.
Infantry Training.	Poor.
Musketry "	Poor.
Physical ".	Good.

(Sd.) D B Shaud Major
for OCD

Above and next copy show two conflicting examples of Johns performance of his abilities to be a soldier. Top is poor next is good

[Form R.—35.

CONFIDENTIAL.

C. Series: Sub-No. 7

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

Royal New Zealand Artillery and New Zealand Permanent Staff.

EXTRACT from Confidential Return of Non-commissioned Officers for Year ending , 191

(Original on Headquarters C 44/1 (Subin).

District: Milton, Otago. Unit: 14th Regiment (S.O.R.)

Rank: Sergt Major. Name: Shortal J.

1,000/6/18—8948]

Year.	Enlisted.	Promotion to Present Rank.	Character.	Zeal.	Educational Qualities.	If smart and soldierly.	If recommended for Promotion.	Ability in imparting Instruction.	Remarks.
1912.		27/4/11	Excellent	Excellent	Good.	Yes	No.	Excellent	
1913	27.4.11	27/4/11	Good	Good	Fair.	Yes	No	Excellent	An excellent Instructor but very excitable causing him to forget his position. Have had to reprimand him on two occasions.
1914			No Report.						
1915	Report of Ch. Otago Batt on Active Service								This N.C.O (Temporary WO) is very capable but apt to get a little black
1916									
1917	27.4.11	R.S.M (Temp WO) 1.7.16	V. Good	Excellent	6th Std	Yes.	Yes	V Good.	5th (Mr Crowther Hay) 1/c Group 4 J Coucar 5th (Howie Nichols) 9.5.17
1918	27.4.11.		Exemplary	Good.	Secondary	Yes.	No.	Good.	see chart No. 2 attd. 5th Mr Crowther Hay) 1.4.18 J Coucar 5th (J.C. Nicholls)
1919	27.4.11	27.4.11	Exemplary	Good	Secondary	Yes	No	V Good	

Ty.—39A.] NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT (Large Size.)

03 ARMY. (Department)
WN. (Office.)

30942

To be used for address only.

JOHN SHORTAL ESQ.
38 FOX STREET
INVERCARGILL.

ADVICE NOTE ONLY

(To accompany any voucher for payment by Treasury and to be returned by Treasury to claimant with cheque.)

	Date of Service or Supply.	Particulars.	Amount.		
	19				
GABINET AUTHORITY 13/4/48.	11.5.48	TO:-			
		Grant to Mr. John Shortal of £250 equivalent of pay of rank from 31/8/19 to 19/7/20.	250	-	-
		- - - two hundred and fifty -----	250	-	-

URGENT.

CONSOLIDATED FUND
ORDINARY REVENUE ACCOUNT
UNAUTHORISED
026603/023 Grant to J. Shortal

is the amount is due.

Sched 261 19/5/48

11gs—46]

[Form No. 4.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MEDICAL HISTORY

OF

Surname: Shortal *Christian Name:* John

Examined: On 13th day of October 1914
At Wellington

Birthplace: Town, Kilkenny
Country, Ireland

Declared age:

Trade or occupation: Soldier

Height: ft., in.

Weight: lb.

Chest-measurement: Minimum, in.
Maximum expansion, in.

Physical development:

Small-pox marks:

Vaccination marks: Right. Arm, Number, Left.

When vaccinated:

Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease:

Approved by
Lgd. / C. Y. Baigent
Medical Officer, Wellington

Examined for re-engagement:

day of , 191

*Considered:

Medical Officer,

*If unfit, state disability.

Re-vaccinated on day of , 191

Arm: Number:

Result:

Medical Officer,

Enlisted on 7th *day of* October, *1914*, *at* Wellington

	Corps.	Regimental No.	Date.
Joined on enlistment	Otago Infantry	8/1154	7/10/14
Transferred to			

1/2989/16

Rec'd. T 43

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE
TRENTHAM CAMP
May 8th 1916

Camp Sergeant Major
Trentham.

Re Sergt. Major J. Shortal.

Please note Medical Certificate has been received to effect that the above-named N.C.O. is suffering from acute gastritis and insomnia, and will require one week's (at least) extra Leave of Absence as from 5th May.

CAPTAIN.N.Z.S.C.
CAMP ADJUTANT

Shortal — J —

Records.] [E.F. Form No. 53F.

RECEIVED 12 FEB 1916 DISCHARGE DEPOT

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

EXTENDED SICK-LEAVE CERTIFICATE.

THIS is to certify that the undermentioned soldier has been granted an extension of sick-leave from 8-2-1916 to 8-3-, 1916 and is resident at White House Hotel Christchurch

Reg. No.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian name.
8/1154	L.S.Cl.	Shortal	John (W.O)

The soldier ~~is not~~ is permitted to travel whilst in possession of this certificate.

Signature: [illegible] L. Cl.
For Director of Base Records.

Date: 8/2/16.

FILE BASE RECORDS FEB 14 1916

Noted by R. (5): FEB 14 1916

[20149—15

Duplicate

Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps Otago Bgde 14th

Regimental No. 8/1154 Rank R.S.M. (W.O.) Name Shortal, John

Enlisted (a) 7/10/14 Terms of Service (a) Duration of War Service reckons from (a) 7/10/14

Date of promotion to present rank 7/10/14 Date of appointment to lance rank Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		Embkd for Dardanelles	Alex	17.4.15	Embarkation Roll
	Malta. 31.8.15.	Admitted to Hospital ex H.S. Valdivia.	Malta.	28/8/15.	Influenza – Diarrhoea and Piles. Nominal Roll. A.5758.
	Malta 26.8.15	Embarked for England. Per H.S. Caisbrooke Castle.	Malta.	26.8.15.	Nominal Roll. B.183.
	London.	Admitted Royal Victoria Hospital.	Shelley England.	3.9.15.	War Office Lett. No H. 1231.
	Hight Comm 12.2.16	Embkd on H.T. Ruahine for New Zealand & struck off Strgth of N.Z.E.F.	England	17.11.15	Embarkation Roll

Original handed out 11. 3. 16.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

[P.T.O

Opinion of the Medical Board.

NOTES.—(i.) Clear and decisive answers to the following questions are tobe carefully filled in by the Board, as, in the event of the man being invalided, it is essential that the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital should be in possession of the most reliable information to **enable them to decide upon the man's claim to pension.**

(ii.) Expressions such as "may," "might," "probably," &c., should be avoided.

(iii.) The rates of pension vary directly according to whether the disability is attributed to (*a*) active service, (*b*) climate, or (*c*) ordinary military service. It is therefore essential when assigning the cause of the disability to differentiate between them (*see* Articles 1162 and 1165, Pay Warrant, 1913).

(iv.) In answering question 20 the Board should be careful to discriminate between disease resulting from military conditions and disease to which the soldier would have been equally liable in civil life.

(v.) A disability is to be regarded as due to climate when it is caused by military service abroad in climates where there is a special liability to contract the disease.

20. (*a*) State whether the disability is the result of (i.) active service, (ii.) climate, or (iii.) ordinary military service. — Active Service

(*b*) If due to one of these causes, to what specific conditions do the Board attribute it? — Strain

21. Has the disability been aggravated by

(*a*) Intemperance? — No

(*b*) Misconduct? — No

(*c*) Any of the conditions mentioned in question 20, and if so, which?

22. Is the disability permanent? — No

23. If not permanent, what is its probable minimum duration? — 3 months

To be stated in months.

24. To what extent is his capacity for earning a full livelihood in the general labour market lessened at present? — Nil

In defining the extent of his inability to earn a livelihood, estimate it at ½, ¼, ¾, or total incapacity.

24A. Is the man suffering from a disability which would *obviously*, as far as you can judge, cause him to be rejected by an Approved Society under the National Insurance Act?

25. If an operation was advised and declined, was the refusal unreasonable?

26. Do the Board recommend — Fit for Home Service.

(*a*) Discharge as permanently unfit,

or

(*b*) Change to England?

Signatures :— Guy Stewart Major AMC President.

Station _____ Date _____ — Members.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND A. M. C. 10 NOV 1915 No. CASE DEPOT WENTWORTH

Approved.

Station _____ Date _____

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND A. M. C. 10 NOV 1915 No. CASE DEPOT, WENTWORTH

Administrative Medical Officer.

Copy 8/1154 Shortal. J.

Army Form B. 179.

Medical Report on an Invalid.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND A. M. C. 10 NOV 1915 No. BASE DEPOT, WEYMOUTH

Station _____

Date _____

1. Unit O.I.B.
2. Regimental No. 8/1154
3. Rank S.S.Major.
4. Name Shortal.J .
5. Age last birthday 34.
6. Enlisted { on 8th.Aug.1914. / at Dunedin.
7. Former Trade or Occupation { Staff. Sergt.Major.

8. **Disability.**
DIARRHOEA.
VOMITING.
AGUE.

Statement of Case.

Note.—The answers to the following questions are to be filled in by the Officer in medical charge of the case. In answering them he will carefully discriminate between the man's unsupported statements and evidence recorded in his military and medical documents. He will also carefully distinguish cases entirely due to venereal disease.

9. Date of origin of disability. 12th.Aug.1915.

10. Place of origin of disability. Anzac.Gallipoli.

11. Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability, noting entries on the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case.

Was invalided from Peninsula. with dysenteryof a severe type.

Has had a recurrence of ague;--Contracted prior to enlistment.

in Mauritius.

12. (a) Give your opinion as to the causation of the disability.

(b) If you consider it to have been caused by active service, climate, or ordinary military service, explain the specific conditions to which you attribute it (*See notes on page 8*).

ACTIVE SERVICE.

FILE.—BASE RECORD
Initials: V.C 17/3/16

Shortel J.
11/854

Records.] [E.F. Form No. 53F.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

EXTENDED SICK-LEAVE CERTIFICATE.

This is to certify that the undermentioned soldier has been granted an extension of sick-leave from 1st June to do., 191

and is resident at Wellington

Reg. No.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian name.
11/854	Pr	Shortel.	J.

Address: Home Newtown

The soldier ~~is not~~ is permitted to travel whilst in possession of this certificate.

Signature: Gardner S.M.
For Director of Base Records.

Date: 1-6-15

Noted by R. (5) 5/6/16

FILE.
5 JUN 1916

[2320—16

[E.F. Pay Form 37.

N.Z. EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

SEPARATION ALLOWANCE.

Quartermaster-General (4)
WELLINGTON.

I hereby apply for the shilling per day separation allowance granted to the wives of members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I enclose my marriage certificate for noting and return.

My husband's full name is J. Shortal

, and he is a member of the {*Main Body.* N.Z. Ser. Staff ~~Reinforcements~~ ~~Otago Infantry~~ ~~Bde.~~

If in camp, state what camp he is attached to:

Transferred to Otago Dist. 8/0 539/2

~~August 1914~~

28th March 1916

~~Yes~~ Scheduled

31 MAY 1916

Applicant's full name: Elizabeth Shortal

Address: White Horse Hotel
Milton
Otago.

EXTRACT FROM MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

Man's full name: John Shortal

Wife's maiden name: Elizabeth Meehen

Date of marriage: 6th Dec ~~1910~~. 1911. (J.P.)

Place of marriage: R.C. Church Milton

TRUE EXTRACT.

Signature of Officer: A.H. Williams. A.H.

Date certificate produced: 31st May 1916

CHECKED.

Audit Exp. 1197

Card noted: 13/6/16.

Ledger noted: 14/6/16.

File 2 Board 21.6.16

ENTERED ON HISTORY SHEET. 22.6.16.

5,000/9/15—15031]

[B.R.—156.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

RECORD OF SERVICE.

No. 8/1154 Name: Shortal John.

	Country.	From	To	Years.	Days.	Initials of Officer making Entry.
1. Service record ...	N.Z.	7.10.14	13.2.15		130.	
	Foreign	14.2.15	4.1.16		325	
	N.Z.	5.1.16	28.3.16		84	
				1	173	
	C. Discharge. 28.3.16.					M.S.

5,000/6/18—8092]

Records Copy.] [B.R. No. 84.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

SICK-LEAVE CERTIFICATE.

THE undermentioned soldier is hereby granted sick-leave from 13th January 1916 to 4th February, 1916. He is ordered to report for instructions at the nearest Defence Office on the last day of his sick-leave if prior to that date he has not been ordered to attend a Medical Board or has not received any further certificate of status from Base Records. During such sick-leave, except when granted temporary leave as specified on the back hereof, it is his duty to be every night at the address specified below or such other place as may be authorized in writing by Base Records at the request of the soldier.

(Reg. No.)	(Rank.)	(Surname.)	(Christian name.)
8/1154.	S/S. Major	Shortal	J.

Full postal address White House, Milton Otago

Date of issue: 26 — 11 —, 1918

Signature: W. J. White for Lt.
For Director of Base Records.

Attention is called to the conditions laid down in the Returned Soldiers' Handbook.

100 pads/6/18—01111

Noted by Cabinets: W. 26/11/18

Milton, Otago

EXTRACT FROM MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

Man's full name: John Shortal.
Wife's maiden name: Elizabeth Meeker.
Date of marriage: December 6th 1911.
Place of marriage: Tokomairiro, Milton.

TRUE EXTRACT.

CHECKED.

Signature of Officer: W. Lapsford

Date certificate produced: 19/6/16

Audit Exr. 11 191 Separation Allowance.

Card noted:

Ledger noted: Separation Allowance

E.G.D. 20/6/16

2,000/1/16—159]

Q.M.G. (4). FILE. 26 JUN 1916 W. H. W.

Miss

no. 1

Staff Sergt.Major, J.Shortal.	An excellent instructor, but is continually complaining about the amount of work he has to do. He has also been admonished twice for being absent without leave owing to having missed his train. In regard to S.M. Shortal the results he obtains are very good, his case seems to be one of personal aberration at times.

[Form N.Z.—219.
(In pads of 100.)

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

D. 1/306 Vol II

(FOR CENTRAL REGISTRY USE ONLY.)

REFERENCES.

Action re previous papers prior to 1937.

taken on File D 1/306. Vol. I.

(D. 244/2/3.) 50 pads/12/40—13031]

17th August, 1938.

Dear Sir,

Re : Mr John Shortal.

I have had referred to me a copy of the Prime Minister's reply to you of the 5th instant respecting the above-named.

In accordance with your request, the attached papers are returned to you.

I find this case has been the subject of numerous enquiries and of several Petitions to the House, but no evidence has been found to support the beliefs held by Mr Shortal that he has been wrongly or unfairly treated by the Army authorities.

Encl's.

Yours faithfully,

F. JONES.
Minister of Defence.

W.M.C.Denham, Esq., M.P.,
Parliamentary Buildings,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

Scheduled
Init.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
17 MAR 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

Bo. Fort St.
Invercargill
12th March 1939

The Rt Hon. M. J. Savage P.C.

Sir,

I respectfully request your indulgence, for this ten or twelve minutes for again trespassing on your time.

You are capable of perceiving Truth.

When your Defence Minister either through lack of the ability to do so - which for obvious reasons must be ruled out - or from motives not consistent with the title due to him in virtue of his position as a Cabinet minister failed or refused to recognise Truth, I sent him the original of the enclosed letter.

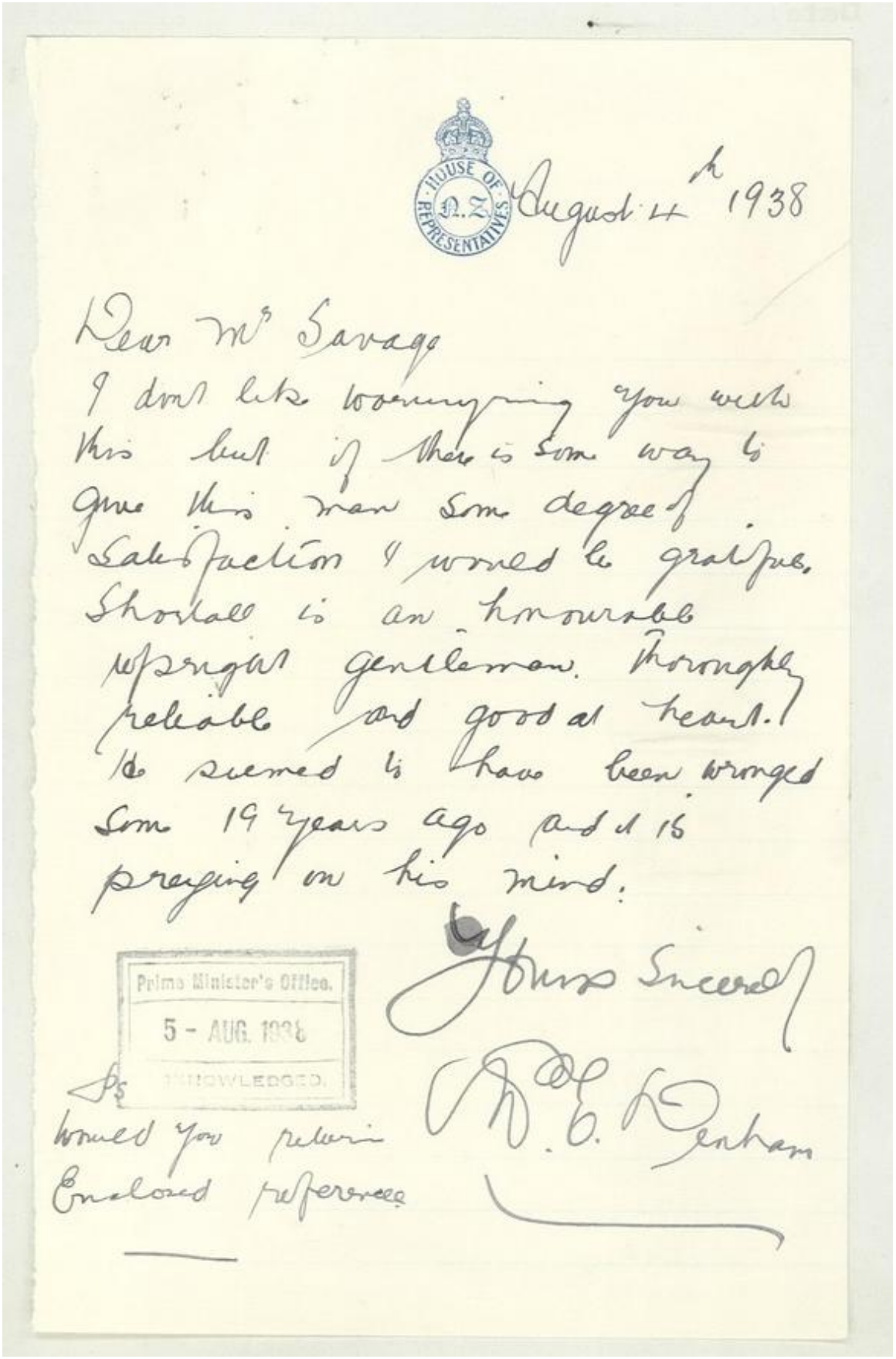
When you have perused same, Sir, would you please return it to me.

When I charged Capt J. R. Henderson in 1913, with falsifying Public documents, namely making out requisitions for 1st Class Railway Tickets, allegedly to be used by Sergt. Major to enable them to travel to their Drill Centres but in reality were on numerous occasions handed over to his wife to enable her to travel

I was told by a Colonel "it was a damn piece of impertinence on my part". Under the circumstances I applied to be tried by Court-Martial. It was refused.

Does your Minister think that the Defence Dept. would supply him with that information?

Is he aware that on the evidence I submitted to Maj. S.A. Grant re Capt Henderson selling of ammunition and converting the money for some to his own use Henderson was convicted? Did the Defence Authorities supply him with that Information? Is he aware that Sir James Allen, as well as the Defence Authorities denied me the protection of the Regulations under which I served? What would happen if a Judge of the Arbitration Court refused the protection of a law to the workers? Is he aware that a permanent officer, under whom I served, and one who is still serving, drew up my Petition to Parliament? Would he have done so if he were not in possession of "inside information"? to use a porters expression.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES N.Z.

August 4th 1938

Dear Mr Savage

I don't like bothering you with this but if there is some way to give this man some degree of satisfaction I would be grateful. Shortall is an honourable upright gentleman. Thoroughly reliable and good at heart. He seemed to have been wronged some 19 years ago and it is preying on his mind.

Yours Sincerely

W. E. Denham

Prime Minister's Office.
5 - AUG. 1938
ACKNOWLEDGED.

PS
Would you return
Enclosed references

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
16 MAR 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

387 Tay St.
Invercargill
New Zealand.
11th March 1939.

The Rt. Hon. M. J. Savage. P.M.
House of Representatives
Wellington.

Sir, now, that my prediction when last I wrote you, and that was that the Government, of which you are the head would again be returned to power is now an accomplished fact. I would respectfully request that you grant me the opportunity of appearing before a Military Tribunal and by doing so enable me to vindicate on oath my claim that I was victimised by being discharged the N.Z. Defence Forces for being responsible for bringing a criminal to Justice. Not alone will this take the matter out of the hands of your Minister of Defence but it will enable me to supply the missing evidence that that Gentleman says cannot be found and which I have already supplied him with. It will also give the case the publicity to tell me I was not victimised!

And then when I wrote to you. He replies "no evidence can be found"

I placed the evidence at his disposal my Petition to the [illegible] Courts [illegible]. He told me he would see Col Forgett and see that I got decent employment. However Col. H and myself was not riding in the same Political Carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of so I heard no more about it

Government and the recommendation by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives. Surely Mr Savage that should be sufficient for any man of intelligence. I also forwarded him my Character Certificates — The highest that could be given to a soldier in the British Empire — and other Testimonials. But with Mr. Jones they were not worth the paper they were written on.

When I placed the story before the Hon J. G. Coates when he was Premier minister he immediately had me employed as a Casual Clerk on the Railway. a position I held until the Election. within two months subsequent to giving me that job

In Conclusion I would say that if you can arrange to me for bringing that corruption to light

He enquired what I was then employed at I told him I was pushing a barrow in the Ingill Goods Shed. He told me he would see Col Morgett and see that I got decent employment. However Col. H and myself was not riding in the same Political Carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of so I heard no more about it

Memo.

Prime Minister's Office.
WELLINGTON.

Hon. Minister of Defence:

Referred for draft reply.-
Not for file.

MJS.
14.3.39.

D. SERIES: 1
SUB-No. 3067/1.

Fox Street,
Invercargill,
New Zealand.

h March, 1939.

The Rt.Hon. M.J. Savage, P.M.,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Sir,

Now that my prediction when last I wrote you, and that was that the Government of which you are the Head would again be returned to power is now an accomplished fact. I would respectfully request that you grant me the opportunity of appearing before a Military Tribunal and by doing so enable me to vindicate on Oath my claim that I was victimised by being discharged the N.Z. Defence Forces for being responsible for bringing a criminal to Justice. Not alone willl this take the matter out of the hands of your Minister of Defence but it will enable me to supply the missing evidence that that gentleman says cannot be found and which I have already supplied him with. It will also give the case the publicity refused me by the military authorities and Sir James Allen, and which the Editors of both Dunedin papers at the time also refused to make public - there was no Labour Government in power.

My faith in the honesty of your Minister - if you will pardon me for writing in this strain - has been considerably shaken.

I believe as all honest men believe in the honesty of every individual not already convicted of dishonesty. We attribute to other people that sense of honesty we find in ourselves. On the grounds that honesty is not the monopoly of any individual whether occupying the exhalted position of a Minister of the Crown, or the man who may be eeking out an existence as a Casual Labourer.

Mr. Savage, I would sooner be an idle man - as I am for the past two years and if the hearing I am getting from the Placement Office in Invercargill is any criterion of my future prospects for employment well! I am likely to remain idle - living on my paltry Imperial Pension than be a Minister of the Crown and act towards an honest man in the manner that your Minister of Defence has acted towards me yes, Mr. Savage, had I been a Political Renegade he might have answered me thus :-

> "Your case is very old Mr. Shortal, I cannot do anything. I would advise you to again Petition Parliament and should you succeed, I promise on behalf of the Government that your grievance will be redressed".

But no, he had the audacity to tell me I was not victimised. An then when I wrote to you he replies " no evidence can be found".

I placed the evidence at his disposal my petition to the Government and the recommendation by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives. Surely Mr. Savage that should be sufficient for any man of intelligence. I also forwarded him my Character Certificates - the highest that could be given to a soldier in the British Empire - and other Testimonials. But with Mr. Jones they were not worth the paper they were written on.

When I placed the story before the Hon. J.G. Coates when he was Prime Minister he immediately had me employed as a Casual Clerk on the Railways a position I held until the slump. Within two months subsequent to giving me that job.

In conclusion I would say that if you can arrange to have this case go before a Military Tribunal and that I can prove, without a shadow of doubt that I was victimised for bringing a criminal to justice, that in some measure I may be compensated by being given decent employment.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal.

P.S.

When General Godley recently visited this Dominion I gave him the story of the corruption that existed in the Defence Department during his term of office and of the penalty paid by me for bringing that corruption to light. He enquired what I was then employed at I told him I was pushing a barrow in the Ing'll Goods Sheds, He told me he would see Col. Hargest and see that I got decent employment. However Col. H. and myself was not riding in the same Political carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of, so I heard no more about it.

Hon. Minister of Defence :-

Referred for draft reply :-

Not for file.

HT/EKW. D. 1/306/1.

29th March, 1939.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letters dated the 11th and 12th instant respectively, requesting to be allowed to appear before a military tribunal to prove that your discharge from the service of the Army Department during 1919 was brout about by victimization.

In reply I have to say that the papers dealing with your case have been carefully perused, but nothing can be found to justify the belief held by you. In fact, it is very doubtful indeed if the officers handling your case from 1916 onwards had any knowledge of the events of 1912 in connection with Captain Henderson, so that it is unlikely they would have been influenced by those events in their dealings with you.

I am afraid, therefore, the Government would not be justified in setting up a military tribunal to investigate the circumstances of your discharge from the Regular Forces when no evidence at all can be found to support your statements that you were subjected to unjust treatment.

I regret I can come to no other conclusion respecting the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) M. J. SAVAGE.
Prime Minister.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Letter enclosed with memo of 12th March ret'd.
EA.
31 MAR 1939

[Form N.Z.—471.
(In pads of 50.)

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/1.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
29 MAR 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

23/3/1939.

FILING.
No. of sheets 1
Initials 29/3/39

H. Brunner.
~~Under-Secretary of Defence.~~
ARMY SECRETARY.

(D. 244/2/136.) 50 pads/3/37—20458]

A major D B Chand "O.B.E"
I mustn't forget the O.B.E

to insignificance. However, there is one more item I must touch on. In 1918 I was sent into Camp at Lahema Park Dunedin. The Officer in Command was on the Temporary Staff of the Defence Forces He placed me under the instruction of a Senior Cadet no objection could be taken to that because Senior Cadets must qualify to be Instructors too. I, a man whom he had been instructing had qualified as an Instructor at The School of Musketry Hythe for Musketry at the School of Signalling South Africa for Signalling and at the Military School for Physical Culture in Dublin for Physical Training. You'll admit sir that I must have known a little about my work especially as I was about twelve years an Instructor. I had occasion to check the Cadet for a glaring mistake I was immediately "Jumped on" and told I was there to be instructed and not to instruct. Ask your Minister to find out what sort of a report that theiffformer rendered on me.

1 and so am I

he harrassed me so much for the week or ten ~~to~~ days I served under him that I had to apply to the Doctor for some dope in order that I might sleep

I visited "Truth's" representative yesterday and asked him if he would find out from the Editor if he would publish the sequal as well as the letter I sent your minister of Defence and the story in connection with the question concerning myself asked in his paper of 1915. He replied he would write and find out. But no on further reflection I decided "Truth" wont get it If I Can't get redress by constitutional meand It can die. Mr. Savage you are of Irish Parents. Did you ever them saying

"There is no use in goin' to law with the "Divil" and holding the "Coort" in Hell!
I heard it when I was quite young.
and I have lived to prove its accuracy".

John Shortal.

had been lying about him, but he had no evidence that would lead to Henderson's Conviction but from some source unknown to me he found I was in possession of Copies of the receipts, I was about to sail from Wellington when I received a letter from Maj & A Grant asking for those receipts I informed him by return mail where they were to be found He advised the young officer in Melton to have Henderson's books audited. They were, result Henderson and Milbymont recalled from Egypt. "no evidence is to be found"? Did Maj & A Grant Give evidence no he was "deported" he volunteered to go to the front but could not be spared. but when he found the evidence against Henderson he was soon spared, he was sent away with the first Draft. That is not to be found on my file in Wellington

I could give you "yards" of it but at the present moment for you Sir, the international Situation in Europe dwarfs, and rightly so, my petty Complaint

shortly will be recalled from Gallipoli to place a little mustard on overburdened shoulders". That I was compelled to withdraw the charges against Henderson under the threat of being returned to England. Having done so I found out Henderson "stabbed" to me in the back and now I was determined to put him out of the Service. I found out in addition to the other charge that he was selling ammunition and converting the money for same to his own use. Before I could act war broke out. I was in possession of copies of the receipts. Maj. S. A. Grant wrote to me when I was about to sail from N.Z and asked me for those receipts. What was the result? Henderson was convicted on other charges as well, but the making away with the ammunition and converting the money received for same to his own use was the first charge he was convicted on." no evidence can be found"? Why did maj. Grant write to me for the ammunition Receipts? because that officer found out Henderson

X I interviewed Mr Hanlon because victimization was staring me in the face

Office Wellington. To prove to you sir, that my victimization started before 1913,
I will quote from memory a letter written to me by Mr A.B. Hanlon K.C.

"It was not until recently that I had the opportunity of speaking privately to Col x (the officer is dead) with reference to the difference you had in the Service at Milton, The Colonel admits that you are a very Competent Officer and in a short time will receive a transfer which will I am sure be quite acceptable to you Signed A B Hanlon X

It was the same Colonel who told me it was a damn piece of Impertinence on my part for reporting the officer – Henderson – for a Criminal Offence. Was it a Clean Defence Force? or was it seething with Corruption? That will not be found on my file in Wellington. Nor are any of the following items of information to be found on my file. – "N.Z. Truth" 1915"
Military men far and near and Civvies too are wondering very much if Sergt Major

The officer to whom that answer was sent is at the present time serving on the staff holding the Rank of Lt. Colonel.

There was a shortage of Instructors when I received that Answer. my engagement was for the duration of the war and six months thereafter which meant six months after Peace had been ratified by His Majesty the King. I was discharged on the 31st August 1919. was that six months after Peace was ratified? Why had I such an agreement when my agreement, signed by the Late Sir William Hall Jones on behalf of the Government of N.Z., conferred on me all the privileges extented to other members of the staff? Sir James Allen threatened to return me in 1916, to my Regiment. Henderson was in Prison. I told him through Sir Charles Statham that I would give the Henderson McClymont case from the Public Platform. Hence I was extended for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. That is not to be found on my file in the Defence

when I interpret that answer as proof positive that there is a question to be answered namely for what was Sergt Major Shortal discharged?
There will be four or five different reasons and excluding the one on my discharge Certificate because that one is for me the easiest to dispose of; or perhaps I am told - as I have been on several occasions - "that no evidence can be found that would justify me in adhering to the opinion that I was vindictively discharged". And herein either my reason or my honesty is questioned though in the case of my Politics they are not. Am I labouring under a delusion? or - which perhaps is the same thing - am I only obsessed with the idea that I was vindictively discharged? Decide for yourself mr Savage. Here is a Copy of my Character Certificate from the British Army. —
"Color Sergt. John Shortal served in the Leinster Regt. for twentytwo years, during the whole of that period his Character was that of an honest, sober, intellegent, well educated, reliable and thoroughly trustworthy man".

this Agreement his suspension or removal shall be conducted under and be subject to the Regulations in force at the time in New Zealand".

If the following answer when I applied for a Court of enquiry – which was my right under sec. 43 of the Army Act – is a justification for violating that Article then I do not understand elementary Logic. which the Dictionary defines as "the art of reasoning." "As your integrity or ability are in no way questioned we cannot see what benifit a Court of enquiry would be to you and therefore cannot accede to your request."

That was the hitlerite attitude they adopted in order to nullify the protection that that Article afforded me. And to a similar request to Sir James Allen he replied – "It would be a waste of time and Public money.

Mr Savage, The Min of Defence, The G. O. C. the New Zealand Military Forces.

Can that article of my Agreement and the answers to my request for an enquiry be reconciled by any person other than those with no sense of Honor or Justice?

a million times no! all I ever asked for was Justice!

I asked you for a Military Tribunal in order that Sir James might be given the opportunity of vindicating his action and myself of proving my charge. I will not comment on your answer, but it was slightly at variance with your reply to Mr. Derham when you stated the best thing Mr Shotal could do was to again petition Parliament. Sir, no Burglar was ever known to leave his name and address behind and for a corresponding reason no evidence is likely to be found in Wellington that would prove that I was vindictively discharged. Is it not a strange thing Mr Savage that when we blow Labour's Trumpet, defend Labour, vote Labour that neither our reason or our honesty is questioned? But, when I claim – that with the average power of interpreting the English language – that in discharging me from the N.Z. Defence Forces that a gross and wilful violation took places of the following article of my Agreement:– "If the said John Shotal, shall at any time neglect or refuse or from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under

Memo.

Prime Minister's Office.
WELLINGTON.

Hon. Minister of Defence:

Referred.

M.J.S.
5.4.39

38 Forfar St.,
Invercargill
3rd April 1939.

who listened to your
gill. During the
did not want to be on
people. My thoughts
then were, that a man expressing such sentiments
could be approached by the most humble citizen.
a man, not alone, only to be trusted to right
collective local wrongs but also individual injustice
And more so, in the case of the latter when a
former minister of a Conservative Government was
the perpetrator. For twenty years I have been
fighting this case, other men would have
forgotten all about it! with me it has left its
marks. The fruits of that injustice were —
The loss of my home, my employment, my Insurance
Policy, and last! but by no means least, the
premature death of my Wife because I had not
the money to pay a qualified surgeon to
perform the simple operation that was the
cause of her death. Sir James Allen saw to
that! Am I looking for your sympathy Mr Savage?

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Army Secretary -

REFERRED.

6/4/39.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS 11 APR 1939 N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

Postmaster-General's Office.

200 pads/1/37—16696]

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could be approached by the most humble citizen.
A man, not alone, only to be trusted to right collective local wrongs but also individual injustice And more so, in the case of the latter when a former minister of a Conservative Government was the perpetrator. For twenty years I have been fighting this case, other men would have forgotten all about it! with me it has left its marks. The fruits of that injustice were —
The loss of my home, my employment, my Insurance Policy, and lost! but by no means least, the premature death of my Wife because I had not the money to pay a qualified Surgeon to perform the simple operation that was the Cause of her death. Sir James Allen saw to that! Am I looking for your Sympathy Mr Savage?

LCF/EJB.

D.1/306/F.

26th April, 1939.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, which it is presumed was written by you prior to your receipt of my letter of the 29th ultimo.

After careful consideration of the contents of your further letter, I regret I have nothing to add to mine of the 29th ultimo.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) M. J. SAVAGE.
Prime Minister.

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

D. 1/306/F.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
26 APR 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

The Hon Prime Minister
For signature please if
approved
21. 4. 39

20/4/1939.

E. Barrow.
ARMY SECRETARY.
~~Major-General,~~
~~Commanding N.Z. Military Forces.~~

(D.244/2/136.) 30 pads/1/37—16856]
(In pads of 50.)

FILING.
No. of sheets 3
Initials 62 26/4

St Vincent de paul Society.

I have waited twenty years to bring this Corruption to the surface Plase do not deny me the Opportunity!

If you grant it. I will Communicate with the General officer Commanding the N Z. Mil Forces requesting him to have the necessary Books, Papers. and a Colonel at present serving in the N Z Staff Corps present before the Defence Committee of the House.

Thanking you in Anticipation

Yours Respectfully,

John Shortal

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Referred.

Scheduled. Init.

M.J.S. 38 Fox St.
7/7/39.

Invercargill,
14th July, 1939.

The Rt Hon. M. J. Savage, P.C. M.P.
House of Representatives,
Wellington.

Per, Mr. W. M. C. Denham, M.P.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
12 JUL 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

Sir,

Will you as head of the Government promise me that should I decide to again exercise my Privilege as a Citizen to Petition Parliament, and, if once again that Petition is recommended to the Government for favourable Consideration.

Will you promise that I be adequately Compensated? On the other hand I promise you that whatever Compensation the Government may deem it desireable to award me that such Compensation will be handed over to any Catholic member of the House of Representatives with the view of transferring same to the

D. 1/306/1.

21st July, 1939.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, in which you ask me to promise you compensation in the event of your again petitioning Parliament and receiving a favourable recommendation.

I regret I cannot see my way to agree to such a proposition.

Your case has already received very careful consideration, and, as I have advised you previously, the Government can find no grounds whatever for the belief held by you that your discharge from the Military Forces in 1919 was the result of victimization.

I am sorry I cannot help you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) M. J. SAVAGE.
Prime Minister.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

W.M.C.Denham, Esq., M.P.,
Parliamentary Bldgs.,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

Copy for your information.

F. JONES.

21/7/1939. Minister of Defence.

[Form N.Z.—471.
(*In pads of 50.*)

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

D. 1/306/1.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached letter *is forwarded for* ~~your~~ *approval, and signature.*

by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister ~~and yourself.~~ and

endorsement for signature by yourself.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
20 JUL 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

Rt Hon Prime Minister
Referred
18.

E. Burnett.

19/7/1939.

~~Under-Secretary of Defence.~~
ARMY SECRETARY.

(D. 244/2/136.) 50 pads/3/37—20458]

FILING.
No. of sheets 3.
Initials 24/7

and one whom I've always admired and respected.

I hope, sir, you'll not think this letter insubordinate. Any heat there may be in it is purely with the desire to emphasize the fact that I was victimized for bringing Capt J.R. Henderson to justice and I am prepared to prove it.

And not with the intention of insulting the Prime minister of this Country.

Yours faithfully

John Shortal.

statement I conclude that I am not "the only pebble on the Beach" but that the vast majority of mankind are honest, and from such conclusion I make this deduction that the majority of members of Parliament, irrespective of their political affiliations are honest men!

And to bring this to its logical conclusion I expect that there will be more honest men than the contrary on the Defence Committee.

I will, therefore, petition parliament. — notwithstanding the fact that this entails a great monetary sacrifice on my part — It is, I believe, a privelige I am, as a citizen, entitled to. And, should my conclusion re the honesty of the members of the Defence Committee, prove correct, I will win!

To say "my case received careful consideration" whilst exercising your power - not justly - to exclude the evidence of the Chief witness, to put it mildly is, in my humble opinion, not playing the game! I, at least, expect better from a Democratic Prime Minister

D. 1
SUB-No. 306/1

Scheduled
Init. MC

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
-9 AUG 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

38 Fox St.,
Invercargill,
1st August 1939.

The Rt. Hon. M. J. Savage, P.M.
House of Representatives,
Wellington

Sir,

Re your D. 1/306/1 dated 21st July 1939,

You omitted to refer to the second part of my letter wherein I promised to have such compensation transferred to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This I did with the hope of convincing you that I was fighting this case, not, with the expectation of deriving any monetary gain; but, because of a principle at stake. namely. Your Minister has questioned my veracity. I am 59 years old. my veracity has never been questioned! nor, have I ever given any individual cause to question it. From the foregoing statement

evidence of the chief witness, w pun mildly is, in my humble opinion, not playing the game! I, at least, expect better from a Democratic Prime Minister

Culture in Dublin, Ireland, and for Signalling Instructor, I qualified at a former School of Signalling in Pretoria, South Africa.

I will volunteer when I am given the opportunity of proving I was victimised. I am prepared to accept the verdict of a Military Tribunal. or will I be given redress if my Petition is again successful before the Defence Committee. Please return enclosed abstract. Thanking you in Anticipation

Yours faithfully,
John Shortal.

know from the Port folio you hold, that of minister of Education that you are capable of distinguishing truth from falsehood, even when that truth is from the pen of a man who can but wield some indefferently. Let me give you sir, for the purpose of contrast the verdict of the present minister of Defence with that of a professional soldier a major of the Defence Dept. who, for three and a quarter hours listened to my evidence given befor the Defence Committee.

The minister of Defence states.—
"my case was dealt with on its merits"
But the major, when leaving Parlament Building, called me and expressed himself thus.—
"Sergt Major, I'm sorry such a thing could not happen now" he also congratulated me on the way I marshalled my facts.

In tonight's paper there is an advertisement for qualified Instructors for the Defence Forces. I have qualified at the School of musketry, Hythe, England, at the Military School for Physical Culture

Auckland instructed the Jury somewhat as follows. — It is not advisable to return a verdict of guilty in a Case where there are but one or possibly two Cases of "Circumstantial" evidence perhaps both might be but Coincidences "but" he add "where all the points lead in the same direction there Can be only one Conclusion" you are bound to find the prisoner guilty. If Mr. Justice Fair's summing up was right, and who would question it?

Then sir, I can give not 1, 2, or 3 but I can link a whole chain of evidence forged from the essence of truth and consisting of about seventy links and covering a period of about six years that would leave no doubt in the mind of any honest man but that I have been victimised.

To put those links in sequence or in other words to give you the full story would be trespassing too much on your valuable time. therefore, I will not burden you with it. For I know

for the Defence Forces. "I have qualified at the School of Musketry, Hythe, England, At the Military School for Physical Culture

outside the pages of fiction. Though admittedly not in the same Category as that of Capt. Dreyfus but I believe, and let us hope so without parallel in the Government Service of this Country. And with a full knowledge of the Charge embodied in what I am about to write. A Story that the present Minister of Defence has persistently suppressed and he has used his "influence" (I am in possession of the evidence) with Mr Savage, a man of impaired health, to have it suppressed. He also ignored the testimony of the Defence Committee of 1929 – see enclosed abstract. That is my reason, Sir, for not entering into any further Communication with that Gentleman.

Read the words inserted in my Petition by an officer who now holds the Rank of Colonel on the Staff. – "A vindictive use of Authority." That was the culminating point of Seven years victimization.

Mr. Justice Fair, summing up in a recent Criminal Case in Auckland

your valuable time. therefore, I will not burden you with it. for I know

for the Defence Forces. "I have qualified at the School of Musketry, Hythe, England, at the Military School for Physical Culture

from Officers in both services under whom I have had the honor to serve subscribes to that estimate of my character and ability. But, notwithstanding my integrity or ability, I was discharged when, and at a time when there was a recognized shortage of Instructors. Furthermore, the military authorities with the approval of Sir James Allen endeavoured to have me, with my wife and child, both of whom were by birth New Zealanders returned to England and at a time when the then Government of this Country was clamouring for immigrants, and would have succeeded but for the good offices of Sir Charles Statham who can also verify that the statement in this letter is identical with that made to him twenty years ago.

What was behind this cruel and unjust treatment that I was made the subject of? A story, the most cruel and contemptible but with systematically planned and organized method of victimization that could be found outside

at any time neglect or refuse, or, from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under this Agreement his suspension or removal shall be conducted under and be subject to the Regulations in force at the time in New Zealand

The answer I received to my request for the protection of the Regulations - Sec 43 of the Army Act - and which also might be taken as the means whereby they nullified the protection afforded me by the before mentioned article of my Agreement was as as follows, - and which can be verified by a Colonel at present serving in the N.Z Staff Corps - "As your integrity or ability are in no way questioned we cannot see what benifit a court of enquiry would be to you" which translated means when we therefore cannot accede to your request we deny you the protection of Sec 43 of the Army Act.

My Official discharges both from the British Army and the N.Z Permanent Staff as well as numerous testemonials - which I am forwarding under Registered Cover - from

and contemptible but with systematically planned and organised methods of victimization that could be found outside

for making out requisitions for 1st Class Railway passenger's tickets allegedly to be used by Sergts. Major, for the purpose of enabling them to travel to their Drill Centres, but in reality to be transferred to the said officer's wife to enable her to travel to the Station for which the ticket was originally issued. I was told by the officer commanding the District that, "that charge was a damn piece of impertinence on my part."

I was compelled to withdraw the charge under the threat of being returned to England.

Eventually I was instrumental in being responsible for having that officer convicted on a second charge. – that of selling ammunition and converting the money for same to his own use. needless to say I have paid for my "indiscretion"! I was discharged.

The protection afforded me by section 43 of the Army Act (see manual of Military Law) was denied me as was also the protection afforded me by the following Article of my agreement. —

"If the said John Shortal, shall at

British Army and the N. Z Permanent Staff as well as numerous testimonials – which I am forwarding under Registered Cover – from

and contemptible but with systematically planned and organized methods of victimization that could be found outside

D. SERIES 1 306

Scheduled Init. MC

38 Tay St. Invercargill
7th August 1939

The Hon P Fraser M.P. Deputy Leader
House of Representatives
Wellington

Hon. Minister of Defence
Hon. Prime Minister
10-8-39

Sir,

Please convey to the Prime Minister my sincere sympathy in his illness and my good wishes for his speedy recovery.

I will endeavour to throw a glimmer of light on the substance of that letter addressed to Mr Savage P.M. a few days ago. which you Sir, acting on behalf of the Prime minister may have perused. In my humble attempt to do so I cannot do better than submit the following quotation from Thomas à Kempis's "Imitation of Christ."

"Let not the authority of the writer offend thee, whether he be of great or small learning; but let the love of pure truth draw thee to read."

Sir, I happened to be a military Instructor brought out here under contract to the Government in 1911. In 1913, I reported an officer for

" "If the said" John Shortal, shall at

British army and the N.Z Permanent Staff as well as numerous testimonials – which I am forwarding under Registered cover – from

and contemptible but with systematically planned and organised methods of victimization that could be found outside

HT/EKW.

D. 1/306/1.

18th August, 1939.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 1st instant to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister has been referred to me.

You have been advised on several occasions that your case has received the careful consideration of the Government, but that no evidence can be found which would justify its being re-opened.

In these circumstances, it is regretted the payment of compensation, whether you allot it to the Vincent de Paul Society or not, cannot be entertained.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd.) W. E. Parry
for the Minister of Defence.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT. D.1/306/1.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
17 AUG 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

W. Brunnell.

~~*Major-General,*~~
~~*Commanding N.Z. Military Forces.*~~
ARMY SECRETARY:

15/8/1939.

(D.244/2/136.) 30 pads/1/37—16856]
(In pads of 50.)

HT/EKW.

D. 1/306/1.

21st August, 1939.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 7th instant, addressed to the Hon. P. Fraser has come under my attention.

I have already advised you on several occasions that your case has been given very careful consideration by the Government, but that it is considered there is no justification for taking any further action respecting it.

As the continuation of further correspondence with you on the subject cannot achieve any good purpose, I propose, in the future, to take no action respecting any letters received from you.

Yours faithfully,

F. JONES.
Minister of Defence.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

D. 1/306/1.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

It is understood this man mentally has become affected by his supposed grievance.

Sgd
18.8.39

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
21 AUG 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

W. Bennett.

~~Major-General,~~
~~Commanding N.Z. Military Forces.~~
ARMY SECRETARY.

18/8/1939.

(D.244/2/136.) 30 pads/1/37—16856]
(In pads of 50.)

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No. of sheets 7
Initials 24/8.

306

Signature: _____ Rank:

Serial No.	Classification.	Name.	Rank (if any).	Arm of Service (if any).

DETAILS OF REGISTRATIONS AS PER COLUMN (3)—*continued.*

ARMY HEADQUARTERS N.Z. MILITARY FORCES 29 AUG 1939

Minister of Defence Referred 28.8.39

38 ~~Fox St.~~
Invercargill
23rd Aug. 1939.

The Hon. P. Fraser M.P. Deputy Leader
House of Representatives
Wellington.

Dear Sir

I respectfully request that, at your convenience you return to above address my Character Certificates and other testimonials which I forwarded to you under Registered Cover. And Should you at any time visit Invercargill I would deem it a great favour if you would promise to grant me an interview.

Yours Respectfully,
John Shortall

EMK/EKW.

D. 1/306/1.

Dear Sir, 6th September, 1939.

Your letter of the 25th August, addressed to the Hon. the Acting Prime Minister in which you ask for the return of your character certificates and other testimonials, has been referred to me for reply.

The documents you refer to, viz. your parchment certificate of discharge, your character certificate and five testimonials, are accordingly forwarded to you herewith.

Encl's.

Yours faithfully,

F. JONES.

Minister of Defence.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL:

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/1.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
-6 SEP 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

Signed
5.9.39

H. Brunner.

~~Major-General,~~
~~Commanding N.Z. Military Forces.~~

5/9/1939.

ARMY SECRETARY:

(D.244/2/136.) 30 pads/1/37—16856]
(In pads of 50.)

FILING.
No. of sheets 3
Index 5/9

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
22 MAY 1940
WELLINGTON.

38 Forth.,
Invercargill,
20th May 1940

The G.O.C.,
N.Z. Military Forces
Wellington,

Sir,

In response to the Prime Minister's appeal on Sunday night. I am prepared to offer my services in any capacity that the Department would approve of provided that I be granted a Military Court of Enquiry into the cause of my discharge from the N.Z.D.F. in August 1919. Should I be unable to prove that I was vendictively discharged. I am prepared to defray the cost of such enquiry. Thanking you in anticipation

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal

P.S. my age is 59 6/12 years
J.S.

No action see minutes
letter below PJ

Hon. F. Jones:
Minister of Defence:
21st. May, 1941.

the following certificates:-

Musketry, from the School of Musketry, Hythe.

Signalling, from the School of Signalling, Pretoria, South Africa, and

Physical Culture, from the School Portebello Bks. Dublin.

My services are at the disposal of the Government if I am given a Military Court of Enquiry into the cause of my discharge from the N.Z.P.S. I want no compensation - though, through the action of the Department and the Minister concerned, my wife and child and myself were deprived of our home because I was deprived of my employment and thrown on to the streets of Invercargill after 20 years and 6 months in the service of the Empire, and without a blemish on my character".

Would you be good enough to enable me to reply to Mr. Shortal?

Yours faithfully,

G. R. Hollamn.

Army Secretary.
For reply to Mr. Holland
M.P. for my signature please.

OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WELLINGTON,

20.5.41

Wednesday,
21st. May,
1941.

Hon. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr. Jones,

Mr. John Shortal, whose case is no doubt well-known to you, saw me when I was in Invercargill recently and asked me whether his case could be given further consideration. I asked him to let me have details of the case, and the following is an extract from his reply:-

"Here are the salient points -

1. In 1913 I reported an officer of the N.Z. Staff Corps for falsifying documents involving theft.

2. I was, under the threat of being returned to England, compelled to withdraw the charge.

3. The officer whom I had reported, devised an underhand and subtle system by which, to him at least, such a dangerous antagonist could be removed, if not from the service, at least returned to his Regiment.

I became aware of his moves. I countered them and ultimately succeeded in having him recalled from Egypt to stand his trial for selling ammunition and converting the money for same to his own use, which breach of trust, when discovered by the Government Auditor, also led to the discovery that large sums of money had been misappropriated.

I, for bringing, or being responsible for bringing such crimes to light was, by the Military Authorities, and with the Consent of a Minister of the Crown, discharged from the Service.

4. I applied for the protection afforded me as well as every soldier in His Majesty's Service, by Section 43 of the Army Act, as well as the protection afforded me under the provisions of my agreement. Here is the answer I received and that which can be certified to by Colonel Weir, N.Z. Staff Corps - 'Please inform Staff Sergt.Major Shortal that as his integrity or ability are in no way questioned, we cannot accede to his request'. Note the words 'Integrity and ability'. Yet, that answer was what the Hon. F.Jones states - 'dealing with my case on its merits'.

5. My official character, which you, Sir, perused testifies as to my integrity and my ability as an Instructor has been testified to by Officers of the Imperial as well as the N.Z. Forces under whom I have had the honour of serving in various parts of the British Empire.

Instructors are now required - I am in possession of

EF/JMS. D.1/306/1/A.

6th June, 1941.

Dear Mr. Holland,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st May regarding Mr. John Shortal. This ex-soldier was one of six Serjeant-Instructors engaged in April, 1911, from the British Army for service in New Zealand for the period of five years. On expiry of that period, his engagement was extended for nine months, and was thereafter extended a second time for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. These extensions were made with the consent of the War Office. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919, when his pay terminated. In the absence of express statutory authority, every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government, and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none. The agreement in the case of Sjt.-Major Shortal was honestly interpreted by the Department as terminating six months after the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919. He was, however, retained in the Service until 31st August, 1919, and as the result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919, to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on loan to New Zealand. At this time their engagements had expired, and it was desired to place many ex-soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces.

The action of Sjt.-Major Shortal in reporting an Officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimized in any way. His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament, and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and other members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

In 1931 the Government set up a special committee to thoroughly investigate the case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his petition. The Government fully considered this report and decided to take no action. It is noted in his letter to you that he is prepared to place his services at the disposal of the Government if he is given a military court of inquiry. There is no reason why a court of inquiry should be held into his case, and his request, which has been made by him on many occasions since 1920, cannot be met. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th idem, I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose, and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him.

Yours faithfully,

MEMORANDUM 6 JUN 1941

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

S.G. Holland, Esq., M.P.,
74, Derby Street,
CHRISTCHURCH, N.1.

[Form N.Z.—471.
(*In pads of 50.*)

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/1/A.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature

Sgd.

4 6. 41

FILING.
No. of sheets 4
Initials 7/6

3/6/1941.

Army Secretary.

(D. 244/2/136.) 100 pads/6/40—4771 Forms 471/1.)

1/306?

[Extract from *New Zealand Gazette* No. 83, 23rd October, 1941.]
Page 3285.

Appointments to the Home Guard.

Army Department,
Wellington, 17th October, 1941.

HIS Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to approve of the following appointments to the Home Guard in the ranks stated. (All ranks are temporary.) Dated 14th October, 1941 :—

HOME GUARD.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION (MECHANICAL TRANSPORT) UNITS.

Lines of Communication (Mechanical Transport) Units, Auckland.

Officer Commanding : Lieutenant-Colonel Edward John Phelan.
Second in Command : Major John Henry Moon.
Assistant Adjutant : Captain Thomas Henry Pearce.

Lines of Communication (Mechanical Transport) Units Wellington.

Officer Commanding : Lieutenant-Colonel John Philip Oscar Skoglund.
Second in Command : Major Duncan Forrest Bauchop.
Assistant Adjutant : Captain William James Simms.

Lines of Communication (Mechanical Transport) Units, Christchurch.

Officer Commanding : Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Herbert Langford.
Second in Command : Major Alexander Hazelton.
Assistant Adjutant : Captain John Joseph Blaney Connor.

Lines of Communication (Mechanical Transport) Units, Dunedin.

Assistant Adjutant : Captain Kenneth William Davies.

No. 1 Company, Whangarei.

Company Commander : Captain Ernest Stephen Ralls.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Walter Baden Beard.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Leslie Fraser Sirl.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Alun Tyler-Davies.

No. 2 Company, Auckland.

Company Commander : Captain Horace Arthur Craig.
Second in Command : Captain Clarence Bambery.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John Shaw Paton.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Barry Percy Frederic Rothery.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Ronald Easdown Craig.

No. 3 Company, Auckland.

Company Commander : Captain Frank Colledge.
Second in Command : Captain Ian Stanley Kerr.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Henry Uriel Keesing.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Harry Peter Casse.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John Kirkwood Burgess.

No. 4 Company, Auckland.

Company Commander : Captain Edward John Price.
Second in Command : Captain Henry Arthur Latch.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Robert Henry Walker.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Frederick William Matthew.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Lawrence Powell.

No. 5 Company, Auckland.

Company Commander : Captain William Beade Dulihanty.
Second in Command : Captain Alan Scarborough Phillips.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Richard James Carbines.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Alfred Wilbert Coyle.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Archibald Cyril Slater.

No. 6 Company, Franklin.

Company Commander : Captain Mervin Jack Cooper.
Second in Command : Captain Jack Hunter Bradstreet.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Archibald John McDowall.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Gus Walsh.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Percy Royal Mills.

No. 7 Company, Hamilton.

Company Commander : Captain Richard Claude Evans Kendall.

No. 8 Company, Hamilton.

Company Commander : Captain Nicholas Owen Gibson.

No. 9 Company, Rotorua.

Company Commander : Captain John Agnew Allan.
Second in Command : Captain Ronald Alva Potter.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Sidney Smith.

No. 10 Company, Gisborne.

No. 11 Company, Hastings.

Company Commander : Captain Roy Sherwood.
Second in Command : Captain John Muldoon Blake.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Allen Graham.
Section Commander : Lieutenant David Walker.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Kenneth Stirling.

No. 12 Company, Southern Hawke's Bay.

Company Commander : Captain Clive Cassidy.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Oliver.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John Graham Blair.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Harry Guilliard.

No. 13 Company, Wairarapa.

Company Commander : Captain David Bartholomew Curry.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Desmond Denis Ryan.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Benjamin Sewell.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Joseph Raymond Donovan.

No. 14 Company, Taranaki.

Company Commander : Captain Owen Edward Paynter.
Second in Command : Captain Philip Leonard Phillips.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John William Gibbs.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Alfred Donald Guy.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Eric Royce Hooker.

No. 15 Company, Wanganui.

Company Commander : Captain Edwin Harry Mitchell.
Second in Command : Captain William Roger Hall.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Scott Cameron.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Richard Samuel How.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Richard Oswald Smith.

No. 16 Company, Manawatu.

Company Commander : Captain Samuel McDowell.
Second in Command : Captain Alfred Steven Trevethick.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Arthur Edward Clausen.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Sydney Arthur Edwards.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John Shortall.

No. 17 Company, Wellington.

Company Commander : Captain Frank Wilson.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Herbert Haddon Rush.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Henry Davis Raphael.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Gee Taylor.

No. 18 Company, Wellington.

Company Commander : Captain William Henry Lepper.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Victor Russell.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Edward Robinson Render.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Lewis Raymond Winter.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Arthur Gordon Bridges.

FILING
No. of sheets 1
Initials 27/11

FILE
28 OCT 1941

HH/T

D. Series 1 Sub-No. 3061

RECEIVED 1 SEP 1942 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

27th August, 1942.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd August with reference to the petition which was presented to Parliament on your behalf in 1929.

The representations made by you in this connection are noted and I am today communicating with the Hon. Minister of Defence in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) D. WILSON

for the Prime Minister

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE -

Referred.

D.W.

for the Prime Minister
27/8/42

Army Secretary.
For reply to Mr. Shortal for my signature please.

31.8.42

CEC:NFG

D.1/306/A

7th September, 1942.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 23rd August, which has been referred for my attention by the Right Hon. the Prime Minister in connection with the petition which was presented to Parliament on your behalf.

The matter to which you refer has, on many previous occasions, been the subject of investigation. The circumstances have been very fully considered in the past and the final decision of the Government has been conveyed to you. No fresh evidence has since been adduced to warrant the re-opening of the case and it is not proposed to take any further action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

K E Power
Minister of Defence.

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
7 SEP 1942
DESPATCHED

FILING
No. of sheets 7
Initials 7/9

(In pads of 50.)

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/A

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

RECEIVED
15 SEP 1942
ARMY
HEADQUARTERS.

Sgd.

W.E.P.

4. 9. 42.

Army Secretary.
3./9/1942.

(D. 244/2/136.) 100 pads/4/41—479]

converting the money for same to his own use.

The charge I proved "up to the hilt" before the Defence Committee of the House and the Officer who represented the Defence Department who listened to my evidence for the greater part of three hours, called me when leaving Parliament Buildings, and addressed me thus. — "Lt Major, I'm sorry, such a thing could not happen now!" But he, I presume, tells the Tom Sir Charles Statham, who in answer to my question "Do you believe my story Mr (as he then was) Statham" replied "I could see the truth falling from your lips Mr Shortal" Lying, the most degrading of all vices is not one of mine! Yet, for 23 years, I have been trying constitutionally to put this case before the Public. Will you Sir, be generous enough to give me the opportunity of doing so? I am prepared to pay the cost of the enquiry if I cannot prove the charges embodied in this letter. But, if I do. What then? That I be compensated for the injustice inflicted on me and my family in 1919. Surely Sir if we are fighting for everything that is noble, just, honourable and everything that makes life worth living. You, who did not crush the miners will see that I'm no longer crushed! But that in the end Truth will prevail.

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal

TO ... DICTATED BY ... Date 3/11/1942

D. SERIES: SUB-NO. 306

38 Fox St. Invercargill
21st October 1942.

Prime Minister's Office.
26 OCT 1942
RECEIVED

RECEIVED 30 OCT 1942 ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime Minister

Sir,

I wrote you on the 23 August. I marked the letter "Private". It was opened by the Hon. D. Wilson & handed to the Hon. W. E. Parry, who was at the time acting for the Defence Minister and one of the last persons whom I would entrust that letter to. For I had previously had experience of that gentleman. He, however, replied to my letter, and like his reply of some years ago it consisted of lies and evasion. For what I am about to appeal to you now I hope you will be generous enough to grant me, and not base the decision on the hands of the Hon. F. Jones for he too has lied to your predecessor has lately in connection with this appeal as well as to my Representative Mr. Denham. And also to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Holland. In other words he has knowingly and deliberately misrepresented the facts in order to suppress my evidence.

I was discharged the New Zealand Military Forces for being responsible for bringing an officer to justice for selling Ammunition and converting

T.G.T./MCC

D. 1/306/Vol.II.

3rd November, 1942.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st October which was sent by you to the Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister and referred to the Hon. Minister of Defence.

The matters referred to in your letter have repeatedly been the subject of consideration and investigation, and the final decision has been communicated to you. No purpose can be served by protracting the correspondence.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
4 NOV 1942
DESPATCHED

FILING.
No. of sheets 3
Initials 8/11

FC:LC.

D.1/306/A.6.

29th July, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Committee Clerk,
Defence Committee,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

re: PETITION - JOHN SHORTAL.

With reference to your memorandum dated 28/7/43, I return herewith the petition of the above-named together with his personal file (D.1/306: 2 Vols).

In 1931 the Government set up a special committee to investigate this case and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his petition. The Government fully considered the report and decided to take no action.

The subject matter of the petition has been fully investigated on many other occasions and the petitioner was informed in a letter signed by the Hon. Minister of Defence under date of 7th September, 1942, that the final decision of the Government had been conveyed to him.

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

ENCLS
cover 701
No 59

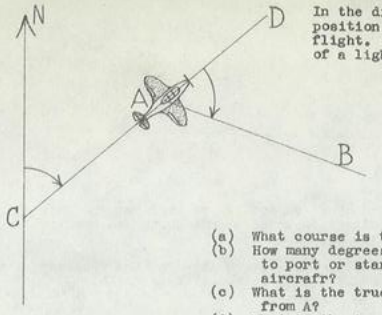
MEMORANDUM
30 JUL 1943
DESPATCHED

FILE
24 AUG 1943

Rang Mr Harman. Petitioner could not get to Wgtn this session. Petition will come up again next session. 24/8/43.

FILING
No. of sheets
Initials

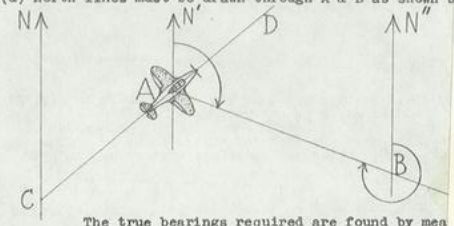
D. Series, Sub-No. 308



In the diagram A is the position of an aircraft in flight. B is the position of a lighthouse.

(a) What course is the aircraft making?
(b) How many degrees is the lighthouse to port or starboard of the aircrafr?
(c) What is the true bearing of B from A?
(d) What is the true bearing of A from B?

The answers to questions (a) and (b) are found by measuring the angles NCA & DAB respectively. To find the answer (d) north lines must be drawn through A & B as shown b

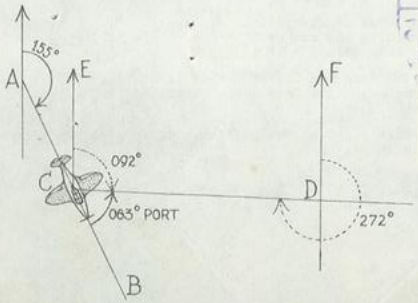


The true bearings required are found by mea angles N'AB & N"AB. (These angles are indicated by

Answers. (a) 050°T.
(b) 060° Starboard
(c) 110°T.
(d) 290°T.

Example 2.

The pilot of an aircraft proceeding on a c observes a lighthouse 063° port. Draw a diagram to s course of the aircraft and (b) the bearing of the li from the aircraft. Measure the true bearing at this



House of Representatives,
6th August, 1943
Sir,—
The Petition of John Shortal
Ref. D.T./306/A.G.
presented by you, will be considered by the Defence Committee on Thursday, the 12th day of August, 1943. The Committee will meet at 10 a.m., in Committee-room 12.
I have, &c.,
E. A. Hauman
Clerk of the Committee.
The Army Secretary, Army Headquarters, Wellington.
500/2/43—111741
LIBRARY 6 AUG 1943 DEPARTMENTAL
24 AUG 1943
FILING

working would detect an error

365 = nearly 400
7.416 = nearly 7
63.5 = nearly 60

Thus the answer is approximately $\frac{400 \times 7}{60}$

i.e. $\frac{280}{6}$ or $\underline{46}$.

This check on the position of the decimal point shows the correct answer to be 42.63. If the rough answer had been 96 it would have been wise to check the actual multiplication.

NOTE: It must be remembered that the problems involved in air navigation are themselves relatively simple, but become more difficult at 20,000 ft. under conditions of extreme cold, shortage of oxygen, noise and general strain. Unless you are able to secure accuracy under normal conditions your chances of doing so under the circumstances enumerated above will be remote.

The Air Force demands -

(1) Neatness.

D. SERIES SUB. NO. 306

8. Simplify the following expressions expressing the answer as a fraction

(a) $1\frac{5}{8} + 1\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{7}$

(b) $1\frac{2}{3} \div 3\frac{1}{3} + 2\frac{3}{5}$

(c) $\dfrac{4\frac{5}{12} \times 2\frac{5}{6}}{5\frac{2}{3}}$

9. Express the following fractions as decimals (correct to nearest third place.)

(a) $\frac{17}{25}$

(b) $4\frac{2}{23}$

(c) $7\frac{17}{283}$

10. Express the following decimals as fractions. Bring fraction to simplest form by cancellation.

(a) 0.625
(b) 1.075
(c) 3.48
(d) 0.00375

11. The square of a number is obtained by multiplying a number by itself.

e.g. 15 squared (written as 15^2) = 15 x 15

Find the value of

(a) 4.03^2

(b) $(15\frac{2}{3})^2$

(c) $\left(\frac{12}{3.1416}\right)^2$ to nearest second decimal place.

12. Give approximate answers to the following, using rough checks

(a) 47.74 x 0.3263
(b) 27.16 ÷ 0.3427
(c) $\dfrac{82.14 \times 3.67}{0.0472}$

13. (a) Express 2'7" as decimal of a foot
(b) Express 3lb. 7 ozs. as decimal of one pound
(c) Express 0.342 tons in pounds
(d) Express $15^\circ 17'$ as decimal of one degree
(e) Express 37.74° in degrees and minutes.

14. The following table gives the air resistance encountered by the various parts of an aircraft.

Wings	48% of the total resistance.
Struts	4%
Undercarriage	7½%
Fuselage	18%
Remaining parts	22½%

If the total resistance is 5,400 lbs. weight calculate the resistance in pounds weight of the various parts above.

15. A navigator calculated that the total mileage covered by an aircraft was 427 miles. The actual mileage as observed was 465 miles. Calculate the percentage error in his reckoning, i.e. express the error in miles as a percentage of the true distance.

(a) 15.54 x 29

Total number of decimal places is two. Thus answer contains two decimal places.

Answer = 444.86

```
15.54
   29
138 06
306 8
444.86
```

(b) 15.45 x 0.038

Total number of decimal places is 2 + 3 = 5. Hence answer contains 5 decimal places.

Answer = 0.58710 or 0.5871

```
15.45
   38
12360
4635
.58710
```

Division.

0.0029 ÷ 0.013 or 0.0029

```
      0.2230
13)2.900
   26
    30
    26
```

House of Representatives,

12th August, 1943

Leg. 41.

RECEIVED 12 AUG 1943 Asst. HEADQUARTERS

Sir,—

The Petition of J. Shortal

38 Fox Street, Invercargill.

Ref.: D.I/306/A.6.

presented by you, will be considered by the Defence Committee on Thursday, the 19th day of August, 1943. The Committee will meet at 10 a.m., in Committee-room 13.

I have, &c.,

E. B. Harvey

Clerk of the Committee.

To Mr. A. Ivey, Secretary, Esq. M.P.

500/2/43—111741

FILE 9 AUG 1943

Converting $\frac{5}{6}$ to a decimal, $\frac{5}{6}$ = 0.833

2'10" = 2.833 ft.

Bring forward. Date 12.8.43 Initials

Ty.—91A.]

Department: DEFENCE 4th OCTOBER 1927.

SCHEDULE No. 1089

RECEIVED 6 OCT 1927 DISTRICT TREASURY OFFICE AUCKLAND

SCHEDULE OF CLAIMS forwarded to the Treasury for Payment or Entry.

Signature: A. G. Wilson

Date of Service.	Claimant.	Brief Particulars.	Amount. £ s. d.
		DIRECT PAYMENT, AUCKLAND.	
18/8/27	Com. Ammn. Coy. Ltd. R.V.123	Duty on ammunition Auckland	8 18 2
		TOTAL ...	8 18 2

CREDIT. No. A 139 - 6 OCT 1927 TREASURY VOUCHERS 9483 to 9602

CHEQUES POSTED. - 6 OCT 1927

C.R.C. No. 926 TREASURY

This space is reserved for binding.

DIRECTIONS TO CHARGE.

Vote.	Item.	Amount. £ s. d.	Vote.	Item.	Amount. £ s. d.
			Cons. Fund.		
			Defence Dept.	(19)	8 18 2
					8 18 2

[750 pads/2/27—15302

[To be forwarded to Treasury with Form Ty. 91 for audit and other purposes.]

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of John Shortal, ex Staff Sergeant Major, New Zealand Permanent Staff of 38 Fox Street, INVERCARGILL.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:-

1. That your petitioner prays that the circumstances leading up to his wrongful discharge from duty with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces should be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives of the Dominion of New Zealand, or any other competent court of Board of Inquiry as they may direct to be established with a view to his being justly compensated for such injury to his estate and person, the grounds of his petition being as followeth hereafter:-

2. That your petitioner was victimised for the performance of his duty during his service with the New Zealand Permanent Staff after the year 1912 for an action performed in the interests of the state during the month of November of the year aforementioned; and that th attitude of certain of your petitioner's superior Officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to had a direct bearing on the wrongful termination of his engagement with the New Zealand Permanent Forces.

3. That your petitioner was denied the opportunity of replying to, or stating his case in respect of an adverse confidential report rendered against him during the year 1913, despite the fact that such confidential reports, both adverse and otherwise, on other Non-Commissioned Officers of the New Zealand Permanent Staff were read over to them by the Officer rendering the report.

4. That your petitioner suffered damage, both in mind and estate, through the fact that his agreement for service under the New Zealand Government was wrongfully terminated in that whereas his engagement with the New Zealand Defence Department was extended by the War Office to a period defined as "the end of the War and six months after," his engagement was terminated and he was discharged from Service with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces on th 31st August1919. instead of six months from 10th January, 1920, this latter date being that declared by Proclamation by His Majesty the King as the end of the War.

5. That your petitioner was denied the protection afforded him as a soldier by Section 43, The Army Act, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the prescribed channel, impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior Officers no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever setup whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

AND your humble petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray etc.

sgd. John Shortal

FILED 24 AUG

RECEIVED
28 JUL 1943
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

D. SERIES: SUB-NO. 306

House of Representatives,

Wellington, 28th July, 1943

Sir,—

By direction of the Chairman of the Defence *Committee, I have the honour to forward to you herewith the petition noted in the margin, and to ask you to attach any papers you may have on the subject, and to return it to the Committee* clerk *together with any report you may wish to make thereon.*

No. 59

Petition of J. Shortal

Invercargill

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Encl.

E. B. Harman

Clerk of the Committee.

The Army Secretary
Army Headquarters
Wellington

See Army Sec's memo 29.7.43
No further action

500/2/38—19574]

FILE
24 AUG 1943

FILING
No. of sheets 3
30/8

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

1/306

Record No.

Petition No. 59.

Name and address of Petitioner : John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Subject of Petition : Claims that he was wrongfully discharged from the N.Z. Permanent Staff on 31st August, 1919, and that he was victimised for the performance of his duty in reporting an officer (for falsifying documents). He asks that his case be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House or any other Court or Board of Inquiry, and that he be compensated.

Nature of Order of House referring Petition to Government : Referred to Government for consideration.

Precis of Department's Comment :

(1). This ex-soldier was one of six Serjeant-Instructors of the British Regular Army engaged in April, 1911, for a period of five years' service in New Zealand. On expiry of that period his engagement was extended for nine months, and further extended, on each occasion with the consent of the War Office, for the duration of the war of 1914 - 1919, and six months afterwards. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919. He could have been discharged after six months following the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919, but he was retained until 31st August, 1919. As a result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919, to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

(2). His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the New Zealand Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on the expiry of the period of their loan to New Zealand. At time of discharge, his engagement had expired, and it was desired at that time to place many ex-soldiers of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces.

(3). The petitioner's action in reporting an officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimised in any way.

(4). His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part, and since 1920 he has continued to address Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

(5). In 1931 the Government set up a special Committee to thoroughly investigate his case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his petition. The Government fully considered this report, and decided to take no action. The position is not in any way changed since the special Committee reported on his case.

Committee's Recommendation to Cabinet.

In Cabinet. / /

Secretary to Cabinet.

Copy from
274/4/1

306

15th November, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Under-Secretary,
Department of Internal Affairs,
WELLINGTON.

RE: PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS REFERRED TO GIVERNMENT.

Referring to your memorandum I.A.158/92 X/6 of the 13th October the relevant files on the undermentioned petitions, together with a completed covering sheet in each case, are forwarded herewith:-

	Petitioner.	Army Dept. file.
(1)	Mrs. E. M. Bailey	D. 201/6356
(2)	A. H. Collin	D. 216/5/85
(3)	N. Forbes	D. 202/4605
(4)	W. J. Geard	D. 309/2/57
(5)	D. F. Gibbons and others	D. 337/3/103
(6)	J. Shortal	D. 1/3061
(7)	Florence E. Walker and others	D. 330/9/1

sgd. F. B. Dwyer

ARMY SECRETARY

FILING
No. of sheets
Initials

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

Record No.

Petition No. 59.

Name and Address of Petitioner : John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Subject of Petition : Claims that he was wrongfully discharged from the N.Z. Permanent Staff on 31st August, 1919, and that he was victimised for the performance of his duty in reporting an officer (for falsifying documents). He asks that his case be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House or any other Court or Board of Inquiry, and that he be compensated.

Nature of Order of House referring Petition to Government : Referred to Government for consideration.

Precis of Department's Comment :

(1). This ex-soldier was one of six Serjeant-Instructors of the British Regular Army engaged in April, 1911, for a period of five years' service in New Zealand. On expiry of that period his engagement was extended for nine months, and further extended, on each occasion with the consent of the War Office, for the duration of the war of 1914 - 1919, and six months afterwards. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919. He could have been discharged after six months following the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919, but he was retained until 31st August, 1919. As a result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919, to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

(2). His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the New Zealand Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on the expiry of the period of their loan to New Zealand. At time of discharge, his engagement had expired, and it was desired at that time to place many ex-soldiers of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces.

(3). The petitioner's action in reporting an officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimised in any way.

(4). His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part, and since 1920 he has continued to address Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

(5). In 1931 the Government set up a special Committee to thoroughly investigate his case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his petition. The Government fully considered this report, and decided to take no action. The position is not in any way changed since the special Committee reported on his case.

Committee's Recommendation to Cabinet.

In Cabinet. / /

Secretary to Cabinet.

Copy from
1/306/1

1

306

Department of Internal Affairs,
P.O.Box 7 Government Buildings,
Wellington C.1
3rd December, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Army Secretary,
Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON.

PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS REFERRED TO GOVERNMENT.
YOUR REF. D.274/4/1/A.

Referring to your memorandum of the 15th ultimo relative to the above, I return herewith your files D.316/5/85 and D.1/306 dealing with the petitions of A.H.Collin and J.Shortal.

As these matters have not been the subject of a recommendation by the Public Petitions Committees they will not be required for submission to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

sgd.J.W.Heenan
Under-Secretary

FILING
No. of Items 2
Initials 10/12

RECEIVED
7 AUG 1944
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
N.Z.

D. Service Sub-Inv. 306

Room 20.
Phone, 41-515.
7th August, 1944.

The Army Secretary,
Army Headquarters,
Wellington.

re. Petition- John Shortal: Refc: D.I./306/ A.6.

The hearing of this petition has been postponed until next Wednesday week, the 16th day of August, 1944. The Committee will meet at 10a.m., in Committee Room "B" (Library Building.)

E. B. Harman.

Clerk, Defence Committee.

D. Mgr to see

Seen

Brch 15/8/44

Col Jervis
Would you arrange for an officer to be present.

14.8

File 15/8

FILING
K 15/8

Army Secretary
I spoke to the Clerk of this Committee to-day, and he informed me that the hearing is postponed indefinitely.
14 Aug

be recommended by the officer under whom he is immediately serving if he applies for the Imperial Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. I fulfilled the conditions. I applied. Major Crowther, under whom I was serving at the time, recommended me, as any officer of the British Army would have done. Major Crowther's recommendation got as far as Dunedin and was returned to him with instructions that he was not to recommend me. Were there any valid reasons? I cannot answer that question. I had never appeared before an officer in the Dominion for any offence- major or minor - Major Crowther, to his everlasting credit, returned the recommendation, together with a rather stiff covering letter, to Dunedin. The recommendation was finally forwarded to War Office and in due course I received the medal. Was Major Crowther asked to do something dishonourable? That question he alone could answer. And now, Mr Jones, it is only reasonable for me to suppose that you, very naturally, will ask yourself the question - How did I obtain that information? and in anticipation of your doing so it gives me great pleasure to supply the answer. About nine years subsequent to my discharge I obtained that information from Major Crowther, with whom I was discussing my petition which had just then been heard by the Defence Committee. That petition had been recommended to the Government for favourable consideration, but that Government was but a continuation of the Administration of which Sir James had been a member. I pinned my faith in a Labour Administration granting me redress. Alas! A statement of R.L.Stevenson's appears before me as vividly as the story of my victimization. "I have always held" he writes, "from no evidence whatsoever, but from a mere sentiment or intuition, that politics is the filthiest, the dirtiest, and most absurd of human employments." "I have always held" he writes: but now I know it!

I am but a labourer, yes a casual labourer in the Government Service, and under the recent 40 hour week Legislation I will be approximately 64 hours at the beck and call of the Department before I have completed the 40 hour week. Politically I am a Labour man and, I hope, an honest one. Had I been a Reform Party supporter I might have been in decent employment today, but I was not a Reform Party supporter, not because I questioned the honesty of any indivdual member of that party, but because I questioned the policy of the party. Today I find the position is reversed. I do not question the policy of the Labour Government but I do, and I am sorry to have to admit it, question the honesty of at least one member holding Ministerial rank in the Labour Government.

In conclusion, Sir, I hope you will pardon my saying what I think, instead of thinking what I sa y.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) John Shortal.

it could not happen now!" Was the case dealt with on its merits? Obviously not, or why would a Major of the Defence Department express sympathy with me? He, as well as members of the Defence Committee, received from me the full story from the date of my appointment in Ireland to the date of my discharge at Invercargill, New Zealand. The time taken by me to relate that story was approximately four and three quarter hours. I merely point out this in order to show you that the case was not dealt with on its merits. The officer who stated that it was did not know what he was writing about. There is, however, at present, serving in the New Zealand Defence Force an officer who knows all about it, but I will not divulge his name as it might jeopardize his position.

On Gallipoli I anticipated what was going to happen. I told the late Major S.A.Grant when he requested me to pursue the Henderson-McClymont case to the bitter end. He also told me that the then Minister of Defence was aware of the cloud under which both those officers left New Zealand. It was on account of public opinion that they were recalled. Henderson was convicted on the evidence which I supplied to Major S.A.Grant. Sir James Allen knew it. Hence, Sir James would not grant me a public inquiry because the information given to me on Gallipoli by Major S.A.Grant would have to be on Sir James Allen's oath refuted or denied. Sir James did not want the true story of the criminal collaborations of two of his constituents unfolded before a public inquiry. He had already received the information from Sir Charles Statham to whom I had divulged it, and the only way to prevent that was by denying me the protection of the Regulations under which I served and, to use a war-time phrase, make "a scrap of paper" of my agreements.

Let us suppose you, as Minister of Defence, received this morning a request from a Sergeant-Major of the permanent staff asking you for a public inquiry, the grounds for such request being that the Sergeant-Major's discharge was not in the interests of the State, but the outcome of vindictiveness, which that Sergeant-Major was prepared to prove if granted the inquiry. Would you be justified in telling him, as Sir James Allen told me "It would be a waste of time and public money"? And if, of the seven different Character Certificates the then King's Regulations provided, the applicant for the inquiry had qualified for and received the highest, do you not think that it was not from such high and noble motives as "the waste of time and public money" by which Sir James Allen professed to be influenced in refusing the applicant an inquiry, but for some sinister motive? That motive I have already exposed: and the Character Certificate of the Soldier concerned was placed at your disposal, in order that you might be able to judge the reliability or otherwise of his statements. I have twice previously credited you with intelligence. Can you now distinguish truth from the falsehood to which you put your signature?

And now, Mr Jones, before forwarding this correspondence to the Prime Minister, I will fire my final shot in an endeavour to remove any doubts that may still linger in your mind with reference to what you refer to as my "alleged victimization". A soldier of the Regular Army has to have to his credit eighteen years regular service, his conduct for that period must be exemplary, he must also

be/

38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL,
16th September,1936.

The Hon. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

I am rather late in acknowledging your reply to my correspondence re my victimization by the Defence Authorities. The truth is that every time I attempted a reply I was so overcome with a feeling of indignation towards you that it was impossible for me to write a calm and reasoned letter. I have given myself time to reflect, and upon reflection, I have, I hope, charitably, if not truly concluded, that you are but the victim of departmental prevarication: but can a man in your position be excused or pardoned for placing his signature to a lie?

You never read my correspondence! What inference is to be drawn from that statement? The answer I will not reduce to writing. You are an intelligent man. I am forced to that conclusion, not because of any desire on my part for undue adulation, but by the mere fact that the Prime Minister, Mr Savage, has appointed you a Cabinet Minister. But intelligence minus honesty is, im my opinion, a doubtful qualification for a Cabinet Minister and about the last person in whom I would expect to find that deficiency is a Labour Cabinet Minister.

You see, Mr Jones, although personally you are unknown to me, I, at least, give you credit for intelligence because of the fact, as already stated, that Mr Savage appointed you a Cabinet Minister. Therefore, you must admit, I have conceded to you that which you have denied me when you stated "the case was dealt with on its merits". Or, if my intelligence was not questioned, you doubted, which you were not justified in doing without attempting to verify either by scrutiny of my official character certificates or other testimonials, the veracity of my statements. In fact, from a calm perusal of your answer one could only conclude that I, the appelant for justice, am either a lunatic or a liar. I do not like the word "liar", that being the reason why I refrained from using it on a previous occasion in this correspondence.

A man whose sanity is questioned is not called upon to judge as to whether or not he is a subject for a mental hospital. But, when the truthfulness of my statements is questioned, in the face of incontrovertible documentary evidence, if ordinary common justice is to prevail, (and that, I believe, is the much vaunted policy of the Government to which you are indebted for the honour of holding Ministerial Rank) I should be given the opportunity of re-telling the story which convinced the Hon. R. Semple and the Rev. Clyde Carr, as well as seven or eight other members of the Defence Committee and, I might add, the officer who was there on behalf of the Defemce Department, - the combined intelligence of whom, you will not be reluctant to admit, is at least equal to yours - that I was victimized for bringing a criminal to justice: and the logical conclusion, therefore, is that the case was <u>not</u> dealt with on its merits.

The remarks addressed to me by the officer of the Defence Department when leaving Parliament buildings were somewhat different from those put before you for your signature, and, as far as my memory serves me, were as follows - "I am sorry Sergent Major,

it/

Z 14 29/1 MGA PARLIAMENT

BUILDINGS 4 40 P + J SHORTAL 38 FOX ST

INVERCARGILL

DATE-STAMP.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE N.Z. 14. 8 INVERCARGILL

Rec'd at 7/209 By

NEW ZEALAND POST-OFFICE TELEGRAM

YOUR PETITION WILL BE HEARD BY THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENCE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 16 TH AUGUST IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS WELLINGTON AT 10 A M + DENHAM ++

CT ~~38 16 10~~ +++

without individual justice. This apparently your Minister of Defence is not aware of for if he were or was he should have given me the opportunity of proving the charges contained in my letter dated 16th September 1936 a copy of which is here enclosed. But instead of giving me the opportunity he has put every obstacle he possibly could in my way even to the extent of lying in order to prevent the truth about my discharge reaching the People of this Country. Again sir, is there any use of me looking for compensation if the fate of my Petition is to be decided by the Hon Frederick Jones? or by men who put honesty above political expediency? if the latter then sir, I will proceed to Wellington. my Evidence is now being typed, as well as mr. Jone's last letter to the Leader of the Opposition, by one of the Dominican Sisters at the Convent Invercargill. when completed I will forward a copy of both.

I am,
Sir,
Yours respectfully
John Shortal

38 Forth St.,
Invercargill
5th August 1944.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.,
Prime Minister,

Prime Minister's Office
9 - AUG 1944
RECEIVED
Minister's Office
10 AUG 1944

Dear Sir,

It will cost me something in the vicinity of twelve pounds to proceed to Wellington.

The Petition referred to in the enclosed wire was heard by the Defence Committee of the House in 1929, and was recommended to the then Government for favourable consideration. But with negative results. If I again proceed to Wellington and there prove by my evidence, - which if possible I would like to be taken on Oath and beyond the shadow of a doubt that I was victimized because I was responsible for purging the N.Z. Staff Corps of a criminal and also that the present Minister of Defence, The Hon. F. Jones, has for the past eight years deliberately and maliciously suppressed my evidence. Will the Government, of which you Sir, are the head consider compensation for me? for after all, Mr. Fraser, there is no one in this country more aware of the fact than you are that we cannot have collective justice

KJ:T

RECEIVED
18 AUG 1944
ARMY
HEADQUARTERS

D. SERIES: 1
306

10th August, 1944

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th August in which you enquire whether, in the event of a favourable recommendation by the Parliamentary Defence Committee, the Government would consider paying you compensation.

Although the Government will give every consideration to any recommendation made to it by the Parliamentary Defence Committee I am afraid it would not be possible to give any undertaking such as you request while your Petition is still receiving the attention of the House. When the report of the Committee is presented to the Government you may rest assured that it will be given full consideration.

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

Army Secretary.
Referred.

17.8.44

THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Referred

for the Prime Minister
10/8/44

through any magnamimity on their part.

"The action of Sergt. Major Shortal had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimized in any way." May My answer to that is with all due respect to the position he holds he is in no position to judge, nor do I want my statement taken for granted. I am prepared to submit the case to a Military Court or Civil Court, the former for preference.

"His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and other members of Parliament on supposed grievances." My answer to that is I will continue to do so until such time as I find a man strong enough in character to demand why Capt. J R. Henderson was allowed to serve in the N.Z. Military Forces for three years subsequent to my charging him with an indictable offence? How, and under what circumstances was he, was eventually brought to trial? And as I am the only person who can satisfactorily state the truth in this matter, it will then be found that I, ex Staff Sergt. Major Shortal was responsible for having this officer brought to justice, and in consequence suffered for having done so. Which is also the opinion of every "honest" person to whom I have already related this story. But, as I have already admitted, "they may be wrong."

When I charged Capt. Henderson with the offence mentioned and when I was told it was a damned piece of impertinence on my part, and when I demanded a trial by Court Martial, and when I demanded to be placed under arrest, which I was, why was my release ordered? But I will not prolong it. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th idem I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him." That is am ambiguous statement, but to that I say, I am not to be intimidated. I have made, and will continue to make, a serious charge. I am aware of the consequences,if I cannot prove a second time what I have already proved before the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives. Nor is it the Hon. F. Jones' duty to suppress evidence, but as a representative of the people in a Democratic Country, and a supposed Democratic Constitution, it is his duty to see that this charge is dealt with in a democratic manner. This can only by done by allowing my evidence to be taken before a just and impartial tribunal, and I am prepared to abide by its decision.

Surely it cannot be said that I am asking for something that every individual under the Union Jack is not allegedly supposed to be entitled to.

In conclusion, I must sincerely apologise for making this letter so long. I invoked the help of God for power to express the truths contained in it. Whether or not there is a justification of my charge must entirely be left in your hands, but should you feel that there is no justification for such a charge, you, Sir, I hope will pardon me if I send copies to Mr. Barnard and Mr. J.A. Lee, M.P.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal,

Ex Staff Sergeant Major,
N.Z. Permanent Staff.

38 Fox Street,
Avenal,
INVERCARGILL.

..ne ber 1. When I was, through his mediation, extended for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. But, before falling back on Sir Charles Statham's influence, I decided to wire Sir James Allen, I therefore, telegraphed him requesting in the identical language and for the same reason, to grant me a Court of Inquiry. His reply was "It would be a waste of time and Public money."

The definition, or his interpretation, of the word "after" by him, as well as his reply to my request for an Inquiry should prove conclusively that my discharge was not as the Hon. F. Jones would have you belive "to place many of the N.Z. Soldiers of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces," but to gratify the vindictiveness of Sir James Allen, who was not prepared to take the decision of a just and impartial Tribunal as the final arbiter. But before leaving the cause of my discharge it is just as well to know that those who resort to misrepresenting facts must need be have a good memory.

I petitioned Parliament in 1929. I went to Wellington, gave evidence before the Defence Committee of the House; when I had completed my evidence, which was of three hours' duration, the Chairman, Colonel T.W. McDonald, inquired individually of each member if he wished to ask any questions. The Hon. R. Semple, who had listened attentively to my evidence, asked the officer who was there on behalf of the Dept, "For what was this officer (meaning myself) discharged?" The Officer's reply was as follows: "An unfavourable report." Whereon Mr. Semple asked him to read it. Having done so, Mr. Semple again asked him to read the preceding confidential report. It was a good one. Mr. Semple then asked him to reas the report subsequent to the bad one. The officer did so. Again it was a good one. "Do you not think" tontinued Mr. Semple, "that there is something wrong when you find a bad report sandwiched between two good ones."? The officer, of course, who was a gentleman was in full agreement with Mr. Semple. "What would you have done in the circumstances " was Mr. Semple's next query. "I would have an inquiry held," was the reply.

The same officer called me when leaving Parliament Buildings- "I'm sorry, Segt. Major, such a thing could not happen now?" was his way of expressing sympathy. And at this late hour the Hon. F. Jones states I was discharged to make room for New Zealanders. I will deal with that later.

When my request to Sir James Allen failed, I for the second time interviewed Sir Charles Statham, and through his intervention I was granted six months' leave (without pay) and although I am sure and woudd feel sorry to attribute any blame to Sir Charles (who after all was or proved himself to be my friend) I do not remember having asked for leave "without pay." and further, knowing the Regulations governing such leave, it is not likely that I would have added the "without pay."

I was fully conversant with the procedure that should have been adopted under such circumstances, which should have been as follows:- Discharged from the N.Z. Military Forces (though through a gross irregularity) which I was. Then re-transferred to my Regiment (through the War Office, of course). An application then made to my Regiment for six months' leave. This would have been granted and as I would now be subject to the Laws contained in the "Manual of Military Law", "The King's Regulations." and "The Royal Warrant for pay." and further, as there is no law in any of the afore-mentioned books by which a soldier can be deprived of his pay except (1) in Hospital through Misconduct (2) in Prison. (3) A prisoner -of war through his own fault. It will be seen that I was entitled to six months' leave on full pay from the Leinster Regiment, and knowing that, I would certainly not have asked for leave without pay, "and as the results of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th Feb. 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service" (already dealt with.)

The question now arises why was the Dept. so eager to send a man and his wife and child out of the Dominion, pay his passage, and I presume his wife and child's (though under my agreement they were not bound to pay my wife's or child's) phehaps the Dept. will answer they had no intention of doing so - when to have retained me in the Service until 7-2-1920 would have cost the Dept. a little over £100 and our (that is myself and family's passage would exceed that amout. The answer is - they wanted to....get rid of me at all costs and not

lo[illegible] I could not be promoted...to Warrant Officer. My reply was "th[illegible] there was nothing in my agreement signed by Sir W. Hall-Jones, or in the N.Z. Military Regulations to prevent it," but that on the contrary that while I was subject to the Regulations for punishments it was only just and reasonable to expect that I was subject to the Regulations for the benefits. I was then requested to forward a copy of my agreement, which I did. Naturally, I concluded that they were going to compare the articles of my agreement with the Regulations with the view of removing any injustice. Such, however, was not the case. Unwittingly I had placed in their hands a document-not-wherein was to be found, if justly and impartially interpreted, art icles corresponding to every Regulation that every N.C.O. on the Staff was subject to-but also the one that they were looking for.

They read "Sergt. J. Shortal engages himself in the service of the N.Z. Govt. for a certain period of five years." They looked at the date and discovered was 3 years and 120 days (or thereabouts) out of date.

Back came the answer like the shot of a gun "Please inform Sergt-Major Shortal that he is to be returned to his Regiment by the next boat."

I was stunned! I had only six months to serve to complete my 21 years. I had a home, and a wife and child to keep. I had served for 8 years and 127 days in the N.Z. Military Forces. My integrity and ability were unquestioned. Please note that up to this time THEY HAD HEARD NOTHING OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR AND SIX MONTHS AFTERWARDS.

When I recovered from the shock, it dawned on me that I had another agreement for the duration of the War and six months afterwards, and as peace was not yet ratified by His Majesty the King, I informed them of the fact. But they had already taken the step. They were determined not to retire. So I was informed that as far as I was concerned that the duration of the War was until the siging of the Armistice.

Now the word "Armistice" as well as those giving its definition are numbered amongst those in a Soldier's vocabulary. How then could they "honestly" interpret "six months after the Armistice, as being identical with six months after the war."

A man can have an honest opinion on anything and yet be wrong. Should this not be patent to the Hon. F. Jones? Otherwise there would be no such thing as an "Opposition" for obviously if men with honest opinions were always right, there would be but one party in the House? But in thise case, I pointed out that they were literally wrong and therefore legally.

I then, as already stated, informed them that I had but six months to serve to complete my 21 years, that I had a home, a wife and child, both being New Zealanders. I was told that it was no affair of the Dept's, but purely a Domestic affair. Finally, I played my last card. I asked for a "Court of Inquiry" as my discharge was not in the interests of the State, but the outcome of vindictiveness, which I was prepared to prove. I was entitled to this inquiry under Section 43 of the Army Act. The answer to that request was "chloroforming" - if I may use the word - of that section by an answer, which should be a reason form instead of an argument against, such inquiry. Here is the answer - "Please inform Sgt. Major Shortal that as his integrity or ability are in no way questioned the Dept. cannot accede to his request." But apparently 18 months previously the self same gentleman must have discovered something wrong with my integiry, because on receipt of my application for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, together with Major Crowther's recommendation, it was decided that both application and recommendation be returned to Major Crowther with instructions that he not recommend me. "The action of Sgt. Major Shortal in reporting an officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge." It had every bearing on my discharge and the above is only one link out of many comprising a whole chain ..the commencement of which took place when I reported Henderson in 1912, and which culiminated in my discharge, and it is for the purpose of joining those links together that I am for the past 20 years fighting this case, and there is no justification for a Minister of the Crown suppressing evidence because that is the attitude taken up by the Hon. F. Jones. This I can prove from his numerous replies to my various requests.

I had, however, one friend left, Sir Charles Statham, who on a previous occasion was instrumental in preventing injustice.....

Mr. S.G. Holland M.P.,
74 Derby Street,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Sir,

You look this case up on my behalf and I would fail in my duty if I did not use whatever little ability I may possess in order to prevent Mr. Jones "Throwing sand in your eyes." You, Sir, are charged with going up and down the country looking for petty complaints and trying to sabotage the War effort. If you carefully peruse my answer to Mr. Jones' latest. I think you can vigorously combat such a charge, but if you are not prepared or should you deem it inadvisable to pursue the case further please return this letter to me.

I will then forward a copy to Mr. Barnard and one to Mr. J.A.Lee. This letter ti going to be long. It necessarily must be, in order to deal fully with that document purporting to be a reply to yours on my behalf.

I am not a man as Mr. Jones would have you believe - suffering from an imaginary grievance - were I, it would not be necessary for Mr. Jones to devote such time in preparing a "reply" to you. Yes, Mr. Holland, that it you have time to bear with me - a reply - that I will metaphorically speaking "tear to shreds."

For twenty-one years I have been fighting this case.Why? Inspired by Emerson's statement "That Justice cannot be withheld, it can only be postponed". And yet another, whose author I now forget, "He who stands on the vantage ground of truth, is in an impregnable position" and this truth the Hon. F. Jones has resorted to every device to suppress.

I cannot quote from memory all of the articles of my agreement signed in London by the Late Sir William Hall-Jones, on behalf of the N.Z. Government, and by an officer of the Leinster Regiment and myself on my behalf. But in order that you may have a fighting chance to pursue the fight further if you so desire, I will, with the help of God and my limited ability with the pen enable you to do so.

Here are two articles from my agreement which are substantially if not verbally true, and the "agreement" taken on the whole could not be interpretated in any other way but such as would prove that in its articles were embodied the same conditions of service as were applicable to all Sergeants-Major on the Staff.

1. "The Government of N.Z. undertake to pay the said John Shortal at the rate of £160 per annum, to be increased to £180 per annum after the completion of two full years service, and to be further increased to £200 per annum "after" the completion of five years' service. (Note the word "AFTER."

2. If the said John Shortal shall at any time neglect or refuse or from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under this "Agreement" his suspension or removal shall be conducted under "and be subject to the Regulations in force at the time in New Zealand." "In the absence of express statutory authority every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none." The last quotation is from Jones' letter E.1/206/1/A dated 6th June, 1941, so according to Mr. Jones' interpretation of my agreement any Minister could vindictively or otherwise deprive a soldier of his employment. I don't think that's cricket, nor do I think it's Democratic. Was my agreement to be torn up at the will of a Minister?

Now my engagement was for a period of five years, but so was that of every Sergeant-Major on the Staff, and this conformed to the terms of appointment laid down in the N.Z. Military Regulations.

And as for pay and emoluments, the same existed for both, i.e.Men who signed on in London, and men who signed on or enlisted in N.Z. With this exception - the men from Home received their first increase in salary after two years, whilst those who enlisted in New Zealand did not receive the increase until they had completed three years' service. "On the expiry of that period.....his engagement was

D. 1/306/1/A

Officer of the Minister of Defence,
WELLINGTON C.1. 6th June, 1941.

Dear Mr. Holland,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st. May regarding Mr. John Shortal. This ex-soldier was one of six Sergeant-Instructors engaged in April, 1911, from the British Army for service in New Zealand for a period of five years. On expiry of that period, his service was extended for nine months, and was thereafter extended for the duration of the War and six months afterwards. These extensions were made with the consent of the War Office. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919, when his pay terminated. In the absence of express statutory authority, every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government, and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none. The agreement in the case of Sgt.-Major Shortal was honestly interpreted by the Department as terminating six months after the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919. He was, however, retained in the Service until 31st August, 1919, and as the result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on loan to New Zealand. At this time their engagements had expired, and it was desired to place many ex-soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the permanent Forces.

The action of Sgt.-Major Shortal in reporting an Officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimised in any way. His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament, and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and other members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

In 1931 the Government set up a special committee to thoroughly investigate the case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his position. The Government fully considered this report and decided to take no action. It is noted in his letter to you that he is prepared to place his services at the disposal of the Government if he is given a Military Court of Inquiry. There is no reason why a Court of inquiry should be held into his case, and his request, which has been made by him on many occasions since 1920, cannot be met. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of 7th Idem, I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose, and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence.

S.G. Holland Esq., M.P.,
74 Derby Street,
Christchurch, N.1.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.
Referred.

16/8/1944.

38 Fox Rd,
Invercargill
10th August, 1944

D. 306

The Rt. Hon P. Fraser, M.P.,
Primemaster.

RECEIVED 16 AUG 1944 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

14 AUG 1944 RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

you will do me an honor if you can find time to peruse the enclosed two letters. When I penned the answer to Mr Holland I, rightly or wrongly believed that the case would go no further and that Mr. Holland would drop it. You Sir will detect the "Why" he dropped it if you read my reply.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

N.F.A.

Yours faithfully,

John Shortal.

Seen
21/8/44

Seen all
23/8/44

FUZE-SETTER'S TESTS.

LIGHT, FIELD, AND MEDIUM BATTERIES.

Command :_____ *Brigade* :_____ *Battery* :_____ *Date* :_____

	Test 1.	Test 2.	Test 3.	Total.	Q. or NQ.
Time	1′ 0″	1′ 0″	1′ 0″		
Marks				30	

Rank :_____ Name :_____	Time					
	Deduction for time ..					
	Deduction for drill ..					
	Marks					
Rank :_____ Name :_____	Time					
	Deduction for time ..					
	Deduction for drill ..					
	Marks					
Rank :_____ Name :_____	Time					
	Deduction for time ..					
	Deduction for drill ..					
	Marks					
Rank :_____ Name :_____	Time					
	Deduction for time ..					
	Deduction for drill ..					
	Marks					

Marks required to qualify = 25.

Signature of Officer :_____

306 / R

Leg.—41.]
RECEIVED 28 SEP 1944 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Phone 41-515.

House of Representatives,

28th Sept., 194 4

Sir,—

Reference: D.I/306/ A.6.

The Petition of J.Shortal

Invercargill.

~~*presented by you,*~~ *will be considered by the*

Defence *Committee*

on Wednesday, *the* 4th *day of*

October, *194 4. The Committee will*

meet at 10.30 *a.m., in Committee-room* B.

Note: File required and Officer from Department please.

I have, &c.,

Clerk of the Committee.

The Army Secretary, ~~Esq., M.P.~~

Army Headquarters,

Wellington.

500/2/43—11174]

it brought in to the Political arena. But, as I was before I left the service and ever since have been refused, this, not only moral but legal right to ventilate my grievance I am left with no alternative but to "again" petition Parliament In order that I may – as I have, on a previous occasion, prove the truth of the charge contained in this letter. Thanking you in anticipation.

I am,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servt.
John Shortal,
ex Staff Sergt Major
N. Z. P. S.

NTA R Lt Colt Cockill attended

FILING.
Date 5.10.44

D. Series 1 Bus-No. 306

Marks required to qualify = 25.

Signature of Officer: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Time .. .. | Deduction for time .. | Deduction for drill .. | Marks .. ..

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Marks .. ..

RECEIVED 27 SEP 1944 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Fox St.,
Invercargill,
24th September 1944.

The Sy. N.Z. Military Forces
Defence Headquarters,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I would deem it a favour if you would instruct the Officer who may attend the enquiry, into the cause of my discharge, by the Defence Committee in Parliament Buildings on the 4th October to bring with him (1) My Agreement with the New Zealand Government which was signed on behalf of the then Government by the High Commissioner for New Zealand - the late Sir William Hall-Jones. (2) The "King's Regulations" (3) "Manual of Military Law". (4) N.Z. Military Regs. 1911, (5) Military Financial Regulations same yed (1911) (6) My Conduct Sheet & of course my File.

The above are of paramount importance I was discharged the New Zealand Military Forces for purging the New Zealand Staff Corps of a Criminal! I can assure you Sir, that I would sooner that this case went before a military Tribunal than to have it

Ar 28/9

NTA R Col Cottrill attendes

FILING. Date: 5.10.44

59/1943.
W.M.C.Denham.

COPY.

THE PETITION OF JOHN SHORTAL, ex Staff Sergeant Major, N.Z.P.Force,
OF 38 Fox Street, INVERCARGILL.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:-

I. That your petitioner prays that the circumstances leading up to his wrongful discharge from duty with the N.Z.P.F., should be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives of the Dominion of New Zealand, or any other competent Court of Board of Inquiry as they may direct to be established with a view to his being justly compensated for such injury to his estate and person, the grounds of his petition being as followeth hereafter:-

2. That your petitioner was victimised for the performance of his duty during his service with the N.Z.P.F., after the year 1912 for an action performed in the interests of the State during the month of November of the year aforementioned; and that the attitude of certain of your petitioner's superior Officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to had a direct bearing on the wrongful termination of his engagement with the N.Z.P.Forces.

3. That your petitioner was denied the opportunity of replying to, or stating his case in respect of adverse confidential report rendered against him during the year 1913, despite the fact that such confidential reports, both adverse and otherwise, or other non-commissioned Officers of the N.Z.P.Staff were read over to them by the Officer rendering the report.

4. That your petitioner suffered damage, both in mind and estate, through the fact that his agreement for service under the N.Z.Government was wrongfully terminated in that whereas his engagement with the N.Z. Defence Department was extended by the War Office to a period defined as "the end of the war and six months afterwards," his engagement was terminated and he was discharged from service with the N.Z.P.M.F., on the 31st August, 1919, instead of six months from 10th January, 1920 this latter date being that declared by Proclamation by His Majesty the King as the end of the war.

5. That your petitioner was denied the protection afforded him as a soldier by section 43, the Army Act, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the prescribed channel, impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior Officers, no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever set up whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

And your humble petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray etc.

SIGNED: JOHN SHORTAL.

Leg.—20.]

House of Representatives

DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON THE PETITION

OF

No.59/1943. J.Shortal, 38 Fox Street,

Invercargill.

PRAYING for inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his discharge from the N.Z. Permanent Military Forces, and for compensation.

I AM DIRECTED TO REPORT that in the opinion of the Committee the petition should be referred to the Government for most favourable consideration.

(sgd) R.M.Macfarlane.

4th October, 1944. Chairman.

Leg.—42.]

D. 1
SUB-NO: 306
No. 23

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives, WEDNESDAY, *the* 4th *day of* OCTOBER, *19*44.

ORDERED:

That the report of the Defence Committee on the petition of J.Shortal be referred to the Government for most favourable consideration.

On motion of
Mr. Macfarlane.

The Army Secretary.

Referred.

J.W. Heenan
Under-Secretary
6.10.44

A TRUE EXTRACT

D.H. Hall
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

R
Leave
RL

FILING.
No. of sheets 3
Initials 7.10.44

XD 99 13

INVERCARGILL 10 A +

MR DENHAM
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

DATE-STAMP
13 DEC 44
WELLINGTON

For Post Office use only
ARM No.

5048a By

Give NATIONAL SAVINGS

NEW ZEALAND POST-OFFICE TELEGRAM

Sent 820
To
By
Ackgd

+ ASK MR NASH IF PETITION BE FINALISED THIS WEEK +

SHORTAL +

17-12-44
JPP

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/4/44—652]

Mr Denham called 2.25.
"most favorable consideration"

Dear Mr Mason
Mr J. Shortall petitioned Parliament some time ago for compensation he was dismissed from the military service about 20 years ago. ~~He was at~~
The decision of the Committee was "most favourable consideration"
Would you please let me have a reply
Yours sincerely W. H. Denham

13/12/44

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
N.Z.

Dear Mr Nash,

I asked Mr Mason for a reply to the private Secretary said that it was not his Ministers responsibility. Would you please let me have a reply to the telegram sent by my constituents.

Yours faithfully

A.M.S. C. Denton

Mr Sherwood
P/S to Minister of Defence

Hon Mr Nash's office telephoned to say that Mr Nash wanted to see this file this afternoon.
[illegible] K 21/12

Hon W Nash
Referred
JMS
21.12.44

743

22-12-44
Hon F. Jones
For comment on
'Most favourable recommendation'
W Nash

MEMO. for

Duration of war
6 months afterwards

11 Nov 1918
11 May 1919.

Prior to 11th May
on leave without pay

28 June 1919.
Refused

Office of the Minister of Defence.

144 pads/5/44—2614]

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

8th January, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:-

Hon. Mr. Mason.

I am attaching hereto the papers dealing with the report of the Defence Committee on the petition of John Shortal, which was referred to the Government for most favourable consideration.

It would be appreciated if this petition could be dealt with by the Cabinet Sub-Committee at an early date.

F Jones

Copy

Abstract of Report of the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives made to the House on Wednesday 4th October 1944, with respect to the Petition of J. Shortal, of 38 Fort St., Invercargill

In the opinion of the Committee the report on the Petition should be referred to the Government for most favourable consideration

(Signed) J. D. H. Hall
Clerk of the House of Representatives

6th October 1944.

The question now sir, is, was Shortal wronged? if the answer is yes! (And there can be no other)

If you wrong a man you commit a crime against him. And everything possible should be done to right that wrong. That, sir, is logic as well as justice.

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal.

D SERIES Sub-No. 306

* The names of all soldiers who have been confined in the guard-room during any portion of the time the Guard ha
† The punishment awarded or decision come to, to be written in words in the handwriting of the officer disposing of
‡ Among other remarks, opposite his name, the fact of any soldier having been admitted to hospital from the guar
guards the guard-room to which soldiers have been passed, should be stated.

the above

No. of G.C. Badges.

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,
17-7-45

Hon. Min. of Defence
Referred

Army Secretary
Referred.
18.7.45

RECEIVED 19 JUL 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Jo
Hon

...gill
...uly 1945.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed is a copy of letter which you forwarded to me on the 10th Aug., 1944.

"Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th August in which you enquire whether, in the event of a favourable recommendation by the Parliamentary Defence Committee, the Government would consider paying you compensation."

"Although the Government will give every consideration to any recommendation made to it by the Parliamentary Defence Committee I am afraid it would not be possible to give any undertaking such as you request while your Petition is still receiving the attention of the House. When the report of the Committee is presented to the Government you may rest assured it will be given full consideration."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) James Thom
for the Prime Minister

If you wrong a man you commit a crime against him. And everything possible should be done to right that wrong. That, Sir, is logic as well as justice.

Yours respectfully,
John Shovel.

CAPS, F.S., OR HATS, S.D. *				BANDS, HAT, †				COATS, GREAT, DISMOUNTED. MOUNTED. *			
Size.	QUANTITY. On Hand.	QUANTITY. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	QUANTITY. On Hand.	QUANTITY. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	QUANTITY. On Hand.	QUANTITY. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.
6⅜				6⅜				0			
6½				6½				1			
6⅝				6⅝				2			
6¾				6¾				3			
								4			
								5			

Approved
W.F.
30/10/45

Referred.
Army Headquarters.
29/10/1945

HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE.
Referred.

Rawalpindi Secretary

RECEIVED
30 OCT 1945
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

MEMO 29/10/1945

JOHN SHORTAL
INVERCARGILL (Replying D 260 22
Invercargill 11 10 A 26/10/1945)

HAVE RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM AND AM REFERRING REPRESENTATIONS TO HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE FOR HIS CONSIDERATION

P FRASER

PUTTEES, S.D.																							

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

31st October, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Private Secretary,
Attorney General,
Parliament House,
WELLINGTON.

I understand that the Petition and Army papers are with your Minister.

Perhaps you would arrange to send a further reply to Mr. Shortal.

F. M. Sherwood

Private Secretary.

Encl:

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

4th December, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:

Hon. Mr. Mason,

It would be appreciated by me if the petition on behalf of Sgt.Mjr. John Shortal, 38 Fox Street, Invercargill, could be dealt with at an early date.

Mr. Algie, M.P. has been making enquiries from me in regard to this matter.

F Jones

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

4th January, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for:-

Hon. Mr. Mason.

On the 4th of last month I forwarded you a memorandum inquiring whether the petition on behalf of Sgt. Major John Shortal of Invercargill, could be dealt with at an early date.

It would be appreciated by me if you could let me know the present position.

F Jones

URGENT

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

14th February, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for:

Hon. Mr. Mason.

On the 4th December 1945 and again on the 4th January 1946 I communicated with you enquiring whether a petition on behalf of Sgt. Major John Shortal, Invercargill, had yet been dealt with.

As this is now a matter of urgency, I would appreciate if early consideration could be given to this matter.

P Jones

be recommended by the officer under whom he is immediately serving if he applies for the Imperial Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. I fulfilled the conditions. I applied. Major Crowther, under whom I was serving at the time, recommended me, as any officer of the British Army would have done. Major Crowther's recommendation got as far as Dunedin and was returned to him with instructions that he was not to recommend me. Were there any valid reasons? I cannot answer that question. I had never appeared before an officer in the Dominion for any offence- major or minor - Major Crowther, to his everlasting credit, returned the recommendation, together with a rather stiff covering letter, to Dunedin. The recommendation was finally forwarded to War Office and in due course I received the medal. Was Major Crowther asked to do something dishonourable? That question he alone could answer. And now, Mr Jones, it is only reasonable for me to suppose that you, very naturally, will ask yourself the question - How did I obtain that information? and in anticipation of your doing so it gives me great pleasure to supply the answer. About nine years subsequent to my discharge I obtained that information from Major Crowther, with whom I was discussing my petition which had just then been heard by the Defence Committee. That petition had been recommended to the Government for favourable consideration, but that Government was but a continuation of the Administration of which Sir James had been a member. I pinned my faith in a Labour Administration granting me redress. Alas! A statement of R.L.Stevenson's appears before me as vividly as the story of my victimization. "I have always held" he writes, "from no evidence whatsoever, but from a mere sentiment or intuition, that politics is the filthiest, the dirtiest, and most absurd of human employments." "I have always held" he writes: but now I know it!

I am but a labourer, yes a casual labourer in the Government Service, and under the recent 40 hour week Legislation I will be approximately 64 hours at the beck and call of the Department before I have completed the 40 hour week. Politically I am a Labour man and, I hope, an honest one. Had I been a Reform Party supporter I might have been in decent employment today, but I was not a Reform Party supporter, not because I questioned the honesty of any indivdual member of that party, but because I questioned the policy of the party. Today I find the position is reversed. I do not question the policy of the Labour Government but I do, and I am sorry to have to admit it, question the honesty of at least one member holding Ministerial rank in the Labour Government.

In conclusion, Sir, I hope you will pardon my saying what I think, instead of thinking what I sa y.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) John Shortal.

it could not happen now!" Was the case dealt with on its merits? Obviously not, or why would a Major of the Defence Department express sympathy with me? He, as well as members of the Defence Committee, received from me the full story from the date of my appointment in Ireland to the date of my discharge at Invercargill, New Zealand. The time taken by me to relate that story was approximately four and three quarter hours. I merely point out this in order to show you that the case was not dealt with on its merits. The officer who stated that it was did not know what he was writing about. There is, however, at present, serving in the New Zealand Defence Force an officer who knows all about it, but I will not divulge his name as it might jeopardize his position.

On Gallipoli I anticipated what was going to happen. I told the late Major S.A.Grant when he requested me to pursue the Henderson-McClymont case to the bitter end. He also told me that the then Minister of Defence was aware of the cloud under which both those officers left New Zealand. It was on account of public opinion that they were recalled. Henderson was convicted on the evidence which I supplied to Major S.A.Grant. Sir James Allen knew it. Hence, Sir James would not grant me a public inquiry because the information given to me on Gallipoli by Major S.A.Grant would have to be on Sir James Allen's oath refuted or denied. Sir James did not want the true story of the criminal collaborations of two of his constituents unfolded before a public inquiry. He had already received the information from Sir Charles Statham to whom I had divulged it, and the only way to prevent that was by denying me the protection of the Regulations under which I served and, to use a war-time phrase, make "a scrap of paper" of my agreements.

Let us suppose you, as Minister of Defence, received this morning a request from a Sergeant-Major of the permanent staff asking you for a public inquiry, the grounds for such request being that the Sergeant-Major's discharge was not in the interests of the State, but the outcome of vindictiveness, which that Sergeant-Major was prepared to prove if granted the inquiry. Would you be justified in telling him, as Sir James Allen told me "It would be a waste of time and public money"? And if, of the seven different Character Certificates the then King's Regulations provided, the applicant for the inquiry had qualified for and received the highest, do you not think that it was not from such high and noble motives as "the waste of time and public money" by which Sir James Allen professed to be influenced in refusing the applicant an inquiry, but for some sinister motive? That motive I have already exposed: and the Character Certificate of the Soldier concerned was placed at your disposal, in order that you might be able to judge the reliability or otherwise of his statements. I have twice previously credited you with intelligence. Can you now distinguish truth from the falsehood to which you put your signature?

And now, Mr Jones, before forwarding this correspondence to the Prime Minister, I will fire my final shot in an endeavour to remove any doubts that may still linger in your mind with reference to what you refer to as my "alleged victimization". A soldier of the Regular Army has to have to his credit eighteen years regular service, his conduct for that period must be exemplary, he must also

be/

38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL,
16th September,1936.

The Hon. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

I am rather late in acknowledging your reply to my correspondence re my victimization by the Defence Authorities. The truth is that every time I attempted a reply I was so overcome with a feeling of indignation towards you that it was impossible for me to write a calm and reasoned letter. I have given myself time to reflect, and upon reflection, I have, I hope, charitably, if not truly concluded, that you are but the victim of departmental prevarication: but can a man in your position be excused or pardoned for placing his signature to a lie?

You never read my correspondence! What inference is to be drawn from that statement? The answer I will not reduce to writing. You are an intelligent man. I am forced to that conclusion, not because of any desire on my part for undue adulation, but by the mere fact that the Prime Minister, Mr Savage, has appointed you a Cabinet Minister. But intelligence minus honesty is, im my opinion, a doubtful qualification for a Cabinet Minister and about the last person in whom I would expect to find that deficiency is a Labour Cabinet Minister.

You see, Mr Jones, although personally you are unknown to me, I, at least, give you credit for intelligence because of the fact, as already stated, that Mr Savage appointed you a Cabinet Minister. Therefore, you must admit, I have conceded to you that which you have denied me when you stated "the case was dealt with on its merits". Or, if my intelligence was not questioned, you doubted, which you were not justified in doing without attempting to verify either by scrutiny of my official character certificates or other testimonials, the veracity of my statements. In fact, from a calm perusal of your answer one could only conclude that I, the appelant for justice, am either a lunatic or a liar. I do not like the word "liar", that being the reason why I refrained from using it on a previous occasion in this correspondence.

A man whose sanity is questioned is not called upon to judge as to whether or not he is a subject for a mental hospital. But, when the truthfulness of my statements is questioned, in the face of incontrovertible documentary evidence, if ordinary common justice is to prevail, (and that, I believe, is the much vaunted policy of the Government to which you are indebted for the honour of holding Ministerial Rank) I should be given the opportunity of re-telling the story which convinced the Hon. R. Semple and the Rev. Clyde Carr, as well as seven or eight other members of the Defence Committee and, I might add, the officer who was there on behalf of the Defemce Department, - the combined intelligence of whom, you will not be reluctant to admit, is at least equal to yours - that I was victimized for bringing a criminal to justice: and the logical conclusion, therefore, is that the case was <u>not</u> dealt with on its merits.

The remarks addressed to me by the officer of the Defence Department when leaving Parliament buildings were somewhat different from those put before you for your signature, and, as far as my memory serves me, were as follows - "I am sorry Sergent Major,

it/

through any magnamimity on their part.

"The action of Sergt. Major Shortal had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimized in any way." May My answer to that is with all due respect to the position he holds he is in no position to judge, nor do I want my statement taken for granted. I am prepared to submit the case to a Military Court or Civil Court, the former for preference.

"His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and other members of Parliament on supposed grievances." My answer to that is I will continue to do so until such time as I find a man strong enough in character to demand why Capt. J R. Henderson was allowed to serve in the N.Z. Military Forces for three years subsequent to my charging him with an indictable offence? How, and under what circumstances was he, was eventually brought to trial? And as I am the only person who can satisfactorily state the truth in this matter, it will then be found that I, ex Staff Sergt. Major Shortal was responsible for having this officer brought to justice, and in consequence suffered for having done so. Which is also the opinion of every "honest" person to whom I have already related this story. But, as I have already admitted, "they may be wrong."

When I charged Capt. Henderson with the offence mentioned and when I was told it was a damned piece of impertinence on my part, and when I demanded a trial by Court Martial, and when I demanded to be placed under arrest, which I was, why was my release ordered? But I will not prolong it. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th idem I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him." That is am ambiguous statement, but to that I say, I am not to be intimidated. I have made, and will continue to make, a serious charge. I am aware of the consequences, if I cannot prove a second time what I have already proved before the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives. Nor is it the Hon. F. Jones' duty to suppress evidence, but as a representative of the people in a Democratic Country, and a supposed Democratic Constitution, it is his duty to see that this charge is dealt with in a democratic manner. This can only by done by allowing my evidence to be taken before a just and impartial tribunal, and I am prepared to abide by its decision.

Surely it cannot be said that I am asking for something that every individual under the Union Jack is not allegedly supposed to be entitled to.

In conclusion, I must sincerely apologise for making this letter so long. I invoked the help of God for power to express the truths contained in it. Whether or not there is a justification of my charge must entirely be left in your hands, but should you feel that there is no justification for such a charge, you, Sir, I hope will pardon me if I send copies to Mr. Barnard and Mr. J.A. Lee, M.P.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal.

Ex Staff Sergeant Major,
N.Z. Permanent Staff.

38 Fox Street,
Avenal,
INVERCARGILL.

x The Defence Committee, on the 11th October 1944, having heard my evidence, recommended my petition to the Government for "most favorable Consideration!"
The equivalent to stating that I had been victimized!

Number 1. When I was, through his mediation, extended for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. But, before falling back on Sir Charles Statham's influence, I decided to wire Sir James Allen, I therefore, telegraphed him requesting in the identical language and for the same reason, to grant me a Court of Inquiry. His reply was "It would be a waste of time and Public money."

The definition, or his interpretation, of the word "after" by him, as well as his reply to my request for an Inquiry should prove conclusively that my discharge was not as the Hon. F. Jones would have you belive "to place many of the N.Z. Soldiers of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces," but to gratify the vindictiveness of Sir James Allen, who was not prepared to take the decision of a just and impartial Tribunal as the final arbiter. But before leaving the cause of my discharge it is just as well to know that those who resort to misrepresenting facts must need be have a good memory.

I petitioned Parliament in 1929. I went to Wellington, gave evidence before the Defence Committee of the House; when I had completed my evidence, which was of three hours' duration, the Chairman, Colonel T.W. McDonald, inquired individually of each member if he wished to ask any questions. The Hon. R. Semple, who had listened attentively to my evidence, asked the officer who was there on behalf of the Dept, "For what was this officer (meaning myself) discharged?" The Officer's reply was as follows: "An unfavourable report." whereon Mr. Semple asked him to read it. Having done so, Mr. Semple again asked him to read the preceding confidential report. It was a good one. Mr. Semple then asked him to reas the report subsequent to the bad one. The officer did so. Again it was a good one. "Do you not think" tontinued Mr. Semple, "that there is something wrong when you find a bad report sandwiched between two good ones."? The officer, of course, who was a gentleman was in full agreement with Mr. Semple. "What would you have done in the circumstances " was Mr. Semple's next query. "I would have an inquiry held," was the reply.

The same officer called me when leaving Parliament Buildings- "I'm sorry, Segt. Major, such a thing could not happen now?" was his way of expressing sympathy. And at this late hour the Hon. F. Jones states I was discharged to make room for New Zealanders. I will deal with that later.

When my request to Sir James Allen failed, I for the second time interviewed Sir Charles Statham, and through his intervention I was granted six months' leave (without pay) and although I am sure and would feel sorry to attribute any blame to Sir Charles (who after all was or proved himself to be my friend) I do not remember having asked for leave "without pay." and further, knowing the Regulations governing such leave, it is not likely that I would have added the "without pay."

I was fully conversant with the procedure that should have been adopted under such circumstances, which should have been as follows:- Discharged from the N.Z. Military Forces (though through a gross irregularity) which I was. Then re-transferred to my Regiment (through the War Office, of course). An application then made to my Regiment for six months' leave. This would have been granted and as I would now be subject to the Laws contained in the "Manual of Military Law", "The King's Regulations." and "The Royal Warrant for pay." and further, as there is no law in any of the afore-mentioned books by which a soldier can be deprived of his pay except (1) in Hospital through Misconduct (2) in Prison. (3) A prisoner -of war through his own fault. It will be seen that I was entitled to six months' leave on full pay from the Leinster Regiment, and knowing that, I would certainly not have asked for leave without pay, "and as the results of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th Feb. 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service" (already dealt with.)

The question now arises why was the Dept. so eager to send a man and his wife and child out of the Dominion, pay his passage, and I presume his wife and child's (though under my agreement they were not bound to pay my wife's or child's) phnhaps the Dept. will answer they had no intention of doing so - when to have retained me in the Service until 7-2-1920 would have cost the Dept. a little over £100 and our (that is myself and family's passage would exceed that amout. The answer is - they wanted to....get rid of me at all costs and not

I was not called I be arbitrarily returned to England without the actually of my agreement. My agreement can be produced from the Defence authorities!

I communicated with the War Office re this victimization discharge and was told it was purely a matter for the New Zealand Government

Then I could not be promoted...to Warrant Officer. My reply was "that there was nothing in my agreement signed by Sir W. Hall-Jones, or in the N.Z. Military Regulations to prevent it," but that on the contrary that while I was subject to the Regulations for punishments it was only just and reasonable to expect that I was subject to the Regulations for the benefits. I was then requested to forward a copy of my agreement, which I did. Naturally, I concluded that they were going to compare the articles of my agreement with the Regulations with the view of removing any injustice. Such, however, was not the case. Unwittingly I had placed in their hands a document-not-wherein was to be found, if justly and impartially interpreted, art icles corresponding to every Regulation that every N.C.O. on the Staff was subject to-but also the one that they were looking for.

They read "Sergt. J. Shortal engages himself in the service of the N.Z. Govt. for a certain period of five years." They looked at the date and discovered "was 3 years and 120 days (or thereabouts) out of date.

Back came the answer like the shot of a gun "Please inform Sergt-Major Shortal that he is to be returned to his Regiment by the next boat."

I was stunned! I had only six months to serve to complete my 21 years. I had a home, and a wife and child to keep. I had served for 8 years and 127 days in the N.Z. Military Forces. My integrity and ability were unquestioned. Please note that up to this time THEY HAD HEARD NOTHING OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR AND SIX MONTHS AFTERWARDS.

When I recovered from the shock, it dawned on me that I had another agreement for the duration of the War and six months afterwards, and as peace was not yet ratified by His Majesty the King, I informed them of the fact. But they had already taken the step. They were determined not to retire. So I was informed that as far as I was concerned that the duration of the War was until the siging of the Armistice.

Now the word "Armistice" as well as those giving its definition are numbered amongst those in a Soldier's vocabulary. How then could they "honestly" interpret "six months after the Armistice, as being identical with six months after the war."

A man can have an honest opinion on anything and yet be wrong. Should this not be patent to the Hon. F. Jones? Otherwise there would be no such thing as an "Opposition" for obviously if men with honest opinions were always right, there would be but one party in the House? But in thise case, I pointed out that they were literally wrong and therefore legally.

I then, as already stated, informed them that I had but six months to serve to complete my 21 years, that I had a home, a wife and child, both being New Zealanders. I was told that it was no affair of the Dept's, but purely a Domestic affair. Finally, I played my last card. I asked for a "Court of Inquiry" as my discharge was not in the interests of the State, but the outcome of vindictiveness, which I was prepared to prove. I was entitled to this inquiry under Section 43 of the Army Act. The answer to that request was a "chloroforming" - if I may use the word - of that section by an answer, which should be a reason form instead of an argument against, such inquiry. Here is the answer - "Please inform Sgt. Major Shortal that as his integrity or ability are in no way questioned the Dept. cannot accede to his request." But apparently 18 months previously the self same gentleman must have discovered something wrong with my integiry, because on receipt of my application for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, together with Major Crowther's recommendation, it was decided that both application and recommendation be returned to Major Crowther with instructions that he not recommend me. "The action of Sgt. Major Shortal in reporting an officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge." It had every bearing on my discharge and the above is only one link out of many comprising a whole chain ..the commencement of which took place when I reported Henderson in 1912, and which culiminated in my discharge, and it is for the purpose of joining those links together that I am for the past 20 years fighting this case, and there is no justification for a Minister of the Crown suppressing evidence because that is the attitude taken up by the Hon. F. Jones. This I can prove from his numerous replies to my various requests for an enquiry

I had, however, one friend left, Sir Charles Statham, who on a previous occasion was instrumental in preventing injustice.....

Forfeited all rights to promotion in my Regiment by electing to enter the employ of the N.Z. Government and now after eight years exemplary service I am now to be returned to my Regiment.

extended for nine months." I will not say that is a "lie." I do not like using the word, but the strange thing about that statement is that I did not hear of it until I received your letter dated 10th June, 1941, nor is it confirmed by the gradual unfolding of the story I am now about to put before you.

In the first place how was I, or for that matter any member of the Staff, to receive that £200 per annum "after" five years' service if the provisions of the Regulations under which I was serving were not extended to me? What were the provisions? The renewal of engagements every five years up to the age of 65. See N.Z. Military Regulations. Why was I not re-engaged for a further period of five years? Because in 1912 I reported an officer for an offence which was not alone a violation of Military Law but also of the Civil Law. What happened when I reported him? I was told "It was a damned piece of impertinence on my part and that if I did not withdraw it, I would be returned to England." In other words, I staked my military career and an unspecified time of my freedom against that of Capt. J.R. Henderson's when I charged him with falsifying Public Documents involving theft, because if I were not able to prove my charge I could have been discharged with ignominy, and imprisoned for any term the Court might deem fit. And here I would like to ask Mr. Jones is that the "orthodox" way, in the N.Z. Military Forces, of upholding military discipline so essential to military efficiency? "And was thereafter extended a second term for the duration of the War and six months thereafter."

How came I to have an engagement for the duration of the war and six months thereafter? The answer is when I applied for an extension for another five years (acting I presume on instructions from Sir James Allen that I was on no account to be extended) I received official information that I was not to be extended but was to be returned to my Regiment. Intuition told me this was coming. Had i not foreseen it, when on Gallipoli I was presented with a copy of "Truth" in which the question was asked "Would Sergeant-Major Shortal be recalled to place a little mustard on already overburdened shoulders? (Remember I was responsible for Henderson being recalled from Egypt in 1915). I interviewed Sir Charles Statham, placed my case before him, and Sir Charles succeeded in arranging an interview for me with Sir James Allen, who, when I appeared before him treated me as if I were a criminal and though I presume Sir James had had the benefit of an University education, he told me that the word "after" previously referred to in this letter, "was a guibble." Perhaps in the words of the Hon. F. Jones that was also the "orthodox" way of interpreting the English language. There the question arises - why did Sir James, a man who had never seen me before, act in such a manner? Henderson amd McClymont were both his constituents. I am not sure, but it may be the answer. Was I not responsible for having them both recalled to stand their trials? Of course, I was. And by so ding, I showed up some of the rotten-ness that at the time existed in the N.Z. Military Forces.

But Mr. Jones is becoming a champion at taking the truth from its proper setting and then placing it before the layman, who, in the absence of the true facts, may not be able to put it in its proper frame, e.g. "The Agreement,"in the case of Sergt-Major Shortal, was "honestly" interpreted by the Dept. as terminating six months after the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919." He was however, retained in the service until the 31st August, 1919.

The question now arises as to why I was retained in the service until 31-8-1919? Because those who set themselves the task of putting me out of the service were not aware that I was in possession of the "Agreement" for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. And it was only when I applied for promotion to Warrant Office Class 1, which will be explained later on, that the agreement for the duration of the war and six months afterwards, came into the picture. I was under orders to be discharged before they knew of its existence. There is a Brigadier-General at present serving in the N.Z. Staff Corps who could prove this. My "Agreement" was obviously asked for, not to impartially interpret the articles contained in it, but to see if it were possible to dispense with my services. And here is the explanation. When I applied for promotion to Warrant Office Class 1 (which according to the Regulations under which I was serving I was entitled to), the Officer above referred to (who was then a Capt)whom I was serving under, received the information that was I was only on

x an arbitrary agreement drawn up by the late Sir James Allen and not in accordance with the Regulations under which I served

Mr. S.G. Holland M.P.,
74 Derby Street,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Sir,

You took this case up on my behalf and I would fail in my duty if I did not use whatever little ability I may possess in order to prevent Mr. Jones "Throwing sand in your eyes." You, Sir, are charged with going up and down the country looking for petty complaints and trying to sabotage the War effort. If you carefully peruse my answer to Mr. Jones' latest. I think you can vigorously combat such a charge, but if you are not prepared or should you deem it inadvisable to pursue the case further please return this letter to me.

I will then forward a copy to Mr. Barnard and one to Mr. J.A.Lee. This letter ti going to be long. It necessarily must be, in order to deal fully with that document purporting to be a reply to yours on my behalf.

I am not a man as Mr. Jones would have you believe - suffering from an imaginary grievance - were I, it would not be necessary for Mr. Jones to devote such time in preparing a "reply" to you. Yes, Mr. Holland, that it you have time to bear with me - a reply - that I will metaphorically speaking "tear to shreds."

For twenty-one years I have been fighting this case.Why? Inspired by Emerson's statement "That Justice cannot be withheld, it can only be postponed". And yet another, whose author I now forget, "He who stands on the vantage ground of truth, is in an impregnable position" and this truth the Hon. F. Jones has resorted to every device to suppress.

I cannot quote from memory all of the articles of my agreement signed in London by the Late Sir William Hall-Jones, on behalf of the N.Z. Government, and by an officer of the Leinster Regiment and myself on my behalf. But in order that you may have a fighting chance to pursue the fight further if you so desire, I will, with the help of God and my limited ability with the pen enable you to do so.

Here are two articles from my agreement which are substantially if not verbally true, and the "agreement" taken on the whole could not be interpretated in any other way but such as would prove that in its articles were embodied the same conditions of service as were applicable to all Sergeants-Major on the Staff.

1. "The Government of N.Z. undertake to pay the said John Shortal at the rate of £160 per annum, to be increased to £180 per annum after the completion of two full years service, and to be further increased to £200 per annum "after" the completion of five years' service. (Note the word "AFTER."

2. If the said John Shortal shall at any time neglect or refuse or from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under this "Agreement" his suspension or removal shall be conducted under "and be subject to the Regulations in force at the time in New Zealand." "In the absence of express statutory authority every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none." The last quotation is from Jones' letter D.1/206/1/A dated 6th June, 1941, so according to Mr. Jones' interpretation of my agreement any Minister could vindictively or otherwise deprive a soldier of his employment. I don't think that's cricket, nor do I think it's Democratic. Was my agreement to be torn up at the will of a Minister?

Now my engagement was for a period of five years, but so was that of every Sergeant-Major on the Staff, and this conformed to the terms of appointment laid down in the N.Z. Military Regulations.

And as for pay and emoluments, the same existed for both, i.e.Men who signed on in London, and men who signed on or enlisted in N.Z. With this exception - the men from Home received their first increase in salary after two years, whilst those who enlisted in New Zealand did not receive the increase until they had completed three years' service. "On the expiry of that period.....his engagement was

D. 1/306/1/A

Officer of the Minister of Defence,
WELLINGTON C.1. 6th June, 1941.

Dear Mr. Holland,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st. May regarding Mr. John Shortal. This ex-soldier was one of six Sergeant-Instructors engaged in April, 1911, from the British Army for service in New Zealand for a period of five years. On expiry of that period, his service was extended for nine months, and was thereafter extended for the duration of the War and six months afterwards. These extensions were made with the consent of the War Office. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919, when his pay terminated. In the absence of express statutory authority, every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government, and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none. The agreement in the case of Sgt.-Major Shortal was honestly interpreted by the Department as terminating six months after the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919. He was, however, retained in the Service until 31st August, 1919, and as the result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on loan to New Zealand. At this time their engagements had expired, and it was desired to place many ex-soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the permanent Forces.

The action of Sgt.-Major Shortal in reporting an Officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimised in any way. His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament, and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and other members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

In 1931 the Government set up a special committee to thoroughly investigate the case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his position. The Government fully considered this report and decided to take no action. It is noted in his letter to you that he is prepared to place his services at the disposal of the Government if he is given a Military Court of Inquiry. There is no reason why a Court of inquiry should be held into his case, and his request, which has been made by him on many occasions since 1920, cannot be met. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of 7th idem, I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose, and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence.

S.G. Holland Esq., M.P.,
74 Derby Street,
Christchurch, N.1.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, (conti.)

Military Tribunal because Military Officers are versed in Military Law and are sworn to Judge the case on the evidence and without partiality or favour and further it would be removed from the Political Arena.

As you will see, Sir, from the enclosed letter I have, to the best of my ability written on behalf of Labour. I have for the past 35 years on every conceivable occasion voted Labour. With the help of my vote, my wife's and daughter's and with all honest voters in this Dominion, Mr Jones has been lifted from obscurity to the exhalted position of a Cabinet Minister. He seems to have forgotten it or he would not abuse the power entrusted to him by those whose honesty or veracity cannot be called in question. Do you think Sir, I should again vote Labour? I am a Catholic and so are quite a number of Mr Jones's Constitutents and all "Practical" Catholics believe that truth should be the supreme arbiter between Justice and Injustice and not a Minister, who, if he could, would suppress it.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal.

Invercargill,

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.P.C.
Prime Minister,
Government Buildings,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

With implicit confidence in your promise contained in a letter and signed on your behalf by Mr Thorn, that "full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee" I went to the expense of proceeding to Wellington to place evidence before the Defence Committee that would reveal and did prove a case - and one that I was the subject of - of victimisation, I am convinced without parallel in the History of any Government Employee, before or since in this Dominion.

One year and nine months have elapsed since that Petition was heard and yet that promise has not been fullfilled; nor have I received any notification that would lead me to believe that I can entertain even a remote hope of its being honoured in the future or yet any to the contrary. Notwithstanding the fact that my Petition was recommended to the Government "for most favourable consideration" Sir, why this suspense? Owing to the suppression of Truth by the Hon. F. Jones who, with the skill and subtleness of an unscrupulous Lawyer, maliciously and deliberately substituted falsehoods. Am I now to be denied that Justice for which I have been fighting for the past 27 years and without the aid of the R.S.A. or any other such aid to help me, but that which allegedly makes men free - the pure and unadulterated Truth!

Surely, Mr Fraser, if Democracy means anything it means that Justice must not or should not be sacrificed to the whims of a Minister, who, instead of being, as he should be, the guardian and defender of truth has in this Democratic Country seen fit to adopt the mantle of a Dictator in order to suppress it; and who, by implication, told me that he would suppress it. Sir, should he have the temerity to deny any of my statements. I am prepared to submit his correspondence any my evidence plus that of a high ranking Military Officer to any Court of Justice, Military or Civil, and in the event of my failing to prove that which I have already proved before the Defence Committees of 1929 and 1944 I promise to pay the costs. For obvious reasons I would prefer a

this unknown drama, the late Sir James Allen discharged me from the permanent force, flouted the Laws by which I was governed and made a scrap of paper of my Agreement. That, Sir, is but a brief, and a very brief outline of the story. It would take one and one half hours to relate. It would take a week to write! It is, as you Sir, as a Lawyer know, a fundamental principle of British Justice that a man should be heard. It is the essence of Democracy man owes a duty to the State. Correspondingly the State owes a duty to its subjects. The duty the State owed to me was to decide, not arbitrarily, but on the evidence that I would submit to a Court-of-Justice. whether I was victimized or not. The Representatives of about forty thousand people. Men who composed the members of the Defence Committee decided that I was victimized. The same happened when a Conservative Government was in power. But the minister of Defence whose domicile is the same City as that of the late Sir James Allen's has had the audacity to tell me I was not victimized but not the moral courage to allow the case to be decided by an impartial Tribunal.

yours sincerely
John Shortal

Invercargill

The Hon. H Malone, M.P.
Minister of Justice
Wellington

Dear Sir,

I most respectfully request that you read the enclosed Correspondence. I would also ask you to peruse my Character Certificates, then hand the Certificates to the Prime Minister. The Case, in an nutshell, is as follows.— Before sailing for Egypt, in the 1914-18 war, I received a wire from a Major S.A. Grant asking me for receipts for Ammunition sold by a Capt. Henderson, I wrote back and told the Officer where to find them. He found them. He then ordered the young officer who took over from Henderson, to send for the Government Auditor, As no trace of the money received for the Ammunition could be found nor had it been paid into the Public Account. The Auditor found, that not only was the money for the Ammunition missing, but that also large sums had been misappropriated. Henderson together with an officer the name of M'Blymont were recalled from Egypt, to stand their trials. Henderson was Convicted, received a term of imprisonment and, of course automatically Cashiered. For my part in

D. Series: Dus-No. 306

Medical Officer.

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Admission.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.

(This portion of the Form can be used for any purpose where a Nominal Roll is necessary to communicate between the Station Hospital and the Corps.)

D 382 16 INVERCARGILL 3 25 P +

THE PRIME MINISTER WELLINGTON

Rec'd at By

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

Issued

To

By

Ack'd.

DATE-STAMP

RECEIVED 19 AUG 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

TELEGRAPH OFFICE WELLINGTON 31 JUL 46

+ SIR IF FINISHED WITH CHARACTER CERTIFICATE PLEASE RETURN AT YOUR CONVENIENCE + SHORTAL ++

Hon. Minister of Defence
Referred
C.F.
1/8/46

Army Secretary.

For reply for my signature please.

1.8.46.

Fol. 142. 100,000 pads/5/45—16095

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

D.1/306.

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C.1.

12th August, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Hon. Minister of Justice.

PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

In reference to the attached telegram it is understood that the Departmental (Army) and other papers are held by you in connection with Mr. Shortal's petition.

Would you please enable me to reply.

P. Jones
Minister of Defence.

Encl:

Mr Robertson
This is one of the petition files I left with you last week.
F.J.D.
12.8.46

D 289 19 INVERCARGILL 2 PM +

MINISTER OF JUSTICE PARLIAMENT

BUILDING WELLINGTON +

Rec'd at By

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

2214

Sent.

To

By

Ackgd.

DATE-STAMP

TELEGRAPH OFFICE 19 JUL 45 WELLINGTON

PLEASED IF YOU WOULD RETURN CHARACTER CERTIFICATES IF

FINISHED WITH THEM + JOHN SHORTAL +

Certificates returned - Any Army Dept.

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/5/45—16951

Government was taking with regard to the Recommendations of the Defence Committee? a recommendation which I was told that I "could rest assured that the Government would give full consideration to". Or, if the answer to the question I put to the Defence Committee, before giving my evidence.- "Is there any use gentlemen in petitioning Parliament?" going to be answered after two years, if not in the affirmative, then, at least, in the negative. I would then know where I stand. Sir, could I please be informed at your earliest convenience? Your reply, sir, together with this letter will be forwarded to "Zealandia" and the New Zealand "Tablet" as well as to the "Otago Daily Times" and the "Southland Times".

Yours Sincerely,

John Thorpe, ex Staff Sgt. Major,
New Zealand Ser. Staff.

38 Tay St.
Invercargill
September 1946

Prime Minister's
20 SEP 1946
RECEIVED

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P. P.C.
Prime Minister,

Dear Sir,

I have been advised by the Editor of a newspaper to appeal to a Gentleman in Wellington, with a view of obtaining his influence as a means of helping me to obtain redress. Sir, I have not done so. ~~I believe in a Democracy~~, not that I have any doubts as to that gentleman's influence, but on principle. I believe in a Democracy. Justice is, or should be the only influence or antidote for injustice. And as a Democracy claims to be a system of Government wherein the rights of the individual citizen is protected, it should not be necessary where that citizen has already twice proved before the Defence Committee that he was the subject of a grave injustice. Who were responsible for this Injustice? The late Sir James Allen, The proof of this charge I submitted to the Defence Committee in 1929, and 1944. a charge that could not then or now be refuted. Secondly, and most important to you Sir, as a Labour Prime Minister, one of your own Cabinet Ministers, The Hon. Frederick Jones, who threw all Democratic ideals to the wind by refusing me the right which is not denied to the worst criminal, i.e. the right to be heard.- Ordinary elementary justice- secondly, his distortion of the truth, so skilfully, that it even deceived trained minds like those of lawyers, until they had read my reply to it. Was there any legitimate reason for him to take such a stand except the illegitimate one to hinder the impartial administration of justice. A minister of the Crown, like a Judge of the Supreme Court should be above that which savours of petty spite or vindictiveness. For after all an individual charged with the worst Criminal Offence might be able to prove himself innocent. A possibility that the Hon Frederick Jones is well aware of. I know Sir that you were not responsible for his underworldly and I might add unpardonable conduct. But the least you can do Sir, is to see that a minister who treated me thus is not given the power to decide whether you should or should not honour your promise. The ~~Secession~~ session is now drawing to a close. It is just on two years since I petitioned Parliament, a step I would not have taken had I entertained the remotest doubt as to the trustfulness of the promise of the leading citizen of the Dominion, its Prime minister. Sir, may I respectfully ask, is it not time I was informed what action the Government

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence

Referred Army Secretary
Referred.

P.F.,
10/10/46

12.10.46

in and for which you and every Labour Member elected to the Parliament of this Dominion are bound by your pledges to uphold. Mr. Jones, is the withholding of Justice by you or any other member of Parliament from a man, who, on two occasions have proved before the Defence Committees of the House. 1928 and 1944. that he was the subject of a grave injustice in conformity with your avowed belief in and love for Democratic Ideals? If not, then you are in conscience and duty bound to see that I am compensated and that the promise of your leader, The Hon P. Fraser, Prime-Minister is given effect to

Yours faithfully.
John Shortal.
ex Staff Sergt-Major N.Z.P.S.

P.S.

I am holding a Copy of this letter which in the Coll of is not being replied to. I will forward to the Governor General, with an appeal for a Military Court of enquiry for which I will deposit the Cost. with of course the proviso that should I win, the Cost of the enquiry be refunded to me.

38 Hay St.,
Invercargill 1946.
16th October 1

The Hon. Frederick Jones M.P.
Minister of Defence.

Dear Sir,

"Ask and you shall receive". Seek and you shall find". Knock and it shall be opened unto you". On your own admission to Mr. Holland, I have been asking, seeking and knocking, for the past twenty-six years. You refused to listen to me. You slapped the door through which I might receive Justice, in my face. That door was opened to me by the Prime Minister Mr. Fraser when he told me that full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee. The persistency with which I have times out of number maintained that I was the subject of victimization - asking, knocking and seeking - have, you must now admit been fully justified by the Defence Committee's recommendation for most favourable consideration of my Petition praying for Compensation. Notwithstanding the bitter Letters I have written against you and which you yourself would have been fully justified in writing against me, had our positions been reversed and I had so far forgotten myself as to adopt your dictatorial attitude. I ask do you not now agree that in my persistent fight for Justice I have also been fighting for "Democracy" in its purest form? A form of Government which I believe in

Prime Minister's Office
26 NOV 1946
RECEIVED

38 Frog St.
Invercargill,
25th November. 1946.

The Rt. Hon P Fraser M.P.
Prime Minister.

Dear Sir,
I am voting "Labour" again this Election, and so is my wife and Daughter. I am telling you beforehand and not waiting until the Election is over. In return for my confidence in you Sir, and the majority of the Labour members, and notwithstanding my abhorrence of a Minister like your Defence Minister The Hon. F Jones, whose chief weapons against me for the past ten years were.- The refusal to give me a Public Enquiry, the deliberate suppression of the truth; and, worst of all - that which ill becomes any man in the Public life of this or any other Country - the substitution of falsehoods, or, in vulgar language "downright lying". In order that he might achieve his ends. Crush me! and deprive me of that justice for which I have been fighting for for the past twentyseven years. I hope and trust Sir, that your promise to me in 1944, will be given effect to. Should Mr Jones, deny the charges which I accuse him of, I am prepared to submit for arbitration, the case together with Mr Jones's correspondence to any Court of Justice

Yours Sincerely,
John Shorland,
ex H.S.M. N.Z.S.A.

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence

Referred.

C.M.,

29/11/46

Papers Received from Hon. Mr Jones to-day

G. F. Dixon
P.S.
8.1.47

ARMY 306

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Attorney-General's Office,

WELLINGTON C.1.

9th Jan. 1947.

Hon. F. Jones,

Petition of John Shortal.

This matter is primarily one for you as Minister of Defence.

I note particularly your letter of 6th June, 1941, to Mr. S. G. Holland, M.P. which concluded:

"On the 21st August, 1939, ...I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him".

I take it that you see no valid reason for varying the decision of Cabinet on 14th Dec. 1925, viz. "NO ACTION". If so will you recommend accordingly?

No action
9 1.47

I concur
28.2.47

Hon. A. H. Nordmeyer.
Hon. C. F. Skinner.

I concur
B.J.N.
9.1.47

Do you concur?

9--1--47

DRAFT. only

12th March, 1947

Dear Sir,

With reference to your Petition that compensation be paid to you for alleged wrongful dismissal, I have been instructed to advise you that Cabinet's decision is to the effect that no action is to be taken, that is to say, no payment is to be made to you.

ARMY SECRETARY.

Mr. John Shortall,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

~~Req further instructions as to why that the decision~~

(note. make reference to 1946 letters to members?)

BE

EMK/TWK

ARMY 1/306/AAS.

13th March, 1947.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your Petition that compensation be paid to you for alleged wrongful dismissal, I have been instructed to advise you that Cabinet's decision is to the effect that no action is to be taken, that is to say, no payment is to be made to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

MEMORANDUM
13 MAR 1947
DESPATCHED

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

DOMINION — 10-10-47

ARMY 1
306/R

Ex-Soldier's Petition Referred Back To Defence Committee

Most of yesterday afternoon was occupied by the House of Reppesentatives in discussing the report of the Defence Committee on a petition by John Shortal, of Invercargill, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces. The committee reported that it had no recommendation to make. Disappointment with this finding was expressed by members of the Opposition, and an amendment that the petition be referred back to the committee for further consideration was accepted.

Mr. ROY (N., Clutha) said that petitioner was one of six sergeant-instructors brought to New Zealand in 1911 under an agreement between the New Zealand and the British Governments. Petitioner was allocated to the 14th. South Otago Regiment. There were some unfortunate incidents concerning irregularities by senior officers, and petitioner had reported them. An adverse report was made on petitioner in 1912 and in 1918 another adverse report was made about him. Between the adverse reports and after 1918 there were good reports. It seemed that some sinister influence had been at work. He was convinced that had it not been for the action of petitioner in reporting the irregularities petitioner's agreement would have been renewed in 1920. He was also convinced that an injustice had been done to petitioner and his career ruined.

Mr. JONES, Minister of Defence, said there was an inquiry in 1931 which found that petitioner had no case. He thought the present recommendation of the committee was the correct one and that there was nothing to justify setting up a committee of inquiry.

Mr. MACDONALD (N., Wallace) said that in 1944 virtually the same committee had made a most favourable recommendation on a similar petition by Mr. Shortal, yet this year the committee reversed its verdict. The report of the committee was not unanimous, the Opposition members considering the request for an inquiry should be agreed to.

Mr. FRASER, Prime Minister, said he was quite prepared to go to any lengths to see that an injustice was not perpetuated, but nothing was gained simply by condemning officers of the Army in the past to ease the lot of a man living today. It was better that a matter be gone into a dozen times than that a sense of injustice should remain. His idea would be that the Defence Committee should carry out an actual inquiry into what available evidence there was.

Mr. MACDONALD: That is what petitioner asks for.

Mr. FRASER said he thought that could be done. However, to deal with a case 30 years after was a very difficult matter. If the Defence Committee thought there was a chance of getting further evidence, perhaps the petition could go back to the committee.

Mr. OSBORNE (L., Onehunga) said that Mr. Shortal had petitioned the House five times. The first was reported to the House for consideration, there was no recommendation on the second, the third was recommended for favourable consideration, the fourth for most favourable consideration, and now, with the fifth, there was no recommendation.

After other members had spoken, Mr. HANAN (N., Invercargill), who had presented the petition, moved that it and the report be referred back to the committee for further consideration.

Mr. NASH, Minister of Finance, who was then in charge of the House, and the chairman of the committee, Mr. Macfarlane (L., Christchurch Central), agreed to accept the amendment, and this course was agreed to.

Army Secy
To note please and return to A Br.
10 Oct 47

Sec
14/10.

Mr Smith
To see
14/10.

Seen
14/10

To Records

FILING
No. of sheets 9
Initials

TO BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES

WAR.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

RECORD OF M

Surname: _____ *Chris*
(In block letters.)

SEC

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ _____years_____months.
(Date.)

HEIGHT: _____ft._____ins. WEIGHT: _____st._____ _____ins. RANGE: _____ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SEC

Medical Staten

1. Are you now suffering from any disease or disability? _____
2. What standard of primary-school education did you reach an _____
3. Have you ever suffered from any of the following illnesses? _____
   (*a*) Chest disease, including tuberculosis, pleurisy, blood-s _____
   (*b*) Heart disease, including weakness of heart: _____
   (*c*) Rheumatic fever, rheumatism, lumbago, or sciatica: _____
   (*d*) Nervous disease, neurasthenia, nervous breakdown, f _____
   (*e*) Head injuries, concussion, or "knockout": _____
   (*f*) Stomach trouble, ulcer, chronic indigestion, or vomiti _____
   (*g*) Kidney or bladder trouble, or diabetes: _____
   (*h*) Venereal disease: Gonorrhœa or syphilis: _____
   (*i*) Tropical disease, including malaria or dysentery: _____
   (*j*) Eye trouble, including colour or night blindness: _____
   (*k*) Ear trouble, including chronic earache or discharge fr _____
   (*l*) Sinus or antral disease, "catarrh," or chronic nasal _____
   (*m*) Skin disease: _____
   (*n*) Piles: _____
   (*o*) Varicose veins: _____
   (*p*) Injury to any joint: _____
   (*q*) Other disease or disability: _____
4. Have you ever had an OPERATION? Give details: _____
5. Have you been a patient in MENTAL HOSPITAL or SANATORI _____
6. Have you been rejected or deferred for LIFE INSURANCE or _____
7. Has any member of your family ever suffered from— _____
   (1) Consumption or _____
   (2) Mental disturba _____ nerv _____
   (3) Diabetes? _____
   (4) Asthma or hay _____
8. Have you ever been re _____ any b _____ ice) or other Government employment? _____
9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pensi _____
10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare _____ are true.

[OVER.

PHLHWG

SEEN BY C.G.S. A.G. QMG 28/10/47

ARMY 306

8 The Dominion 10/10/47

Ex-Soldier's Petition Referred Back To Defence Committee

Most of yesterday afternoon was occupied by the House of Representatives in discussing the report of the Defence Committee on a petition by John Shortal, of Invercargill, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces. The committee reported that it had no recommendation to make. Disappointment with this finding was expressed by members of the Opposition, and an amendment that the petition be referred back to the committee for further consideration was accepted.

Mr. ROY (N., Clutha) said that petitioner was one of six sergeant-instructors brought to New Zealand in 1911 under an agreement between the New Zealand and the British Governments. Petitioner was allocated to the 14th. South Otago Regiment. There were some unfortunate incidents concerning irregularities by senior officers, and petitioner had reported on them. An adverse report was made on petitioner in 1912 and in 1918 another adverse report was made about him. Between the adverse reports and after 1918 there were good reports. It seemed that some sinister influence had been at work. He was convinced that had it not been for the action of petitioner in reporting the irregularities petitioner's agreement would have been renewed in 1920. He was also convinced that an injustice had been done to petitioner and his career ruined.

Mr. JONES, Minister of Defence, said there was an inquiry in 1931 which found that petitioner had no case. He thought the present recommendation of the committee was the correct one and that there was nothing to justify setting up a committee of inquiry.

Mr. MACDONALD (N., Wallace) said that in 1944 virtually the same committee had made a most favourable recommendation on a similar petition by Mr. Shortal, yet this year the committee reversed its verdict. The report of the committee was not unanimous, the Opposition members considering the request for an inquiry should be agreed to.

Mr. FRASER, Prime Minister, said he was quite prepared to go to any lengths to see that an injustice was not perpetuated, but nothing was gained simply by condemning officers of the Army in the past to ease the lot of a man living today. It was better that a matter be gone into a dozen times than that a sense of injustice should remain. His idea would be that the Defence Committee should carry out an actual inquiry into what available evidence there was.

Mr. MACDONALD: That is what petitioner asks for.

Mr. FRASER said he thought that could be done. However, to deal with a case 30 years after was a very difficult matter. If the Defence Committee thought there was a chance of getting further evidence, perhaps the petition could go back to the committee.

Mr. OSBORNE (L., Onehunga) said that Mr. Shortal had petitioned the House five times. The first was reported to the House for consideration. There was no recommendation on the second, the third was recommended for favourable consideration, the fourth for most favourable consideration, and now, with the fifth, there was no recommendation.

After other members had spoken, Mr. HANAN (N., Invercargill), who had presented the petition, moved that it and the report be referred back to the committee for further consideration.

Mr. NASH, Minister of Finance, who was then in charge of the House, and the chairman of the committee, Mr. (Macfarlane (L., Christchurch Central), agreed to accept the amendment, and this course was agreed to.

"If any Soldier thinks himself wronged in any matter by any ~~soldier~~ Officer other than his Captain he will complain thereof to his Captain. And if he thinks himself wronged by his Captain, either in respect of his Complaint not being redressed or in respect of any other matter, he may Complain thereof to his Commanding Officer, and if he thinks himself wronged by his commanding Officer, either in respect of his Complaint not being redressed or in respect of any other matter, he may Complain thereof to the General or other officer Commanding the District or Station where the Soldier is serving; and every Officer to whom a Complaint is made in pursuance of this Section shall cause such Complaint to be enquired into, and shall, if on enquiry he is satisfied of the justice of the Complaint so made, take such steps as may be necessary for giving full redress to the Complainant in respect to the matter Complained of."

Manual Military Law.
(Sec. 43 Army Act)

38 Fox St.
Inveraryll
12th August 1945

The Rt. Hon P Fraser M.P.
Prime minister,

Prime Minister's Office
14 AUG 1946
RECEIVED

Prime Minister's Office
14 AUG 1945
RECEIVED

Sir, I was discharged the 2nd Battalion staff for purging the staff corps of a criminal.

I was refused a Court of Enquiry on the grounds that my integrity or ability were not questioned

I was refused an enquiry by the late Sir James Allen, on the grounds that "it would be a waste of time + Public money".

The present minister Mr Jones has told me "he would suppress my evidence" that is what his statement implied!

I was left with no alternative but to petition Parliament. I put the truth before the Defence Committee. Result - "Recommended to the Government for most favourable consideration".

After a fight for Justice lasting 26 years am I now, sir, to obtain Justice?

Yours Sincerely
John Shortal

KJ:T

D. Series: 1 Sub-No. 3067 R

RECEIVED 21 AUG 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

14th August, 1945

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th August, and have noted the representations made by you in it. Your letter is being placed before the Hon. Minister of Defence for his consideration and attention.

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister

Army Secretary,

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

Referred

20.8.45.

HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE
Referred

for the Prime Minister
14/8/45

Hon Mason
1/8

Yours sincerely
John Shortal

3.

Three years later when the Military Authorities refused me a Court of Enquiry, (which according to the law under which I served I was legally entitled to) on the grounds that my "integrity" or "ability" were in no way questioned (a nice way of evading the law and depriving me of its protection) I again and because that was not a lawful reason for withholding from me the protection of Section 43 of the Army Act, and as a last resort appealed to the Minister Sir James Allen for a Court of Enquiry.

His reply was "It would be a waste of time and Public money." Would it have been a "waste of time etc." to grant a Sergt.Major, an enquiry whose integrity or ability were in no way questioned after a period of eight years and 127 days service? or do you smell something fishy? or do you detect something vindictive in such a reply?

Yes, Mr Nash, and it is to render that smell impotent that the present minister, Mr Jones tells me that he would "suppress my evidence" though not in everyday language like that!

I was listening on the Radio to you Sir, when you spoke in the House where you referred to the late Sir J.G.Ward and the "Black Pamphlet" and I am firmly convinced that had it been you who were in my position your reaction to the Hon. F. Jones's statements would have been, if not stronger, would at least be similar to mine.

Freedom of speech which I understand includes freedom to write the truth, the Hon. F. Jones attempted to deny me. The suppression of the truth, Sir, is not Democracy! It is the essence of a Dictatorship in its most obnoxious form! And, when I, to the best of my limited ability wrote on behalf of Labour and voted Labour at each and every election since I arrived in New Zealand, I did not for one moment think that I was about to help a man on to the Treasury Benches who would suppress that truth which for sixteen years previously I had persistently tried to place before the Public who, after all were my employers. And with but one goal in view that of eventaully obtaining that Justice which the public would see I was manifestly entitled to. The matter now is before the Government and I sincerely hope that in the interests of Justice the time and attention given to my case by the Defence Committee as well as the time I spent in preparing my case together with expenses incurred will not have been in vain. But if Justice is sacrificed to expediency for which reason there are hundreds of Historical examples, the most noted being that to which we are indebted to for Christianity then, indeed Mr Nash, I am indread that all my time and trouble will have been in vain.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal

Army would have received better treatment than that meted out to me after 21 years in the Service of the Empire.

I have never asked for anything but that which every man is allegedly and is morally as well as legally entitled to and that is Justice! But Justice could not be done in my case unless my evidence was allowed to be given before a properly constituted Court. For I am aware that no man is allowed to be his own Judge and Jury, and all my efforts and appeals to be allowed to give evidence before a properly constituted Court for the past quarter of a century were unavailing, as you will see from Mr Jones's letter to the leader of the Opposition. The Hon. F. Jones told me "not to write again as my correspondence would not be answered" which means, if my interpretation of the English language is up to the average "I will suppress your evidence."

Is that the action of an honest man who believed in Justice! The God-given right of all men irrespective of class, colour or Creed?

In this threat, he was, however, in some degree successful, for although I was not deterred by this threat at least two Hon. Members of the House ignored my correspondence. And one of whom in whose possession I put the full story as well as my official Character Certificates in order that the story might arouse sufficient interest to justify him in requesting the Minister to grant me a Public Enquiry, not alone failed to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence, but also failed to return my Army Character Certificates after an appeal to him on three different occasions and at intervals of one month. Eventually I had to pay a solicitor to write to him and demand the return of my Character Certificates.

Therefore, as I could not get a member to ask the Minister for a Public Enquiry, and in order to vindicate my charge, I was of necessity compelled a second time to exercise my rights as a citizen and that was to appeal to Parliament per medium of a Petition. This I did, and at a cost to me of approximately ten pounds which I could ill afford. And if the report brought down by the Defence Committee who listened attentively to my evidence is a criterion of such vindication I think Sir, you'll admit I have succeeded, and now Sir, it lies with you and the Prime Minister as well as all honest members of the cabinet to decide whether I should or should not be compensated. Had I been given a square deal I would today be on superannuation or had the Government honoured its side of the contract I would not today be writing this letter to you. The plain and unvarnished truth, Mr Nash, is, that I was victimized by the late Sir James Allen, and not by any officer of the Defence Department, although one or two of them whom I never served under for five minutes co-operated with him.

After five years, I was, according to my agreement which was signed by the late Sir William Hall-Jones on behalf of the New Zealand Government, to receive two hundre pounds per annum. In the presence of Sir Charles Statham I drew Sir James Allen's attention to it. The word "after", "It's a quibble!"declared Sir James.

The Prime Minister.

Sir. This letter was forwarded to Mr. Nash on the 3rd May. I would deem it a favour if you also would do me the honor of reading it. JH

MINISTERIAL OFFICE
RECEIVED

The Hon. Walter Nash,
Parliament Bldgs.,
WELLINGTON.

Sir,

I am forwarding by next mail two letters. You may read them at your leisure. One is from the Hon. F. Jones to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Holland, the other is my reply to same. If you should do me the honour of reading them I would then ask you to draw on your imagination to the extent that you can imagine yourself in the victim's place.

In 1899, at the age of 18 years and two months I joined the British Army. Attended an Army School until I obtained a third class Army School Certificate, persevered until I obtained a Second, continued to persevere, and then on the authority of the Army Council I was awarded a First (the highest). Attended the School of Musketry, Hythe, and qualified as a Musketry Instructor. Attended the School of Signalling and qualified as a Signalling Instructor. Attended the Army School of Physical Training and qualified in the Army System of Physical Training.

In virtue of the foregoing qualifications plus an exemplary character. I was, in April 1911, selected for employment as an Instructor with the New Zealand Government, and here, in August 1919, I was thrown on to the streets of Invercargill, and without any prospects of employment. The protection of my Agreement, which was signed by the late Sir William Hall-Jones, on behalf of the New Zealand Government as well as the protection contained in the Manual of Military Law (Section 43 of the Army Act) were denied to me. Can you realise, Mr Nash, the mental torture I suffered?

Victimized by a Minister of the Crown, no redress, no employment, a home and a wife and child to provide for! I was, indeed fortunate that I did not become a patient of Seacliff Mental Hospital. Undoubtedly, this crime against justice has left its mark! But why did all this happen? Because I was responsible for purging the New Zealand Staff Corps of a criminal and thereby protecting the New Zealand Taxpayer, and incidentally showing that there had been a culpable lack of supervision over Departmental affairs by the then Minister of Defence, Sir James Allen.

Yes, Mr Nash, I have in 1929 proved this before the Defence Committee set up by a Conservative Government, and recently I have proved it before the Defence Committee set up by a Labour Government and if necessary, I will prove it before any Court of Justice - Civil or Military. A man discharged with ignominy from the British

attention to it. The word "after", "It's a quibble!"declared Sir James.

[Form N.Z.—200.

, 194

Date of release and by Whom.

306 / R

d must be entered clearly.

RECEIVED 30 AUG 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill,
25 August, 1945.

Prime Minister's Office
28 AUG 1945
RECEIVED

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime Minister,

Dear Sir,

In reply to a letter forwarded by me on the 12th August, I have received a letter signed on your behalf by Mr James Thorn, M.P. In which it is stated - "I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th August and have noted the representations made by you in it. Your letter is being placed before the Hon. Minister of Defence for his consideration and attention."

Sir, what consideration will a man show to me, who in 1936 told me "my case was delt with on it merits?" when my case was never dealt with! Who, also stated "that no evidence could be found to show that I was victimized" when he had deliberately suppressed the principal and only evidence that could be found? Who told me "not to write again as my correspondence would not be answered" and thereby played the part of a Dictator.

Sir, you fought for justice at San Francisco for small nations. It is within your power Sir, to see that justice is done in my case for if you do not do it, I do not expect it from the man who put every obstacle he possibly could between me and that justice for which I had been fighting for over a quarter of a century.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal,

Acting Min. of Defence
Referred
T.F. 28/8/45.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

29.8.45

attention to it. The word "after", "It's a quibble!"declared Sir James.

D. Series: 1
Sub-No. 306/R

Card noted ..
Ledger noted

Signature of officer:
Date:

PRIVATE SECRETARY.
HON. MINISTER.

Departmental File relative to this man is held by Hon. Attorney-General concerning a Petition to Parliament.

Attached papers are therefore returned to you.

3.9.45.

ARMY SECRETARY.

File 11 sheets.
3/9.

FILING 5
No. of sheets 3
Initials D 3-9

13. If the children are not under your care and guardianship, state full particulars of the parties responsible for their maintenance. (If individual children are under the care of different persons or societies, full particulars must be given.)

Name of Child under Sixteen Years of Age.	Name of Guardian or Society.	Address of Guardian or Society.
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		

14. What amount do you contribute to all or any of these persons for maintenance of the children?

that at last I was about to obtain Justice and armed and fortified by truth I proceeded to Wellington and placed it before the Defence Committee as I did on a former occasion in 1929. nor was I in any doubt of the result.

Each and every member of the Defence Committee without exception were agreed that I was the Subject of victimization. In fact one member came to me when the proceedings were over and congratulated me for the calm but masterly way in which I submitted my evidence.

Sir, I appeal to you and to you alone once more for Justice. Surely, Sir, I am not asking for a favour - a bribe as it were for my loyalty to the Labour Party. You want my Loyalty as well as that of every individual who is capable of distinguishing between right and wrong you'll have that Loyalty in the future Sir as well as in the past but, Sir the price of such Loyalty is Justice!

Yours Sincerely,

John Shortal.

38 Fox St.,
Invercargill.
6th Sept. 1945.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's
11 SEP 1945
Acknowledge D.
Prime Minister's Office
7 SEP 1945
RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

In August 1944, I wrote asking you if you would promise me Compensation if I could prove - beyond the shadow of a doubt - that I was "victimized" deprived of my employment, my Agreement with the New Zealand Government treated as if it were a scrap of paper, torn up, trampled on. I also told you that there was no earthly use in placing my Correspondence before the Minister of Defence who had already placed every obstacle he possibly could - even to the extent of "lying" between me and the Justice I had been fighting for for over a quarter of a Century.

You promised me then that full consideration would be given to any recommendation brought down by the Defence Committee.

On that assurance from you, sir, and believing that "truth possesses within herself a penetrating force unknown to error and to falsehood" and I, believing that

*The names of all soldiers who have been confined in the guard-room during any portion of the time the Guard has mounted to be inserted. †IMP
Lamps and Globes.
Blankets.

[Form N.Z.—200.

, 194

Date of Receipt and by Whom.

must be entered clearly.

D 1 R
Sub-No. 3067

RECEIVED
13 SEP 1945
ARMY
HEADQUARTERS

KJ:T

11th September, 1945

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th September in which you make further representations concerning your claim against the Defence Department. I shall be glad to bring the additional points you have raised to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Defence for his consideration and attention.

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister

RECEIVED
26 OCT 1945
ARMY
HEADQUARTERS

Mr. J. Shartal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Referred

Army Secretary.
Referred.

12.9.45

for the Prime Minister
11/9/45

[illegible] a penetrating force unknown to error and to falsehood" and I, believing that

Lamps and Blankets.

EMK/MMF

D.1/306/AAS

14th September, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Mr. Shortal's complaint is the subject of a Petition to Parliament, and it is understood that other papers are with the Attorney-General.

The attached letters are referred for your direction please.

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Encl:

MEMORANDUM
14 SEP 1945
DE. ATCHED

HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE -
Referred

1/306 R

38 Forrest St.
Invercargill.
Sept. 1945

24/9/45

RECEIVED
27 SEP 1945
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Prime M. O.
21 SEP 1945
RECEIVED

The Rt Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime Minister

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 11th inst.

The Hon. F. Jones, Minister of Defence on the one hand and I on the other are the individuals concerned in this dispute. The Minister, because since 1936 has persistently and defiantly denied me the right to be heard. Sir, with due respect and sincerity I ask this question. – Is the man, who, to his own satisfaction, so skilfully misused the English language to frustrate all my efforts to place my case before a just and impartial tribunal to decide now whether I should be compensated or not? You, Sir, I am sure, will admit that there should be an impartial individual to adjudicate in the matter. I have done my part by placing my case before an impartial Committee of the House. I have had a moral victory but a moral victory is not sufficient for a man who has been grievously wronged. Is it not Sir, but justice to request that a similar procedure be adopted with reference to damages? Sir, with your reputation for fair play and just dealing, I hope you'll see the logic in my reasoning.

Yours Sincerely
John Shortal

your Minister of Defence though in possession of proof that I had been reduced to such a state through victimization told me that I was not victimized, prevented your predecessor, Mr Savage, from giving me an enquiry, used the power that I helped him to attain to prevent me giving evidence. Instructed members of Parliament not to answer my correspondence etc. Can you wonder why my very soul revolts against him?

And he is the man that Mr Nash tells me "there is not a more honest man in New Zealand than the Hon Minister of Defence"

It reminds me of a headline in Vere Foster's Copy Book. which I and perhaps yourself may have transcribed when you were going to school

"All is not gold that glitters." I did not understand what it meant. But now, knocking at the door of 65 years. I thoroughly understand its meaning. In conclusion Sir I must apologise for trespassing on your time. but as it is one year since my petition was heard I am eager to know the result, whether or not I am to be compensated.

Yours sincerely

John Shortal.

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.
RECEI
Asst a Sec 26/10

38 Tory St.
Inverargyle.
4th October 1945.

Prime Minister's Office
5 - OCT 1945
RECEIVED

The Rt. Hon P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime minister.

Dear Sir,

On the 4th October 1944 my Petition was recommended to Parliament for most favourable consideration. Why have I put up such a fight for justice? Because of the cruel injustice inflicted on me by the late Sir James Allen. I lost my home, and more important still my young wife at the early age of 34, yet! Mr Fraser, I had not sufficient money to place her in the hands of a skilled surgeon to undergo a simple operation and had to let her into a Public Hospital, left me on a tuesday morning apparently in good health. Received a wire the following Friday, she was dead, and there unable to carry on, I handed over the Bush Section I was on both Stock & Barrel to the Government, was left penniless, without even Funeral expenses not even the cost of the plot in the Cemetery. That was 23 years ago. Am I placing these facts before you Sir, for your sympathy? A thousand times no, Sir, For although I like other human beings am always grateful & thankful for genuine sympathy. Yet, Sir, you must admit that sympathy is not a substitute for justice

John [illegible]

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.
RECEI
R
Defence
Asst a Sec 26/10

D. SERIES 1 SUB-NO. 306 R

Memo

Prime Minister's Office.

1/306 R

Hon. Minister ... Office

Refer ... Wgtn

P.

28 ... October 1945

The Re...

28 ... my final appeal to you.

I am an age pensioner, On your promise that full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee. I believing that you were a gentleman of your word, scraped together sufficient to enable me to proceed to Wellington and place the truth before the Defence Committee with the result that my Petition was recommended to the Government for most favorable consideration. Is it not, Sir, quite obvious to any impartial and intelligent individual that before such a recommendation could have been made that the members who had heard my evidence, agreed that I had been victimized? Therefore, Sir, if a man in the Government service has been victimized by being deprived of his employment for doing his duty to the State, surely, Sir, in the interests of Justice and Democracy that man should, as far as is humanly possible be compensated? Therefore, I appeal to your honor, to your sense of Justice, to all that is noble in your character to have, to the best of your ability this injustice righted! Injustice, Sir, resembles Dewar's whiskey do not improve with age. Was it not Sir, the accumulated injustice of the past - individual as well as collective that were responsible for the return of 54 Labour members to Parliament in 1935. And the injustice inflicted on me as well as on my wife and child was by no means the least injustice.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortall.

Sympathy is not a "substitute for Justice

John Shortall

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

Asst Sec 24/10

2

was victimized.

In his impulsive way he may have made statements that offended you but the man is genuine and I trust something can be done to redress the wrong although nothing can really recompense for what he has suffered.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

A. Arthur

A.F.D.

SICK. (Excused duty only.)		ATTACHED.	
Rank.	Name.	Rank.	Name.

D. Service Sub-No. 306

37 Thames St
Invercargill
29th October 1945

The Hon. T. Jones
Minister of Defence
Wellington

Dear Mr Jones

Some time ago Mr Dunham made an appeal for some recompense to be made to Sergt Major Shortall for injustice suffered, but so far nothing has eventuated. and I know he is in communication with the Prime Minister

I was brought up in the Milton district in fact I had a commission in the 4th Battalion and know the whole history of the case and how he

Department of Internal Affairs
Pensions Branch
Wellington
VIMA Received

Rank.	Name.	Rank.	Name.
SICK. (Excused duty only.)		ATTACHED.	

D. SER. SUB-NO. 306

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence
Referred
P.-4.
6/11/45

RECEIVED
9 NOV 1945
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Fox St.,
Invercargill
2nd November 1945

d your wire 29th Oct.,
to state that I held
ich involved the
of Justice and therefore
of secrecy which you sir as well as the
Government which you have the honor to lead so admirably
defends, should be dealt with by Cabinet and not
by a Minister who in the past has shown nothing
but bias when my Case was referred to him.
I forgive him for it.

I believe sir, that power comes from God and that
those in whose hands the places that power should
administer it in accordance with His Laws which also
happens to be the laws of this land, and not to their own
satisfaction. Is the Hon. T. Jones prepared to do that now?
If so Can he assess approximately the Compensation I
should receive which Can only be done if he Could
decide whether I would have remained a Sergt-Major or if
I were Capable of earning further promotion. I Cannot answer
those questions myself, as at the time, my future in the
N Z Military Forces would have to be decided by my superior
officers. I Can only say that I would have done my best
to merit promotion. Sir, I have put my case before you
as Coolly and unemotionally as I am Capable and
therefore, sir, sincerely hope that you see that I
I receive a square deal

Yours sincerely
John Shortal.

Rank. | Name. | Rank. | Name.

SICK. (Excused duty only.) | ATTACHED

D.1/306

15th November, 1945.

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th October regarding Mr. J. Shortal. Your remarks have been noted in connection with the representations which Mr. Shortal himself has already made.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

Mr. A.F. Duthie,
57 Thames St.
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
15 NOV 1945
DISPATCHED
18313

File

FILING
No. of sheets 3
initials D 1911

D. Series Sub-No. 306 R

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence. Refused. P.7. 15/11/45

Army Secretary Referred.

16.11.45

1/306

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill.
12th November, 1945.

Prime Minister's Office
14 NOV 1945
RECEIVED

. a letter received by me from the
. Holland, Dated 14th July 1941,

Dear Mr. Shortal,

I received your further letters of the 11th and 14th July and although I have read with care and sympathy what you have written, I am sorry to say I can see no means of carrying the matter any further. The decision rests with the Government, and the Minister of Defence is "quite definite" in the stand he and his Department have taken.

Yours truly,
(Sgd) S.G. Holland.

Sir,

The Department, which means the Officers of the New Zealand Staff Corps together with their Commander are gentlemen and as such would not withhold justice if my case was submitted to a military court, and I am prepared to submit my case to a military tribunal in order that I may prove that it is not the Department that is withholding Justice but the Hon. Frederick Jones.

That, Sir, is not Democracy it is Tyranny!

Why then Sir, should you break your word? "full consideration was to be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee".

It is now over thirteen months since the Defence Committee recommended my Petition to the Government for most favourable consideration.

Was Mr. S.G. Holland right when he said the Minister of Defence was "quite definite"?

What reason has Mr. Jones for doing this?

In 1936, on the advise of Mr. Denham, I placed my case before him together with the evidence.

Mr. Jones replied that my case "was dealt with on its merits".

The Irish Blood in my body surged in a torrent to my head. And amongst other things I told him that "Intelligence minus Honesty was a doubtful qualification for a Cabinet Minister" And the only way he could defend himself against the Statement was by supressing my evidence and thereby withholding Justice from me.

Mr. Fraser, is that Democracy?

Yours, sincerely
John Shortal.

File 20/11

FILING
No. of sheets 1
Initials B.21/11

MEMO. for

Mr Dixon
private secy

Can you tell me the present position of this petition please

F M Sherwood
18 10 45

M Sherwood P.S.
This petition (& several others) still awaits consideration by Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Defence. G. F. Dixon P.S.
25.10.45.

144 pads/5/44—2614]

D. 1 Sub-No. 306/R

Ledger noted
Card noted
—

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

IN YOUR REPLY
D.1/306/AAS
please quote this number.

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,
14th September, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Mr. Shortal's complaint is the subject of a Petition to Parliament, and it is understood that other papers are with the Attorney-General.

The attached letters are referred for your direction please.

Army Secretary to await the decision of Cabinet
26.10.45

F.B. Dwyer
ARMY SECRETARY.

K

Encl:

Bring Forward.
Branch a/c/Sa
Date 28.11.45
Initials D.30/10

3/U

2

D. SERIES: SUB-NO. 306 7R

Memo
Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence.
Referred
Army Secretary.
Referred.
3.12.45.

RECEIVED 3 DEC 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS
30/11/45

1/306

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill.
27th November, 1945.

Prime Minister's 29 NOV 1945 RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

Mr. Denham's Speech re my Petition must have conveyed a false impression to the House.

He stated that I had petitioned the House "three times previously". The truth, Sir, is though I may have written several times to members on only one occasion previous to October 1944, did I give evidence before a Defence Committee, and on that occasion my petition was recommended to the Government for favourable consideration.

Mr. Denham, then goes on to state - that in the Second Petition "no recommendation be made". "And" he says - "In respect of the third Petition the Committee recommended that favourable consideration be given" and the fourth (the last) "that most favourable be given".

Sir, the third and fourth Petitions referred to were the only Petitions that I gave evidence in support of. My sole reason for printing out this mistake, is, that intelligent members of the House might come to the conclusion that on each occasion I "pitched" a different tale. Otherwise, how could there be such a variety of conclusions arrived at by honest and intelligent men? Further on Mr. Denham states - "A Committee of this House was set up to go into the matter (that was the first I heard about it) and decided against Shortal" "Stating that the New Zealand Government could terminate his contract at any time", "which" he adds "was perfectly true".

Perposterous! I say, outrageous! unless a Government could enter into a solemn Contract get the High Commissioner in England, to sign that Contract on behalf of the Government, and then, notwithstanding the fact, that the Second party to the Contract, had honourably and faithfully fulfilled the conditions laid down in that Contract (as was done in my case) metaphorically speaking, "tear it up" I made it abundantly clear in my evidence before the Defence Committee, that the late Sir James Allen, together with a few officers who were prepared to sacrifice their honour to his vindictave spleen were responsible for the injustice inflicted on me and my wife and child and not through any report on my work or character, although a Major Shand and a Major Hampdon made it pretty hot for me.

Sir, if you doubt this, then I would ask you to place this letter in the hands of any one member of the Defence Committee who listened to my evidence and he or the Defence Committee will tell you that the letter is more in keeping with the evidence that I gave before the Defence Committee than that contained in Mr. Denham's Speech.

Are you Sir, going to see that Demonracy is (in my case) vindicated by compensating me for this foul and destardly injustice? A compensation I have been fighting for for twenty six years.

Yours sincerely, John Shortal.

File 6/12.

FILING No. of sheets 2 Initials D 7.12

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, (conti)

Military Tribunal because Military Officers are versed in Military Law and are sworn to Judge the case on the evidence and without partiality or favour and further it would be removed from the Political Arena.

As you will see, Sir, from the endosed letter I have, to the best of my ability written on behalf of Labour. I have for the past 35 years on every conceivable occasion voted Labour. With the help of my vote, my wife's and daughter's and with all honest voters in this Dominion, Mr Jones has been lifted from obscurity to the exalted position of a Cabinet Minister. He seems to have forgotten it or he would not abuse the power entrusted to him by those whose honesty or veracity cannot be called in question. Do you think Sir, I should again vote Labour? I am a Catholic and so are quite a number of Mr Jones's Constitutents and all "Practical" Catholics believe that truth should be the supreme arbiter between Justice and Injustice and not a Minister, who, if he could, would suppress it.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal.
ex Staff Sergt Major N.Z.R.

Invercargill,

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.P.C.
Prime Minister,
Government Buildings,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

With implicit confidence in your promise contained in a letter and signed on your behalf by Mr Thorn, that "full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee" I went to the expense of proceeding to Wellington to place evidence before the Defence Committee that would reveal and did prove a case - and one that I was the subject of - of victimization, I am convinced without parallel in the History of any Government Employee, before or since in this Dominion.

One year and nine months have elapsed since that Petition was heard and yet that promise has not been fullfilled; nor have I received any notification that would lead me to believe that I can entertain even a remote hope of its being honoured in the future or yet any to the contrary. Notwithstanding the fact that my Petition was recommended to the Government "for most favourable consideration" Sir, why this suspense? Owing to the suppression of Truth by the Hon. F. Jones who, with the skill and subtleness of an unscrupulous Lawyer, maliciously and deliberately substituted falsehoods. Am I now to be denied that Justice for which I have been fighting for the past 27 years and without the aid of the R.S.A. or any other such aid to help me, but that which allegedly makes men free - the pure and unadulterated Truth!

Surely, Mr Fraser, if Democracy means anything it means that Justice must not or should not be sacrificed to the whims of a Minister, who, instead of being, as he should be, the guardian and defender of truth has in this Democratic Country seenfit to adopt the mantle of a Dictator in order to suppress it! and who, by implication, told me that he would suppress it. Sir, should he have the temerity to deny any of my statements. I am prepared to submit his correspondence and my evidence plus that of a high ranking Military Officer to any Court of Justice, Military or Civil, and in the event of my failing to prove that which I have already proved before the Defence Committees of 1929 and 1944 I promise to pay the costs. For obvious reasons I would prefer a

He prevented your predecessor Mr Savage from giving me a hearing. It is also reasonable to suppose that he prevented Mr Atmore from answering or returning me my Character Certificates and correspondence which that gentleman, - after an appeal to him on three different occasions and at intervals of one month - until I was put to the expense of placing the matter in the hands of a Solicitor. My correspondence met with the same fate from Miss M. B. Forward. until five months afterwards when I was listening in to her speech on the Address in Reply when she attacked the Social Democratic Authorities for their lack of Courtesy towards her I congratulated her by letter and "Casually" asked her if she'd have the Courtesy to return my correspondence. I got it back by next mail but without the courtesy that she demanded from all and sundry. I hold no ill feeling to either Mr Atmore or Miss Forward. I simply write it to show you what I've been up against.

Here is an extract from Mr. Jones letter dated 6th June 1941.

"On the 21st Aug. 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th Inst. I informed Mr Shortal, that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose" What is that Mr Foster, if not an attempt to intimidate me?

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal

FILING
No. of sheets

SECTION VIII.

Subsequent Remarks.

(Space for use of D.G.M.S. or Regional Deputy.)

Invercargill
20th June 1946

Prime Min...
24 JUN 1946
RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

On perusing the Letters I penned on behalf of Labour. The enclosed Letter expressed, at that time, my feelings as to the Character of each individual, who, were, I believed fighting valiantly for the Cause of humanity - Justice V Injustice!

I was taken out of Dreamlands by Frederick Jones. I placed evidence before him that would have convinced any honest man from Auckland to the Bluff that I was victimized I sent him my Character Certificates together with the abstract of the Defence Committee's Report of 1929. "your Case was dealt with on its merits" In reply to that I went more fully into the Case. I charged the Late Sir James Allen, who, was then a member of the Upper House with victimizing me. A Copy of that letter is now in the possession of the Minister of Justice. But Frederick Jones became more determined than ever that I would not receive the Rights a Criminal is entitled to The right to be heard so ... "Here is an Extract from y... dated 6th June 1941.

"On the 21st Aug. 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th Idem. I informed Mr Shortal, that the Continuation of further Correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose" What is that Mr Fraser, if not an attempt to intimidate me?

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal

FILING
No. of sheets

D. Series 1 Sub-No. 306/R

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence.
Referred.

RECEIVED 1 JUL 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Army Secretary.
Referred.

24/6/46

File

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Yours sincerely,
John Shortal

FILING
No. of Items.....

attic

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

The Hon. Minister of Defence : D.1/306/AAS. R

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

Sgd
9/8/46

RECEIVED 12 AUG 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

F.B. Lange
Army Secretary
9 /8/1946. K

PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

In reference to the attached telegram it is understood that the Departmental (Army) and other papers are held by you in connection with Mr. Shortal's petition.

Would you please enable me to reply.

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

Encl:

Brief Forward
Branch a/a/Sec
Date 19-8
Initials D12-8

MEMORANDUM 12 AUG 1946 DESPATCHED

Draft
B/U 19-8-46

[Form N.Z.—140.
(In pads of 50.)

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

For Ordnance use only.
No.

.DENT on _____

for Clothing for _____
(Designation of unit.)

Indenting Officer's Number: _____

To be consigned to: _____

Station: _____ Countersigned: _____
(Ordnance Officer.)

Date: _____, 194 Date: _____, 194

JACKETS, S.D.				TROUSERS, S.D.				BLOUSES, B.D.				TROUSERS, B.D.			
Size.	Quantity. On Hand.	Quantity. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	Quantity On Hand.	Quantity Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	Quantity. On Hand.	Quantity. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	Quantity On Hand.	Quantity Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.
1				1				0				0			
3				2				1				1			
4				3				2				2			
5				4				3				3			
8				7				4				4			
10				8				5				5			
11				10				6				6			
12				11				7				7			
13				13				8				8			
14				15				9				9			
15				18				10				10			
17				20				11				11			
20				22				12				12			
21				25				13				13			
22															
24															
25															
29															
31															
Total															

Officer.

_____, 194

NOTE.—For ... VII, I.R.A.S.

(D. 244/2/144.) 500 pads ...

MEMO. for
Army Secretary.
Referred.
16. 8. 46.

RECEIVED
19 AUG 1946
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Minister of Defence.
244 pads/5/44—20141

But Peter is determined to fight. He petitions Parliament. He wins! However, a Tory Government is in power; a Tory Minister victimized him. So he might as well have lost.

A Labour Government eventually assumes the reins of office. Peter, after innumerable reverses at the hands of the Hon. F. Jones, eventually appeals to the Prime Minister; and the Prime Minister, being an honourable and upright man, informs Sergt.-Major Fraser that he "could rest assured that full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee."

His spirits immediately rise. He has the truth about his discharge! He is satisfied that the vast majority of the human race are honest. Why should Members of Parliament be different? They are not! And thank God for that.

They listened attentively to Peter's evidence -- the evidence that the man devoid of moral courage, the Hon. Frederick Jones, by equally as foul means as those of the late Sir James Allen, thought to suppress.

Yes, Mr. Fraser; I feel like the unfortunate man who threw his returned soldier's badge on the floor of the House.

Sir, are you going to honour your promise? Can I appeal to your sense of justice -- aye, to your honour -- to see that a man who was subjected to such a base injustice is compensated? For it is not possible now to right it. Or are you going to withhold justice because I, too, lost my temper with a man holding a position which demands that he exercise the strictest impartiality when dealing with complaints -- because one cannot be impartial if one ignores the virtues of truth and honesty which should be part and parcel of one's character!

Yours faithfully,

John Shortal,

ex Staff Sgt Major,

N.Z.P.S.

"You are to be returned to your Regiment by next boat!"

Peter's breath is practically taken from him. Peter has an agreement with the Government containing a number of Articles which not only do not state that he would be or could be arbitrarily returned to his Regiment, but which actually confer on him all the rights and privileges extended to other members of the Staff, unless he violates any of the Articles contained in that agreement, which was signed on behalf of the New Zealand Government by the late Sir William Hall-Jones. However, Peter's agreement does not count; like many historical "scraps of paper," that, too, is but a "scrap of paper."

Peter has not a penny to his name, his savings having been invested in a home under the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Scheme, on which there is a Government mortgage. Peter's wife is a New-Zealander, and his child was born in New Zealand. But Peter is not a fool. What else did he expect? Was he not handed a copy of "Truth" when on Gallipoli, where he read, "If Sergt.-Major Fraser would be recalled to give evidence," etc. He knew then, and he knows now with a vengeance, what the result would be for him for daring to protect the New-Zealander from being robbed by an Officer who had now suffered for his misdeeds by being sentenced to a term of imprisonment, and, of course, automatically cashiered.

Peter applied for an inquiry under Section 43 of the Army Act. But to whom is he applying? To the men who set themselves the task of victimizing him. He is supposed to be protected by his agreement, as well as by Section 43 of the Army Act. He is refused, and for no other reason than that for which, if for no other, an inquiry should be granted: "As your integrity or ability are in no way questioned, the Department cannot accede to your request.

He now appeals to the chief instigator, the man whose definition of the word "after" was a "quibble" -- the late Sir James Allen. But Sir James's idea of justice was that it was "a waste of time and public money" to give a hearing to a man whose integrity or ability were not questioned.

And now Peter, not wishing to have his wife and child exiled, appeals to his friend, the late Sir Charles Statham. And Mr. Statham (as he then was) succeeds in obtaining six months' leave without pay.

Peter is now thrown on to the streets of Invercargill. He or his wife or child is no longer of any interest to the Department or to Sir James Allen. Whether Peter can get employment or not is no affair of theirs. He and his wife and child can starve, for all they care. What a happy ending to the military career of Sergt.-Major Fraser, the man who devoted the best of his life to the interests of the Service.

Fay
38 ~~Tay~~ Street,
Invercargill.

Prime Minister's Office.
12 AUG 1946
RECEIVED

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P., P.C.,
Prime Minister,
WELLINGTON.

Prime Minister's Office.
13 AUG 1946
ACKNOWLEDGED.

Dear Sir,

I have read in the morning's paper of 28th July, with deep emotion and extreme gratification, of your generous, if but just, treatment of the unfortunate returned soldier who threw his badge on the floor of the House. Unfortunately, however, we are not all in the place where we could fling our medals on the floor as a protest against the base and cowardly treatment we received. Nor is it possible for us to convey our feelings or emotions in or by the written word.

For twenty-seven years I have been fighting a case of the basest injustice that a Minister of the Crown ever was guilty of perpetrating against an individual.

Repeatedly, Sir, I have appealed to yourself. I have also petitioned Parliament twice (and twice only): "Recommended to the Government for favourable consideration"; "Recommended to the Government for most favourable consideration."

Let me enact the closing scene of eight years' harassing treatment, which eventually culminated in my discharge by, as I have already stated, the most despicable and dishonourable methods which any individual entrusted with power could descend to. I will, though reluctantly, imagine that "you" (but God forbid it) were forced into a similar position. I therefore crave your pardon for the use of both your Christian name and surname. Disrespect towards you or anyone else in authority "deserving" of such respect is the furthest thing from my mind; it is purely and simply for illustration. If we have suffered pain or anguish, we can sympathize with those in a similar position; if not, the nearest approach is through the imagination. So here is Sergt.-Major Peter Fraser.

"Peter!"

"Yes, sir?"

"I have bad news for you."

Peter halts, takes a breath. "What is it, sir?"

A.

J:R.

L. 306

13th August, 1946.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date, and have noted the additional representations made in connection with your request for compensation.

As the matter is one which comes within the jurisdiction of the Hon. Minister of Defence I am placing your letter before my colleague for his consideration and attention.

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister.

Hon. Minister of Defence:

Referred.

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

for the Prime Minister.
13.8.46.

File

2/9.

FILING
No. of sheets all
Initials D.J.

D. SERIES: 1 SUB-NO. 7 306 R

(D. 244/2/144.) 500 pads/3/42—15393.

NOTE.—For scale of measurements of garments, and directions for taking measurements, see Appendix VII, I.R.A.S.
Boots will be indented for on form N.Z. 10.

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence
Referred
P.F.
28/8/46

Army Secretary
Referred.
File 3/9.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE RECEIVED 2-SEP 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

...st.,
...vercargill
...st 1946.

The Rt Hon. ...0.8.46
Prime M...

Dear Sir, with reference to my appeal to you for justice in the form of compensation I have received the following reply.—

"as the matter is one that comes within the jurisdiction of the Hon. Minister of Defence. I am placing your letter before my Colleague for his consideration and attention."

Sir, if I remember right that information has reached me twice previously. I was of the opinion, sir, that the findings of a Committee of the House. If favourable to the Petitioner, or, as was the case with my Petition "not favourable". Then, sir, it was a matter for Cabinet to decide and not a particular Minister; and least of all a minister who.—

(1) Told me my case was dealt with on its merits. (2) Prevented your predecessor, the Hon. M. J. Savage, from consenting to a hearing under any consideration. (3) Told the leader of the opposition that I was discharged in order to make room for new Enlistees. and that I was not in any way victimized and further that he saw no reason for granting me an enquiry. (4) Told me not to write again as my correspondence would not be answered. and (5) That writing again on the subject of my discharge would serve no "good" purpose.

Surely Mr. Fraser it is neither fair nor just to submit my case for consideration to a man so obviously prejudiced and biassed as the Hon. Frederick Jones, has in my case, proved himself to be. Not once! but on every possible occasion

To me, sir, it is like sending me back to PILATE!

Please, sir, do not ask me to appeal to a man who, as I have already stated, 'so misused the power entrusted' to him that he endeavoured to suppress the truth, by, as it were, throwing a spanner into the machinery of justice.

Forty-seven years ago when I was barely eighteen and one half years old, and a Recruit in the Leinster Regiment, I witnessed a young Soldier of a similar age being sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour for the Crime of Perjury. because he endeavoured, when a witness before a court-martial, to throw a spanner into the wheels of military justice, by swearing to that which was false.

Sir, is there any difference between the Hon. F. Jones's conduct and that of that poor unfortunate young Soldier who received, what was looked upon as a salutary lesson?

FILING
No. of sheets 1
Initials D.G.-9

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill

8th September, 1946

Dear Bill,

Would you please ask the Prime Minister if he in possession of my Character Certificates and if not if the Acty Minister of Justice have them. I forwarded them to the Minister of Justice on or about the 22nd June, I told him to hand them to the Prime Minister when finished with them. I have wired the Minister of Justice and also the Prime Minister requesting their return. My wires have not been answered, nor have I received my Certificates my certificates were forwarded under Register Cover.

I am awaiting a reply, re my petition from the Prime Minister, I had been previously informed "that it came within the Jurisdiction of the Min. of Defence.

I forwarded some correspondence to the Editor "Zealandia" who instructed me to communicate with the Archbishop of Wellington, well I have never appealed to a Clergyman of my own Denomination or for that matter any other Denomination A fight for or beg for Justice for Justice, Bill, is the Right of the individual. So my next move will be an Appeal to the Governor General and if I do I'll get a hearing I'll forward him a copy of the letter that the P.M is already in possession of. Jones has won all rounds up to 1944 I may yet win the last one

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal

(COPY).

16th September, 1946.

Dear Mr. Denham,

With reference to the letter addressed to you by Mr. John Shortal of 38 Fox Street, Invercargill, which you recently left with me, all the papers in this case were forwarded to the Hon. Minister of Defence, to whom Mr. Shortal's request for the return of certificates is being referred.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) A.G. Osborne
for the Prime Minister.

Mr. W.M.C. Denham,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Army Secretary.
Referred.
(Sgd.) F.J.
20.9.46

Hon. Minister of Defence :
Referred.
(Sgd.) A.G. OSBORNE.
for the Prime Minister.
16.9.46

Mr. Sievwright,
Please prepare letter to Mr. Shortal returning his papers.

(Sgd.) F.B. Dwyer.
27/8.

CWS/JMS,

D.1/306./A.

MEMORANDUM for : October, 1946.

The Hon. Minister of Justice.

Re: PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

With reference to the attached correspondence between Mr. Shortal, Mr. Denham, M.P., and the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the Army Department's and other papers concerning this case were passed to you in August, 1945.

The certificates which Mr. Shortal now requests be returned were apparently amongst those papers. The request is, therefore, referred to you for whatever action you desire to take.

Encl's. : Correspondence.

Minister of Defence.

dm 4/10

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill
8th September 1946

Prime Minister's Office
16
SEP 1946
ACKNOWLEDGED

Dear Bill,

Would you please ask the Prime Minister if he is in possession of my character certificates and if not if the only Minister of Justice have them. I forwarded them to the Minister of Justice on or about the 22nd June. I told him to hand them to the Prime Minister when finished with them. I have wired the Minister of Justice and also the Prime Minister requesting their return. My wires have not been answered, nor have I received my Certificates my Certificates were forwarded under Register Cover.

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John Shortt

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With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister.

Army Secretary.
Referred.
20.9.46

Hon. Minister of Defence:
Referred.

for the Prime Minister.
16.9.46.

Mr. W. M. C. Denham,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Legal
Any reply to Mr Denham Case
No
11/10

ARMY
306

Legal

Attined
14 Oct 46

Mr Sievright
The Prime Minister
returning his papers
27/8

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

WAR.

[Form N.Z.—353.
(In pads of 100.)

MPLETED
LICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

Surname: _____ *Christian names:* _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT _____ CHEST RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR _____

TRADE _____

1. Are

2. Wh

3. Ha

4. H

5. H

6. H

7. H

38 Ken St.
Invercargill
22nd Sept. 1946.

The Hon. Minister of Defence,
Wellington N.Z.

Sir,
I am informed that you are in Invercargill & therefore respectfully. Would you please return home to other address as you require examination.
Thanking you in anticipation.

John Morris.

Mr. J. Morris
TO 38 Ken St
Due 10/10/46

Army Secretary
For reply for my signature please.

21.9.46

Morris,
Do call for
Medals —
Can you have these
certificates. Yours as left on
this file
7/10

I

Crown Seal.
II Certificates will be on main file when it is with number of
Justice in requisition
make a pattern.
8/10

III Now entered 9/10

(4) Asthma or hay fever: _____

8. Have you ever been rejected or discharged as unfit for any branch of H.M. Forces (state arm of Service) or other Government employment? _____ If so, give details: _____

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

ARMY 306 R

RECEIVED 23 SEP 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

CWS

D.1/306.

MEMORANDUM for : October, 1946.

The Hon. Minister of Justice.

Re: PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

With reference to the attached correspondence between Mr. Shortal, Mr. Denham, M.P., and the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the Army Department's and other papers concerning this case were passed to you in August, 1945.

The certificates which Mr. Shortal now requests be returned were apparently amongst those papers. The request is, therefore, referred to you for whatever action you desire to take.

Encl's. : Correspondence.

Minister of Defence.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

D.1/306.

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

October, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for :

The Hon. Minister of Justice.

Re: PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

With reference to the attached correspondence between Mr. Shortal, Mr. Denham, M.P., and the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the Army Department's and other papers concerning this case were passed to you in August, 1945.

The certificates which Mr. Shortal now requests be returned were apparently amongst those papers. The request is, therefore, referred to you for whatever action you desire to take.

Encl's. : Correspondence.

Minister of Defence.

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/A.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

MEMO. for

Mr. Dwyer

I think these are the papers you have been looking for.

J. G. Robertson
8.10.46.

M. Sutton

Office of the Minister of Defence.

144 pads/2/46—15205]

Dwyer.
Secretary.
10/1946.

11th October, 1946.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter dated the 22nd September, and as requested therein I forward herewith the documents which you left with the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

Encls:

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
11 OCT 1946
DISPATCHED

FILING
No. of sheets all
Initials D 15-10

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/AS

The Hon. Minister of Defence:

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

RECEIVED 11 OCT 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Sgd
10/10/46

Army Secretary.
10/10/1946.

Minister of Defence.

Encls:

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM 11 OCT 1946 DESPATCHED

FILING
No. of sheets all
Initials D 15.10

3,000 pads/1/42—14656]

1.

D. GENERAL EVA-NO.

306.

R.

Section VIII.

Subsequent Remarks.

(Space for use of D.G.M.S. or Regional Deputy.)

Section III.

Finding of Medical Board.

RECEIVED 10 OCT 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Forth St.
Invercargill
9th October 1946.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P. P.C.
Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Office
10 OCT 1946
RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

about a fortnight ago I wrote the Hon. T. Jones, requesting him to return my Liberator Certificates. He did not acknowledge the receipt of my letter or return Certificates. Sir I will be compelled to appeal to His Excellency The Governor General. If the Certificates are not returned by monday would you Sir please ask him to return them.

Yours sincerely,
John Shortal.

Army Secretary.

Referred.

11.10.46.

Hon. Minister of Defence

Referred

N.Z.A. File

18/10

18/10/46

FILING
No. of sheets
Initials D.16-10

ARMY 306

10 OCT 1947

JOHN SHORTAL'S PETITION

"SOUTHLAND NEWS"

REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE

(News Special Correspondent)

WELLINGTON, October 10.

The petition of John Shortal, of Invercargill, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the Army and for compensation was reported on by the Defence Committee in the House yesterday. It had no recommendation to make.

This decision was criticised by a number of Opposition members, Mr J. A. Roy stating that the petitioner was selected among a number of English non-commissioned officers to serve in New Zealand under agreement with the British Government. Shortal was allocated to the 14th South Otago Regiment and to the speaker's own knowledge was a very efficient sergeant-major. Some financial irregularities in the regiment were reported by Shortal, who considered it his duty to do so, and two officers concerned who had gone to the front in 1914, were recalled, one being convicted and sentenced. Shortal was employed as an instructor in New Zealand and towards the end of 1918 a most damaging adverse report on his efficiency was recorded. It was, he considered, a strange proceeding only to be explained by the fact that in the army if a man got offside with his superiors it was not forgotten. Shortal subsequently had good reports. His agreement terminated in 1920 and he believed but for the unfortunate circumstance mentioned he would have been retained, but he was discharged. He had several times petitioned the House, and in 1929 the committee had made a favourable recommendation.

The Minister of Defence, the Hon. F. Jones, said that he had examined the files to see if the request for an inquiry was justified in view of the allegation of victimisation. An officer was convicted in 1915 and Shortal continued to serve in the New Zealand forces. When the time came for discharge his commanding officer gave him credit for being a good instructor. He was on loan from the Imperial Forces and there were New Zealanders to be considered for positions after the war. However, Shortal's request for an extension of his term so as to qualify for an Imperial pension was allowed. There was an inquiry into his grievance in 1931 and the conclusion was reached that Shortal had no case. The officer responsible for the adverse report had nothing to do with this matter. Mr Jones concluded by declaring there was nothing to justify the setting up of a committee of inquiry.

Discussion was continued throughout the afternoon by members on both sides, who presented their view of the petitioner's case, and the Prime Minister eventually intervened to say he was prepared to go any length to see an injustice was not perpetuated though to do justice to one man should not permit injustice to others. Nothing would be gained by condemning officers of the past because of sympathy and a desire to ease the lot of the petitioner. Perhaps, he said, the Defence Committee could inquire what evidence was available, but to deal with the case after 30 years would be very difficult.

Mr J. R. Hanan, member in charge of the petition, moved that the report be referred back to the Defence Committee.

The Minister of Finance, the Hon. W. Nash, who was in charge of the House, said the Government would accept the amendment and Mr R. M. Macfarlane, chairman of the Defence Committee, stated they would have no objection to this course.

The amendment was carried on the voices.

10 OCT 1947

VICTIMIZATION ALLEGED

Discharge By Army In 1920

"SOUTHLAND TIMES"

INVERCARGILL MAN'S PETITION

(Special) WELLINGTON, October 9.

Most of this afternoon was occupied by the House of Representatives in discussing the report of the defence committee on the petition by John Shortal, of Invercargill, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the New Zealand permanent military forces. The committee reported that it had no recommendation to make. Disappointment with this finding was expressed by members of the Opposition and an amendment that the petition be referred back to the committee for further consideration was accepted. The events to which the petition related occurred more than 30 years ago.

Mr J. A. Roy (Nat., Clutha) said that the petitioner was one of six sergeant-instructors who were brought to New Zealand in 1911 under an agreement between the New Zealand and the British Governments. The petitioner was allocated to the 14th South Otago Regiment, Mr Roy stating that he himself was a non-commissioned officer in that regiment and he had never come across a more efficient n.c.o. than the petitioner. In 1914 the petitioner was made regimental sergeant-major of the regiment.

"UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS"

There had been some unfortunate incidents concerning irregularities by senior officers and the petitioner had reported them. An adverse report was made on the petitioner in 1912 and in 1918 another adverse report was made about him. One report, which was made by a territorial officer who at the time was a temporary officer on the staff, stated that the petitioner was inefficient. Between the adverse reports and after 1918 there were good reports, said Mr Roy. It seemed that some sinister influence had been at work. It might be argued that in dismissing the petitioner the Army had done nothing illegal, but when the petitioner's agreement was terminated in 1920 there was still room in the New Zealand forces for a man of the petitioner's qualifications.

Mr Roy said he was perfectly convinced that had it not been for the action of the petitioner in reporting the irregularities his agreement would have been renewed. He was also convinced that an injustice had been done to the petitioner and his career had been ruined. The Government could do something even now to recompense the petitioner in his old age.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

The Minister of Defence, Mr Jones, said that the petitioner believed that because he gave evidence that led to the conviction of an officer he was victimized. The officer concerned was convicted in 1915 and the petitioner continued to serve for four years after that. The Government of the day had decided that the services of loan personnel should be terminated. Although the officer was convicted in 1915 the petitioner continued to serve until nine months after World War 1. The petitioner asked if he could be discharged in New Zealand and the War Office was approached and agreed to this and it also agreed to a further request that he should be allowed six months' leave

COPY

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE PETITION OF JOHN SHORTAL, ex Staff Sergeant Major, New Zealand Permanent Staff

, OF 38 Fox Street, Invercargill,

HUMBLY SHOWETH:-

1. That your petitioner prays that the circumstances leading up to his wrongful discharge from duty with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces should be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives of the Dominion of New Zealand, or any other competent Court or Board of Inquiry as they may direct to be established, with a view to his being justly compensated for such injury to his estate and person, the grounds of his petition being as followeth hereafter:

2. That your petitioner was victimized for the performance of his duty during his service with the New Zealand Permanent Staff after the year 1912 for an action performed in the interests of the State during the month of November of the year aforementioned; and that the attitude of certain of your petitioner's superior Officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to had a direct bearing on the wrongful termination of his engagement with the New Zealand Permanent Forces.

3. That your petitioner was denied the opportunity of replying to or stating his case in respect of an adverse confidential report rendered against him during the year 1913, despite the fact that such confidential reports, both adverse and otherwise, on other Non-Commissioned Officers of the New Zealand Permanent Staff were read over to them by the Officer rendering the report.

4. That your petitioner suffered damage, both in mind and estate, through the fact that his agreement for service under the New Zealand Government was wrongfully terminated in that, whereas his engagement with the New Zealand Defence Department was extended by the War Office to a period defined as "the end of the War and six months after," his engagement was terminated and he was discharged from Service with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces on the 31st August, 1919, instead of six months from 10th January, 1920, this latter date being that declared by Proclamation by His Majesty the King as the end of the War.

5. That your petitioner was denied the protection afforded him as a soldier by Section 43, The Army Act, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the prescribed channel impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior Officers, no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever set up whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

AND your humble petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray, etc.

Signd. John Shortal.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

Christian names: _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

1. Are you now suffering from any disease or disability? _____

2. What standard of primary-school education did you reach and at what age? _____

3. Have you ever suffered from any of the following illnesses? If so, give date and duration:—

   (*a*) Chest disease, including tuberculosis, pleurisy, blood-spitting, chronic cough, or asthma: _____

   (*b*) Heart disease, including weakness of heart: _____

   (*c*) Rheumatic fever, rheumatism, lumbago, or sciatica: _____

ment? _____ If so, give details: _____

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

Leg.—61.]

DEFENCE *Committee,*

House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON

6th August, 1947

Memorandum *for*

The Secretary,
Army Department,
Defence Services Building,
Featherston Street, City.

I forward herewith for your report, for the information of the above *Committee, petition No.* 42 *of* J. SHORTAL,
38, Fox Street, Invercargill.
three copies of
Please return the petition, together with your report thereon, to me, as soon as possible.

Clerk of the Committee.

500/4/46—1507]

4.

The request was declined as it was considered that a Court of Inquiry would not serve any useful purpose. It was explained to Mr. Shortal that his discharge was the result of the expiration of his agreement and that his integrity or capability was not questioned.

The Department's file dealing with this case can be made available if or when it is required by the Committee.

The petition is returned herewith.

(Sgd.) F. E. DWYER
ARMY SECRETARY.

Army Secy.

No alteration or addition to suggest.

5 Sept. 47.

MEMORANDUM
5 SEP 1947
DESPATCHED

3.

Mounted Rifle Training:	Nil
Infantry Training:	Poor
Musketry Training:	Poor
Physical Training:	Good

In fairness to Mr. Shortal it must be stated that this adverse report conflicts with the reports he gained from 1912 to 1919. These were as follows:-

Year	Character	Zeal	Educational qualities.	If smart and Soldierly.	If recommended for promotion.	Ability in imparting instrn.	Remarks.
1912	Ex.	Ex.	Good	Yes	No	Ex.	
1913	Good	Good	Fair	Yes	No	Ex.	An excellent Instructor but very excitable causing him to forget his position. Have had to reprimand him on two occasions.
1914		No Report.					
1915	Report of OC Otago Batt. on Active Service -						This NCO (temp. W.O.) is very capable but a to get a little slack
1916		No Report.					
1917	V. Good	Ex.	6 Std.	Yes	Yes	V.Good	
1918	Exempy.	Good	Secondary.	Yes	No	Good	
1919	Exempy.	Good	Secondary.	Yes	No	V.Good	

It is also noted that the recommendation to G.O.C. referred tothe "latest confidential report." This report was dated 12/12/1918 - three months previously - yet no action had been taken up to that time to have Mr. Shortal returned to the United Kingdom or discharged. Although it can be quite definitely stated that there was no element of victimization in his discharge, it might have been that his persistent requests for promotion to Warrant Officer rank brought the question of his period of service to the notice of the authorities.

(iv) Denied a Court of Inquiry:

It appears that this refers to the request made by the petitioner in May, 1919 for a Court of Inquiry so "that the Department might have the opportunity of proving to the public that what practically amounts to my dismissal from the N.Z. Permanent Staff is for the benefit of the State and not the outcome of vindictiveness on the part of some Officer or Officers of the Department."

This complaint, therefore, is principally concerned with the definition of the term "the period of the war." It was originally claimed on Mr. Shortal's behalf that the end of the war was the 28th June, 1919, the date of the signing of the Peace with Germany, but later Mr. Shortal claimed that it was the 10th January, 1920, the date of the Proclamation of the end of the war, although the discharge of Mr. Shortal had been effected before the Proclamation was issued.

The Crown Solicitor in 1919 expressed the opinion that there was no authority to engage Mr. Shortal for the period described and that the contract, therefore, was ultra vires and Mr. Shortal held his position at the will of the Government. He pointed out that 11th November, 1918, was not the date the War ended and that if the agreement with Shortal had been a legally binding one it would have had to be admitted that he had been prematurely discharged. As, however, it was not legally binding the only duty of the Department was to observe the agreement honourably in accordance with its original understanding as to its meaning. He went on to say that "In a practical and popular sense, though not in a legal sense, the Armistice (11th November, 1918) was the end of the war," and that Mr. Shortal had originally acquiesced in this interpretation.

In regard to his discharge, however, it is noted that the matter was first raised when Mr. Shortal had persisted in pressing his claim to be promoted to Warrant rank. Major F. H. Lampden, acting for the Officer Commanding the Otago District at this time, forwarded on one of Mr. Shortal's requests for promotion with the comment, "I would point out that this NCO is on loan from the Imperial authorities and would suggest that every facility be afforded this NCO of returning to his Home Unit."

At General Headquarters these papers were referred to the G.O.C. with the comment: "It would appear that this NCO's period of engagement with the N.Z. Government expires on 11th May next, and in view of the latest confidential report (copy attached) on this NCO it is recommended that he be returned to his Regiment at the earliest opportunity. His contract was intended 'for the duration of the war and six months thereafter.' Do you agree that in this and similar cases of Imperial officers and NCO's under engagement with the N.Z. Forces the words 'duration of the war' should be taken to mean the duration of actual hostilities?"

(Mr. Shortal himself chose to be discharged in New Zealand rather than be returned to his unit in the United Kingdom as would have been the normal course.)

The confidential report referred to was dated 12th December, 1918, and was in the following terms:-

"Training qualifications:	A poor instructor.
Administrative qualifications for General Office routine:	Poor in office work.
Qualifications in handling stores, expenditure, etc:	This NCO acted as QMS 7th M.R. for a period but did not prove satisfactory.

cws/c

ARMY 1/306

4th September, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for:

64

Committee Clerk,
Defence Committee,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

PETITION NO. 42 - John SHORTAL.

This petition is identical with former petitions submitted by Mr. Shortal in 1925, 1927, 1929 and 1943. Mr. Shortal apparently appeared before the Defence Committee in 1929 and 1944 (when the 1943 petition was heard) and the reports of the Committee on those occasions were that the petition should be referred to the Government for "favourable consideration" and for "most favourable consideration" respectively. In 1925 the petition was referred to the Government "for consideration" while in 1927 no recommendation was made. On all these occasions the Government has decided to take no action in the matter. In November, 1930, the case was referred to the Uniformity Committee. Their report was to the effect that the action taken was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in the petition.

All the relevant papers in this case were subjected to a new and complete review before the following report was prepared. It will be convenient to deal singly with the several allegations made by the petitioner under the following headings:-

(i). Victimization for an action performed in 1912:

This apparently refers to the reporting by the petitioner of Captain J. R. Henderson for alleged defalcations in 1912. There is no evidence of his action at this time having had any connection with his subsequent discharge which was brought about by the termination of his period of engagement.

(ii). Denied the opportunity of replying to an adverse report in 1913:

At the time of the report it was not required by regulations that such reports be shown to the Warrant or Non-commissioned Officer reported upon. This practice was adopted later and has since been followed.

(iii). Wrongful termination of services:

Mr. Shortal was one of six Sergeant-Instructors of the British Regular Army engaged in April, 1911 for a period of five years' service in New Zealand. On the expiry of that period his engagement was extended for nine months and further extended, on each occasion with the consent of the War Office, "for the period of the War (of 1914-19) and six months thereafter." He was discharged from the N.Z. Permanent Staff on 31st August, 1919. As a result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded as on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

ARMY 1/306/L.

NOTE FOR FILE

The hearing of this Petition before the Defence Committee of the House, commenced on 10.9.47 was continued on 8.10.47.

After lengthy discussion, the Committee decided, on a majority vote, that no recommendation be made to the House.

N.B. The Committee was agreed that the adverse report of 12.12.18 was unwarranted and unjustified, but this view was not incorporated in the decision, on a majority vote.

8 OCTOBER 1947.

LEGAL OFFICER.

SGS/TWK

ARMY 1/306/L.

8th October, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for:-

THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

PETITION BY JOHN SHORTAL.

Herewith, as requested, I forward copy of report dated 21.9.29 from Major-General Young to theHon. Minister of Defence.

F. B. DWYER

ENCL:

ARMY SECRETARY.

N.F.A

MEMORANDUM
8 - OCT 1947
DESPATCHED

Mr Kelly

1/306

Mr Francis has been trying to contact you to see if you, after this mornings meeting picked up the original copy re Shortall

Would you please ring him 41-5515

Discussed with Francis 10/9

Allocation W.O.II 10/9

COMPLETED DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

[F
(In

Surname: _____ ***Christian names:*** _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

1. Are you now suffering from any disease or disability? _____

2. What standard of primary-school education did you reach and at what age? _____

3. Have you ever suffered from any of the following illnesses? If so, give date and duration:—

   (*a*) Chest disease, including tuberculosis, pleurisy, blood-spitting, chronic cough, or asthma: _____

   (*b*) Heart disease, including weakness of heart: _____

   (*c*) Rheumatic fever, rheumatism, lumbago, or sciatica: _____

   (*d*) Nervous disease, neurasthenia, nervous breakdown, fits, or convulsions: _____

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/3/46—16014)

+ J SHORTAL +

HIM IN THE HOUSE HANDING THIS WIRE TO THE PRESS

OF SWEARING TO THE TRUTHFULNESS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY

ENQUIRY YOUR MINISTER WOULD THEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY

LABOURING UNDER NO OBSESSION WOULD WELCOME A JUDICIAL

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

Rec'd at _____ By _____

D 72 43 INVERCARGILL 9 35 A +

THE PRIME MINISTER PARLIAMENT

BLDGS WELLINGTON +

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

Sent _____

To _____

By _____

Addr. _____

DATE-STAMP

(4) Asthma or hay fever? _____

8. Have you ever been rejected or discharged as unfit for any branch of H.M. Forces (state arm of Service) or other Government employment? _____ If so, give details: _____

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

SECTION III.

Finding of Medical Board.

Vision without Glasses.	Vision possible.	Approx. Refraction.
R_____ /	_____ /	_____
L_____ /	_____ /	_____

Colour vision: _____

Visual Grading [ ] With Glasses / Without Glasses

External and Ophth.: _____

Signed: _____, Examining Optician.

Hearing—Right ear: _____ Left ear: _____

Is there any morbid condition of (1) gums; (2) mouth; (3) throat?—

(1)_____ (2)_____ (3)_____

Are his limbs well formed? _____

Are the movements of all his joints full and perfect? _____

Is his chest well formed? _____

Are his lungs normal? _____

Pulse rate, sitting: _____

Cardiac efficiency test—Pulse standing: _____;

after exercise: _____; two minutes later: _____

What is his blood-pressure? _____

Is his heart normal? _____

Urine—Reaction: _____ Sp. G. _____

Albumin: _____ Sugar: _____

Is he free from hernia? _____

Is he free from varicocele? _____

Is he free from varicose veins? _____

Is he free from hæmorrhoids? _____

Is he free from skin-disease? _____

Is there any evidence of nervous disease? _____

SECTION IV.

Remarks. (Should include reference to any abnormality noted above, to any congenital peculiarities, previous disease, or slight defects. Particularly to Medical Statement of Candidate.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Recr ***y Medical Board.)***

WE consider that, after reme ***some fit for Grade*** _____ Specific

treatment required is _____

(For other than ***temporarily unfit.)***

Examined and placed in Grade [ ]

Code No. [ ]

Causes of grading lower than Grade _____

Signed: _____, Member.

Bring Forward.
Branch P/BSEC
Date 23/10/47
Initials

1-12-47

M. Sutherland
Patterson
in hand on
post card at
10.9.47
Examined this day.
Lower left lobe
Tender. No nodes
palpable in axilla
or groins.
R.C.
9

ARMY 306

SHORTAGE 2

3,000 pads/7/42—3546)

1/306

COPY.

Signed:
J.R.Hanan.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of JOHN SHORTAL, ex Staff Sergeant Major,
New Zealand Permanent Staff,
of 38 Fox Street, Invercargill.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:-

1. That your petitioner prays that the circumstances leading up to his wrongful discharge from duty with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces should be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives of the Dominion of New Zealand, or any other competent Court or Board of Inquiry as they may direct to be established, with a view to his being justly compensated for such injury to his estate and person, the grounds of his petition being as followeth hereafter:

2. That your petitioner was victimized for the performance of his duty during his service with the New Zealand Permanent Staff after the year 1912 for an action performed in the interests of the State during the month of November of the year aforementioned; and that the attitude of certain of your petitioner's superior Officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to had a direct bearing on the wrongful termination of his engagement with the New Zealand Permanent Forces.

3. That your petitioner was denied the opportunity of replying to or stating his case in respect of an adverse confidential report rendered against him during the year 1913, despite the fact that such confidential reports, both adverse and otherwise, on other Non-commissioned Officers of the New Zealand Permanent Staff were read over to them by the Officer rendering the report.

4. That your petitioner suffered damage, both in mind and estate, through the fact that his agreement for service under the New Zealand Government was wrongfully terminated in that, whereas his engagement with the New Zealand Defence Department was extended by the War Office to a period defined as " the end of the War and six months after", his engagement was terminated and he was discharged from Service with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces on the 31st August, 1919, instead of six months from 10th January, 1920, this latter date being that declared by Proclamation by His Majesty the King as the end of the War.

5. That your petitioner was denied the protection afforded him as a soldier by Section 43, The Army Act, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the prescribed channels impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior Officers, no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever set up whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

And your humble petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray etc.,

(Signed) JOHN SHORTAL.

Leg.—20.]

House of Representatives

DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON THE PETITION

OF

42/1947. J. SHORTAL, OF INVERCARGILL.

PRAYING FOR INQUIRY into the circumstances surrounding his discharge from the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REPORT that the Committee recommends that this Petition be referred to the Government for inquiry into all the circumstances raised by the subject-matter of the Petition.

(Sd). R.M.Macfarlane,

CHAIRMAN.

..6th November, 1947.

Leg.—42.]

LA. 17 10/47

ARMY 1 306.

No. 44

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives, THURSDAY, *the* 6TH *day of* NOVEMBER, 1947

ORDERED:

That the Report of the Defence Committee on the Petition of J. Shortal be referred to the Government for inquiry.

On motion of
Mr. Chapman.

A TRUE EXTRACT.

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The Secretary,
Army Department.

Referred:
Under Secretary,
10/11/47

BE/TWK

ARMY 1/306/L

December, 1947.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your telegram of the 18th November I have to advise that it was found impossible to arrange another committee of enquiry in connection with your case before the close of the Session.

Ample notice will be given you of the proposed date, so that you may be enabled to call any other witnesses desired by you.

Yours faithfully,

Cancelled

Minister of Defence.

J. Shortal, Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

38 Fox Street
INVERCARGILL.

10th November, 1947.

Mr. J.R. Hannan, M.P.
House of Representatives,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I received the abstract of the Defence Committee's Report. Would be pleased if you would inform me of the date of this enquiry as it will be necessary for me to be present, and further I am going to call evidence in support of my charge of victimization.

The Minister of Defence stated that there was an enquiry held in 1931, but I was not present at that enquiry. I sincerely hope that this will not happen this time. To hold an enquiry without the presence of the Chief witness, to put it mildly I do not think it would be just.

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal.

Army Secretary

Referred.

F.J.

25/11/47

ARMY 306

RECEIVED
25 NOV 1947
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Forest St.,
Lverscargill
10th november 1947.

Mr J R Hanan, M.P.
House of Representatives
Wgtn.

Dear Sir,

I received the abstract of the Defence Committee's Report. Would be pleased if you would inform me of the date of that enquiry as it will be necessary for me to be present, and further I am going to call evidence in support of my Charge of victimization.

The minister of Defence stated that there was an enquiry held in 1931. but I was not present at that enquiry I sincerely hope that this will not happen this time. To hold an enquiry without the presence of the chief witness, to put it mildly I do not think it would be just.

Yours Sincerely
John Sarstal

Army Secretary
Referred.
25.11.47

astaff
11/11

Rank.	Name.	Rank.	Name.
SICK. (Excused duty only.)		ATTACHED.	

TO BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

Surname: _____ ***Christian names:*** _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

1. Are you now suffering from any disease or disability? _____
2. What standard of primary-school education did you reach and at what age? _____
3. Have you ever suffered from any of the following illnesses? If so, give date and duration:—

D 169 22 INVERCARGILL 10 44 A

MR ROY M P PARLT BLDGS WELLINGTON 4

Rec'd at _____ By _____

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

DATE-STAMP

To _____

By _____

Ackgd. _____

HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT WITNESS TO CALL STOP

PLEASE WIRE ME DATE OF ENQUIRY + SHORTAL ++

Army Secretary
Referred.

21.11.47

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/5/49—16[illegible]

6. Have you been rejected or deferred for LIFE INSURANCE or FRIENDLY SOCIETY? _____
7. Has any member of your family ever suffered from—
   (1) Consumption or Miners' Disease? _____
   (2) Mental disturbance, nervous breakdown, or other nervous condition? _____
   (3) Diabetes? _____
   (4) Asthma or hay fever? _____
8. Have you ever been rejected or discharged as unfit for any branch of H.M. Forces (state arm of Service) or other Government employment? _____ If so, give details: _____
9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____
10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

December, 1947.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your telegram of the 18th November I have to advise that it was found impossible to arrange another committee of enquiry in connection with your case before the close of the Session.

Ample notice will be given you of the proposed date, so that you may be enabled to call any other witnesses desired by you.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Defence.

J. Shortal, Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

early meeting
Cabinet wd yes

Records

Pl B/U amplifiers

16.12.47

9/12

ARMY1/306/AS

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

The Hon. Minister of Defence:

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

Sgd
23.12.47

RECEIVED 23 DEC 1947 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Army Secretary
23/12/1947.

taken place in answering your telegram which I received a month ago, and in which you requested to be advised of the date of inquiry into your case.

I was not in a position to tell you earlier than this that neither the date nor the details have yet been finalised. It is proposed that these matters be given consideration at the first meeting of Cabinet to be held in the New Year. Subsequent to that Cabinet meeting I will again communicate with you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

MEMORANDUM 23 DEC 1947 DESPATCHED

J. Shortal Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

23/12

Brch
12/1/48

was thrown on to the streets of Inveraryll
I had no trade and as a means of
rehabilitating myself I depended upon my
Army character certificates which proved
to be not worth the paper they were written
on. I am not appealing to your sir for
pity. but we are at the beginning of a new year
I would therefore ask you to begin it well
by. In the parable of our Lord, saying
"Give unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's
and unto God the things that are God's"
If you do that I will receive justice,
and you'll be rendering to God a
just account of your stewardship.

Yours faithfully
John Shortal

Army Secretary
Referred
1 5 1918

(This portion of the Form can be used for any purpose where a Nominal Roll is necessary to communicate between the Station Hospital and the Corps.)

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Admission.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.

ARMY 1
306

Medical Officer.

RECEIVED 5 JAN 1948 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Sunday 28 December 47
38 Tavell.
Engll.

The Hon Jones. M.P.
Minister of Defence.
Dear Sir.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23rd inst. I am in possession of Hansard containing the Debate on my Case. I awaited bitter years - from 1919-1935, for the advent of a return of a Labour Government. I had hoped, believed and prayed that the injustice inflicted on me and also on my dead wife and her Child by the late Sir James Allen would be redressed Twelve years have elapsed, yet, there is no redress. The power to give redress lies with you, in the past you have withheld it. You, perhaps did not realise the grave injury inflicted on me, when I tell you that if money could have saved your dead wife you were in the position to save her.

When I tell you that money would have saved my dead wife I was not in the position to save her, and Sir James Allen was responsible for that! I lost everything I held dear, my home, my wife, Employment

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Admission.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.

(This portion of the Form can be used for any purpose where a Nominal Roll is necessary to communicate between the Station Hospital and the Corps.)

ARMY 1

306

Mr Kelly

I do not think Mr Hartley's latest letter to Members needs for any reply

Do you agree Sir?

8/1

Army Secy wanted file brought up on 12/1/48

Bring Forward
Branch
Date 19/1
Initials

3/3 Legal

again on 20/2/48
Legal

FBD/MMF

ARMY1/306/AS

February, 1948.

Dear Sir,

In further reference to my letter dated the 23rd December last, I am now pleased to inform you that Mr. J.H. Boyes, C.M.G. ex Chairman, Public Service Commission, has been appointed to make full inquiry into the circumstances of your case, which was the subject of many Petitions over the past years.

At the conclusion of his investigations Mr. Boyes will report to the Government, and on receipt of his report the Government will make its decision.

I would mention that after his preliminary inquiries have been completed Mr. Boyes will probably desire your attendance in Wellington, in which case the Army Secretary will make suitable transport and accommodation arrangements. Further, if you desire that any special persons appear before Mr. Boyes to give evidence on your behalf, you are at perfect liberty to submit their names and addresses to the Army Secretary at Army Headquarters, Wellington, who will submit such requests to Mr. Boyes.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Defence.

J. Shortal Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

FBD/MMF

ARMY 1/306/AS

17th February,1948.

Dear Mr. Boyes,

Files herewith re Shortal as arranged.

There is a clerk here named Sievwright, who has worked on the Petition quite a lot, and after you have had a preliminary read of the papers, you might like Mr. Sievwright to go out to your place (or alternatively for you to come into the office) and discuss phases of the case with him. He has a very complete knowledge of what has transpired in the past, and a talk with Mr. Sievwright may be beneficial to yourself. However, it is only a suggestion and need not necessarily be adopted.

As I told you on the telephone I have informed Mr. Kelly of what is happening, and that when you want to communicate with the Department you will get in touch with him.

Kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) F. B. DWYER

Encls:

J.H. Boyes Esq.,C.M.G.,
661 Broadway,
WELLINGTON,E.5.

MEMORANDUM
18 FEB 1948
DESPATCHED

Mr Kelly
: Sievwright
To note
18/2

FILING
No. of Sheets
Initials

February,1948.

Dear Sir,

In further reference to my letter dated the 23rd December last, I am now pleased to inform you that Mr. J.H. Boyes,C.M.G. ex Chairman, Public Service Commission, has been appointed to make full inquiry into the circumstances of your case, which was the subject of many Petitions over the past years.

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Yours faithfully,

Minister of Defence.

J. Shortal Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Mr Kelly.

19/2

ARMY 1/7

306

1.3.48.

FOR RECORD ONLY

MR JOHN SHORTAL
38 FOX STREET
INVERCARGILL

YOUR LETTER OF 27 FEBRUARY RECEIVED

I WILL BE AVAILABLE AS REQUIRED

WEIR

MEMORANDUM
1-MAR 1948
DESPATCHED

BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

[Form N.Z.—355. (In pads of 100.)

Surname: _____ *Christian names:* _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

(q) Other disease or disability

4. Have you ever had an OPERATION

5. Have you been a patient in MENTA

6. Have you been rejected or deferred

7. Has any member of your family e
   (1) Consumption or Miners' Dis
   (2) Mental disturbance, nervous
   (3) Diabetes? _____
   (4) Asthma or hay fever? _____

8. Have you ever been rejected or disc her Government employment? _____ If

9. Do you now receive, or have you ev

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the abov

[OVER.

ARMY 306

+ FORM OF ENQUIRY NOT ACCEPTABLE +

Army Secretary.

Referred.

SHORTAL +

John 38 Jet St Dunedin

Mr Bryant-collect on 21.2.48. He wants to proceed. Phone Mr Chapman 8.3.48 to confirm if he intends to proceed. Letter 21/3/48

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/3/46—16014] 23.2.48.

D 3,78 10 INVERCARGILL 12 P

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

WELLINGTON

Rec'd at _____ By _____

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

Sent _____

To _____

By _____

Ack'd. _____

DATE-STAMP

TELEGRAPH OFFICE WELLINGTON 23 FEB 48

Mr Healy
Thus free
Cross Court to Mr Briggs
Dec 6
1/3

E COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

[Form N.Z.—355. (In pads of 100.)

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(2) Mental disturbance, nervous

(3) Diabetes?

(4) Asthma or hay fever?

8. Have you ever been rejected or discharged as unfit for any branch of H.M. Forces (state arm of Service) or other Government employment? _____ If so, give details:

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit?

10. Who is your regular doctor?

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

Post Office use only

ARM No.

DATE-STAMP

23 FEB 48 WELLINGTON TELEGRAPH OFFICE

RECEIVED 1 MAR 1948 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON, C.1,

at DUNEDIN,

27th February, 1948.

The Army Secretary,

I have spoken to Mr Shortal, who is now agreeable to Mr Boyes conducting the inquiry.

Minister of Defence.

Since the above matter I have been informed on the phone by Mr Chantrie (P/S to Minister) that Mr Shortal desires having to be left when Mr Boyes (Main Matters) and Gen Weir are available. Verbal 1/3/48

Referred.

Army Secretary.

+ FORM

Rec'd at

MINIS

WELL

D 3,78..1

ARMY

306

TO BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

Surname: _____ *Christian names:* _____
(In block letters.)

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COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

1. Are yo
2. What
3. Have
(
(
(

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

MESSRS.	WILFORD
	W.E. BARNARD
	DICKIE
	JENKINS
	W. JORDAN
	POLSON
	RUSHWORTH
	SAMUEL
	WAITE
COL.	McDONALD (CHAIRMAN)

Phone 2037 Inverell

AIR TRAVEL INVERCARGILL TO WELLINGTON AND RETURN

To Wellington -	Depart I'gill Daily	10.5 a.m.	12.15 p.m.
	Arrive W'gton (ex Sundays)	4.0 p.m.	6.15 p.m.
From Wellington	Depart W'gton Daily	6.45 a.m.	9.10 a.m.
	Arrive I'gill (ex Sundays)	12.30	2.45 p.m.

COST £8: 5:0 Single
£16:10:0 Return

Availability (early April) At least three weeks' notice required. Bookings easier for mid-week than at or about week-ends. When booking, Airways like days alternative to first choice named in case of "off-loading".

==========

Rail & Steamer

UP
Train Departs Invercargill Tues. Thurs. Sat. 7 a.m.
Steamer " Lyttelton Daily 8 p.m.
(ex. Sundays)
Steamer Arrive Wellington " 7 a.m.

DOWN
Steamer Departs Wellington Daily 7.45 p.m.
(ex. Sundays)
Train " Christchurch Tues. Thur. Sat. 8.35 a.m.
Sundays 11 p.m.
Train Arrives Invercargill 9.5 p.m.

FARES Rail
1st Class Single £3: 0:2
" " Return £5:14:1
2nd " Single £2: 1:7
" " Return £3:16:2

Steamer From 22/6 upwards

Basis used for troops Offrs. 35/- Single
Sgts. & WO's 32/6 "
OR's 22/6 "

ACCOMMODATION Peoples' Palace not taking bookings for April.

Hotel Bristol - (15/- per day) Rooms usually available at short notice for day or so.

ARMY 1/306/L

5th March, 1948.

Dear Sir,

As I explained to you on the telephone this afternoon, I rang on behalf of the Minister of Defence to complete arrangements with you for your journey to Wellington to attend the inquiry by Mr. Boyes, who, although away from Wellington at the moment, would be returning after Easter.

You agreed that it would be convenient for you to leave Invercargill by train on the morning of Tuesday 30th instant, eventually reaching Wellington by the Lyttelton ferry steamer on the morning of Wednesday 31st.

You hoped that the proceedings would be completed on the Wednesday, and that you would be able to commence the return journey by the ferry that evening, eventually reaching home again on Thursday evening, 1st April. If, however, the proceedings were not over in one day you would be prepared to remain here on the Thursday also.

The Chief of the General Staff is prepared to attend and give evidence.

All arrangements for travel, and hotel accommodation in Wellington,(if necessary), will be made by the Army, and the tickets will be sent to you in plenty of time.

If anything unforeseen should arise to upset these arrangements, I will get in touch with you at once.

Yours faithfully,

MEMORANDUM 5 MAR 1948 DESPATCHED

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY

J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

C.G.S.

Please see
Mr Shortal asked me to thank you for your telegram of 1st March.
E.R.K. 5/3

Seen.

8.3.48

emk/JM

ARMY 1/306/L

9th March, 1948

Dear Sir,

Following our talk on the telephone last Friday, I rang Mr. Shortal at Invercargill. He will reach Wellington by the Lyttelton ferry steamer on Wednesday morning the 31st of this month, and is hopeful that proceedings will be concluded the same day so that he can begin his homeward journey that evening. He realises, however, that it may be necessary for him to stay another day. The Chief of the General Staff is prepared to give evidence.

We are putting at your disposal a room at Army Headquarters, and I expect Mr. Shortal will appear at about 9 a.m.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY

J.H. Boyes Esq.,
551 Broadway,
WELLINGTON E.5.

MEMORANDUM
9 MAR 1948
DESPATCHED

INQUIRY - JOHN SHORTAL.

As suggested by the Hon. Minister, I rang Mr. Shortal at Invercargill last week.

In view of Mr. Boyes' absence at Turangi, Mr. Shortal is agreeable that the inquiry should take place immediately following Easter. He is not particularly anxious to come by air, so he will be leaving home by the morning train on Tuesday 30th inst., reaching here next morning, Wednesday 31st. He hopes the inquiry will conclude in one day but realises that it may be necessary for him to be here on Thursday 1st April also.

The Chief of the General Staff is prepared to give evidence, and we are setting aside a room at Army Headquarters for the inquiry.

In the circumstances, Mr. Shortal is satisfied that the inquiry go ahead in the absence of the Hon. Mr. Semple and surviving members of the 1929 Committee. The Hon. Minister will recall that in the letter to you dated 27th February, Mr. Shortal wanted these gentlemen made available.

It appears as if Mr. Shortal's cost of travel will be approximately as follows:-

1st Class Return Rail Fares	£5:14:1
Steamer Fares	3:10:0
Hotel Accommodation (possibly)	1:10:0
	£10:14:1

We are making all the travelling arrangements.

Will the Hon. Minister please formally approve the expenditure of up to £12 accordingly.

(Sgd) F. B. DWYER
ARMY SECRETARY

Q(MA) Will you complete all arrangements please including pencilling in accommodation for 1 night (31 Mar) at Bristol. 9/3

Mr Smart
Action please
PGH 11/3

EMK/JM

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,

IN YOUR REPLY
ARMY 1/306/L
please quote this number.

RECEIVED 10 MAR 1948 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

MEMORANDUM for 9th March, 1948.

THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

INQUIRY - JOHN SHORTAL.

As suggested by the Hon. Minister, I rang Mr. Shortal at Invercargill last week.

In view of Mr. Boyes' absence at Turangi, Mr. Shortal is agreeable that the inquiry should take place immediately following Easter. He is not particularly anxious to come by air, so he will be leaving home by the morning train on Tuesday 30th inst., reaching here next morning, Wednesday 31st. He hopes the inquiry will conclude in one day but realises that it may be necessary for him to be here on Thursday 1st April also.

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	£10:14:1

We are making all the travelling arrangements.

Will the Hon. Minister please formally approve the expenditure of up to £12 accordingly.

Audit to Note.
E. Wheelwhleyton
ACCOUNTANT, ARMY HEADQUARTERS, WELLINGTON.
19.3.48
AUTHORITY CARD
BMMF6.

Approved
9 F 3 48

Noted.
appointment
23 MAR 1948

F. B. Dwyer
ARMY SECRETARY

K

(D. 241/2/120.) 100 rms/3/42—15484]

please [illegible]
1 night (31 Mar) at Bristol!

E. on K. 10/3

Mr Smith
Action please
PBH 11/3

LGS:KM.

ARMY 1/306/C.Mov.

12 Mar. 48.

S.M.D.
R.T.O. Wellington.

For Infm:

Assistant Army Secretary.
DAQMG(Mov.)

MR. JOHN SHORTAL - TRAVEL INVERCARGILL TO WELLINGTON AND RETURN.

1. The above-named will travel from Invercargill to Wellington and return to Invercargill under Army arrangements and at Army expense.

2. HQ. S.M.D. will issue First Class Rail Warrants for journey to Wellington and return to Invercargill, Steamer Ticket at value of 35/- and two meal warrants to Mr. Shortal at 38 Fox Street, Invercargill.

3. HQ. S.M.D. will make travel reservations as follows:-

Invercargill-Lyttelton Express departing Invercargill 0700 hrs. Tues. 30 Mar. 48.

Steamer Express departing Lyttelton 2000 hrs. Tues. 30 Mar. 48.

Christchurch-Invercargill Express departing Christchurch 0835 hrs. Thurs. 1 Apr. 48.

4. R.T.O. Wellington will issue Wellington-Lyttelton Steamer ticket to value of 35/- and make reservation for Mr. Shortal to return to Lyttelton departing Wellington on evening of Wed. 31 Mar.48.

5. In event of Enquiry NOT being completed in time for Mr. Shortal to return by Steamer Express that night Assistant Army Secretary will advise as early as possible DAQMG(Mov.) who will then make fresh travel arrangements through R.T.O. Wellington and HQ. S.M.D.

MEMORANDUM
12 MAR 1948
DESPATCHED

Brigadier,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

FILING
No. of sheets 9
Initials D.25.3

LGS:KM.

ARMY 1/306/Q.Mov.

19th. March, 1948.

Dear Sir,

You will no doubt have been advised by Headquarters, Southern Military District, through Headquarters, Area 12, of the arrangements made for you to attend your inquiry at Wellington on 31st. March, 1948.

On your arrival at Wellington will you please call on the Assistant Army Secretary (Mr. E.M. Kelly) in Room No. 542 on the ground floor of the Army Headquarters Building, Featherston Street. It is suggested that you call about 8.45 a.m.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
19 MAR 1948
DESPATCHED

19/3.

FILING.
No. of sheets
Initials

R

ARMY 1/306/Q.Mov.

12 Mar., 48.

S.M.D.
R.T.O. Wellington.

For Infm:

Assistant Army Secretary.
DAQMG(Mov.)

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P.B. Blank Brig
Brigadier,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

Asst. Army Secretary

1. HQ SMD advise that tickets will be issued to Mr Shortal by HQ Area 12 I'gill within one week.
2. Bristol Hotel ~~[illegible]~~ have pencilled accommodation for night of 31st March.

12/3/48.

29/3/48
again 21/4

Inquiry held 31.3.48

ARMY 1
306

38 Forth.
Inverangile

The Minister of Defence, 28th March 1948

Dear Sir,

I would deem it a favour if you would at the forthcoming enquiry produce all copies of "Hansard" in which may be recorded the results of my "numerous" Petitions and also the name of the member who may have presented the Petition to Parliament. I can only recollect giving evidence on three occasions namely Sept. 1929. Oct 1944 + Sept 1947. For each of the forgoing dates I have the abstract of the Respective Defence Committees Reports.

Yours faithfully
John Shortal.

Army Secretary.
For reply for my signature please.

31.3.48

Received in Army Dept 5.4.48.
Inquiry held on 30.3.48
NFA meantime.

Bring Forward
Date 6.4.48
Initials
Date
Initials
FILING
No. of Letters
Initials

date of his discharge. Army H.Q. was of opinion that the time meant the date of the Armistice and Shortal the date of signing of the peace and later the date of the Proclamation of the end of the war.

The great difficulty in this case is the staleness of the evidence, most of the events having occurred 30 or more years ago. The whole matter could have been dealt with more satisfactorily to all parties had the Court of Enquiry asked for by Mr. Shortal in 1919 been set up. This was refused as it was considered that the enquiry would serve no useful purpose as Mr. Shortal's integrity or capability was not questioned yet his poor report of 1918 had been used to facilitate his discharge. Mr. Shortal made his statement to me in a straightforward and candid manner and, although I should judge him to be somewhat temperamental, without embellishment. From the official file I could glean no actual evidence of victimisation but, after listening to Mr. Shortal's statement and endeavouring to sum up the reason for some of the decisions given in his case, although no doubt they were strictly legally correct, I am inclined to the opinion that more consideration could have been afforded him. For instance, I think that the persistence of his application for promotion to rank of Warrant Officer resulted in bringing up the question of his return to his Imperial Unit which action to my mind was too precipitate.

Aside from the legal aspect, I consider some redress should be afforded Mr. Shortal, but it is difficult to suggest what form such redress should take. I recommend, for your consideration, that Mr. Shortal be granted a lump sum payment of at least the amount of his salary from the date of his discharge to six months after the Proclamation of the end of the War (January 1920), and as a further token of recognition that he be promoted to 1st Class Warrant Officer for that period.

General Weir.

For your information

A M Boyes

5-4-48

Seen. Agree with recommendation. File

7. 4. 48

1/306

5th April,1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

As requested, I have enquired into the subject matter of Mr. John Shortal's petition. Mr. Shortal appeared before me on 31st March and made a complete statement of his case. He did not bring any witnesses. I have also had the opportunity of studying fully the Army Headquarters file and discussing the case with the C.G.S. Major-General McD. Weir.

Mr.Shortal's main contention is that because he reported his senior officer, Captain Henderson, in 1912 for allegedly falsifying official records he was subsequently victimised throughout his military career.

Another grievance is that he was refused promotion to rank of Warrant Officer (first-class) to which he considers he would at least have risen had he remained with his own regiment.

Further he considers that he was prematurely discharged although he had had a good record for efficiency and behaviour.

Mr.Shortal was engaged in April 1911 for a period of 5 years service in the New Zealand Forces. He was then a Colour Sergeant in the Leinster Regiment of the British Regular Army. After a short period in New Zealand he anticipated that he would continue his military career with the New Zealand Forces until his retirement by age limit. He married a New Zealand girl which would, no doubt, strengthen his desire to remain here. Mr. Shortal, however, bases his contention on the fact that in the original agreement to serve for 5 years in the New Zealand Forces, it was stipulated that after 5 years his salary would be increased to a certain amount. The agreement bears this out. This, Mr. Shortal puts forward, entitled him to think that there would be no difficulty in the matter of re-engagement at the expiry of his 5 years service. He duly applied for re-engagement for 5 years but after some delay was re-engaged for the duration of the war and 6 months thereafter. Mr. Shortal tacitly accepted this as he does not appear to have actively protested at the time. However he now contends that there was no jurisdiction to re-engage him for less than 5 years under the regulations. The policy of Army H.Q. at this time was stated to be not to re-engage Imperial units for lengthy periods but to enlist New Zealand personnel. Early in 1919 Mr.Shortal was persisting in his application for promotion to 1st Class Warrant Officer, and it was then decided to return him to his Imperial Unit, a bearing on this decision being that on 12/12/18 there had been a poor report as to his efficiency. Other reports on Mr.Shortal's efficiency and behaviour had been good and he explains the poor one by the fact that it was made by a Territorial Officer whose experience of him had only been a few days in a Cadet Camp. Then arose a controversy as to the definition of the words "duration of the war" as applying to the

FILING
No. of sheets 2
Initials D.L.G.

..2/..

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..2/..

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A.H. Boyce

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

IN YOUR REPLY
.....
please quote this number.

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,

5th April,1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

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Date of disch 31. 8. 1919.

Termination of War 10. 1. 1920 plus 6 mos = 10. 7. 20

= 10 mos 10 days

Salary SSM £275 p.a. £236. 11. 2 for 10 mos 10 days

Salary WO I £325 p.a. £279. 11. 5. for 10 mos 10 days

? Interest

FBD/MMF

6th April,1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

The time occupied by Mr.Boyes in considering the Petition and the circumstances of the case of Mr. Shortal, interviewing him, preparing the report,etc., was in the vicinity of three days.

I think a payment at the rate of £3.3.0 per day - £9.9.0 in all - would be appropriate in this instance, and I recommend that the Minister approve accordingly.

(Sd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Sm 7/4

ARMY 1/306

FBD/MMF

6th April,1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

I attach hereto a report furnished by Mr. J.H. Boyes, ex Public Service Commissioner who, by Ministerial direction was appointed to consider the Petition of Mr. John Shortal.

Mr. Boyes recommends -

(a) That Mr. Shortal be granted a lump sum payment of at least the amount of his salary from the date of his discharge to six months after the termination of the War (10th January, 1920); and

(b) That he be promoted to 1st Class Warrant Officer for that period as a token of recognition.

The two recommendations are concurred in by Major-General Weir.

The amount involved in recommendation (a) is actually £236.11.2, the salary of Mr. Shortal on a yearly basis being £275. It may be considered desirable to grant a round sum of, say, £250.

No difficulty is anticipated in granting the rank of 1st Class Warrant Officer for the period from date of discharge, 31st August,1919, to six months after the termination of the war, viz. 10th of July,1920 (10 months and 10 days), if it is so desired. This token of recognition would not, of course, carry any monetary increment over and above the amount granted under recommendation (a).

As requested by the Minister, draft Cabinet approval to meet the position is attached.

F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Encls: 2

II Major-General Weir

Do you agree, please.

6.4.48.

ARMY SECRETARY.

(III). Army Secretary. I agree. N.H. Weir Maj Gen. 6.4.48

7.4.48

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

ARMY 1/306

The Hon. Minister of Defence :

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

Army Secretary
/4/1948.

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

IN YOUR REPLY
ARMY 1/306
please quote this number.

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,

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Encls: 2

(D. 244/2/120.) 6582—41)

[Form N.Z.—397.
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IN YOUR REPLY
ARMY 1/306
please quote this number.

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,

6th April, 1948.

Cabinet
Fin
10

MEMORANDUM for:-

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B. Boyes
ARMY SECRETARY.

ARMY 1
306

DRAFT CABINET APPROVAL

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

RECOMMENDED -

(a) That a lump sum payment of £250 be paid.

(This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th of July,1920. This represents a period of 10 months and 10 days.)

(b) That Mr.Shortal be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September 1919 until the 10th July,1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

17th April, 1948.

Dear Mr. Denham.

Knowing how deeply interested you have been in the case of Mr. John Shortal, I am writing to let you know the present position.

As the result of a petition to Parliament, the Select Committee which considered the matter, reported back with no recommendation to make. When this report was brought before the House, considerable discussion followed, and a request was made that a Committee be set up to investigate and report on the whole circumstances. This the Government agreed to, and Mr. J.H. Boyes, who you will recall is an ex-Public Service Commissioner, was asked to undertake the inquiry. As the result of his report Cabinet have now approved of -

1. Payment of a lump sum of £250 to Mr. Shortal. This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August, 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th July, 1920. +This represents a period of 10months and 10 days.

2. That he be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September, 1919 until the 10th July, 1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

I would mention for your own information that Mr. Boyes in his report stated that from the official file he could glean no actual evidence of victimisation, and although the decisions given in this case were no doubt strictly legally correct, he was of the opinion that perhaps some consideration might be given to the claims of Mr. Shortal. In view of this, Cabinet has agreed to the above.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) S. Jones

W.M.C.Denham, Esq.,
69 Bowmont Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

17.4.48

ARMY 1
306

17th April, 1948.

Dear Mr. Hanan.

In reference to the Petition which you presented to Parliament on behalf of Mr. John Shortal, 38 Fox Street, Invercargill, as you are aware the Select Committee, after considering the circumstances reported back with no recommendation to make. You will recall the request was made for a Committee to be set up to investigate the whole circumstances. This the Government agreed to and Mr. J.H. Boyes, who is an ex-Public Service Commissioner was asked to undertake the inquiry. Mr. Boyes has now submitted his report, which recommends -

1. Payment of a lump sum of £250 to Mr. Shortal. This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August, 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th July, 1920. This represents a period of 10 months and 10 days.

2. That he be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September, 1919 until the 10th July, 1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

The Government have approved of these recommendations, and in due course a cheque for the sum of £250 will be forwarded to Mr. Shortal.

I am writing to Mr. Shortal conveying the above information to him.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) T. Jones

J.R.Hanan, Esq., M.P.,
431 Elles Road,
INVERCARGILL.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

17.4.48

20th April, 1948.

Dear Mr. Boyes,

I have to thank you very much indeed for your report on the Shortal case.

I agree with the conclusions you have reached, and I propose to ask Cabinet to give effect to the recommendations that you have made.

The Army Secretary has informed me that you do not wish any monetary recompense, but I feel that it is not fair to recall you from your retirement without some tangible recognition, and I have accordingly asked the Army Secretary to arrange payment of the sum of £9.9.0.

A cheque for this amount will reach you from Treasury in the course of the next few days.

Yours faithfully,

Voucher forwarded 10/6/48.

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

MEMORANDUM 20 APR 1948 DESPATCHED

J.H. Boyes Esq.,
551 Broadway,
WELLINGTON, E.5.

Acd

Paid Voucher No 1478 Cheque 10/6/48

ARMY 1
306

13th April, 1948.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

RECOMMENDED -

(a) That a lump sum payment of £250 be paid.

(Note. This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th July 1920. This represents a period of 10 months and 10 days.)

(b) That Mr. Shortal be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September 1919 until the 10th July 1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

Voucher for £250 to Mr Boyes. passed

IN CABINET

13 APR 1948

approved.

Jose Chamberlain.

Secy

The Army Secretary.
Proceed.
F.J.
15/4/48.

Noted.
Controller and Auditor General
12 MAY 1949

NOTES ON FILE

ARMY 1
306

13th April, 1948.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

RECOMMENDED -

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Voucher for £250 to Mr Boyes, passed 15/4/48

IN CABINET

13 APR 1948

approved.

Tom Shanahan.

Secy

The Army Secretary.

Proceed.

F.J.

15/4/48.

Noted.

Controller and Auditor General

12 MAY 1948

NOTES ON FILE

ARMY 1
306

MEMO. for

Mr. Dwyer.

The Minister telephoned Mr. Shortal this morning and from the conversation it would appear that he will not accept the £250.

In these circumstances I would suggest that the forwarding of the cheque be held over for a few days, as I think Mr. Shortal will be writing to the Minister on receipt of the attached communicatipn.

26/4/48
4/5/48
17.4.48
18/5/48

Office of the Minister of Defence.

144 pads/2 — 15205

17th April, 1948.

tion that was presented
J.R.Hanan, M.P., as you
l by a Select Committee of
Parliament with no
s report was brought before
followed, and a request
to investigate the whole
nt agreed to, and Mr.
ice Commissioner, was asked
oyes has now submitted

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Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) J Jones

John Shortal, Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

17 4.48

03 ARMY.
WN.

261

JOHN SHORTAL ESQ.
38 FOX STREET
INVERCARGILL.

CABINET AUTHORITY 13/4/48.

11.5.48 TO:-

Grant to Mr. John Shortal of £250 equivalent of pay of rank from 31/8/19 to 19/7/20. 250 - -

unauthorised no 23.

--- two hundred and fifty ----- 250 - -

CONSOLIDATED FUND
ORDINARY REVENUE ACCOUNT is the amount is due.
UNAUTHORISED
026603/023 Grant to J. Shortal

38 Forth St.
Lochargil

The Minister of Defence
Wellington.

Dear Sir

Please forward me the amount you quoted over the air less £5, to be given to the starving children of Europe.

no publicity to be given to such donation except receipt for same.

Yours faithfully,
John Shortal

NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

11th May, 1948.

Dear Mr. Shortal.

I duly received your recent communication, and in reply desire to inform you that arrangements have now been made for the sum of £250 to be forwarded to you at an early date.

Your desire to donate the sum of £5 to the United Nations appeal for children is most praiseworthy. I would mention, however, that while the appeal has the wholehearted support of the Government it is being conducted by a special United Nations Appeal Committee set up for the purpose, and in the circumstances I think it preferable, if you still so desire, for you yourself to make the donation direct to the organiser of the local committee.

Yours faithfully,

John Shortal, Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Mr Dawson
Returned as an answer
with the Minister
J. A. Robertson
11/5.

number of years. I sent a Letter to a gentleman in Wellington. I requested him to hand it to you but only on one Condition and that is if he were convinced that a grave injustice was done. Did you Sir receive that Letter?

If so I do not think you will entertain the slightest doubt but that I was victimized! And, surely, Sir, no man who claims to stand four square for Democracy but will admit that where victimization is abundantly proved then redress which cannot now be fully granted should at least be as generous and equitable as is humanly possible.

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal

3% interest that would have accrued had I, at the time, deposited it in the Post Office Savings Bank a fitting recompence for an individual who, for that justice that has now been tardily granted to him who has been battling alone and against overwhelming odds for the past twentyeight years?..

If you Mr. Fraser, wish to see that I receive a conservative instalment of justice by way of compensation granted to me as well as the £250 + 3% accumulated interest for twentyeight years, then sir, I am sure you would agree that a substantial amount by way of compensation be granted me as well.

It is now recognized that I was victimized. The mere fact of granting me the Rank of warrant officer from 1st Sept. 1919, until the 10th July 1920 a rank denied to me twentyeight years ago and on the grounds that as I was only on Loan from the British Army "they could not promote me" proves conclusively that this victimization was being carried on surreptitiously for a

38 Fort St.,
Invercargill
22nd April 1948.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P. P.C.
House of Representatives,
Wellington.

Prime Minister's Office
30 APR 1948
ACKNOWLEDGED

Dear Sir,

With reference to my recent appeal to Parliament and now the recommendation made by Mr Boyes, I respectfully ask. –

In virtue of the arbitrary and not legal – because it was not in accordance with the Regulations or my Agreement – Agreement, (which I, for the sake of my wife and child was compelled to accept. "The duration of the war and six months thereafter" instead of renewal every five years up to the age of sixty five. Such duration of the war being for their own vendictive purposes defined twentyeight years ago as "six months after the Armistice" instead of six months from the date of ratification by His Majesty the King. And which now, twentyeight years later, is recognised as the proper interpretation

Is a belated payment of £250, for that period and without the minimum

HH:H

30th April, 1948.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd April with further reference to the matter about which you petitioned Parliament.

In order that the request conveyed in your letter may have consideration I am bringing it to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Defence with a request that he communicate with you direct in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Army Secretary.
For reply to Mr.
Shortal for my signature please.

for the Prime Minister.

5.5.48

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Hon. Minister of Defence.

Referred.

30/4/48.

ARMY DEPARTMENT. ARMY 1/306/AS

The Hon. Minister of Defence :

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

Army Secretary
17/ 5 /1948.

FBD/MMF

ARMY 1/306/AS

17th May,1948.

Dear Mr. Shortal,

I have duly received your recent communication and I am attaching to this letter a cheque for £250, together with a Warrant as evidence of your appointment to the rank of Warrant Officer First Class as from the 1st of September,1919, until the 10th of July,1920.

Your desire to donate the sum of £5 to the United Nations appeal for children is most praiseworthy. I would mention, however, that while the appeal has the wholehearted support of the Government, it is being conducted by a special United Nations Appeal Committee set up for the purpose, and in the circumstances I think it preferable, if you still so desire, for you yourself to make the donation direct to the organiser of the local committee.

As you have already been advised, the Prime Minister has forwarded on to me the letter that you addressed to him, on which I would make the following comment.

I am sorry that it is not possible to supplement the amount of grant by accumulative interest, it having already been decided the total monetary sum that may be paid. On the other matter, i.e. the receipt of a letter from a gentleman in Wellington, I would say that so far no such letter has been presented.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

Encls: 2

John Shortal Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
17 MAY 1948
DESPATCH

Gen. Weir

to see please,

19.5.

Accn.

19.5.48

Ty.—160.]

UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE

No. 23

(For Treasury use only.)

THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER.

As it is necessary for the Public Service that the understated amount should be expended without the appropriation of Parliament, I desire in terms of section 58, subsection (1) of the Public Revenues Act, 1926, to submit the proposed expenditure for your approval, as a charge against the "Unauthorized Expenditure Account" out of the Consolidated Fund.

PARTICULARS OF THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.

Grant to Mr. John Shortal of £250 equivalent of pay of rank from 31/8/1919 to 10/7/1920. Approved by Cabinet 13th April, 1948.

Army Department.

April, 19 48 Army Secretary Head of Department.

RECOMMENDED :

April, 19 48 Minister of Defence

Forwarded to the Treasury. Departmental papers No. 1/306 herewith.

April, 19 48

Army Secretary. Head of Department.

The Honourable Minister of Finance. Submitted for approval.

The balance at credit of the "Unauthorized Expenditure Account" is sufficient to meet the charge.

, 19

Secretary to the Treasury.

Approved :

Minister of Finance.

, 19

Entered and forwarded to the Audit Office for notation.

, 19

Paymaster-General.

Noted in Audit Office.

, 19

Filed in Treasury. Departmental papers returned , 19

2,000/4/46—1522]

ARMY

306.

RECEIVED 14 MAY 1948 HQ ARMY

THE TREASURY,
P.O. BOX 5010,
LAMBTON QUAY POST OFFICE,
WELLINGTON. C.1.

13 MAY 1948 194 .

The Permanent Head,

ARMY Department,

Unauthorised re....GRANT TO JOHN SHORTAL £150....

The application for the above mentioned Unauthorised has been approved by the Minister of Finance. The authority has been filed in the Treasury under No. 23

~~Departmental papers are returned herewith.~~

Encl: Army Secy

A/S

B. G. Cochrane
Secretary to the Treasury.

File 23/5/48

FILING

SICK. (Excused duty only.)		ATTACHED.	
Rank.	Name.	Rank.	Name.

ARMY 1/306

10th June, 1948.

Dear Mr. Boyes,

I enclose herewith a cheque for £8.14.9d. being the amount due to you as advised in the letter from the Minister of Defence dated 20/4/48.

I regret the delay that has been occasioned in the despatch of this cheque.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

F.B. DWYER.
ARMY SECRETARY.

Encl:

Cheque for £8.14.9d.

J.H. Boyes, Esq.,
551 Broadway,
WELLINGTON.E.5.

MEMORANDUM
10 JUN 1948
DESPATCHED

File 10/6/48

FILING
No. of sheets 1
Initials DHG

[Form N.Z.—192.
(In pads of 100.)

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

EXTRACT.

202

D. Sub-No. 11681

From N.Z. ARMY ORDERS 302

To

Date: 1st December, 1941

(Original on ____/____/____.)

HOME GUARD.

The following appointments to the Home Guard have been approved in the ranks stated. (All ranks are temporary). Dated 14th October, 1941:-

No. 16 Company, Manawatu.

Section Commander: Lieutenant John SHORTALL.

(D. 244/2/3.) 100 pads/7/40—5104. Forms 192/1(3).

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

[N.Z.—131.
(In pads of 50.)

RESIGNATION, TRANSFER TO THE RESERVE OF OFFICERS, OR RETIREMENT OF AN OFFICER OF TERRITORIAL FORCE.

UNIT: No. 16 L. of C. M.T. Coy

150 pads/11/40—12116]

Name. [Surname (in block letters), to be followed by Christian names in full.]	Present Rank.	Highest Rank held in New Zealand Expeditionary Force.	Date of Birth.	Length of Commissioned Service in New Zealand Forces.	Address.
SHORTALL, John	Lieutenant	—		10 months	Monmouth Street FEILDING

1. *To the Officer Commanding* No. 16 L. of C. M.T. Coy

I, the above-named officer, hereby tender my application to—

(1) Resign my commission. (This means severing all connection with the Military Forces.)

~~(2) Be transferred to the RESERVE OF OFFICERS~~ {Class I (*b*). Class II (*b*).

(To be eligible for posting to the Reserve of Officers, an officer must—(*a*) have been on active service as a commissioned officer; *or* (*b*) have served as an officer in the New Zealand Permanent Forces; *or* (*c*) have served as an officer in the Territorial Force for four years.

~~(3) Be posted to the RETIRED LIST.~~

(To be eligible for posting to the Retired List an officer must—(*a*) have been on active service as a commissioned officer; *or* (*b*) have served as a commissioned officer for not less than ten years (towards which period service on the Reserve of Officers counts half-time); *or* (*c*) have served as an officer of the New Zealand Permanent Forces for not less than four years.)

Signature of officer: John Shortall *Date*: 26 August 1942

2. *To the Staff Officer*

i/c No. ____ *Regimental District.*

Forwarded and recommended.

Bredowall
Capt
Commanding No. 16 L of C. M.T. Coy

Date: 31st August 1942

(Note.—The Adjutant will inform the Brigade Commander.)

(D. 244/2/160.)

3. *Headquarters,*

Central Military Command.

Forwarded and recommended.

Major

Staff Officer i/c No. ____ Regimental District.

2 i/c L of C, M.T. Units C.M.D.

Date: 4 Sep 42

4. *General Headquarters,*

Wellington.

Forwarded and recommended.

Colonel
4.9.42.
District Commandant,
~~Commanding~~ Central Military District Command.

Date: 12/9/42

100/5/117/A

30/5/3

D. Series 202 Sub-No. 11681 7

RECEIVED 15 SEP 1942 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

H.Q. Central Military District,
P.O. Box 118, Te Aro,
WELLINGTON. C.2.

14th. September, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for:-

Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON. C.1.

RE: LIEUT. J. SHORTHALL - No.16 L. of C. M.T. COY.

Forms N.Z. 131 for the resignation of the above-named officer are forwarded herewith.

Lieut. Shorthall fractured his right leg in April and the wound has not healed. While in Hospital he contracted pneumonia and pleurisy. As it will be several months before Lieut. Shorthall will be fit for duty and the injury to his leg will probably result in a permanent limp it is recommended that his resignation be accepted.

PUBLISHED IN GAZETTE No. 92 DATED 15.10.42

PUBLISHED IN GAZETTE No. 28

A. Shorthall Lt Col

COLONEL. N.Z.S.C.
District Commandant.
CENTRAL MILITARY DISTRICT.

Encl: Commission & Transport

FILING. No. of sheets ..... Initials .....

Do you concur?

17 SEP 1942

Brigadier
Adjutant-General

EXTRACT.

D. Series 82 Sub-No. 11681 7

ARMY LIST 28.

Date 15th October 1942.

HOME GUARD.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION (MECHANICAL TRANSPORT) UNITS.

Captain (*temp.*) G. A. **LYE**, No. 25 Company, Christchurch, relinquishes his commission on appointment to the Territorial Force. Dated 3rd April, 1942.

Lieutenant (*temp.*) J. **SHORTHALL**, No. 16 Company, Manawatu, resigns his commission. Dated 26th August, 1942.

[Form No. 1.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Shortal.

PERSONAL RECORD of

Registration No. 8/1154

(Surname.) (Christian name.)

Shortal, John

REGIMENT: Otago Infantry

GROUP: 13 NUMBER:

RECEIVED 13 NOV. 1916 ADJT.

PREVIOUS PAPERS:

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS:

DISCHARGED. NO LONGER PHYSICALLY FIT FOR WAR SERVICE.

28.3.16.

ENTERED ON HISTORY SHEET R.W.B.P.

NOTE.

The E.F. 3a History-sheet, containing particulars of casualties, promotions, reversions, &c., is not attached to this file.

History-sheet is filed in Base Records Office, and particulars of contents will be supplied on application, if required.

[Form N.Z.—197.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

HOME GUARD.

Record No. D. 202

11681

NAME : SHORTALL, John

RETIRED.

Date of Birth :

PREVIOUS PAPERS :

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS :

REFERENCE PAPERS.
(For use of Central Registry only.)

SUBJECT :

Record No. D.

TRANSIT.

Referred to	Date.	Initials.	Referred to	Date.	Initials.	Referred to	Date.	Initials.
A.G.A.	15.9.42	[illegible]						
AG (a)	23.9.42	[illegible]						

File opened : (Date.)

File closed : (Date.)

5,000/1/42—15523]

[Form N.Z.—227.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCES

PART 2

Record No. D. 1

NAME: SHORTAL, JOHN.

Army No. 306

DISCHARGED

NZEF	8/1/54
2nd NZEF	HQ - NW
RF - TF	

VOL. II.

PREVIOUS PAPERS: I/306

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS:

REFERENCE PAPERS.

Subject: Confidential Papers See

~~Record No.~~ "C" 45/62

TRANSIT.

Referred to	Date.	Initials.	Referred to	Date.	Initials.	Referred to	Date.	Initials.
	26 FEB 1931		R.	26.4.39	EZ	Army Sec	13.8	
M.S.D.	5-3-31		Army Sec	13.7.39	BIO	A2	24/8	
R.	4-7-31		R.	24.7.39		Army Sec	28	
	8-5-34		Army Sec	10.8.39	BIO	A2	28.9	
			Army Sec	15.8.39	BIO	A21	4.10	
	31-5-34		R.	24.8.39	EZ			
R	19-6-34		Army Sec	31.8.39	BIO	A/Sec	10-3	
	1-10-34		R	8-9-39		C&S M/Sec	10-3	
R.	5-10-34		~~Army Sec~~	~~22-5-40~~	C	A/S A/Sec	13-3	
	18-5-36		R	23.5.40		Army Sec	17-10	
R.	18.5.36		A	22.5.41	BIO	A/Sec	20-10	
	26-9-36		A6	2.10.42				
	2.10.36		A6	26.7.43	BIO	A/S A/S	11	
Army Sec	9.8.38		A6	23.8		A/S A/S	6.12.48	
Army Sec	17.3.39	BIO	A2	98		A/S A/Sec	8-1	
R.	21-4-39		A Sec	14.8.49		A/A Sec	19-1	
Army Sec	12.4.39		A2	148				

File OPENED 1937 File CLOSED: (Date)

500/3/27—6721

C

[Form N.Z.—219.
(In pads of 100.)

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

D. 1/306 Vol II

(FOR CENTRAL REGISTRY USE ONLY.)

REFERENCES.

Action re previous papers prior to 1937.

taken on File D 1/306. Vol. I.

(D. 244/2/3.) 50 pads/12/40—13031]

D. SERIES SUB-No. 7

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES N.Z.

August 4th 1938

Dear Mr Savage

I don't like bothering you with this but if there is some way to give this man some degree of satisfaction I would be grateful. Shortall is an honourable upright gentleman. Thoroughly reliable and good at heart. He seems to have been wronged some 19 years ago and it is preying on his mind.

Yours Sincerely

R. G. Denham

Prime Minister's Office.
5 - AUG. 1938
ACKNOWLEDGED.

I would you return
Enclosed references

Scheduled. Init. MG

5th August, 1938.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS N.Z. MILITARY FORCES -9 AUG 1938

Dear Mr. Denham,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th instant enclosing a communication addressed to you by Mr. J. Shortal of 38 Fox Street, Invercargill, regarding his case.

I note all that you say in support of the representations made by Mr. Shortal, and I shall be pleased to discuss his case with the Hon. Minister of Defence at the earliest opportunity. It would appear to me, however, that Mr. Shortal's best course is to again petition Parliament, in which case the Government would have an opportunity of considering any recommendation made by the Petitions Committee.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed.) M. J. SAVAGE.

W.N.C. Denham, Esq., M.P.,
Parliament Buildings,
WELLINGTON.

Hon. Minister of Defence.

Referred.

5/8/38.

The Army Secretary -

REFERRED FOR REPORT, PLEASE.

8/8/38.

Sec. - file.
10/8/38

17th August, 1938.

Dear Sir,

Re : Mr John Shortal.

I have had referred to me a copy of the Prime Minister's reply to you of the 5th instant respecting the above-named.

In accordance with your request, the attached papers are returned to you.

I find this case has been the subject of numerous enquiries and of several Petitions to the House, but no evidence has been found to support the beliefs held by Mr Shortal that he has been wrongly or unfairly treated by the Army authorities.

Encl's.

Yours faithfully,

F. JONES.
Minister of Defence.

W.M.C.Denham, Esq., M.P.,
Parliamentary Buildings,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

I am not going to burden you, Sir, with the whole story.

Last year four Colonels were sacked for a grave breach of Discipline

The Press from Auckland to the Bluff tried to damn the Government, of which you Sir are the head, for doing so.

The same papers, with one exception the "Southland Daily News" refused to publish my story. I did not give it to that paper. it was some years after my discharge. Mr Savage, had I been tried by Court martial in 1913. the opposition to Compulsory Military Training might have been increased and incidentally the taxpayer subsequently saved the £300 or £400 misappropriated!

I hope Mr Savage that your transparent love of Justice will transcend your loyalty to your Colleague Mr. Jones and that you will give me the opportunity of, once more, relating the story in full.

Yours Sincerely
John Shortal

Section V.2.
Cases, map
Monocul
Cartridg .303- Revol
Bars, st pole, Blocks, tran Ropes, c
Machin Saws, b Steels Steelyr
Issue
Receipt
ed. Fol.
29 2 23 2 - - 14 2 10 2 - - - 15 - 13 2 - -

I was told by a Colonel "it was a damn piece of impertinence on my part". Under the circumstances I applied to be tried by Court-martial. It was refused.

Does your Minister think that the Defence Dept. would supply him with that information?

Is he aware that on the evidence I submitted to Maj. S.A. Grant re Capt Henderson selling of ammunition and converting the money for some to his own use Henderson was convicted? Did the Defence Authorities supply him with that information? Is he aware that Sir James Allen, as well as the Defence Authorities denied me the protection of the Regulations under which I served? What would happen if a Judge of the Arbitration Court refused the protection on to the workers? Is he aware that a permanent officer, under whom I served, and one who is still serving, drew up my Petition to Parliament? Would he have done so if he were not in possession of "inside information"? to use a porters expression.

John Shortal

| | | |

37.

Remarks	
	(a) With "Cases, Compass, prismatic, "A"
	(b) Not stored. Provided by D.D.O.S. on mobilization.
	(c) Indents to state sizes required.

SERIES 1
SUB-No 306/1

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
17 MAR 1939
NZ MILITARY FORCES

Scheduled
Init.

No. 1 Fort St
Invercargill
12th March 1939

The Rt Hon. M. J. Savage P.C.
Sir,

I respectfully request your indulgence, for this ten or twelve minutes for again trespassing on your time.

You are capable of perceiving Truth.

When your Defence Minister either through lack of the ability to do so - which for obvious reasons must be ruled out - or from motives not consistent with the title due to him in virtue of his position as a Cabinet minister failed or refused to recognise Truth, I sent him the original of the enclosed letter.

When you have perused some, sir, would you please return it to me.

When I charged Capt J R Henderson in 1913, with falsifying Public documents namely making out requisitions for 1st Class Railway Tickets, allegedly to be used by Sergt. Major to enable them to travel to their Drill Centres but in reality were on numerous occasions handed over to his wife to enable her to travel

John Shortal

| | | |

have this case go before a military Tribunal and that I can prove, without a shadow of doubt that I was victimized for bringing a criminal to justice that in some measure I may be compensated by been given decent employment.

Thanking you, in anticipation

Yours Sincerely

John Shortt

P.S.

When General Godley recently visited this Dominion I gave him the story of the Corruption that existed in the Defence Department during his term of Office and of the penalty paid by me for bringing that Corruption to light He enquired what I was then employed at I told him I was pushing a barrow in the Ingill Goods Shed. He told me he would see Col Forgett and see that I got decent employment. However Col. F and myself was not riding in the same Political Carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of so I heard no more about it

Ind. P

Receipt

Government and the recommendation by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives. Surely Mr Savage that should be sufficient for any man of intelligence. I also forwarded him my character certificates — The highest that could be given to a soldier in the British Empire — and other testimonials. But with Mr. Jones they were not worth the paper they were written on.

When I placed the story before the Hon J. G. Coates when he was Prime minister he immediately had me employed as a Casual Clerk on the Railway. a position I held until the Shearer. within two months subsequent to giving me that job

~~In Conclusion~~ I would say that if you can arrange to

me for bringing that corruption to light

He enquired what I was then employed at I told him I was pushing a barrow in the Ingl'll Goods Shed. He told me he would see Col Morgett and see that I got decent employment. However Col. H and myself was not riding in the same Political Carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of so I heard no more about it

Recept

Lod. F

or the man who may be eking out an existence as a Casual Labourer.

Mr. Savage, I would sooner be an idle man — as I am for the past two years and if the heaving I am getting from the Placement Office in Invercargill is any criterion of my future prospects for employment. Well! I am likely to remain idle — living on my paltry Imperial Pension than be a Minister of the Crown and act towards an honest man in the manner that your Minister of Defence has acted towards me. Yes Mr Savage, had I been a Political Renegade he might have answered me thus —

"your Case is very old Mr. Shortal, I cannot do anything. I would advise you to again Petition Parliament, and, should you succeed I promise on behalf of the Government that your grievance will be redressed".

But. no! He had the audacity to tell me I was not victimised!

And then when I wrote to you. He replies "no evidence can be found"

I placed the evidence at his disposal my Petition to the Sup... Court was wrong. He told me he would see Col Hargest and see that I got decent employment. However Col. H and myself was not riding in the same Political Carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of so I heard no more about it

refused me by the military authorities
Sir James Allen, and which the Editors
of both Dunedin papers at the time
also refused to make public - There was
no Labour Government in power -
My faith in the honesty of your Minister
- if you will pardon me for writing in this
strain - has been considerably shaken.

I believed, as all honest men believe
in the honesty of every individual not
already convicted of dishonesty. We attribute
to other people that sense of honesty
we find in ourselves. On the ground that
honesty is not the monopoly of any
individual whether occupying the exhalted
position of a minister of the Crown

Too Savage, had I been a Political Renegade
he might have answered me thus —

"your case is very old Mr. Shortal,
I cannot do anything. I would
advise you to again Petition Parliament,
and should you succeed I promise
on behalf of the Government that your
grievance will be redressed".

But. no! He had the audacity
to tell me I was not victimised!

And then when I wrote to you
he replies "no evidence can be found"

I placed the evidence at
his disposal my Petition to the
Right Honble Minister. He told me he
would see Col Morgett and see that I
got decent employment. However Col. M and
myself was not riding in the same Political
Carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of
so I heard nothing more about it

Led. F
Receipt

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
16 MAR 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

387 Roy St.
Invercargill,
New Zealand.
"On" March 1939.

The Rt. Hon. M.J. Savage. P.M.
House of Representatives
Wellington.

Sir, now that my prediction when last I wrote you, and that was that the Government, of which you are the head would again be returned to power is now an accomplished fact. I would respectfully request that you grant me the opportunity of appearing before a Military Tribunal and by doing so enable me to vindicate on Oath my claim that I was victimised by being discharged the N.Z. Defence Forces for being responsible for bringing a criminal to Justice. Not alone will this take the matter out of the hands of your minister of Defence but it will enable me to supply the missing evidence that that Gentleman says cannot be found and which I have already supplied him with. It will also give the Case the publicity to tell me I was not victimised!"

And then when I wrote to you. He replies "no evidence can be found"

I placed the evidence at his disposal my Petition to the [illegible] Courts [illegible]. He told me he would see Col Forgett and see that I got decent employment. However Col. H and myself was not riding in the same Political Carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of so I heard no more about it

When I placed the story before the Hon. J.G. Coates when he was Prime Minister he immediately had me employed as a Casual Clerk on the Railways a position I held until the slump. Within two months subsequent to giving me that job.

In conclusion I would say that if you can arrange to have this case go before a Military Tribunal and that I can prove, without a shadow of doubt that I was victimised for bringing a criminal to justice, that in some measure I may be compensated by being given decent employment.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal.

P.S.

When General Godley recently visited this Dominion I gave him the story of the corruption that existed in the Defence Department during his term of office and of the penalty paid by me for bringing that corruption to light. He enquired what I was then employed at I told him I was pushing a barrow in the Ing'll Goods Sheds. He told me he would see Col. Hargest and see that I got decent employment. However Col. H. and myself was not riding in the same Political carriage, a fact the Col. was aware of, so I heard no more about it.

Hon. Minister of Defence :-

Referred for draft reply :-

Not for file.

M.J.S.

14/3/39.

Memo.

Prime Minister's Office,
WELLINGTON.

Hon. Minister of Defence:

Referred for draft reply.-
Not for file.

M.J.S.
14.3.39.

D. SERIES: 1
SUB-No. 306/1.

Fox Street,
Invercargill,
New Zealand.

h March, 1939.

The Rt.Hon. M.J. Savage, P.M.,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Sir,

Now that my prediction when last I wrote you, and that was that the Government of which you are the Head would again be returned to power is now an accomplished fact. I would respectfully request that you grant me the opportunity of appearing before a Military Tribunal and by doing so enable me to vindicate on Oath my claim that I was victimised by being discharged the N.Z. Defence Forces for being responsible for bringing a criminal to Justice. Not alone willl this take the matter out of the hands of your Minister of Defence but it will enable me to supply the missing evidence that that gentleman says cannot be found and which I have already supplied him with. It will also give the case the publicity refused me by the military authorities and Sir James Allen, and which the Editors of both Dunedin papers at the time also refused to make public - there was no Labour Government in power.

My faith in the honesty of your Minister - if you will pardon me for writing in this strain - has been considerably shaken.

I believe as all honest men believe in the honesty of every individual not already convicted of dishonesty. We attribute to other people that sense of honesty we find in ourselves. On the grounds that honesty is not the monopoly of any individual whether occupying the exhalted position of a Minister of the Crown, or the man who may be eeking out an existence as a Casual Labourer.

Mr. Savage, I would sooner be an idle man - as I am for the past two years and if the hearing I am getting from the Placement Office in Invercargill is any criterion of my future prospects for employment well! I am likely to remain idle - living on my paltry Imperial Pension than be a Minister of the Crown and act towards an honest man in the manner that your Minister of Defence has acted towards me yes, Mr.Savage, had I been a Political Renegade he might have answered me thus :-

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I placed the evidence at his disposal my petition to the Government and the recommendation by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives. Surely Mr. Savage that should be sufficient for any man of intelligence. I also forwarded him my Character Certificates - the highest that could be given to a soldier in the British Empire - and other Testimonials. But with Mr.Jones they were not worth the paper they were written on.

HT/EKW.

D. 1/306/1.

29th March, 1939.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letters dated the 11th and 12th instant respectively, requesting to be allowed to appear before a military tribunal to prove that your discharge from the service of the Army Department during 1919 was brout about by victimization.

In reply I have to say that the papers dealing with your case have been carefully perused, but nothing can be found to justify the belief held by you. In fact, it is very doubtful indeed if the officers handling your case from 1916 onwards had any knowledge of the events of 1912 in connection with Captain Henderson, so that it is unlikely they would have been influenced by those events in their dealings with you.

I am afraid, therefore, the Government would not be justified in setting up a military tribunal to investigate the circumstances of your discharge from the Regular Forces when no evidence at all can be found to support your statements that you were subjected to unjust treatment.

I regret I can come to no other conclusion respecting the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) M. J. SAVAGE.

Prime Minister.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Letter enclosed with memo of 12th March. ret'd.

31 MAR 1939

file
30/3.

HT/EKW. D. 1/306/1.

29th March, 1939.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letters dated the 11th and 12th instant respectively, requesting to be allowed to appear before a military tribunal to prove that your discharge from the service of the Army Department during 1919 was brout about by victimization.

In reply I have to say that the papers dealing with your case have been carefully perused, but nothing can be found to justify the belief held by you. In fact, it is very doubtful indeed if the officers handling your case from 1916 onwards had any knowledge of the events of 1912 in connection with Captain Henderson, so that it is unlikely they would have been influenced by those events in their dealings with you.

I am afraid, therefore, the Government would not be justified in setting up a military tribunal to investigate the circumstances of your discharge from the Regular Forces when no evidence at all can be found to support your statements that you were subjected to unjust treatment.

I regret I can come to no other conclusion respecting the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) M. J. SAVAGE.
Prime Minister.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Letter enclosed with memo of 12th March ret'd.
EA.
31 MAR 1939

1 and so am I

he harrassed me so much for the week or ten ~~to~~ days I served under him that I had to apply to the Doctor for some dope in order that I might sleep

I visited "Truth's representative yesterday and asked him if he would find out from the Editor if he would publish the Sequal as well as the letter I sent your minister of Defence and the story in connection with the question concerning myself asked in his paper of 1915. He replied he would write and find out. But no on further reflection I decided "Truth" wont get it If I cant get redress by constitutional meand It can die. Mr. Savage you are of Irish Parents. Did you ever them Saying

"There is no use in goin' to law with the "Divil" and holding the "boot" in Hell!
I heard it when I was quite young.
and I have lived to prove its accuracy.

John Shortal.

x Major D B Chard "O.B.E"
I mustn't forget the O.B.E

to insignificance. However, there is one more item I must touch on. In 1918 I was sent into Camp at Lahema Park Dunedin. The Officer in Command was on the Temporary Staff of the Defence forces He placed me under the instruction of a Senior Cadet no objection could be taken to that because Senior Cadets must qualify to be Instructors too. I, a man whom he had been instructing had qualified as an Instructor at The School of Musketry Trythe for Musketry at the School of Signalling South Africa for Signalling and at the Military School for Physical Culture in Dublin for Physical Training. You'll admit sir that I must have known a little about my work especially as I was about twelve years an Instructor. I had occasion to check the Cadet for a glaring mistake I was immediately "Jumped on" and told I was there to be instructed and not to instruct. Ask your Member to find out what sort of a report that the performer rendered on me.

had been lying about him, but he had
no evidence that would lead to Henderson's
Conviction but from some source unknown
to me he found I was in possession of
copies of the receipts, I was about to sail
from Wellington when I received a letter
from Maj Sa Grant asking for those receipts
I informed him by return mail where they
were to be found He advised the young
officer in Milton to have Henderson's books
audited. They were, result Henderson and
Milbymont recalled from Egypt. "no evidence
is to be found"? Did Maj Sa Grant give evidence
no he was "deported" he volunteered to go
to the front but could not be spared.
but when he found the evidence against
Henderson he was soon spared, he was
sent away with the first Draft. That is
not to be found on my file in Wellington
I could give you "yards" of it
but at the present moment for you Sir,
the international situation in Europe
dwarfs, and rightly so, my petty complaint

shortal will be recalled from Gallopili to place a little mustard on overbardened sholelders." That I was compelled to withdraw the charges against Henderson under the threat of being returned to England. Having done so I found out Henderson "stabbed" to me in the back and now I was determined to put him out of the service. I found out in addition to the other charge that he was selling ammunition and converting the money for same to his own use. Before I could act war broke out. I was in possession of copies of the receipts. Maj. J. A. Grant wrote to me when I was about to sail from N.Z and asked me for those receipts. What was the result? Henderson was convicted on other charges as well, but the making away with the ammunition and converting the money received for same to his own use was the first charge he was convicted on." no evidence can be found"!? Why did maj. Grant write to me for the ammunition Receipts? because that officer found out Henderson

X I interviewed Mr Hanlon because victimization was staring me in the face

office Wellington. To prove to you sir, that my victimization started before 1913,
I will quote from memory a letter written to me by Mr A.C. Hanlon K.C.
"It was not until recently that I had the opportunity of speaking privately to Col x (the officer is dead) with reference to the difference you had in the Service at Milton, The Colonel admits that you are a very competent Officer and in a short time will receive a transfer which will I am sure be quite acceptable to you Signed A C Hanlon X
It was the same Colonel who told me it was a damn piece of impertinence on my part for reporting the officer – Henderson – for a criminal offence. was it a Clean Defence Force? or was it seething with Corruption? That will not be found on my file in Wellington. nor are any of the following items of information to be found on my file. – "N.Z "Truth" 1915"
Military men for and near and Civvies too are wondering very much if Sergt Major

The officer to whom that answer was sent is at the present time serving on the staff holding the Rank of Lt. Colonel.

There was a shortage of Instructors when I received that Answer. my engagement was for the duration of the war and six months thereafter which meant six months after Peace had been ratified by His Majesty the King. I was discharged on the 31st August 1919. was that six months after Peace was ratified? Why had I such an agreement when my agreement, signed by the Late Sir Wellcome Hall Jones on behalf of the Government of N.Z., conferred on me all the privileges extended to other members of the Staff? Sir James Allen threatened to return me in 1916, to my Regiment. Henderson was in Prison. I told him through Sir Charles Statham that I would give the Henderson McClymont case from the Public Platform. Hence I was extended for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. That is not to be found on my file in the Defence

when I interpret that answer as proof positive that there is a question to be answered namely for what was Sergt major Shortal discharged?
There will be four or five different reasons and excluding the one on my discharge Certificate because that one is for me the easiest to dispose of; or perhaps I am told - as I have been on several occasions - "that no evidence can be found that would justify me in adhering to the Opinion that I was vindictively discharged".
And herein either my reason or my honesty is questioned though in the Case of my Politics they are not - Am I labouring under a delusion? or - which perhaps is the same thing - am I only obsessed with the idea that I was vindictively discharged? Decide for yourself Mr Savage. Here is a Copy of my Character Certificate from the British Army. —
"Color Sergt. John Shortal served in the Leinster Regt. for twentyone years, during the whole of that period his Character was that of an honest, sober, intellegent, well educated, reliable and thoroughly trustworthy man".

this Agreement his suspension or removal shall be conducted under and be subject to the Regulations in Force at the time in New Zealand".

If the following answer when I applied for a Court of enquiry – which was my right under sec. 43 of the Army Act – is a justification for violating that Article then I do not understand elementary Logic. which the Dictionary defines as "the art of reasoning." "As your integrity or ability are in no way questioned we cannot see what benefit a Court of enquiry would be to you and therefore cannot accede to your request."

That was the hitherto attitude they adopted in order to nullify the protection that that Article afforded me. And to a similar request to Sir James Allen he replied – "It would be a waste of time and Public Money.

Mr Savage, The Min of Defence, The G. O. C. the New Zealand Military Forces.

Can that article of my Agreement and the answers to my request for an enquiry be reconciled by any person other than those with no sense of Honor or Justice?

a million times no! all I ever asked for was Justice!

I asked you for a Military Tribunal in order that Sir James might be given the opportunity of vindicating his action and myself of proving my charge. I will not comment on your answer, but it was slightly at variance with your reply to Mr. Derham when you stated the best thing Mr Shortal could do was to again petition Parliament. Sir, no Burglar was ever known to leave his name and address behind and for a corresponding reason no evidence is likely to be found in Wellington that would prove that I was vindictively discharged. Is it not a strange thing Mr Savage that when we blow Labour's Trumpet, defend Labour, vote Labour that neither our reason or our honesty is questioned? But, when I claim - that with the average power of interpreting the English language - that in discharging me from the N.Z. Defence Forces that a gross and wilful violation took place of the following article of my agreement - "If the said John Shortal, shall at any time neglect or refuse or from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under

D. SERIES 1
SUB-No. 306/

Memo.

Prime Minister's Office,
WELLINGTON.

Hon. Minister of Defence:

Referred.

MJS
5.4.39

38 Forth St.,
Invercargill
3rd April 1939.

who listened to your
gill. During the
id not want to be on
people. My thoughts
then were, that a man expressing such sentiments
could be approached by the most humble citizen.
A man, not alone, only to be trusted to right
collective local wrongs but also individual injustice
And more so, in the case of the latter when a
former minister of a Conservative Government was
the perpetrator. For twenty years I have been
fighting this case, other men would have
forgotten all about it! with me it has left its
marks. The fruits of that injustice were:—
The loss of my home, my employment, my Insurance
Policy, and last! but by no means least, the
premature death of my Wife because I had not
the money to pay a qualified Surgeon to
perform the simple operation that was the
cause of her death. Sir James Allen saw to
that! Am I looking for your sympathy Mr Savage?

30.

D. SERIES 1
SUB-No. 306

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Army Secretary -

REFERRED.

6/4/39.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
11 APR 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

Postmaster-General's Office.

200 pads/1/37—16696]

...ct.,
...ercargil
...vel 1939.

... to your
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...nt to be on
...y thoughts
...entements

could be approached by the most humble citizen.
A man, not alone, only to be trusted to right collective local wrongs but also individual injustice And more so, in the case of the latter when a former minister of a Conservative Government was the perpetrator. For twenty years I have been fighting this case, other men would have forgotten all about it! with me it has left its marks. The fruits of that injustice were —
The loss of my home, my employment, my Insurance Policy, and last! but by no means least, the premature death of my Wife because I had not the money to pay a qualified surgeon to perform the simple operation that was the cause of her death. Sir James Allen saw to that! Am I looking for your sympathy Mr Savage?

LCF/EJB.

D.1/306/F.

26th April, 1939.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, which it is presumed was written by you prior to your receipt of my letter of the 29th ultimo.

After careful consideration of the contents of your further letter, I regret I have nothing to add to mine of the 29th ultimo.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) M. J. SAVAGE.
Prime Minister.

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

D. 1/306/F.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
26 APR 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

The Hon Prime Minister
For signature please if
approved
21. 4. 39

20/4/1939.

E. Barrett
ARMY SECRETARY.

~~Major-General,~~
~~Commanding N.Z. Military Forces.~~

(D.244/2/136.) 30 pads/1/37—16856]
(In pads of 50.)

FILING.
No. of sheets 3
Initials 62 26/4

St Vincent de paul Society.

I have waited twenty years to bring this Corruption to the surface Plose do not deny me the opportunity!

If you grant it. I will Communicate with the General officer Commanding the N Z. Mil Forces requesting him to have the necessary Books, Papers, and a Colonel at present serving in the N Z Staff Corps present before the Defence Committee of the House.

Thanking you in Anticipation

Yours Respectfully,

John Shortal

D. Series 1 Sub-No. 366

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Referred.

Scheduled. Init.

M.J.S. 7/7/39.

38 Fox St.
Invercargill,
4th July 1939.

The Rt Hon. Mr J Savage, P.C. M.P.
House of Representatives,
Wellington.

Per, Mr. W. M. C Denham, M.P.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS 12 JUL 1939 N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

Sir,

will you as head of the Government promise me that should I decide to again exercise my Privilege as a Citizen to Petition Parliament, and, if once again that Petition is recommended to the Government for favourable Consideration.

Will you promise that I be adequately Compensated? On the other hand I Promise you that whatever Compensation the Government may deem it desireable to award me that such Compensation will be handed over to any Catholic Member of the House of Representatives with the view of transferring same to the

D. 1/306/1.

21st July, 1939.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, in which you ask me to promise you compensation in the event of your again petitioning Parliament and receiving a favourable recommendation.

I regret I cannot see my way to agree to such a proposition.

Your case has already received very careful consideration, and, as I have advised you previously, the Government can find no grounds whatever for the belief held by you that your discharge from the Military Forces in 1919 was the result of victimization.

I am sorry I cannot help you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) M. J. SAVAGE.
Prime Minister.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

W.M.C.Denham, Esq., M.P.,
Parliamentary Bldgs.,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

Copy for your information.

F. JONES.

21/7/1939. Minister of Defence.

[Form N.Z.—471.
(*In pads of 50.*)

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

D. 1/306/1.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached letter *is forwarded for* ~~*your*~~ *approval, and signature.*

by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister ~~and yourself.~~ and

endorsement for the signature by yourself.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
20 JUL 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

Rt Hon Prime Minister
Referred
FJ 7 . 8
18

E. Barnett.

19/7/1939.

~~*Under-Secretary of Defence.*~~
ARMY SECRETARY.

FILING.
No. of sheets 3.
Initials 24/7

(D. 244/2/136.) 50 pads/3/37—20458]

and one whom I've always admired and respected.

I hope, sir, you'll not think this letter insubordinate. Any heat there may be in it is purely with the desire to emphasize the fact that I was victimized for bringing Capt J.R. Henderson to justice and I am prepared to prove it.

And not with the intention of insulting the Prime minister of this Country.

Yours faithfully

John Shortal.

statement I conclude that I am not "the only pebble on the Beach" but that the vast majority of mankind are honest, and from such conclusion I make this deduction that the majority of members of Parliament, irrespective of their political affiliations are honest men!

And to bring this to its logical conclusion I expect that there will be more honest men than the contrary on the Defence Committee.

I will, therefore, petition parliament. — notwithstanding the fact that this entails a great monetary sacrifice on my part — It is, I believe, a privelige I am, as a citizen, entitled to. And, should my conclusion re the honesty of the members of the Defence Committee, prove correct, I will win!

To say "my case received careful consideration" whilst exercising your power - not justly - to exclude the evidence of the Chief witness, to put it mildly is, in my humble opinion, not playing the game! I, at least, expect better from a Democratic Prime minister

D. 1/306/1

Scheduled Init. ml

ARMY HEADQUARTERS -9 AUG 1939 N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

38 Fox St.,
Invercargill,
1st August 1939.

The Rt. Hon. M. J. Savage, P.M.
House of Representatives,
Wellington

Sir,

Re your D. 1/306/1 dated 21st July 1939,

You omitted to refer to the second part of my letter wherein I promised to have such compensation transferred to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This I did with the hope of convincing you that I was fighting this case, not, with the expectation of deriving any monetary gain; but, because of a principle at stake. namely. Your Minister has questioned my veracity. I am 59 years old. my veracity has never been questioned! nor, have I ever given any individual cause to question it. From the foregoing statement evidence of the chief witness, to put it mildly is, in my humble opinion, not playing the game! I, at least, expect better from a Democratic Prime Minister

Culture in Dublin, Ireland, and for Signalling Instructor, I qualified at a former School of Signalling in Pretoria South Africa.

I will volunteer when I am given the opportunity of proving I was victimised. I am prepared to accept the verdict of a Military Tribunal. or will I be given redress if my Petition is again successful before the Defence Committee. Please return enclosed abstract. Thanking you in Anticipation

Yours faithfully,
John Shortal.

know from the Port folio you hold, that of minister of Education that you are capable of distinguishing truth from falsehood, even when that truth is from the pen of a man who can but wield same indefferently. Let me give you sir for the purpose of contrast the verdict of the present minister of Defence with that of a professional soldier a major of the Defence Dept. who, for three and a quarter hours listened to my evidence given befor the Defence Committee.

The minister of Defence states.—
"my case was dealt with on its merits"

But the major, when leaving Parliament Building called me and expressed himself thus.—
"Serg't Major, I'm sorry such a thing could not happen now" he also congratulated me on the way I marshalled my facts.

In tonight's paper there is an advertisement for qualified Instructors for the Defence Forces. I have qualified at the School of Musketry Hythe England, at the Military School for Physical Culture

Auckland instructed the Jury somewhat as follows. — It is not advisable to return a verdict of guilty in a case where there are but one or possibly two cases of "circumstantial" evidence perhaps both might be but coincidences "but" he add "where all the points lead in the same direction there can be only one conclusion" you are bound to find the prisoner guilty. If Mr. Justice Fair's summing up was right, and who would question it?

Then sir, I can give not 1, 2, or 3 but I can link a whole chain of evidence forged from the essence of truth and consisting of about seventy links and covering a period of about six years that would leave no doubt in the mind of any honest man but that I have been victimised.

To put those links in sequence or in other words to give you the full story would be trespassing too much on your valuable time. therefore, I will not burden you with it. for I know

for the "Defence" Forces. "I have qualified at the School of Musketry, Hythe, England, At the Military School for Physical Culture

outside the pages of fiction. Though admittedly not in the same Category as that of Capt. Dreyfus but I believe, and let us hope so without parallel in the Government Service of this Country. And with a full knowledge of the Charge embodied in what I am about to write. A Story that the present Minister of Defence has persistently suppressed and he has used his "influence" (I am in possession of the evidence) with Mr Savage, a man of impaired health to have it suppressed. He also ignored the testimony of the Defence Committee of 1929 – see enclosed abstract. That is my reason, Sir, for not entering into any further Communication with that Gentleman.

Read the words inserted in my Petition by an officer who now holds the Rank of Colonel on the Staff. – "A vindictive use of Authority". That was the culminating point of Seven years victimization.

Mr. Justice Fair, summing up in a recent Criminal Case in Auckland

[illegible] on your valuable time. therefore, I will not burden you with it. for I know

for the Defence Forces. "I have qualified at the School of Musketry, Hythe, England, at the Military School for Physical Culture

from Officers in both services under whom I have had the honor to serve subscribes to that estimate of my character and ability. But, notwithstanding my integrity or ability, I was discharged when, and at a time when there was a recognized shortage of Instructors. Furthermore, the military authorities with the approval of Sir James Allen endeavoured to have me, with my wife and child, both of whom were by birth New Zealanders returned to England and at a time when the then government of this Country was clamouring for immigrants, and would have succeeded but for the good offices of Sir Charles Statham who can also verify that the statement in this letter is identical with that made to him twenty years ago.

What was behind this cruel and unjust treatment that I was made the subject of? A story, the most cruel and contemptible but with systematically planned and organized methods of victimization that could be found outside

at any time neglect or refuse, or, from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under this Agreement his suspension or removal shall be conducted under and be subject to the Regulations in force at the time in New zealand

The Answer I received to my request for the protection of the Regulations - Sec 43 of the Army Act - and which also might be taken as the means whereby they nullified the protection afforded me by the before mentioned article of my Agreement was as as follows, - and which can be verified by a Colonel at present serving in the N.Z Staff Corps - "As your integrity or ability are in no way questioned we cannot see what benifit a Court of enquiry would be to you" when I cannot accede to your request which translated means we deny you the protection of Sec 43 of the Army Act.

My Official discharges both from the British Army and the N.Z Permanent Staff as well as numerous testimonials - which I am forwarding under Registered cover - from

and contemptible but with systematically planned and organised methods of victimization that could be found outside

for making out requisitions for 1st Class Railway passenger's tickets allegedly to be used by Sergts. Major, for the purpose of enabling them to travel to their Drill Centres, but in reality to be transposed to the said officer's wife to enable her to travel to the Station for which the ticket was originally issued. I was told by the officer commanding the District that, "that charge was a damn piece of impertinence on my part."

I was compelled to withdraw the charge under the threat of being returned to England.

Eventually I was instrumental in being responsible for having that officer convicted on a second charge. – that of selling ammunition and converting the money for same to his own use. needless to say I have paid for my "indiscretion"! I was discharged.

The protection afforded me by section 43 of the Army Act (see manual of Military Law) was denied me as was also the protection afforded me by the following Article of my agreement. —

"If the said John Shortal, shall at

British Army and the N. Z Permanent Staff as well as numerous testimonials – which I am forwarding under Registered Cover – from

and contemptible but with systematically planned and organized method of victimization that could be found outside

D. SERIES 1 No. 306

Scheduled
Init. MC

38 Forth St. Invercargill
7th August 1939

The Hon P Fraser M.P. Deputy Leader
House of Representatives
Wellington

Hon. Minister for Defence
Hon. Minister for Defence
10.8.39

Sir,

Please convey to the Prime Minister my sincere sympathy in his illness and my good wishes for his speedy recovery.

I will endeavour to throw a glimmer of light on the substance of that letter addressed to Mr Savage P.M. a few days ago. which you Sir, acting on behalf of the Prime Minister may have perused. In my humble attempt to do so I cannot do better than submit the following quotation from Thomas à Kempis's "Imitation of Christ."

"Let not the authority of the writer offend thee, whether he be of great or small learning, but let the love of pure truth draw thee to read."

Sir, I happened to be a Military Instructor brought out here under contract to the Government in 1911. In 1913, I reported an officer for

" "If the said" John Shortal, shall at

British Army and the N.Z Permanent Staff as well as numerous testimonials – which I am forwarding under Registered cover – from

and contemptible but with systematically planned and organised method of victimization that could be found outside

HT/EKW.

D. 1/306/1.

18th August, 1939.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 1st instant to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister has been referred to me.

You have been advised on several occasions that your case has received the careful consideration of the Government, but that no evidence can be found which would justify its being re-opened.

In these circumstances, it is regretted the payment of compensation, whether you allot it to the Vincent de Paul Society or not, cannot be entertained.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd.) W. E. Parry
for the Minister of Defence.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT. D.1/306/1.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
17 AUG 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

W. Brunnell.

~~*Major-General,*~~
~~*Commanding N.Z. Military Forces.*~~
ARMY SECRETARY:

15/8/1939.

(D.244/2/136.) 30 pads/1/37—16856]
(In pads of 50.)

HT/EKW.

D. 1/306/1.

21st August, 1939.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 7th instant, addressed to the Hon. P. Fraser has come under my attention.

I have already advised you on several occasions that your case has been given very careful consideration by the Government, but that it is considered there is no justification for taking any further action respecting it.

As the continuation of further correspondence with you on the subject cannot achieve any good purpose, I propose, in the future, to take no action respecting any letters received from you.

Yours faithfully,

F. JONES.
Minister of Defence.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

File
n/a

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

D. 1/306/1.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

It is understood this man mentally has become affected by his supposed grievance.

Sgd
18.8.39

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
21 AUG 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

W. Bennett.

~~Major-General,~~
~~Commanding N.Z. Military Forces.~~
ARMY SECRETARY.

18/8/1939.

(D.244/2/136.) 30 pads/1/37—16856]
(In pads of 50.)

FILING.
No. of sheets 7
Initials 24/8.

D. 306

Signature : _____

Rank : _____

Appointment : _____

Serial No.	Classification.	Name.	Rank (if any).	Arm of Service (if any).

DETAILS OF REGISTRATIONS AS PER COLUMN (3)—*continued.*

38 Fox St.
Invercargill
25th Aug. 1939.

NZ MILITARY FORCES ARMY HEADQUARTERS 29 AUG 1939

Minister of Defence
Referred
28.8.39

The Hon. P. Fraser M.P. Deputy Leader
House of Representatives,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I respectfully request that, at your convenience you return to above address my Character Certificates and other testimonials which I forwarded to you under Registered Cover. And Should you at any time visit Invercargill I would deem it a great favour if you would promise to grant me an interview.

Yours Respectfully,
John Shortal

EMK/EKW.

D. 1/306/1.

Dear Sir, 6th September, 1939.

Your letter of the 25th August, addressed to the Hon. the Acting Prime Minister in which you ask for the return of your character certificates and other testimonials, has been referred to me for reply.

The documents you refer to, viz. your parchment certificate of discharge, your character certificate and five testimonials, are accordingly forwarded to you herewith.

Encl's.

Yours faithfully,

F. JONES.
Minister of Defence.

Mr John Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL:

Mr. 8/9
7/9

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/1.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
-6 SEP 1939
N.Z. MILITARY FORCES

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature.

Signed
FJ
5.9.39

H. Brunner.

~~Major-General,~~
~~Commanding N.Z. Military Forces.~~

5/9/1939.

ARMY SECRETARY:

(D.244/2/136.) 30 pads/1/37—16856]
(In pads of 50.)

FILING.
No. of sheets 3
Index 8/9

D. Service: / Sub-No. 306

2

Medical Examination.

Apparent age: _____ years _____ months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Height: _____ feet _____ inches.

Colour of hair: _____

Religious profession: _____

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital

ARMY HEADQUARTERS, 22 MAY 1940, WELLINGTON.

38 Forth,
Invercargill,
20th May 1940

The G.O.C.,
N.Z. Military Forces
Wellington.

Sir,

In response to the Prime Minister's appeal on Sunday night. I am prepared to offer my services in any capacity that the Department would approve of provided that I be granted a Military Court of Enquiry into the cause of my discharge from the N.Z.E.F. in August 1919. Should I be unable to prove that I was vindictively discharged. I am prepared to defray the cost of such enquiry. Thanking you in anticipation

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal

P.S. my age is 59 6/12 years
J.S.

No Action see memorandum letter below PJ

B1.—Fit for active service at home (after operation in camp or public hospital).

B2.—Fit for active service beyond seas (after recovery at home).

C1.—Likely to become fit for active service after special training.

C2.—Unfit for active service beyond seas, but fit for service of some nature in New Zealand.

D.—Wholly unfit for any service whatever.

President.

Member.

Member.

2.

Hon. F. Jones:
Minister of Defence:
21st. May, 1941.

the following certificates:-

Musketry, from the School of Musketry, Hythe.

Signalling, from the School of Signalling, Pretoria, South Africa, and

Physical Culture, from the School Portebello Bks. Dublin.

My services are at the disposal of the Government if I am given a Military Court of Enquiry into the cause of my discharge from the N.Z.P.S. I want no compensation - though, through the action of the Department and the Minister concerned, my wife and child and myself were deprived of our home because I was deprived of my employment and thrown on to the streets of Invercargill after 20 years and 6 months in the service of the Empire, and without a blemish on my character".

Would you be good enough to enable me to reply to Mr. Shortal?

Yours faithfully,

E. R. Holland.

Army Secretary.
For reply to Mr. Holland
M.P. for my signature please.

D. SERIES: 1 SUB-NO. 306 7

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES N.Z.

OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WELLINGTON,

RECEIVED 22 MAY 1941 ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

20.5.41

Wednesday,
21st. May,
1941.

Hon. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr. Jones,

Mr. John Shortal, whose case is no doubt well-known to you, saw me when I was in Invercargill recently and asked me whether his case could be given further consideration. I asked him to let me have details of the case, and the following is an extract from his reply:-

"Here are the salient points -

1. In 1913 I reported an officer of the N.Z. Staff Corps for falsifying documents involving theft.

2. I was, under the threat of being returned to England, compelled to withdraw the charge.

3. The officer whom I had reported, devised an underhand and subtle system by which, to him at least, such a dangerous antagonist could be removed, if not from the service, at least returned to his Regiment.

I became aware of his moves. I countered them and ultimately succeeded in having him recalled from Egypt to stand his trial for selling ammunition and converting the money for same to his own use, which breach of trust, when discovered by the Government Auditor, also led to the discovery that large sums of money had been misappropriated.

I, for bringing, or being responsible for bringing such crimes to light was, by the Military Authorities, and with the Consent of a Minister of the Crown, discharged from the Service.

4. I applied for the protection afforded me as well as every soldier in His Majesty's Service, by Section 43 of the Army Act, as well as the protection afforded me under the provisions of my agreement. Here is the answer I received and that which can be certified to by Colonel Weir, N.Z. Staff Corps - 'Please inform Staff Sergt.Major Shortal that as his integrity or ability are in no way questioned, we cannot accede to his request'. Note the words 'Integrity and ability'. Yet, that answer was what the Hon. F.Jones states - 'dealing with my case on its merits'.

5. My official character, which you, Sir, perused testifies as to my integrity and my ability as an Instructor has been testified to by Officers of the Imperial as well as the N.Z. Forces under whom I have had the honour of serving in various parts of the British Empire.

Instructors are now required - I am in possession of

EF/JMS. D.1/306/1/A.

6th June, 1941.

Dear Mr. Holland,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st May regarding Mr. John Shortal. This ex-soldier was one of six Serjeant-Instructors engaged in April, 1911, from the British Army for service in New Zealand for the period of five years. On expiry of that period, his engagement was extended for nine months, and was thereafter extended a second time for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. These extensions were made with the consent of the War Office. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919, when his pay terminated. In the absence of express statutory authority, every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government, and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none. The agreement in the case of Sjt.-Major Shortal was honestly interpreted by the Department as terminating six months after the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919. He was, however, retained in the Service until 31st August, 1919, and as the result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919, to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on loan to New Zealand. At this time their engagements had expired, and it was desired to place many ex-soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces.

The action of Sjt.-Major Shortal in reporting an Officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimized in any way. His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament, and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and other members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

In 1931 the Government set up a special committee to thoroughly investigate the case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was nomerit in his petition. The Government fully considered this report and decided to take no action. It is noted in his letter to you that he is prepared to place his services at the disposal of the Government if he is given a military court of inquiry. There is no reason why a court of inquiry should be held into his case, and his request, which has been made by him on many occasions since 1920, cannot be met. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th idem, I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose, and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him.

Yours faithfully,

MEMORANDUM 6 JUN 1941

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

S.G. Holland, Esq., M.P.,
74, Derby Street,
CHRISTCHURCH, N.1.

[Form N.Z.—471.
(In pads of 50.)

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/1/A.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

The attached is forwarded for your approval and signature

Sgd.

4 6. 41

FILING.
No. of sheets 4
Initials 7/6

3/6/1941.

Army Secretary.

(D. 244/2/136.) 100 pads/6/40—4771 Forms 471/1.)

1/306?

[Extract from *New Zealand Gazette* No. 83, 23rd October, 1941.]
Page 3285.

Appointments to the Home Guard.

Army Department,
Wellington, 17th October, 1941.

HIS Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to approve of the following appointments to the Home Guard in the ranks stated. (All ranks are temporary.) Dated 14th October, 1941 :—

HOME GUARD.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION (MECHANICAL TRANSPORT) UNITS.

Lines of Communication (Mechanical Transport) Units, Auckland.

Officer Commanding : Lieutenant-Colonel Edward John Phelan.
Second in Command : Major John Henry Moon.
Assistant Adjutant : Captain Thomas Henry Pearce.

Lines of Communication (Mechanical Transport) Units Wellington.

Officer Commanding : Lieutenant-Colonel John Philip Oscar Skoglund.
Second in Command : Major Duncan Forrest Bauchop.
Assistant Adjutant : Captain William James Simms.

Lines of Communication (Mechanical Transport) Units, Christchurch.

Officer Commanding : Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Herbert Langford.
Second in Command : Major Alexander Hazelton.
Assistant Adjutant : Captain John Joseph Blaney Connor.

Lines of Communication (Mechanical Transport) Units, Dunedin.

Assistant Adjutant : Captain Kenneth William Davies.

No. 1 Company, Whangarei.

Company Commander : Captain Ernest Stephen Ralls.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Walter Baden Beard.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Leslie Fraser Sirl.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Alun Tyler-Davies.

No. 2 Company, Auckland.

Company Commander : Captain Horace Arthur Craig.
Second in Command : Captain Clarence Bambery.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John Shaw Paton.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Barry Percy Frederic Rothery.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Ronald Easdown Craig.

No. 3 Company, Auckland.

Company Commander : Captain Frank Colledge.
Second in Command : Captain Ian Stanley Kerr.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Henry Uriel Keesing.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Harry Peter Casse.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John Kirkwood Burgess.

No. 4 Company, Auckland.

Company Commander : Captain Edward John Price.
Second in Command : Captain Henry Arthur Latch.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Robert Henry Walker.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Frederick William Matthew.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Lawrence Powell.

No. 5 Company, Auckland.

Company Commander : Captain William Beade Dulihanty.
Second in Command : Captain Alan Scarborough Phillips.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Richard James Carbines.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Alfred Wilbert Coyle.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Archibald Cyril Slater.

No. 6 Company, Franklin.

Company Commander : Captain Mervin Jack Cooper.
Second in Command : Captain Jack Hunter Bradstreet.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Archibald John McDowall.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Gus Walsh.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Percy Royal Mills.

No. 7 Company, Hamilton.

Company Commander : Captain Richard Claude Evans Kendall.

No. 8 Company, Hamilton.

Company Commander : Captain Nicholas Owen Gibson.

No. 9 Company, Rotorua.

Company Commander : Captain John Agnew Allan.
Second in Command : Captain Ronald Alva Potter.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Sidney Smith.

No. 10 Company, Gisborne.

No. 11 Company, Hastings.

Company Commander : Captain Roy Sherwood.
Second in Command : Captain John Muldoon Blake.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Allen Graham.
Section Commander : Lieutenant David Walker.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Kenneth Stirling.

No. 12 Company, Southern Hawke's Bay.

Company Commander : Captain Clive Cassidy.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Oliver.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John Graham Blair.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Harry Guilliard.

No. 13 Company, Wairarapa.

Company Commander : Captain David Bartholomew Curry.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Desmond Denis Ryan.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Benjamin Sewell.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Joseph Raymond Donovan.

No. 14 Company, Taranaki.

Company Commander : Captain Owen Edward Paynter.
Second in Command : Captain Philip Leonard Phillips.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John William Gibbs.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Alfred Donald Guy.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Eric Royce Hooker.

No. 15 Company, Wanganui.

Company Commander : Captain Edwin Harry Mitchell.
Second in Command : Captain William Roger Hall.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Scott Cameron.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Richard Samuel How.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Richard Oswald Smith.

No. 16 Company, Manawatu.

Company Commander : Captain Samuel McDowell.
Second in Command : Captain Alfred Steven Trevethick.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Arthur Edward Clausen.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Sydney Arthur Edwards.
Section Commander : Lieutenant John Shortall.

No. 17 Company, Wellington.

Company Commander : Captain Frank Wilson.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Herbert Haddon Rush.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Henry Davis Raphael.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Gee Taylor.

No. 18 Company, Wellington.

Company Commander : Captain William Henry Lepper.
Section Commander : Lieutenant William Victor Russell.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Edward Robinson Render.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Lewis Raymond Winter.
Section Commander : Lieutenant Arthur Gordon Bridges.

FILING.
No. of sheets 1
Initials 27/11

FILE
28 OCT 1941

HH/T

D. Series 1 Sub-No. 3061

RECEIVED 1 SEP 1942 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

27th August, 1942.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd August with reference to the petition which was presented to Parliament on your behalf in 1929.

The representations made by you in this connection are noted and I am today communicating with the Hon. Minister of Defence in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) D. WILSON

for the Prime Minister

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE -

Referred.

D.W.

for the Prime Minister
27/8/42

Army Secretary.
For reply to Mr. Shortal for my signature please.

31.8.42

CEC:NFG

D.1/306/A

7th September, 1942.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 23rd August, which has been referred for my attention by the Right Hon. the Prime Minister in connection with the petition which was presented to Parliament on your behalf.

The matter to which you refer has, on many previous occasions, been the subject of investigation. The circumstances have been very fully considered in the past and the final decision of the Government has been conveyed to you. No fresh evidence has since been adduced to warrant the re-opening of the case and it is not proposed to take any further action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

K E Power
Minister of Defence.

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
7 SEP 1942
DESPATCHED

FILING
No. of sheets 7
Initials 7/9

(In pads of 50.)

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/A

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

RECEIVED
15 SEP 1942
ARMY
HEADQUARTERS.

Sgd.

W.F.P.

4. 9. 42.

Army Secretary.
3./9/1942.

(D. 244/2/136.) 100 pads/4/41—4791

converting the money for same to his own use.

The charge I proved "up to the hilt" before the Defence Committee of the House and the Officer who represented the Defence Department who listened to my evidence for the greater part of three hours, called me when leaving Parliament Buildings, and addressed me thus. — "Lt Major, I'm sorry, such a thing could not happen now!" But he, I presume, left the Iron Sir Charles Statham, who in answer to my question "Do you believe my story Mr (as he then was) Statham" replied "I could see the truth falling from your lips Mr Shortal" Lying, the most degrading of all vices is not one of mine! Yet, for 23 years, I have been trying constitutionally to put this case before the Public. Will you Sir, be generous enough to give me the opportunity of doing so? I am prepared to pay the cost of the enquiry if I cannot prove the charges embodied in this letter. But, if I do. What then? That I be compensated for the injustice inflicted on me and my family in 1919. Surely Sir, if we are fighting for everything that is noble, just, honourable and everything that makes life worth living. You, who did not crush the miners will see that I'm no longer crushed! But that in the end Truth will prevail.

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal

TO John Shortal
DICTATED BY G. Dawson
Date 3/11/1948

D. SERIES: 1 SUB-NO. 306

38 Fox St. Invercargill
21st October 1942.

Prime Minister's Office.
26 OCT 1942
RECEIVED

RECEIVED 30 OCT 1942 ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime Minister

Sir,

I wrote you on the 23 August. I marked the letter "Private". It was opened by the Hon D Wilson & handed to the Hon. W. E Parry, who was at the time acting for the Defence Minister and one of the last persons whom I would entrust that letter to. For I had previously had experience of that gentleman. He, however, replied to my letter, and like his reply of some years ago it consisted of lies and evasion. For what I am about to appeal to you now I hope you will be generous enough to grant me, and not leave the decision in the hands of the Hon. F Jones for he too has lied to your predecessor has lied in connection with this appeal as well as to my Representative Mr. Denham, and also to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Holland. In other words he has knowingly and deliberately misrepresented the facts in order to suppress my evidence.

I was discharged the New Zealand Military Forces for being responsible for bringing an officer to justice for selling Ammunition and converting

T.G.T./MCC

D. 1/306/Vol.II.

3rd November, 1942.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st October which was sent by you to the Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister and referred to the Hon. Minister of Defence.

The matters referred to in your letter have repeatedly been the subject of consideration and investigation, and the final decision has been communicated to you. No purpose can be served by protracting the correspondence.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
4 NOV 1942
DESPATCHED

FILING.
No. of sheets 3
Initials 8 9/11

FC:LC.

D.1/306/A.6.

29th July, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Committee Clerk,
Defence Committee,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

re: PETITION - JOHN SHORTAL.

With reference to your memorandum dated 28/7/43, I return herewith the petition of the above-named together with his personal file (D.1/306: 2 Vols).

In 1931 the Government set up a special committee to investigate this case and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his petition. The Government fully considered the report and decided to take no action.

The subject matter of the petition has been fully investigated on many other occasions and the petitioner was informed in a letter signed by the Hon. Minister of Defence under date of 7th September, 1942, that the final decision of the Government had been conveyed to him.

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

ENCLS
memo 701
No 59

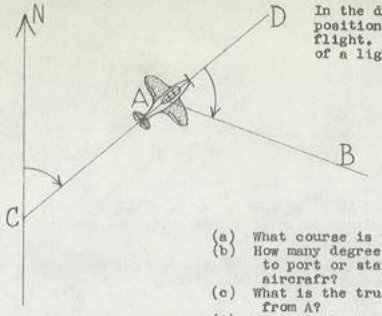
MEMORANDUM
30 JUL 1943
DESPATCHED

FILE
24 AUG 1943

Rang Mr Harman. Petitioner could not get to Wgtn this session. Petition will come up again next session. 24/8/43.

FILING
No. of sheets
Initials

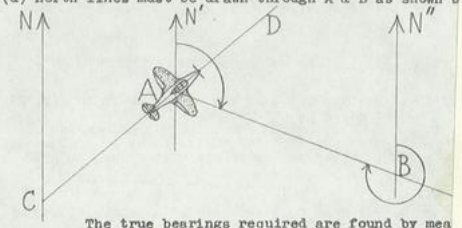
D. Genl. Sub-No. 308



In the diagram A is the position of an aircraft in flight. B is the position of a lighthouse.

(a) What course is the aircraft making?
(b) How many degrees is the lighthouse to port or starboard of the aircrafr?
(c) What is the true bearing of B from A?
(d) What is the true bearing of A from B?

The answers to questions (a) and (b) are found by measuring the angles NCA & DAB respectively. To find the answer (d) north lines must be drawn through A & B as shown b

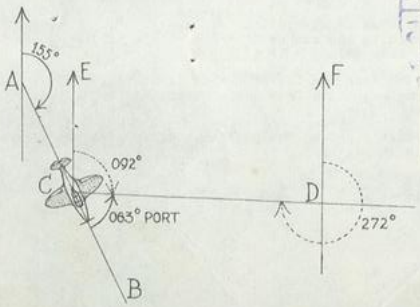


The true bearings required are found by mea angles N'AB & N"AB. (These angles are indicated by

Answers. (a) 050°T.
(b) 060° Starboard
(c) 110°T.
(d) 290°T.

Example 2.

The pilot of an aircraft proceeding on a c observes a lighthouse 063° port. Draw a diagram to s course of the aircraft and (b) the bearing of the lig from the aircraft. Measure the true bearing at this



working would detect an error

365 = nearly 400
7.416 = nearly 7
63.5 = nearly 60

Thus the answer is approximately $\frac{400 \times 7}{60}$

i.e. $\frac{280}{6}$ or $\underline{46}$.

This check on the position of the decimal point shows the correct answer to be 42.63. If the rough answer had been 96 it would have been wise to check the actual multiplication.

NOTE: It must be remembered that the problems involved in air navigation are themselves relatively simple, but become more difficult at 20,000 ft. under conditions of extreme cold, shortage of oxygen, noise and general strain. Unless you are able to secure accuracy under normal conditions your chances of doing so under the circumstances enumerated above will be remote.

The Air Force demands -

(1) Neatness.

House of Representatives,

6th August, 1943

Sir,—

The Petition of John Shortal

Ref: D.I. /306/A.G.

presented by you, will be considered by the Defence Committee on Thursday, the 12th day of August, 1943. The Committee will meet at 10 a.m., in Committee-room 13.

I have, &c.,

E. G. Hanna

Clerk of the Committee.

The Army Secretary, Esq., M.P.
Army Headquarters.
Wellington.

500/2/43—11174

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT 6 AUG 1943 RECEIVED
24 AUG 1943
FILING

D. SERIES SUB. NO. 306

8. Simplify the following expressions expressing the answer as a fraction

(a) $1\frac{5}{8} + 1\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{7}$

(b) $1\frac{2}{3} \div 3\frac{1}{3} + 2\frac{3}{5}$

(c) $\dfrac{4\frac{5}{12} \times 2\frac{5}{6}}{5\frac{2}{3}}$

9. Express the following fractions as decimals (correct to nearest third place.)

(a) $\frac{17}{25}$

(b) $4\frac{2}{23}$

(c) $7\frac{17}{283}$

10. Express the following decimals as fractions. Bring fraction to simplest form by cancellation.

(a) 0.625
(b) 1.075
(c) 3.48
(d) 0.00375

11. The square of a number is obtained by multiplying a number by itself.

e.g. 15 squared (written as 15^2) = 15 x 15

Find the value of

(a) 4.03^2

(b) $(15\frac{2}{3})^2$

(c) $(\frac{12}{3.1416})^2$ to nearest second decimal place.

12. Give approximate answers to the following, using rough checks

(a) 47.74 x 0.3263
(b) 27.16 ÷ 0.3427
(c) $\dfrac{82.14 \times 3.67}{0.0472}$

13. (a) Express 2'7" as decimal of a foot
(b) Express 3lb. 7 ozs. as decimal of one pound
(c) Express 0.342 tons in pounds
(d) Express $15^\circ 17'$ as decimal of one degree
(e) Express 37.74° in degrees and minutes.

14. The following table gives the air resistance encountered by the various parts of an aircraft.

Wings	48% of the total resistance.
Struts	4%
Undercarriage	7½%
Fuselage	18%
Remaining parts	22½%

If the total resistance is 5,400 lbs. weight calculate the resistance in pounds weight of the various parts above.

15. A navigator calculated that the total mileage covered by an aircraft was 427 miles. The actual mileage as observed was 465 miles. Calculate the percentage error in his reckoning, i.e. express the error in miles as a percentage of the true distance.

(a) 15.54 x 29

Total number of decimal places is two.
Thus answer contains two decimal places.
Answer = 444.86

```
  15.54
     29
 138 06
306 8
444.86
```

(b) 15.45 x 0.038

Total number of decimal places is 2 + 3 = 5
Hence answer contains 5 decimal places.
Answer = 0.58710
or 0.5871

```
  15.45
     38
  12360
  4635
 .58710
```

Division.

0.0029 ÷ 0.013

or $\frac{0.0029}{}$

```
        0.2230
13)2.900
   26
    30
```

House of Representatives,

12th August, 1943

Sir,—

The Petition of J. Shontal
38 Fox Street, Invercargill.
Ref.: D.I/306/A.6.

presented by you, will be considered by the Defence Committee on Thursday, the 19th day of August, 1943. The Committee will meet at 10 a.m., in Committee-room 13.

I have, &c.,

E. B. Harvey
Clerk of the Committee.

Mr. A. Hunter, Secretary, Esq., M.P.

500/2/43—11174]

Leg. 11.

RECEIVED 12 AUG 1943 Army Headquarters

FILE 14 AUG 1943

Converting $\frac{5}{6}$ to a decimal, $\frac{5}{6}$ = 0.833

2'10" = 2.833 ft.

Bring forward. Branch. Date. Initials.

B.V. 27/8/43

Ty.—91A.]

Department: DEFENCE 4th OCTOBER 1927

SCHEDULE No. 1089

RECEIVED 6 OCT 1927 DISTRICT TREASURY OFFICE AUCKLAND

SCHEDULE OF CLAIMS forwarded to the Treasury for Payment or Entry.

Signature: A. G. Wilson

Date of Service.	Claimant.	Brief Particulars.	Amount. £ s. d.
		DIRECT PAYMENT, AUCKLAND.	
18/8/27	Com. Amun. Coy. Ltd. R.V.123	Duty on ammunition Auckland	8 18 2
		TOTAL ...	8 18 2

CREDIT. No. A 139 6 OCT 1927 TREASURY VOUCHERS 9483 to 9602

CHEQUES POSTED. 6 OCT 1927

C.B.D. No. 926 TREASURY

This space is reserved for binding.

DIRECTIONS TO CHARGE.

Vote.	Item.	Amount. £ s. d.	Vote.	Item.	Amount. £ s. d.
			Cons. Fund.		
			Defence Dept.	(19)	8 18 2
					8 18 2

[750 pads/2/27—15802

[To be forwarded to Treasury with Form Ty. 91 for audit and other purposes.]

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of John Shortal, ex Staff Sergeant Major, New Zealand Permanent Staff of 38 Fox Street, INVERCARGILL.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:-

1. That your petitioner prays that the circumstances leading up to his wrongful discharge from duty with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces should be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives of the Dominion of New Zealand, or any other competent court of Board of Inquiry as they may direct to be established with a view to his being justly compensated for such injury to his estate and person, the grounds of his petition being as followeth hereafter:-

2. That your petitioner was victimised for the performance of his duty during his service with the New Zealand Permanent Staff after the year 1912 for an action performed in the interests of the state during the month of November of the year aforementioned; and that th attitude of certain of your petitioner's superior Officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to had a direct bearing on the wrongful termination of his engagement with the New Zealand Permanent Forces.

3. That your petitioner was denied the opportunity of replying to, or stating his case in respect of an adverse confidential report rendered against him during the year 1913, despite the fact that such confidential reports, both adverse and otherwise, on other Non-Commissioned Officers of the New Zealand Permanent Staff were read over to them by the Officer rendering the report.

4. That your petitioner suffered damage, both in mind and estate, through the fact that his agreement for service under the New Zealand Government was wrongfully terminated in that whereas his engagement with the New Zealand Defence Department was extended by the War Office to a period defined as "the end of the War and six months after," his engagement was terminated and he was discharged from Service with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces on th 31st August1919. instead of six months from 10th January, 1920, this latter date being that declared by Proclamation by His Majesty the King as the end of the War.

5. That your petitioner was denied the protection afforded him as a soldier by Section 43, The Army Act, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the prescribed channel, impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior Officers no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever setup whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

AND your humble petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray etc.

sgd. John Shortal

To Leg. Council for Legislation Date 29/7/23

FILE 24 AUG

RECEIVED
28 JUL 1943
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

D. SERIES: SUB-NO. 306

House of Representatives,

Wellington, 28th July, 1943

Sir,—

By direction of the Chairman of the Defence *Committee, I have the honour to forward to you herewith the petition noted in the margin, and to ask you to attach any papers you may have on the subject, and to return it to the Committee* clerk *together with any report you may wish to make thereon.*

No. 59

Petition of J. Shortal

Invercargill

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Encl.

E. B. Harman

Clerk of the Committee.

The Army Secretary
Army Headquarters
Wellington

500/2/38—19574]

See Army Sec's memo 29.7.43
No further action

FILE
29 JUL 1943

FILING
No. of subs. 3

1/306

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

Record No.

Petition No. 59.

Name and Address of Petitioner : John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Subject of Petition : Claims that he was wrongfully discharged from the N.Z. Permanent Staff on 31st August, 1919, and that he was victimised for the performance of his duty in reporting an officer (for falsifying documents). He asks that his case be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House or any other Court or Board of Inquiry, and that he be compensated.

Nature of Order of House referring Petition to Government : Referred to Government for consideration.

Precis of Department's Comment :

(1). This ex-soldier was one of six Serjeant-Instructors of the British Regular Army engaged in April, 1911, for a period of five years' service in New Zealand. On expiry of that period his engagement was extended for nine months, and further extended, on each occasion with the consent of the War Office, for the duration of the war of 1914 - 1919, and six months afterwards. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919. He could have been discharged after six months following the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919, but he was retained until 31st August, 1919. As a result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919, to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

(2). His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the New Zealand Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on the expiry of the period of their loan to New Zealand. At time of discharge, his engagement had expired, and it was desired at that time to place many ex-soldiers of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces.

(3). The petitioner's action in reporting an officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimised in any way.

(4). His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part, and since 1920 he has continued to address Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

(5). In 1931 the Government set up a special Committee to thoroughly investigate his case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his petition. The Government fully considered this report, and decided to take no action. The position is not in any way changed since the special Committee reported on his case.

Committee's Recommendation to Cabinet.

In Cabinet. / /

Secretary to Cabinet.

Copy from
274/4/1

306

15th November, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Under-Secretary,
Department of Internal Affairs,
WELLINGTON.

RE: PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS REFERRED TO GIVERNMENT.

Referring to your memorandum I.A.158/92 X/6 of the 13th October the relevant files on the undermentioned petitions, together with a completed covering sheet in each case, are forwarded herewith:-

	Petitioner.	Army Dept. file.
(1)	Mrs. E. M. Bailey	D.201/6356
(2)	A. H. Collin	D.216/5/85
(3)	N. Forbes	D.202/4605
(4)	W. J. Geard	D.309/2/57
(5)	D. F. Gibbons and others	D.337/3/103
(6)	J. Shortal	D.1/3061
(7)	Florence E. Walker and others	D.330/9/1

sgd. F. B. Dwyer

ARMY SECRETARY

FILING
No. of sheets 2
Initials

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

Record No.

Petition No. 59.

Name and Address of Petitioner : John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Subject of Petition : Claims that he was wrongfully discharged from the N.Z. Permanent Staff on 31st August, 1919, and that he was victimised for the performance of his duty in reporting an officer (for falsifying documents). He asks that his case be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House or any other Court or Board of Inquiry, and that he be compensated.

Nature of Order of House referring Petition to Government : Referred to Government for consideration.

Precis of Department's Comment :

(1). This ex-soldier was one of six Serjeant-Instructors of the British Regular Army engaged in April, 1911, for a period of five years' service in New Zealand. On expiry of that period his engagement was extended for nine months, and further extended, on each occasion with the consent of the War Office, for the duration of the war of 1914 - 1919, and six months afterwards. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919. He could have been discharged after six months following the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919, but he was retained until 31st August, 1919. As a result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919, to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

(2). His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the New Zealand Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on the expiry of the period of their loan to New Zealand. At time of discharge, his engagement had expired, and it was desired at that time to place many ex-soldiers of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces.

(3). The petitioner's action in reporting an officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimised in any way.

(4). His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part, and since 1920 he has continued to address Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

(5). In 1931 the Government set up a special Committee to thoroughly investigate his case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his petition. The Government fully considered this report, and decided to take no action. The position is not in any way changed since the special Committee reported on his case.

Committee's Recommendation to Cabinet.

In Cabinet. / /

Secretary to Cabinet.

Copy from
1/306/1

1

306

Department of Internal Affairs,
P.O.Box 7 Government Buildings,
Wellington C.1
3rd December,1943.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Army Secretary,
Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON.

PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS REFERRED TO GOVERNMENT.
YOUR REF. D.274/4/1/A.

Referring to your memorandum of the 15th ultimo relative to the above, I return herewith your files D.216/5/85 and D.1/306 dealing with the petitions of A.H.Collin and J.Shortal.

As these matters have not been the subject of a recommendation by the Public Petitions Committees they will not be required for submission to the Cabinet Petitions Committee.

sgd.J.W.Heenan
Under-Secretary

FILING
No. of Items 2
Initials 10/12

RECEIVED
7 AUG 1944
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES N.Z.

D. Series 1 Sub-Inc. 306

Room 20.
Phone, 4I-5I5.
7th August, I944.

The Army Secretary,
Army Headquarters,
Wellington.

re. Petition- John Shortal: Refc: D.I./306/ A.6.

The hearing of this petition has been postponed until next Wednesday week, the I6th day of August, I944. The Committee will meet at IOa.m., in Committee Room "B" (Library Building.)

E. B. Harvey.

Clerk, Defence Committee.

D. A. Gr. to see

seen

Brch 15/8/44

Col Jervis
Would you arrange for an officer to be present.
14.8

File 15/8

FILING
K 15/8

Army Secretary
I spoke to the Clerk of this Committee to-day, and he informed me that the hearing is postponed indefinitely.
14 Aug

be recommended by the officer under whom he is immediately serving if he applies for the Imperial Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. I fulfilled the conditions. I applied. Major Crowther, under whom I was serving at the time, recommended me, as any officer of the British Army would have done. Major Crowther's recommendation got as far as Dunedin and was returned to him with instructions that he was not to recommend me. Were there any valid reasons? I cannot answer that question. I had never appeared before an officer in the Dominion for any offence- major or minor - Major Crowther, to his everlasting credit, returned the recommendation, together with a rather stiff covering letter, to Dunedin. The recommendation was finally forwarded to War Office and in due course I received the medal. Was Major Crowther asked to do something dishonourable? That question he alone could answer. And now, Mr Jones, it is only reasonable for me to suppose that you, very naturally, will ask yourself the question - How did I obtain that information? and in anticipation of your doing so it gives me great pleasure to supply the answer. About nine years subsequent to my discharge I obtained that information from Major Crowther, with whom I was discussing my petition which had just then been heard by the Defence Committee. That petition had been recommended to the Government for favourable consideration, but that Government was but a continuation of the Administration of which Sir James had been a member. I pinned my faith in a Labour Administration granting me redress. Alas! A statement of R.L.Stevenson's appears before me as vividly as the story of my victimization. "I have always held" he writes, "from no evidence whatsoever, but from a mere sentiment or intuition, that politics is the filthiest, the dirtiest, and most absurd of human employments." "I have always held" he writes: but now I know it!

I am but a labourer, yes a casual labourer in the Government Service, and under the recent 40 hour week Legislation I will be approximately 64 hours at the beck and call of the Department before I have completed the 40 hour week. Politically I am a Labour man and, I hope, an honest one. Had I been a Reform Party supporter I might have been in decent employment today, but I was not a Reform Party supporter, not because I questioned the honesty of any indivdual member of that party, but because I questioned the policy of the party. Today I find the position is reversed. I do not question the policy of the Labour Government but I do, and I am sorry to have to admit it, question the honesty of at least one member holding Ministerial rank in the Labour Government.

In conclusion, Sir, I hope you will pardon my saying what I think, instead of thinking what I sa y.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) John Shortal.

it could not happen now!" Was the case dealt with on its merits? Obviously not, or why would a Major of the Defence Department express sympathy with me? He, as well as members of the Defence Committee, received from me the full story from the date of my appointment in Ireland to the date of my discharge at Invercargill, New Zealand. The time taken by me to relate that story was approximately four and three quarter hours. I merely point out this in order to show you that the case was not dealt with on its merits. The officer who stated that it was did not know what he was writing about. There is, however, at present, serving in the New Zealand Defence Force an officer who knows all about it, but I will not divulge his name as it might jeopardize his position.

On Gallipoli I anticipated what was going to happen. I told the late Major S.A.Grant when he requested me to pursue the Henderson-McClymont case to the bitter end. He also told me that the then Minister of Defence was aware of the cloud under which both those officers left New Zealand. It was on account of public opinion that they were recalled. Henderson was convicted on the evidence which I supplied to Major S.A.Grant. Sir James Allen knew it. Hence, Sir James would not grant me a public inquiry because the information given to me on Gallipoli by Major S.A.Grant would have to be on Sir James Allen's oath refuted or denied. Sir James did not want the true story of the criminal collaborations of two of his constituents unfolded before a public inquiry. He had already received the information from Sir Charles Statham to whom I had divulged it, and the only way to prevent that was by denying me the protection of the Regulations under which I served and, to use a war-time phrase, make "a scrap of paper" of my agreements.

Let us suppose you, as Minister of Defence, received this morning a request from a Sergeant-Major of the permanent staff asking you for a public inquiry, the grounds for such request being that the Sergeant-Major's discharge was not in the interests of the State, but the outcome of vindictiveness, which that Sergeant-Major was prepared to prove if granted the inquiry. Would you be justified in telling him, as Sir James Allen told me "It would be a waste of time and public money"? And if, of the seven different Character Certificates the then King's Regulations provided, the applicant for the inquiry had qualified for and received the highest, do you not think that it was not from such high and noble motives as "the waste of time and public money" by which Sir James Allen professed to be influenced in refusing the applicant an inquiry, but for some sinister motive? That motive I have already exposed: and the Character Certificate of the Soldier concerned was placed at your disposal, in order that you might be able to judge the reliability or otherwise of his statements. I have twice previously credited you with intelligence. Can you now distinguish truth from the falsehood to which you put your signature?

And now, Mr Jones, before forwarding this correspondence to the Prime Minister, I will fire my final shot in an endeavour to remove any doubts that may still linger in your mind with reference to what you refer to as my "alleged victimization". A soldier of the Regular Army has to have to his credit eighteen years regular service, his conduct for that period must be exemplary, he must also

be/

38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL,
16th September,1936.

The Hon. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

I am rather late in acknowledging your reply to my correspondence re my victimization by the Defence Authorities. The truth is that every time I attempted a reply I was so overcome with a feeling of indignation towards you that it was impossible for me to write a calm and reasoned letter. I have given myself time to reflect, and upon reflection, I have, I hope, charitably, if not truly concluded, that you are but the victim of departmental prevarication: but can a man in your position be excused or pardoned for placing his signature to a lie?

You never read my correspondence! What inference is to be drawn from that statement? The answer I will not reduce to writing. You are an intelligent man. I am forced to that conclusion, not because of any desire on my part for undue adulation, but by the mere fact that the Prime Minister, Mr Savage, has appointed you a Cabinet Minister. But intelligence minus honesty is, im my opinion, a doubtful qualification for a Cabinet Minister and about the last person in whom I would expect to find that deficiency is a Labour Cabinet Minister.

You see, Mr Jones, although personally you are unknown to me, I, at least, give you credit for intelligence because of the fact, as already stated, that Mr Savage appointed you a Cabinet Minister. Therefore, you must admit, I have conceded to you that which you have denied me when you stated "the case was dealt with on its merits". Or, if my intelligence was not questioned, you doubted, which you were not justified in doing without attempting to verify either by scrutiny of my official character certificates or other testimonials, the veracity of my statements. In fact, from a calm perusal of your answer one could only conclude that I, the appelant for justice, am either a lunatic or a liar. I do not like the word "liar", that being the reason why I refrained from using it on a previous occasion in this correspondence.

A man whose sanity is questioned is not called upon to judge as to whether or not he is a subject for a mental hospital. But, when the truthfulness of my statements is questioned, in the face of incontrovertible documentary evidence, if ordinary common justice is to prevail, (and that, I believe, is the much vaunted policy of the Government to which you are indebted for the honour of holding Ministerial Rank) I should be given the opportunity of re-telling the story which convinced the Hon. R. Semple and the Rev. Clyde Carr, as well as seven or eight other members of the Defence Committee and, I might add, the officer who was there on behalf of the Defemce Department, - the combined intelligence of whom, you will not be reluctant to admit, is at least equal to yours - that I was victimized for bringing a criminal to justice: and the logical conclusion, therefore, is that the case was <u>not</u> dealt with on its merits.

The remarks addressed to me by the officer of the Defence Department when leaving Parliament buildings were somewhat different from those put before you for your signature, and, as far as my memory serves me, were as follows - "I am sorry Sergent Major,

it/

Z 14 29/1 MGA PARLIAMENT

BUILDINGS 4 40 P + J SHORTAL 38 FOX ST

INVERCARGILL

DATE-STAMP.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE N.Z. 14. 8 INVERCARGILL

Rec'd at 7/209 By

NEW ZEALAND POST-OFFICE TELEGRAM

YOUR PETITION WILL BE HEARD BY THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENCE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 16 TH AUGUST IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS WELLINGTON AT 10 A M + DENHAM ++

CT ~~38 16 10~~ +++

without individual justice. This apparently your Minister of Defence is not aware of for if he were or was he should have given me the opportunity of proving the charges contained in my letter dated 16th September 1936 a copy of which is here enclosed. But instead of giving me the opportunity he has put every obstacle he possibly could in my way even to the extent of lying in order to prevent the truth about my discharge reaching the People of this Country. Again sir, is there any use of me looking for compensation if the fate of my Petition is to be decided by the Hon Frederick Jones? or by men who put honesty above Political expediency? if the latter then sir, I will proceed to Wellington. my Evidence is now being typed, as well as Mr. Jone's last letter to the Leader of the Opposition, by one of the Dominican Sisters at the Convent Invercargill. when completed I will forward a copy of both.

I am,
Sir,
Yours respectfully
John Shortal

38 Forth St.,
Invercargill
5th August 1944.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.,
Prime Minister,

Prime Minister's Office
9 - AUG 1944
RECEIVED
Minister's Office
10 AUG 1944

Dear Sir,

It will cost me something in the vicinity of twelve pounds to proceed to Wellington.

The Petition referred to in the enclosed wire was heard by the Defence Committee of the House in 1929, and was recommended to the then Government for favourable consideration. But with negative results. If I again proceed to Wellington and there prove by my evidence, - which if possible I would like to be taken on Oath and beyond the shadow of a doubt that I was victimized because I was responsible for purging the N.Z. Staff Corps of a criminal and also that the present Minister of Defence, The Hon. F. Jones, has for the past eight years deliberately and maliciously suppressed my evidence. Will the Government, of which you Sir, are the head consider compensation for me? for after all, Mr. Fraser, there is no one in this country more aware of the fact than you are that we cannot have collective justice

KJ:T

RECEIVED
18 AUG 1944
ARMY
HEADQUARTERS

D. SERIES: 1
306

10th August, 1944

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th August in which you enquire whether, in the event of a favourable recommendation by the Parliamentary Defence Committee, the Government would consider paying you compensation.

Although the Government will give every consideration to any recommendation made to it by the Parliamentary Defence Committee I am afraid it would not be possible to give any undertaking such as you request while your Petition is still receiving the attention of the House. When the report of the Committee is presented to the Government you may rest assured that it will be given full consideration.

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

Army Secretary.
Referred.

17.8.44

THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Referred

for the Prime Minister
10/8/44

through any magnamimity on their part.

"The action of Sergt. Major Shortal had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimized in any way." ~~May~~ My answer to that is with all due respect to the position he holds he is in no position to judge, nor do I want my statement taken for granted. I am prepared to submit the case to a Military Court or Civil Court, the former for preference.

"His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and other members of Parliament on supposed grievances." My answer to that is I will continue to do so until such time as I find a man strong enough in character to demand why Capt. J R. Henderson was allowed to serve in the N.Z. Military Forces for three years subsequent to my charging him with an indictable offence? How, and under what circumstances was he, was eventually brought to trial? And as I am the only person who can satisfactorily state the truth in this matter, it will then be found that I, ex Staff Sergt. Major Shortal was responsible for having this officer brought to justice, and in consequence suffered for having done so. Which is also the opinion of every "honest" person to whom I have already related this story. But, as I have already admitted, "they may be wrong."

When I charged Capt. Henderson with the offence mentioned and when I was told it was a damned piece of impertinence on my part, and when I demanded a trial by Court Martial, and when I demanded to be placed under arrest, which I was, why was my release ordered? But I will not prolong it. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th idem I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him." That is am ambiguous statement, but to that I say, I am not to be intimidated. I have made, and will continue to make, a serious charge. I am aware of the consequences, if I cannot prove a second time what I have already proved before the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives. Nor is it the Hon. F. Jones' duty to suppress evidence, but as a representative of the people in a Democratic Country, and a supposed Democratic Constitution, it is his duty to see that this charge is dealt with in a democratic manner. This can only by done by allowing my evidence to be taken before a just and impartial tribunal, and I am prepared to abide by its decision.

Surely it cannot be said that I am asking for something that every individual under the Union Jack is not allegedly supposed to be entitled to.

In conclusion, I must sincerely apologise for making this letter so long. I invoked the help of God for power to express the truths contained in it. Whether or not there is a justification of my charge must entirely be left in your hands, but should you feel that there is no justification for such a charge, you, Sir, I hope will pardon me if I send copies to Mr. Barnard and Mr. J.A. Lee, M.P.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal,

Ex Staff Sergeant Major,
N.Z. Permanent Staff.

38 Fox Street,
Avenal,
INVERCARGILL.

..ne ber 1. When I was, through his mediation, extended for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. But, before falling back on Sir Charles Statham's influence, I decided to wire Sir James Allen, I therefore, telegraphed him requesting in the identical language and for the same reason, to grant me a Court of Inquiry. His reply was "It would be a waste of time and Public money."

The definition, or his interpretation, of the word "after" by him, as well as his reply to my request for an Inquiry should prove conclusively that my discharge was not as the Hon. F. Jones would have you belive "to place many of the N.Z. Soldiers of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces," but to gratify the vindictiveness of Sir James Allen, who was not prepared to take the decision of a just and impartial Tribunal as the final arbiter. But before leaving the cause of my discharge it is just as well to know that those who resort to misrepresenting facts must need be have a good memory.

I petitioned Parliament in 1929. I went to Wellington, gave evidence before the Defence Committee of the House; when I had completed my evidence, which was of three hours' duration, the Chairman, Colonel T.W. McDonald, inquired individually of each member if he wished to ask any questions. The Hon. R. Semple, who had listened attentively to my evidence, asked the officer who was there on behalf of the Dept, "For what was this officer (meaning myself) discharged?" The Officer's reply was as follows: "An unfavourable report."Whereon Mr. Semple asked him to read it. Having done so, Mr. Semple again asked him to read the preceding confidential report. It was a good one. Mr. Semple then asked him to reas the report subsequent to the bad one. The officer did so. Again it was a good one. "Do you not think" tontinued Mr. Semple, "that there is something wrong when you find a bad report sandwiched between two good ones."? The officer, of course, who was a gentleman was in full agreement with Mr. Semple. "What would you have done in the circumstances " was Mr. Semple's next query. "I would have an inquiry held," was the reply.

The same officer called me when leaving Parliament Buildings- "I'm sorry, Segt. Major, such a thing could not happen now?" was his way of expressing sympathy. And at this late hour the Hon. F. Jones states I was discharged to make room for New Zealanders. I will deal with that later.

When my request to Sir James Allen failed, I for the second time interviewed Sir Charles Statham, and through his intervention I was granted six months' leave (without pay) and although I am sure and would feel sorry to attribute any blame to Sir Charles (who after all was or proved himself to be my friend) I do not remember having asked for leave "without pay." and further, knowing the Regulations governing such leave, it is not likely that I would have added the "without pay."

I was fully conversant with the procedure that should have been adopted under such circumstances, which should have been as follows:- Discharged from the N.Z. Military Forces (though through a gross irregularity) which I was. Then re-transferred to my Regiment (through the War Office, of course). An application then made to my Regiment for six months' leave. This would have been granted and as I would now be subject to the Laws contained in the "Manual of Military Law", "The King's Regulations." and "The Royal Warrant for pay." and further, as there is no law in any of the afore-mentioned books by which a soldier can be deprived of his pay except (1) in Hospital through Misconduct (2) in Prison. (3) A prisoner -of war through his own fault. It will be seen that I was entitled to six months' leave on full pay from the Leinster Regiment, and knowing that, I would certainly not have asked for leave without pay, "and as the results of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th Feb. 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service" (already dealt with.)

The question now arises why was the Dept. so eager to send a man and his wife and child out of the Dominion, pay his passage, and I presume his wife and child's (though under my agreement they were not bound to pay my wife's or child's) phshaps the Dept. will answer they had no intention of doing so - when to have retained me in the Service until 7-2-1920 would have cost the Dept. a little over £100 and our (that is myself and family's passage would exceed that amout. The answer is - they wanted to....get rid of me at all costs and not

lo[illegible] I could not be promoted...to Warrant Officer. My reply was "th[illegible] there was nothing in my agreement signed by Sir W. Hall-Jones, or in the N.Z. Military Regulations to prevent it," but that on the contrary that while I was subject to the Regulations for punishments it was only just and reasonable to expect that I was subject to the Regulations for the benefits. I was then requested to forward a copy of my agreement, which I did. Naturally, I concluded that they were going to compare the articles of my agreement with the Regulations with the view of removing any injustice. Such, however, was not the case. Unwittingly I had placed in their hands a document-not-wherein was to be found, if justly and impartially interpreted, art icles corresponding to every Regulation that every N.C.O. on the Staff was subject to-but also the one that they were looking for.

They read "Sergt. J. Shortal engages himself in the service of the N.Z. Govt. for a certain period of five years." They looked at the date and discovered was 3 years and 120 days (or thereabouts) out of date.

Back came the answer like the shot of a gun "Please inform Sergt-Major Shortal that he is to be returned to his Regiment by the next boat."

I was stunned! I had only six months to serve to complete my 21 years. I had a home, and a wife and child to keep. I had served for 8 years and 127 days in the N.Z. Military Forces. My integrity and ability were unquestioned. Please note that up to this time THEY HAD HEARD NOTHING OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR AND SIX MONTHS AFTERWARDS.

When I recovered from the shock, it dawned on me that I had another agreement for the duration of the War and six months afterwards, and as peace was not yet ratified by His Majesty the King, I informed them of the fact. But they had already taken the step. They were determined not to retire. So I was informed that as far as I was concerned that the duration of the War was until the siging of the Armistice.

Now the word "Armistice" as well as those giving its definition are numbered amongst those in a Soldier's vocabulary. How then could they "honestly" interpret "six months after the Armistice, as being identical with six months after the war."

A man can have an honest opinion on anything and yet be wrong. Should this not be patent to the Hon. F. Jones? Otherwise there would be no such thing as an "Opposition" for obviously if men with honest opinions were always right, there would be but one party in the House? But in thise case, I pointed out that they were literally wrong and therefore legally.

I then, as already stated, informed them that I had but six months to serve to complete my 21 years, that I had a home, a wife and child, both being New Zealanders. I was told that it was no affair of the Dept's, but purely a Domestic affair. Finally, I played my last card. I asked for a "Court of Inquiry" as my discharge was not in the interests of the State, but the outcome of vindictiveness, which I was prepared to prove. I was entitled to this inquiry under Section 43 of the Army Act. The answer to that request was "chloroforming" - if I may use the word - of that section by an answer, which should be a reason form instead of an argument against, such inquiry. Here is the answer - "Please inform Sgt. Major Shortal that as his integrity or ability are in no way questioned the Dept. cannot accede to his request." But apparently 18 months previously the self same gentleman must have discovered something wrong with my integiry, because on receipt of my application for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, together with Major Crowther's recommendation, it was decided that both application and recommendation be returned to Major Crowther with instructions that he not recommend me. "The action of Sgt. Major Shortal in reporting an officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge." It had every bearing on my discharge and the above is only one link out of many comprising a whole chain ..the commencement of which took place when I reported Henderson in 1912, and which culiminated in my discharge, and it is for the purpose of joining those links together that I am for the past 20 years fighting this case, and there is no justification for a Minister of the Crown suppressing evidence because that is the attitude taken up by the Hon. F. Jones. This I can prove from his numerous replies to my various requests.

I had, however, one friend left, Sir Charles Statham, who on a previous occasion was instrumental in preventing injustice.....

Mr. S.G. Holland M.P.,
74 Derby Street,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Sir,

You look this case up on my behalf and I would fail in my duty if I did not use whatever little ability I may possess in order to prevent Mr. Jones "Throwing sand in your eyes." You, Sir, are charged with going up and down the country looking for petty complaints and trying to sabotage the War effort. If you carefully peruse my answer to Mr. Jones' latest. I think you can vigorously combat such a charge, but if you are not prepared or should you deem it inadvisable to pursue the case further please return this letter to me.

I will then forward a copy to Mr. Barnard and one to Mr. J.A.Lee. This letter ti going to be long. It necessarily must be, in order to deal fully with that document purporting to be a reply to yours on my behalf.

I am not a man as Mr. Jones would have you believe - suffering from an imaginary grievance - were I, it would not be necessary for Mr. Jones to devote such time in preparing a "reply" to you. Yes, Mr. Holland, that it you have time to bear with me - a reply - that I will metaphorically speaking "tear to shreds."

For twenty-one years I have been fighting this case.Why? Inspired by Enerson's statement "That Justice cannot be withheld, it can only be postponed". And yet another, whose author I now forget, "He who stands on the vantage ground of truth, is in an impregnable position" and this truth the Hon. F. Jones has resorted to every device to suppress.

I cannot quote from memory all of the articles of my agreement signed in London by the Late Sir William Hall-Jones, on behalf of the N.Z. Government, and by an officer of the Leinster Regiment and myself on my behalf. But in order that you may have a fighting chance to pursue the fight further if you so desire, I will, with the help of God and my limited ability with the pen enable you to do so.

Here are two articles from my agreement which are substantially if not verbally true, and the "agreement" taken on the whole could not be interpretated in any other way but such as would prove that in its articles were embodied the same conditions of service as were applicable to all Sergeants-Major on the Staff.

1. "The Government of N.Z. undertake to pay the said John Shortal at the rate of £160 per annum, to be increased to £180 per annum after the completion of two full years service, and to be further increased to £200 per annum "after" the completion of five years' service. (Note the word "AFTER."

2. If the said John Shortal shall at any time neglect or refuse or from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under this "Agreement" his suspension or removal shall be conducted under "and be subject to the Regulations in force at the time in New Zealand." "In the absence of express statutory authority every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none." The last quotation is from Jones' letter E.1/206/1/A dated 6th June, 1941, so according to Mr. Jones' interpretation of my agreement any Minister could vindictively or otherwise deprive a soldier of his employment. I don't think that's cricket, nor do I think it's Democratic. Was my agreement to be torn up at the will of a Minister?

Now my engagement was for a period of five years, but so was that of every Sergeant-Major on the Staff, and this conformed to the terms of appointment laid down in the N.Z. Military Regulations.

And as for pay and emoluments, the same existed for both, i.e.Men who signed on in London, and men who signed on or enlisted in N.Z. With this exception - the men from Home received their first increase in salary after two years, whilst those who enlisted in New Zealand did not receive the increase until they had completed three years' service. "On the expiry of that period.....his engagement was

The Hon. Minister of Defence.
Referred.

16/8/1944.

RECEIVED 15 AUG 1944 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Fox St,
Invercargill
10th August, 1944

D. SUBJECT 306

14 AUG 1944 RECEIVED

The Rt. Hon P. Fraser, M.P.,
Prime Minister.

Dear Sir,

you will do me an honor if you can find time to peruse the enclosed two letters. When I penned the answer to Mr Holland I, rightly or wrongly believed that the case would go no further and that Mr. Holland would drop it. You Sir will detect the "Why" he dropped it if you read my reply.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

N.F.A.

Yours faithfully,

John Shortal.

Seen
21/8/44

Seen all
21/8/44

FUZE-SETTER'S TESTS.

LIGHT, FIELD, AND MEDIUM BATTERIES.

Command : _____ *Brigade :* _____ *Battery :* _____ *Date :* _____

	Test 1.	Test 2.	Test 3.	Total.	Q. or NQ.
Time	1′ 0″	1′ 0″	1′ 0″		
Marks				30	

Leg.—41.]

RECEIVED 28 SEP 1944 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Phone 41-515.

House of Representatives,

28th Sept., 1944

Sir,—

Reference: D.I/306/A.6.

The Petition of J.Shortal

Invercargill.

~~*presented by you*~~, *will be considered by the* Defence *Committee on* Wednesday, *the* 4th *day of* October, *194*4. *The Committee will meet at* 10.30 *a.m., in Committee-room* B.

Note: File required and Officer from Department please.

I have, &c.,

E.B. Hannan.

Clerk of the Committee.

I attended this meeting. G.A. Cassidy Actg Secy.

The Army Secretary, ~~*Esq., M.P.*~~

Army Headquarters,
Wellington.

500/2/43—11174]

Rank : _____ Name : _____

Time	
Deduction for time ..	
Deduction for drill ..	
Marks	

Rank : _____ Name : _____

Time	
Deduction for time ..	
Deduction for drill ..	
Marks	

Rank : _____ Name : _____

Time	
Deduction for time ..	
Deduction for drill ..	
Marks	

Marks required to qualify = 25.

Signature of Officer : _____

D. Series. Sub-No. 306/R

it brought in to the Political arena. But, as I was before I left the service and ever since have been refused, this, not only moral but legal right to ventilate my grievance I am left with no alternative but to "again" petition Parliament In order that I may – as I have done, on a previous occasion – prove the truth of the charge contained in this letter. Thanking you in anticipation.

I am,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servt.
John Shortal,
ex Staff Sergt Major
N. Z. P. G.

NTA R Capt Cockill attended

FILING.
Date 5.10.44

D. Series 1 Bus-No. 306

Marks required to qualify = 25.

Signature of Officer: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Time						
Deduction for time ..						
Deduction for drill ..						
Marks						

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Marks						

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Marks .. Time .. Commd

RECEIVED 27 SEP 1944 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Fox St.,
Invercargill,
24th September 1944.

The Sy. N.Z. Military Forces
Defence Headquarters,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I would deem it a favour if you would instruct the Officer who may attend the enquiry, into the cause of my discharge, by the Defence Committee in Parliament Buildings on the 11th October to bring with him (1) My Agreement with the New Zealand Government which was signed on behalf of the then Government by the High Commissioner for New Zealand - the late Sir William Hall-Jones. (2) The "King's Regulations" (3) "Manual of Military Law". (4) N.Z. Military Regs. 1911, (5) Military Financial Regulations same yed (1911) (6) My Conduct Sheet & of course my File.

The above are of paramount importance I was discharged the New Zealand Military Forces for purging the New Zealand Staff Corps of a Criminal! I can assure you Sir, that I would sooner that this case went before a military Tribunal than to have it

AR 28/9

NTA R Col H Cohen Cosgill attendes

FILING. Date: 5.10.44

59/1943.
W.M.C.Denham.

COPY.

THE PETITION OF JOHN SHORTAL, ex Staff Sergeant Major, N.Z.P.Force,
OF 38 Fox Street, INVERCARGILL.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:-

I. That your petitioner prays that the circumstances leading up to his wrongful discharge from duty with the N.Z.P.F., should be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives of the Dominion of New Zealand, or any other competent Court of Board of Inquiry as they may direct to be established with a view to his being justly compensated for such injury to his estate and person, the grounds of his petition being as followeth hereafter:-

2. That your petitioner was victimised for the performance of his duty during his service with the N.Z.P.F., after the year 1912 for an action performed in the interests of the State during the month of November of the year aforementioned; and that the attitude of certain of your petitioner's superior Officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to had a direct bearing on the wrongful termination of his engagement with the N.Z.P.Forces.

3. That your petitioner was denied the opportunity of replying to, or stating his case in respect of adverse confidential report rendered against him during the year 1913, despite the fact that such confidential reports, both adverse and otherwise, or other non-commissioned Officers of the N.Z.P.Staff were read over to them by the Officer rendering the report.

4. That your petitioner suffered damage, both in mind and estate, through the fact that his agreement for service under the N.Z.Government was wrongfully terminated in that whereas his engagement with the N.Z. Defence Department was extended by the War Office to a period defined as "the end of the war and six months afterwards," his engagement was terminated and he was discharged from service with the N.Z.P.M.F., on the 31st August, 1919, instead of six months from 10th January, 1920, this latter date being that declared by Proclamation by His Majesty the King as the end of the war.

5. That your petitioner was denied the protection afforded him as a soldier by section 43, the Army Act, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the prescribed channel, impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior Officers, no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever set up whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

And your humble petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray etc.

SIGNED: JOHN SHORTAL.

Leg.—20.]

House of Representatives

DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON THE PETITION

OF

No.59/1943. J.Shortal, 38 Fox Street,

Invercargill.

PRAYING for inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his discharge from the N.Z. Permanent Military Forces, and for compensation.

I AM DIRECTED TO REPORT that in the opinion of the Committee the petition should be referred to the Government for most favourable consideration.

(sgd) R.M.Macfarlane.

4th October, 1944. Chairman.

Leg.—42.]

D. Sub-no: 306

No. 23

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives, WEDNESDAY, *the* 4th *day of* OCTOBER, *19*~~43~~44.

ORDERED:

That the report of the Defence Committee on the petition of J.Shortal be referred to the Government for most favourable consideration.

On motion of
Mr. Macfarlane.

The Army Secretary.

Referred.

J.W. Heenan
Under-Secretary
6.10.44

A TRUE EXTRACT

D.H. Hall
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

R
Seen
PL

FILING.
No. of sheets 3
Initials 7.10.44

XD 99 13

INVERCARGILL 10 A +

MR DENHAM
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

DATE-STAMP
13 DEC 44
WELLINGTON

For Post Office use only
ARM No.

5048a By

Give National Savings

NEW ZEALAND POST-OFFICE TELEGRAM

Sent 520
To
By
Ackgd

+ ASK MR NASH IF PETITION BE FINALISED THIS WEEK +

SHORTAL +

17-12-44
JPP

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/4/44—652]

Mr Denham called 2.25.
"most favorable consideration"

Dear Mr Mason
Mr J. Shortall petitioned Parliament some time ago for compensation he was dismissed from the military service about 20 years ago. ~~He was~~
The decision of the Committee was "most favourable consideration"
Would you please let me have a reply
Yours sincerely W. H. Denham

13/12/44

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES N.Z.

Dear Mr Nash,

I asked Mr Mason for a reply. His private Secretary said that it was not his Ministers responsibility.

Would you please let me have a reply to the telegrams sent by my constituents.

Yours faithfully

A. M. C. Denton

Mr Sherwood
P/S to Minister of Defence

Hon Mr Nash's office telephoned to say that Mr Nash wanted to see this file this afternoon.
[illegible] K 21/12

Hon W Nash
Referred
JMS
21.12.44

743

22-12-44
Hon F. Jones
For comment on
'Most favourable recommendation'
W Nash

MEMO. for

Duration of war
6 months afterwards

11 Nov 1918
11 May 1919.

Prior to 11th May
on leave without pay

28 June 1919.
Refused

Office of the Minister of Defence.

144 pads/5/44—2614]

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

8th January, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:-

Hon. Mr. Mason.

I am attaching hereto the papers dealing with the report of the Defence Committee on the petition of John Shortal, which was referred to the Government for most favourable consideration.

It would be appreciated if this petition could be dealt with by the Cabinet Sub-Committee at an early date.

F Jones

Copy

Abstract of Report of the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives made to the House on Wednesday 4th October 1944, with respect to the Petition of J. Shortal, of 38 Fox St., Invercargill

In the opinion of the Committee the report on the Petition should be referred to the Government for most favourable consideration

(Signed) J. D. H. Hall
Clerk of the House of Representatives

6th October 1944.

The question now sir, is, was Shortal wronged? if the answer is yes! (And there can be no other)

If you wrong a man you commit a crime against him. And everything possible should be done to right that wrong. That, sir, is logic as well as justice.

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal!!

D. Series Sub-No. 306

* The names of all soldiers who have been confined in the guard-room during any portion of the time the Guard ha
† The punishment awarded or decision come to, to be written in words in the handwriting of the officer disposing of
‡ Among other remarks, opposite his name, the fact of any soldier having been admitted to hospital from the guar
guards the guard-room to which soldiers have been passed, should be stated.

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,
17-7-45

Hon. Min. of Defence
Referred
[illegible]

Army Secretary
Referred.
18.7.45

RECEIVED 19 JUL 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

1.,
[illegible]gill
[illegible]uly 1945.

Mr. Jo[illegible]
Thom[illegible]

Dear Sir,
The enclosed is a copy of letter which you forwarded to me on the 10th Aug., 1944.

"Dear Sir,
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th August in which you enquire whether, in the event of a favourable recommendation by the Parliamentary Defence Committee, the Government would consider paying you compensation."

"Although the Government will give every consideration to any recommendation made to it by the Parliamentary Defence Committee I am afraid it would not be possible to give any undertaking such as you request while your Petition is still receiving the attention of the House. When the report of the Committee is presented to the Government you may rest assured it will be given full consideration."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) James Thom
for the Prime Minister

If you wrong a man you commit a crime against him. And everything possible should be done to right that wrong. That, Sir, is logic as well as justice.
Yours respectfully,
John Sherral.

No. of G.C. Badges.
the above

CAPS, F.S., OR HATS, S.D. *				BANDS, HAT, †				COATS, GREAT, MOUNTED. * DISMOUNTED.			
Size.	QUANTITY. On Hand.	QUANTITY. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	QUANTITY. On Hand.	QUANTITY. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	QUANTITY. On Hand.	QUANTITY. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.
6⅜				6⅜				0			
6½				6½				1			
6⅝				6⅝				2			
6¾				6¾				3			
								4			
								5			

Approved.
M.
30.10.45

Returned.

Army Reference.

29/10/1945

HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE.
Referred.

Rawalin Secretary

RECEIVED
30 OCT 1945
ARMY
HEADQUARTERS

MEMO 29/10/1945

JOHN SHORTAL
INVERCARGILL (Replying D 260 22
Invercargill 11 10 A 26/10/1945)

HAVE RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM AND AM REFERRING REPRESENTATIONS TO HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE FOR HIS CONSIDERATION

P FRASER

PUTTEES, S.D. pairs																									
REMARKS:																									

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

31st October, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Private Secretary,
Attorney General,
Parliament House,
WELLINGTON.

I understand that the Petition and Army papers are with your Minister.

Perhaps you would arrange to send a further reply to Mr. Shortal.

F. M. Sherwood

Private Secretary.

Encl:

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

4th December, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:

Hon. Mr. Mason,

It would be appreciated by me if the petition on behalf of Sgt.Mjr. John Shortal, 38 Fox Street, Invercargill, could be dealt with at an early date.

Mr. Algie, M.P. has been making enquiries from me in regard to this matter.

F Jones

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

4th January, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for:-

Hon. Mr. Mason.

On the 4th of last month I forwarded you a memorandum inquiring whether the petition on behalf of Sgt. Major John Shortal of Invercargill, could be dealt with at an early date.

It would be appreciated by me if you could let me know the present position.

F Jones

URGENT

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

14th February, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for:

Hon. Mr. Mason.

On the 4th December 1945 and again on the 4th January 1946 I communicated with you enquiring whether a petition on behalf of Sgt. Major John Shortal, Invercargill, had yet been dealt with.

As this is now a matter of urgency, I would appreciate if early consideration could be given to this matter.

P Jones

be recommended by the officer under whom he is immediately serving if he applies for the Imperial Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. I fulfilled the conditions. I applied. Major Crowther, under whom I was serving at the time, recommended me, as any officer of the British Army would have done. Major Crowther's recommendation got as far as Dunedin and was returned to him with instructions that he was not to recommend me. Were there any valid reasons? I cannot answer that question. I had never appeared before an officer in the Dominion for any offence- major or minor - Major Crowther, to his everlasting credit, returned the recommendation, together with a rather stiff covering letter, to Dunedin. The recommendation was finally forwarded to War Office and in due course I received the medal. Was Major Crowther asked to do something dishonourable? That question he alone could answer. And now, Mr Jones, it is only reasonable for me to suppose that you, very naturally, will ask yourself the question - How did I obtain that information? and in anticipation of your doing so it gives me great pleasure to supply the answer. About nine years subsequent to my discharge I obtained that information from Major Crowther, with whom I was discussing my petition which had just then been heard by the Defence Committee. That petition had been recommended to the Government for favourable consideration, but that Government was but a continuation of the Administration of which Sir James had been a member. I pinned my faith in a Labour Administration granting me redress. Alas! A statement of R.L.Stevenson's appears before me as vividly as the story of my victimization. "I have always held" he writes, "from no evidence whatsoever, but from a mere sentiment or intuition, that politics is the filthiest, the dirtiest, and most absurd of human employments." "I have always held" he writes: but now I know it!

I am but a labourer, yes a casual labourer in the Government Service, and under the recent 40 hour week Legislation I will be approximately 64 hours at the beck and call of the Department before I have completed the 40 hour week. Politically I am a Labour man and, I hope, an honest one. Had I been a Reform Party supporter I might have been in decent employment today, but I was not a Reform Party supporter, not because I questioned the honesty of any indivdual member of that party, but because I questioned the policy of the party. Today I find the position is reversed. I do not question the policy of the Labour Government but I do, and I am sorry to have to admit it, question the honesty of at least one member holding Ministerial rank in the Labour Government.

In conclusion, Sir, I hope you will pardon my saying what I think, instead of thinking what I sa y.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) John Shortal.

it could not happen now!" Was the case dealt with on its merits? Obviously not, or why would a Major of the Defence Department express sympathy with me? He, as well as members of the Defence Committee, received from me the full story from the date of my appointment in Ireland to the date of my discharge at Invercargill, New Zealand. The time taken by me to relate that story was approximately four and three quarter hours. I merely point out this in order to show you that the case was not dealt with on its merits. The officer who stated that it was did not know what he was writing about. There is, however, at present, serving in the New Zealand Defence Force an officer who knows all about it, but I will not divulge his name as it might jeopardize his position.

On Gallipoli I anticipated what was going to happen. I told the late Major S.A.Grant when he requested me to pursue the Henderson-McClymont case to the bitter end. He also told me that the then Minister of Defence was aware of the cloud under which both those officers left New Zealand. It was on account of public opinion that they were recalled. Henderson was convicted on the evidence which I supplied to Major S.A.Grant. Sir James Allen knew it. Hence, Sir James would not grant me a public inquiry because the information given to me on Gallipoli by Major S.A.Grant would have to be on Sir James Allen's oath refuted or denied. Sir James did not want the true story of the criminal collaborations of two of his constituents unfolded before a public inquiry. He had already received the information from Sir Charles Statham to whom I had divulged it, and the only way to prevent that was by denying me the protection of the Regulations under which I served and, to use a war-time phrase, make "a scrap of paper" of my agreements.

Let us suppose you, as Minister of Defence, received this morning a request from a Sergeant-Major of the permanent staff asking you for a public inquiry, the grounds for such request being that the Sergeant-Major's discharge was not in the interests of the State, but the outcome of vindictiveness, which that Sergeant-Major was prepared to prove if granted the inquiry. Would you be justified in telling him, as Sir James Allen told me "It would be a waste of time and public money"? And if, of the seven different Character Certificates the then King's Regulations provided, the applicant for the inquiry had qualified for and received the highest, do you not think that it was not from such high and noble motives as "the waste of time and public money" by which Sir James Allen professed to be influenced in refusing the applicant an inquiry, but for some sinister motive? That motive I have already exposed: and the Character Certificate of the Soldier concerned was placed at your disposal, in order that you might be able to judge the reliability or otherwise of his statements. I have twice previously credited you with intelligence. Can you now distinguish truth from the falsehood to which you put your signature?

And now, Mr Jones, before forwarding this correspondence to the Prime Minister, I will fire my final shot in an endeavour to remove any doubts that may still linger in your mind with reference to what you refer to as my "alleged victimization". A soldier of the Regular Army has to have to his credit eighteen years regular service, his conduct for that period must be exemplary, he must also

be/

38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL,
16th September,1936.

The Hon. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

I am rather late in acknowledging your reply to my correspondence re my victimization by the Defence Authorities. The truth is that every time I attempted a reply I was so overcome with a feeling of indignation towards you that it was impossible for me to write a calm and reasoned letter. I have given myself time to reflect, and upon reflection, I have, I hope, charitably, if not truly concluded, that you are but the victim of departmental prevarication: but can a man in your position be excused or pardoned for placing his signature to a lie?

You never read my correspondence! What inference is to be drawn from that statement? The answer I will not reduce to writing. You are an intelligent man. I am forced to that conclusion, not because of any desire on my part for undue adulation, but by the mere fact that the Prime Minister, Mr Savage, has appointed you a Cabinet Minister. But intelligence minus honesty is, im my opinion, a doubtful qualification for a Cabinet Minister and about the last person in whom I would expect to find that deficiency is a Labour Cabinet Minister.

You see, Mr Jones, although personally you are unknown to me, I, at least, give you credit for intelligence because of the fact, as already stated, that Mr Savage appointed you a Cabinet Minister. Therefore, you must admit, I have conceded to you that which you have denied me when you stated "the case was dealt with on its merits". Or, if my intelligence was not questioned, you doubted, which you were not justified in doing without attempting to verify either by scrutiny of my official character certificates or other testimonials, the veracity of my statements. In fact, from a calm perusal of your answer one could only conclude that I, the appelant for justice, am either a lunatic or a liar. I do not like the word "liar", that being the reason why I refrained from using it on a previous occasion in this correspondence.

A man whose sanity is questioned is not called upon to judge as to whether or not he is a subject for a mental hospital. But, when the truthfulness of my statements is questioned, in the face of incontrovertible documentary evidence, if ordinary common justice is to prevail, (and that, I believe, is the much vaunted policy of the Government to which you are indebted for the honour of holding Ministerial Rank) I should be given the opportunity of re-telling the story which convinced the Hon. R. Semple and the Rev. Clyde Carr, as well as seven or eight other members of the Defence Committee and, I might add, the officer who was there on behalf of the Defemce Department, - the combined intelligence of whom, you will not be reluctant to admit, is at least equal to yours - that I was victimized for bringing a criminal to justice: and the logical conclusion, therefore, is that the case was <u>not</u> dealt with on its merits.

The remarks addressed to me by the officer of the Defence Department when leaving Parliament buildings were somewhat different from those put before you for your signature, and, as far as my memory serves me, were as follows - "I am sorry Sergent Major,

it/

through any magnamimity on their part.

"The action of Sergt. Major Shortal had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimized in any way." ~~May~~ My answer to that is with all due respect to the position he holds he is in no position to judge, nor do I want my statement taken for granted. I am prepared to submit the case to a Military Court or Civil Court, the former for preference.

"His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and other members of Parliament on supposed grievances." My answer to that is I will continue to do so until such time as I find a man strong enough in character to demand why Capt. J R. Henderson was allowed to serve in the N.Z. Military Forces for three years subsequent to my charging him with an indictable offence? How, and under what circumstances was he, ~~we~~ eventually brought to trial? And as I am the only person who can satisfactorily state the truth in this matter, it will then be found that I, ex Staff Sergt. Major Shortal was responsible for having this officer brought to justice, and in consequence suffered for having done so. Which is also the opinion of every "honest" person to whom I have already related this story. But, as I have already admitted, "they may be wrong."

When I charged Capt. Henderson with the offence mentioned and when I was told it was a damned piece of impertinence on my part, and when I demanded a trial by Court Martial, and when I demanded to be placed under arrest, which I was, why was my release ordered? But I will not prolong it. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th idem I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him." That is am ambiguous statement, but to that I say, I am not to be intimidated. I have made, and will continue to make, a serious charge. I am aware of the consequences, if I cannot prove a second time what I have already proved before the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives. Nor is it the Hon. F. Jones' duty to suppress evidence, but as a representative of the people in a Democratic Country, and a supposed Democratic Constitution, it is his duty to see that this charge is dealt with in a democratic manner. This can only by done by allowing my evidence to be taken before a just and impartial tribunal, and I am prepared to abide by its decision.

Surely it cannot be said that I am asking for something that every individual under the Union Jack is not allegedly supposed to be entitled to.

In conclusion, I must sincerely apologise for making this letter so long. I invoked the help of God for power to express the truths contained in it. Whether or not there is a justification of my charge must entirely be left in your hands, but should you feel that there is no justification for such a charge, you, Sir, I hope will pardon me if I send copies to Mr. Barnard and Mr. J.A. Lee, M.P.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal.

Ex Staff Sergeant Major,
N.Z. Permanent Staff.

38 Fox Street,
Avenal,
INVERCARGILL.

x The Defence Committee, on the 4th October 1944, having heard my evidence, recommended my petition to the Government for "most favorable Consideration!"
The equivalent to stating that I had been victimized!

Number 1. When I was, through his mediation, extended for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. But, before falling back on Sir Charles Statham's influence, I decided to wire Sir James Allen, I therefore, telegraphed him requesting in the identical language and for the same reason, to grant me a Court of Inquiry. His reply was "It would be a waste of time and Public money."

The definition, or his interpretation, of the word "after" by him, as well as his reply to my request for an Inquiry should prove conclusively that my discharge was not as the Hon. F. Jones would have you belive "to place many of the N.Z. Soldiers of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force in the Permanent Forces," but to gratify the vindictiveness of Sir James Allen, who was not prepared to take the decision of a just and impartial Tribunal as the final arbiter. But before leaving the cause of my discharge it is just as well to know that those who resort to misrepresenting facts must need be have a good memory.

I petitioned Parliament in 1929. I went to Wellington, gave evidence before the Defence Committee of the House; when I had completed my evidence, which was of three hours' duration, the Chairman, Colonel T.W. McDonald, inquired individually of each member if he wished to ask any questions. The Hon. R. Semple, who had listened attentively to my evidence, asked the officer who was there on behalf of the Dept, "For what was this officer (meaning myself) discharged?" The Officer's reply was as follows: "An unfavourable report." Whereon Mr. Semple asked him to read it. Having done so, Mr. Semple again asked him to read the preceding confidential report. It was a good one. Mr. Semple then asked him to reas the report subsequent to the bad one. The officer did so. Again it was a good one. "Do you not think" tontinued Mr. Semple, "that there is something wrong when you find a bad report sandwiched between two good ones."? The officer, of course, who was a gentleman was in full agreement with Mr. Semple. "What would you have done in the circumstances " was Mr. Semple's next query. "I would have an inquiry held," was the reply.

The same officer called me when leaving Parliament Buildings- "I'm sorry, Segt. Major, such a thing could not happen now?" was his way of expressing sympathy. And at this late hour the Hon. F. Jones states I was discharged to make room for New Zealanders. I will deal with that later.

When my request to Sir James Allen failed, I for the second time interviewed Sir Charles Statham, and through his intervention I was granted six months' leave (without pay) and although I am sure and would feel sorry to attribute any blame to Sir Charles (who after all was or proved himself to be my friend) I do not remember having asked for leave "without pay." and further, knowing the Regulations governing such leave, it is not likely that I would have added the "without pay."

I was fully conversant with the procedure that should have been adopted under such circumstances, which should have been as follows:- Discharged from the N.Z. Military Forces (though through a gross irregularity) which I was. Then re-transferred to my Regiment (through the War Office, of course). An application then made to my Regiment for six months' leave. This would have been granted and as I would now be subject to the Laws contained in the "Manual of Military Law", "The King's Regulations." and "The Royal Warrant for pay." and further, as there is no law in any of the afore-mentioned books by which a soldier can be deprived of his pay except (1) in Hospital through Misconduct (2) in Prison. (3) A prisoner -of war through his own fault. It will be seen that I was entitled to six months' leave on full pay from the Leinster Regiment, and knowing that, I would certainly not have asked for leave without pay, "and as the results of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th Feb. 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service" (already dealt with.)

The question now arises why was the Dept. so eager to send a man and his wife and child out of the Dominion, pay his passage, and I presume his wife and child's (though under my agreement they were not bound to pay my wife's or child's) phmhaps the Dept. will answer they had no intention of doing so - when to have retained me in the Service until 7-2-1920 would have cost the Dept. a little over £100 and our (that is myself and family's passage would exceed that amout. The answer is - they wanted to....get rid of me at all costs and not

X. nor could I be arbitrarily returned to England under I violation the actually of my agreement my agreement can be produced from the Defence authorities!

I communicated with the War Office re this vacatinogation discharge and was told it was purely a matter for the New Zealand Government

Man I could not be promoted...to Warrant Officer. My reply was "that there was nothing in my agreement signed by Sir W. Hall-Jones, or in the N.Z. Military Regulations to prevent it," but that on the contrary that while I was subject to the Regulations for punishments it was only just and reasonable to expect that I was subject to the Regulations for the benefits. I was then requested to forward a copy of my agreement, which I did. Naturally, I concluded that they were going to compare the articles of my agreement with the Regulations with the view of removing any injustice. Such, however, was not the case. Unwittingly I had placed in their hands a document-not-wherein was to be found, if justly and impartially interpreted, art icles corresponding to every Regulation that every N.C.O. on the Staff was subject to-but also the one that they were looking for.

They read "Sergt. J. Shortal engages himself in the service of the N.Z. Govt. for a certain period of five years." They looked at the date and discovered "was 3 years and 120 days (or thereabouts) out of date.

Back came the answer like the shot of a gun "Please inform Sergt-Major Shortal that he is to be returned to his Regiment by the next boat."

I was stunned! I had only six months to serve to complete my 21 years. I had a home, and a wife and child to keep. I had served for 8 years and 127 days in the N.Z. Military Forces. My integrity and ability were unquestioned. Please note that up to this time THEY HAD HEARD NOTHING OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR AND SIX MONTHS AFTERWARDS.

When I recovered from the shock, it dawned on me that I had another agreement for the duration of the War and six months afterwards, and as peace was not yet ratified by His Majesty the King, I informed them of the fact. But they had already taken the step. They were determined not to retire. So I was informed that as far as I was concerned that the duration of the War was until the siging of the Armistice.

Now the word "Armistice" as well as those giving its definition are numbered amongst those in a Soldier's vocabulary. How then could they "honestly" interpret "six months after the Armistice, as being identical with six months after the war."

A man can have an honest opinion on anything and yet be wrong. Should this not be patent to the Hon. F. Jones? Otherwise there would be no such thing as an "Opposition" for obviously if men with honest opinions were always right, there would be but one party in the House? But in thise case, I pointed out that they were literally wrong and therefore legally.

I then, as already stated, informed them that I had but six months to serve to complete my 21 years, that I had a home, a wife and child, both being New Zealanders. I was told that it was no affair of the Dept's, but purely a Domestic affair. Finally, I played my last card. I asked for a "Court of Inquiry" as my discharge was not in the interests of the State, but the outcome of vindictiveness, which I was prepared to prove. I was entitled to this inquiry under Section 43 of the Army Act. The answer to that request was A "chloroforming" - if I may use the word - of that section by an answer, which should be a reason form instead of an argument against, such inquiry. Here is the answer - "Please inform Sgt. Major Shortal that as his integrity or ability are in no way questioned the Dept. cannot accede to his request." But apparently 18 months previously the self same gentleman must have discovered something wrong with my integiry, because on receipt of my application for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, together with Major Crowther's recommendation, it was decided that both application and recommendation be returned to Major Crowther with instructions that he not recommend me. "The action of Sgt. Major Shortal in reporting an officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge." It had every bearing on my discharge and the above is only one link out of many comprising a whole chain ..the commencement of which took place when I reported Henderson in 1912, and which culiminated in my discharge, and it is for the purpose of joining those links together that I am for the past 20 years fighting this case, and there is no justification for a Minister of the Crown suppressing evidence because that is the attitude taken up by the Hon. F. Jones. This I can prove from his numerous replies to my various requests for an enquiry

I had, however, one friend left, Sir Charles Statham, who on a previous occasion was instrumental in preventing injustice.....

Forfeited all rights to promotion in my Regiment by electing to enter the employ of the N.Z. Government and now after eight years exemplary service I am now to be returned to my Regiment.

extended for nine months." I will not say that is a "lie." I do not like using the word, but the strange thing about that statement is that I did not hear of it until I received your letter dated 10th June, 1941, nor is it confirmed by the gradual unfolding of the story I am now about to put before you.

In the first place how was I, or for that matter any member of the Staff, to receive that £200 per annum "after" five years' service if the provisions of the Regulations under which I was serving were not extended to me? What were the provisions? The renewal of engagements every five years up to the age of 65. See N.Z. Military Regulations. Why was I not re-engaged for a further period of five years? Because in 1912 I reported an officer for an offence which was not alone a violation of Military Law but also of the Civil Law. What happened when I reported him? I was told "It was a damned piece of impertinence on my part and that if I did not withdraw it, I would be returned to England." In other words, I staked my military career and an unspecified time of my freedom against that of Capt. J.R. Henderson's when I charged him with falsifying Public Documents involving theft, because if I were not able to prove my charge I could have been discharged with ignominy, and imprisoned for any term the Court might deem fit. And here I would like to ask Mr. Jones is that the "orthodox" way, in the N.Z. Military Forces, of upholding military discipline so essential to military efficiency? "And was thereafter extended a second term for the duration of the War and six months thereafter."

How came I to have an engagement for the duration of the war and six months thereafter? The answer is when I applied for an extension for another five years (acting I presume on instructions from Sir James Allen that I was on no account to be extended) I received official information that I was not to be extended but was to be returned to my Regiment. Intuition told me this was coming. Had i not foreseen it, when on Gallipoli I was presented with a copy of "Truth" in which the question was asked "Would Sergeant-Major Shortal be recalled to place a little mustard on already overburdened shoulders? (Remember I was responsible for Henderson being recalled from Egypt in 1915). I interviewed Sir Charles Statham, placed my case before him, and Sir Charles succeeded in arranging an interview for me with Sir James Allen, who, when I appeared before him treated me as if I were a criminal and though I presume Sir James had had the benefit of an University education, he told me that the word "after" previously referred to in this letter, "was a guibble." Perhaps in the words of the Hon. F. Jones that was also the "orthodox" way of interpreting the English language. There the question arises - why did Sir James, a man who had never seen me before, act in such a manner? Henderson amd McClymont were both his constituents. I am not sure, but it may be the answer. Was I not responsible for having them both recalled to stand their trials? Of course, I was. And by so ding, I showed up some of the rotten-ness that at the time existed in the N.Z. Military Forces.

But Mr. Jones is becoming a champion at taking the truth from its proper setting and then placing it before the layman, who, in the absence of the true facts, may not be able to put it in its proper frame, e.g. "The Agreement,"in the case of Sergt-Major Shortal, was "honestly" interpreted by the Dept. as terminating six months after the Armistice, i,e. on 11th May, 1919." He was however, retained in the service until the 31st August, 1919.

The question now arises as to why I was retained in the service until 31-8-1919? Because those who set themselves the task of putting me out of the service were not aware that I was in possession of the "Agreement" for the duration of the war and six months afterwards. And it was only when I applied for promotion to Warrant Office Class 1, which will be explained later on, that the agreement for the duration of the war and six months afterwards, came into the picture. I was under orders to be discharged before they knew of its existence. There is a Brigadier-General at present serving in the N.Z. Staff Corps who could prove this. My "Agreement" was obviously asked for, not to impartially interpret the articles contained in it, but to see if it were possible to dispense with my services. And here is the explanation. When I applied for promotion to Warrant Office Class 1 (which according to the Regulations under which I was serving I was entitled to), the Officer above referred to (who was then a Capt) whom I was serving under, received the information that as I was only on

× an arbitrary agreement drawn up by the late Sir James Allen and not in accordance with the Regulations under which I served

Mr. S.G. Holland M.P.,
74 Derby Street,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Sir,

You took this case up on my behalf and I would fail in my duty if I did not use whatever little ability I may possess in order to prevent Mr. Jones "Throwing sand in your eyes." You, Sir, are charged with going up and down the country looking for petty complaints and trying to sabotage the War effort. If you carefully peruse my answer to Mr. Jones' latest. I think you can vigorously combat such a charge, but if you are not prepared or should you deem it inadvisable to pursue the case further please return this letter to me.

I will then forward a copy to Mr. Barnard and one to Mr. J.A.Lee. This letter ti going to be long. It necessarily must be, in order to deal fully with that document purporting to be a reply to yours on my behalf.

I am not a man as Mr. Jones would have you believe - suffering from an imaginary grievance - were I, it would not be necessary for Mr. Jones to devote such time in preparing a "reply" to you. Yes, Mr. Holland, that it you have time to bear with me - a reply - that I will metaphorically speaking "tear to shreds."

For twenty-one years I have been fighting this case.Why? Inspired by Emerson's statement "That Justice cannot be withheld, it can only be postponed". And yet another, whose author I now forget, "He who stands on the vantage ground of truth, is in an impregnable position" and this truth the Hon. F. Jones has resorted to every device to suppress.

I cannot quote from memory all of the articles of my agreement signed in London by the Late Sir William Hall-Jones, on behalf of the N.Z. Government, and by an officer of the Leinster Regiment and myself on my behalf. But in order that you may have a fighting chance to pursue the fight further if you so desire, I will, with the help of God and my limited ability with the pen enable you to do so.

Here are two articles from my agreement which are substantially if not verbally true, and the "agreement" taken on the whole could not be interpretated in any other way but such as would prove that in its articles were embodied the same conditions of service as were applicable to all Sergeants-Major on the Staff.

1. "The Government of N.Z. undertake to pay the said John Shortal at the rate of £160 per annum, to be increased to £180 per annum after the completion of two full years service, and to be further increased to £200 per annum after" the completion of five years' service. (Note the word "AFTER."

2. If the said John Shortal shall at any time neglect or refuse or from any cause become or be unable to perform his duties under this "Agreement" his suspension or removal shall be conducted under "and be subject to the Regulations in force at the time in New Zealand." "In the absence of express statutory authority every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none." The last quotation is from Jones' letter D.1/206/1/A dated 6th June, 1941, so according to Mr. Jones' interpretation of my agreement any Minister could vindictively or otherwise deprive a soldier of his employment. I don't think that's cricket, nor do I think it's Democratic. Was my agreement to be torn up at the will of a Minister?

Now my engagement was for a period of five years, but so was that of every Sergeant-Major on the Staff, and this conformed to the terms of appointment laid down in the N.Z. Military Regulations.

And as for pay and emoluments, the same existed for both, i.e.Men who signed on in London, and men who signed on or enlisted in N.Z. With this exception - the men from Home received their first increase in salary after two years, whilst those who enlisted in New Zealand did not receive the increase until they had completed three years' service. "On the expiry of that period.....his engagement was

D. 1/306/1/A

Officer of the Minister of Defence,
WELLINGTON C.1. 6th June, 1941.

Dear Mr. Holland,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st. May regarding Mr. John Shortal. This ex-soldier was one of six Sergeant-Instructors engaged in April, 1911, from the British Army for service in New Zealand for a period of five years. On expiry of that period, his service was extended for nine months, and was thereafter extended for the duration of the War and six months afterwards. These extensions were made with the consent of the War Office. He was discharged on 31st August, 1919, when his pay terminated. In the absence of express statutory authority, every soldier holds his position at the will of the Government, and can be discharged at any time for any reason or for none. The agreement in the case of Sgt.-Major Shortal was honestly interpreted by the Department as terminating six months after the Armistice, i.e. on 11th May, 1919. He was, however, retained in the Service until 31st August, 1919, and as the result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

His discharge was not due to any adverse reports, but to the policy of the Government to terminate the appointments of the Imperial soldiers on loan to New Zealand. At this time their engagements had expired, and it was desired to place many ex-soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the permanent Forces.

The action of Sgt.-Major Shortal in reporting an Officer had no bearing whatsoever on his discharge, and he was not victimised in any way. His case has been the subject of numerous petitions on his part to Parliament, and since 1920 he has continued to address the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and other members of Parliament on his supposed grievances.

In 1931 the Government set up a special committee to thoroughly investigate the case, and their report was to the effect that the action taken in the matter of his discharge was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in his position. The Government fully considered this report and decided to take no action. It is noted in his letter to you that he is prepared to place his services at the disposal of the Government if he is given a Military Court of Inquiry. There is no reason why a Court of inquiry should be held into his case, and his request, which has been made by him on many occasions since 1920, cannot be met. On the 21st August, 1939, in reply to his letter of 7th idem, I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose, and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. F. Jones,
Minister of Defence.

S.G. Holland Esq., M.P.,
74 Derby Street,
Christchurch, N.1.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, (contd.)

Military Tribunal because Military Officers are versed in Military Law and are sworn to Judge the case on the evidence and without partiality or favour and further it would be removed from the Political Arena.

As you will see, Sir, from the enclosed letter I have, to the best of my ability written on behalf of Labour. I have for the past 35 years on every conceivable occasion voted Labour. With the help of my vote, my wife's and daughter's and with all honest voters in this Dominion, Mr Jones has been lifted from obscurity to the exhalted position of a Cabinet Minister. He seems to have forgotten it or he would not abuse the power entrusted to him by those whose honesty or veracity cannot be called in question. Do you think Sir, I should again vote Labour? I am a Catholic and so are quite a number of Mr Jones's Constitutents and all "Practical" Catholics believe that truth should be the supreme arbiter between Justice and Injustice and not a Minister, who, if he could, would suppress it.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal.

Invercargill,

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.P.C.
Prime Minister,
Government Buildings,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

With implicit confidence in your promise contained in a letter and signed on your behalf by Mr Thorn, that "full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee" I went to the expense of proceeding to Wellington to place evidence before the Defence Committee that would reveal and did prove a case - and one that I was the subject of - of victimisation, I am convinced without parallel in the History of any Government Employee, before or since in this Dominion.

One year and nine months have elapsed since that Petition was heard and yet that promise has not been fullfilled; nor have I received any notification that would lead me to believe that I can entertain even a remote hope of its being honoured in the future or yet any to the contrary. Notwithstanding the fact that my Petition was recommended to the Government "for most favourable consideration" Sir, why this suspense? Owing to the suppression of Truth by the Hon. F. Jones who, with the skill and subtleness of an unscrupulous Lawyer, maliciously and deliberately substituted falsehoods. Am I now to be denied that Justice for which I have been fighting for the past 27 years and without the aid of the R.S.A. or any other such aid to help me, but that which allegedly makes men free - the pure and unadulterated Truth!

Surely, Mr Fraser, if Democracy means anything it means that Justice must not or should not be sacrificed to the whims of a Minister, who, instead of being, as he should be, the guardian and defender of truth has in this Democratic Country seen fit to adopt the mantle of a Dictator in order to suppress it; and who, by implication, told me that he would suppress it. Sir, should he have the temerity to deny any of my statements. I am prepared to submit his correspondence any my evidence plus that of a high ranking Military Officer to any Court of Justice, Military or Civil, and in the event of my failing to prove that which I have already proved before the Defence Committees of 1929 and 1944 I promise to pay the costs. For obvious reasons I would prefer a

this unsavory drama, the late Sir James Allen discharged me from the permanent force, flouted the Laws by which I was governed and made a scrap of paper of my Agreement. That, Sir, is but a brief, and a very brief outline of the story. It would take one and one half hours to relate. It would take a week to write! It is, as you Sir, as a Lawyer know, a fundamental principle of British Justice that a man should be heard. It is the essence of Democracy man owes a duty to the State. Correspondingly the State owes a duty to its subjects. The duty the State owed to me was to decide, not arbitrarily, but on the evidence that I would submit to a Court-of-Justice. whether I was victimized or not. The Representatives of about forty thousand people. Men who composed the members of the Defence Committee decided that I was victimized. The same happened when a Conservative Government was in power. But the minister of Defence whose domicile is the same City as that of the late Sir James Allen's has had the audacity to tell me I was not victimized but not the moral courage to allow the case to be decided by an impartial Tribunal.

yours sincerely
John Shortal

Invercargill

The Hon. H Malone, M.P.
Minister of Justice
Wellington

Dear Sir,

I most respectfully request that you read the enclosed Correspondence. I would also ask you to peruse my Character Certificates, then hand the Certificates to the Prime Minister. The Case, in an nutshell, is as follows. — Before sailing for Egypt, in the 1914-18 war, I received a wire from a Major S.A. Grant asking me for receipts for Ammunition sold by a Capt. Henderson, I wrote back and told the Officer where to find them. He found them. He then ordered the young officer who took over from Henderson, to send for the Government Auditor, As no trace of the money received for the Ammunition could be found nor had it been paid into the Public Account. The Auditor found, that not only was the money for the Ammunition missing, but that also large sums had been misappropriated. Henderson together with an officer the name of M'Blymont were recalled from Egypt, to stand their trials. Henderson was convicted, received a term of imprisonment and, of course automatically cashiered. For my part in

D. Series: Sub-No. 306

Medical Officer.

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Admission.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.

(This portion of the Form can be used for any purpose where a Nominal Roll is necessary to communicate between the Station Hospital and the Corps.)

D 382 16 INVERCARGILL 3 25 P +

THE PRIME MINISTER WELLINGTON

Rec'd at 5/8 By

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

Rec'd

To

By

Ack'gd.

DATE-STAMP

RECEIVED 6 AUG 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

TELEGRAPH OFFICE 31 JUL 46 WELLINGTON

+ SIR IF FINISHED WITH CHARACTER CERTIFICATE PLEASE

RETURN AT YOUR CONVENIENCE + SHORTAL ++

Hon. Minister of Defence
Referred
C.F.
1/8/46

Army Secretary.

For reply for my signature please.

4.8.46.

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/5/45—10495]

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

D.1/306.

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C.1.

12th August, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Hon. Minister of Justice.

PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

In reference to the attached telegram it is understood that the Departmental (Army) and other papers are held by you in connection with Mr. Shortal's petition.

Would you please enable me to reply.

P. Fraser
Minister of Defence.

Encl:

Mr Robertson
This is one of the petition files I left with you last week.
F.F.D.
12.8.46

D 289 19 INVERCARGILL 2 PM +

MINISTER OF JUSTICE PARLIAMENT

BUILDING WELLINGTON +

Rec'd at By

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

2214

Sent.

To

By

Ackgd.

DATE-STAMP

POST & TELEGRAPH OFFICE 19 JUL 45 WELLINGTON

PLEASED IF YOU WOULD RETURN CHARACTER CERTIFICATES IF

FINISHED WITH THEM + JOHN SHORTAL +

Certificates returned - Any Army Dept.

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/5/45—16951

Government was taking with regard to the Recommendations of the Defence Committee? a recommendation which I was told that I "could rest assured that the Government would give full consideration to". Or, if the answer to the question I put to the Defence Committee, before giving my evidence.- "Is there any use gentlemen in petitioning Parliament?" going to be answered after two years, if not in the affirmative, then, at least, in the negative. I would then know where I stand. Sir, could I please be informed at your earliest convenience? Your reply, sir, together with this letter will be forwarded to "Zealandia" and the New Zealand "Tablet" as well as to the "Otago Daily Times" and the "Southland Times".

Yours Sincerely,

John Thorpe, ex Staff Sgt. Major,
New Zealand Ser. Staff.

38 Tay St.
Invercargill
September 1946

Prime Minister's
20 SEP 1946
RECEIVED

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P. P.C.
Prime Minister,

Dear Sir,

I have been advised by the Editor of a newspaper to appeal to a Gentleman in Wellington, with a view of obtaining his influence as a means of helping me to obtain redress. Sir, I have not done so. ~~I believe in a Democracy~~, not that I have any doubts as to that gentleman's influence, but on principle. I believe in a Democracy. Justice is, or should be the only influence or antidote for injustice. And as a Democracy claims to be a system of Government wherein the rights of the individual citizen is protected, it should not be necessary where that citizen has already twice proved before the Defence Committee that he was the subject of a grave injustice. Who were responsible for this Injustice? The late Sir James Allen, The proof of this charge I submitted to the Defence Committee in 1929, and 1944. a charge that could not then or now be refuted. Secondly, and most important to you Sir, as a Labour Prime Minister, one of your own Cabinet Ministers, The Hon. Frederick Jones, who threw all Democratic ideals to the wind by refusing me the right which is not denied to the worst criminal, i.e. the right to be heard.- Ordinary elementary justice- secondly, his distortion of the truth, so skilfully, that it even deceived trained minds like those of lawyers, until they had read my reply to it. Was there any legitimate reason for him to take such a stand except the illegitimate one to hinder the impartial administration of justice. A minister of the Crown, like a Judge of the Supreme Court should be above that which savours of petty spite or vindictiveness. For after all an individual charged with the worst Criminal Offence might be able to prove himself innocent. A possibility that the Hon Frederick Jones is well aware of. I know Sir that you were not responsible for his underworldly and I might add unpardonable conduct. But the least you can do Sir, is to see that a minister who treated me thus is not given the power to decide whether you should or should not honour your promise. The ~~Secession~~ session is now drawing to a close. It is just on two years since I petitioned Parliament, a step I would not have taken had I entertained the remotest doubt as to the trustfulness of the promise of the leading citizen of the Dominion, its Prime minister. Sir, may I respectfully ask, is it not time I was informed what action the Government

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence

Referred Army Secretary
Referred.

P.F.,
10/10/46

12.10.46

in and for which you and every Labour Member elected to the Parliament of this Dominion are bound by your pledges to uphold. Mr. Jones, is the withholding of Justice by you or any other member of Parliament from a man, who, on two occasions have proved before the Defence Committees of the House. 1928 and 1944. that he was the subject of a grave injustice in conformity with your avowed belief in and love for Democratic Ideals? If not, then you are in conscience and duty bound to see that I am compensated and that the promise of your leader, The Hon P. Fraser, Prime-Minister is given effect to

Yours faithfully.
John Shortal.
ex Staff Sergt-Major N.Z.P.S.

P.S.

I am holding a copy of this letter which in the call of is not being replied to. I will forward to the Governor General, with an appeal for a Military Court of enquiry for which I will deposit the cost. with of course the proviso that should I win, the cost of the enquiry be refunded to me.

38 Hay St.,
Invercargill 1946.
16th October 1

The Hon. Frederick Jones M.P.
Minister of Defence.

Dear Sir,

"Ask and you shall receive". Seek and you shall find". Knock and it shall be opened unto you". On your own admission to Mr. Holland, I have been asking, seeking and knocking, for the past twenty-six years. You refused to listen to me. You slapped the door through which I might receive Justice, in my face. That door was opened to me by the Prime Minister Mr. Fraser when he told me that full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee. The persistency with which I have times out of number maintained that I was the subject of victimization - asking, knocking and seeking - have, you must now admit been fully justified by the Defence Committee's recommendation for most favourable consideration of my Petition praying for Compensation. Notwithstanding the bitter Letters I have written against you and which you yourself would have been fully justified in writing against me, had our positions been reversed and I had so far forgotten myself as to adopt your dictatorial attitude. I ask do you not now agree that in my persistent fight for Justice I have also been fighting for "Democracy" in its purest form? A form of Government which I believe in

Prime Minister's Office
26 NOV 1946
RECEIVED

38 Frog St.
Invercargill,
25th November. 1946.

The Rt. Hon P Fraser M.P.
Prime Minister.

Dear Sir,
I am voting "Labour" again this Election, and so is my wife and Daughter. I am telling you beforehand and not waiting until the Election is over. In return for my confidence in you Sir, and the majority of the Labour members, and notwithstanding my abhorrence of a Minister like your Defence Minister The Hon. F Jones, whose chief weapons against me for the past ten years were.- The refusal to give me a Public Enquiry, the deliberate suppression of the truth; and, worst of all - that which ill becomes any man in the Public life of this or any other Country - the substitution of falsehoods, or, in vulgar language "downright lying". In order that he might achieve his ends. Crush me! and deprive me of that Justice for which I have been fighting for for the past twenty-seven years. I hope and trust Sir, that your promise to me in 1944, will be given effect to. Should Mr Jones, deny the charges which I accuse him of, I am prepared to submit for arbitration, the Case together with Mr Jones's correspondence to any Court of Justice

Yours Sincerely,
John Shorland,
ex H.S.M. N.Z.S.F.

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence

Referred.

C.M.,

29/11/46

Papers Received from Hon. Mr Jones to-day

G. F. Dixon
P.S.
8.1.47

ARMY 306

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Attorney-General's Office,

WELLINGTON C.1.

9th Jan. 1947.

Hon. F. Jones,

Petition of John Shortal.

This matter is primarily one for you as Minister of Defence.

I note particularly your letter of 6th June, 1941, to Mr. S. G. Holland, M.P. which concluded:

"On the 21st August, 1939, ...I informed Mr. Shortal that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge cannot achieve any good purpose and that I proposed in future to take no action respecting any letters received from him".

I take it that you see no valid reason for varying the decision of Cabinet on 14th Dec. 1925, viz. "NO ACTION". If so will you recommend accordingly?

No action
9 1. 47

I concur
28.2.47

Hon. A. H. Nordmeyer.
Hon. C. F. Skinner.

I concur
B.J.N.
13.1.47

Do you concur?

9--1--47

DRAFT. only

12th March, 1947

Dear Sir,

With reference to your Petition that compensation be paid to you for alleged wrongful dismissal, I have been instructed to advise you that Cabinet's decision is to the effect that no action is to be taken, that is to say, no payment is to be made to you.

ARMY SECRETARY.

Mr. John Shortall,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

~~Any further instructions or [illegible] these [illegible]~~

(note. make reference to 1946 letters to ministers?)

EMK/TWK

ARMY 1/306/AAS.

13th March, 1947.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your Petition that compensation be paid to you for alleged wrongful dismissal, I have been instructed to advise you that Cabinet's decision is to the effect that no action is to be taken, that is to say, no payment is to be made to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

MEMORANDUM
13 MAR 1947
DESPATCHED

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Dominion — 10-10-47

ARMY 1
306/R

Ex-Soldier's Petition Referred Back To Defence Committee

Most of yesterday afternoon was occupied by the House of Representatives in discussing the report of the Defence Committee on a petition by John Shortal, of Invercargill, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces. The committee reported that it had no recommendation to make. Disappointment with this finding was expressed by members of the Opposition, and an amendment that the petition be referred back to the committee for further consideration was accepted.

Mr. ROY (N., Clutha) said that petitioner was one of six sergeant-instructors brought to New Zealand in 1911 under an agreement between the New Zealand and the British Governments. Petitioner was allocated to the 14th. South Otago Regiment. There were some unfortunate incidents concerning irregularities by senior officers, and petitioner had reported them. An adverse report was made on petitioner in 1912 and in 1918 another adverse report was made about him. Between the adverse reports and after 1918 there were good reports. It seemed that some sinister influence had been at work. He was convinced that had it not been for the action of petitioner in reporting the irregularities petitioner's agreement would have been renewed in 1920. He was also convinced that an injustice had been done to petitioner and his career ruined.

Mr. JONES, Minister of Defence, said there was an inquiry in 1931 which found that petitioner had no case. He thought the present recommendation of the committee was the correct one and that there was nothing to justify setting up a committee of inquiry.

Mr. MACDONALD (N., Wallace) said that in 1944 virtually the same committee had made a most favourable recommendation on a similar petition by Mr. Shortal, yet this year the committee reversed its verdict. The report of the committee was not unanimous, the Opposition members considering the request for an inquiry should be agreed to.

Mr. FRASER, Prime Minister, said he was quite prepared to go to any lengths to see that an injustice was not perpetuated, but nothing was gained simply by condemning officers of the Army in the past to ease the lot of a man living today. It was better that a matter be gone into a dozen times than that a sense of injustice should remain. His idea would be that the Defence Committee should carry out an actual inquiry into what available evidence there was.

Mr. MACDONALD: That is what petitioner asks for.

Mr. FRASER said he thought that could be done. However, to deal with a case 30 years after was a very difficult matter. If the Defence Committee thought there was a chance of getting further evidence, perhaps the petition could go back to the committee.

Mr. OSBORNE (L., Onehunga) said that Mr. Shortal had petitioned the House five times. The first was reported to the House for consideration, there was no recommendation on the second, the third was recommended for favourable consideration, the fourth for most favourable consideration, and now, with the fifth, there was no recommendation.

After other members had spoken, Mr. HANAN (N., Invercargill), who had presented the petition, moved that it and the report be referred back to the committee for further consideration.

Mr. NASH, Minister of Finance, who was then in charge of the House, and the chairman of the committee, Mr. Macfarlane (L., Christchurch Central), agreed to accept the amendment, and this course was agreed to.

Army Secy
To note please
and return to A Br.
R 10 Oct 47

Seen
14/10.

Mr Smith
To see
14/10.

Seen
14/10.

To Records

FILING
No. of sheets 2
Initials

TO BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES

WAR.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

RECORD OF M

Surname: _____ *Chris*
(In block letters.)

SEC

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ years _____ months.
(Date.)

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SEC

Medical Staten

1. Are you now suffering from any disease or disability ? _____
2. What standard of primary-school education did you reach an
3. Have you ever suffered from any of the following illnesses ?
   - (*a*) Chest disease, including tuberculosis, pleurisy, blood-s
   - (*b*) Heart disease, including weakness of heart : _____
   - (*c*) Rheumatic fever, rheumatism, lumbago, or sciatica : _____
   - (*d*) Nervous disease, neurasthenia, nervous breakdown, h
   - (*e*) Head injuries, concussion, or "knockout" : _____
   - (*f*) Stomach trouble, ulcer, chronic indigestion, or vomiti
   - (*g*) Kidney or bladder trouble, or diabetes : _____
   - (*h*) Venereal disease : Gonorrhœa or syphilis : _____
   - (*i*) Tropical disease, including malaria or dysentery : _____
   - (*j*) Eye trouble, including colour or night blindness : _____
   - (*k*) Ear trouble, including chronic earache or discharge fr
   - (*l*) Sinus or antral disease, "catarrh," or chronic nasal c
   - (*m*) Skin disease : _____
   - (*n*) Piles : _____
   - (*o*) Varicose veins : _____
   - (*p*) Injury to any joint : _____
   - (*q*) Other disease or disability : _____
4. Have you ever had an OPERATION ? Give details : _____
5. Have you been a patient in MENTAL HOSPITAL or SANATORI
6. Have you been rejected or deferred for LIFE INSURANCE or I
7. Has any member of your family ever suffered from—
   - (1) Consumption or M
   - (2) Mental disturba nerv
   - (3) Diabetes ? _____
   - (4) Asthma or hay
8. Have you ever been re any b ice) or other Government employment ? _____
9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pensi
10. Who is your regular doctor ? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare are true.

[OVER.

SEEN BY C.G.S. A.G. QMG 28/10/47

ARMY 306

Ex-Soldier's Petition Referred Back To Defence Committee

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Mr. NASH, Minister of Finance, who was then in charge of the House, and the chairman of the committee, Mr. Macfarlane (L., Christchurch Central), agreed to accept the amendment, and this course was agreed to.

8 The Dominion 16/10/47

"If any soldier thinks himself wronged in any matter by any ~~soldier~~ Officer other than his Captain he will complain thereof to his Captain, and if he thinks himself wronged by his Captain, either in respect of his Complaint not being redressed or in respect of any other matter, he may Complain thereof to his Commanding Officer, and if he thinks himself wronged by his Commanding Officer, either in respect of his Complaint not being redressed or in respect of any other matter, he may Complain thereof to the General or other Officer Commanding the District or Station where the Soldier is serving; and every Officer to whom a Complaint is made in pursuance of this Section shall cause such Complaint to be enquired into, and shall, if on enquiry he is satisfied of the justice of the Complaint so made, take such steps as may be necessary for giving full redress to the Complainant in respect to the matter Complained of."

Manual Military Law.

(Sec. 43 Army Act)

38 Fore St.
Inveraryll
12th August 1945

The Rt. Hon P Fraser M.P.
Prime minister,

Prime Minister's Office
14 AUG 1945
RECEIVED

Prime Minister's Office
14 AUG 1945

Sir, I was discharged the 2nd Petty officer staff for purging the staff corps of a criminal.

I was refused a Court of Enquiry on the grounds that my integrity or ability were not questioned

I was refused an enquiry by the late Sir James Allen, on the grounds that "it would be a waste of time + Public money".

The present minister Mr Jones has told me "he would suppress my evidence" that is what his statement implied!

I was left with no alternative but to petition Parliament. I put the truth before the Defence Committee. Result - "Recommended to the Government for most favourable consideration".

After a fight for Justice lasting 26 years am I now, sir, to obtain Justice?

Yours Sincerely
John Shortal

KJ:T

D. Series: 1 Sub-No. 306/7 R

RECEIVED 21 AUG 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

14th August, 1945

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th August, and have noted the representations made by you in it. Your letter is being placed before the Hon. Minister of Defence for his consideration and attention.

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister

Army Secretary,

Mr. John Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

Referred

20.8.45.

HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE
Referred

for the Prime Minister
14/8/45

Yours sincerely
John Shortal

3.

Three years later when the Military Authorities refused me a Court of Enquiry, (which according to the law under which I served I was legally entitled to) on the grounds that my "integrity" or "ability" were in no way questioned (a nice way of evading the law and depriving me of its protection) I again and because that was not a lawful reason for withholding from me the protection of Section 43 of the Army Act, and as a last resort appealed to the Minister Sir James Allen for a Court of Enquiry.

His reply was "It would be a waste of time and Public money." Would it have been a "waste of time etc." to grant a Sergt.Major, an enquiry whose integrity or ability were in no way questioned after a period of eight years and 127 days service? or do you smell something fishy? or do you detect something vindictive in such a reply?

Yes, Mr Nash, and it is to render that smell impotent that the present minister, Mr Jones tells me that he would "suppress my evidence" though not in everyday language like that!

I was listening on the Radio to you Sir, when you spoke in the House where you referred to the late Sir J.G.Ward and the "Black Pamphlet" and I am firmly convinced that had it been you who were in my position your reaction to the Hon. F. Jones's statements would have been, if not stronger, would at least be similar to mine.

Freedom of speech which I understand includes freedom to write the truth, the Hon. F. Jones attempted to deny me. The suppression of the truth, Sir, is not Democracy! It is the essence of a Dictatorship in its most obnoxious form! And, when I, to the best of my limited ability wrote on behalf of Labour and voted Labour at each and every election since I arrived in New Zealand, I did not for one moment think that I was about to help a man on to the Treasury Benches who would suppress that truth which for sixteen years previously I had persistently tried to place before the Public who, after all were my employers. And with but one goal in view that of eventaully obtaining that Justice which the public would see I was manifestly entitled to. The matter now is before the Government and I sincerely hope that in the interests of Justice the time and attention given to my case by the Defence Committee as well as the time I spent in preparing my case together with expenses incurred will not have been in vain. But if Justice is sacrificed to expediency for which reason there are hundreds of Historical examples, the most noted being that to which we are indebted to for Christianity then, indeed Mr Nash, I am indread that all my time and trouble will have been in vain.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal

Army would have received better treatment than that meted out to me after 21 years in the Service of the Empire.

I have never asked for anything but that which every man is allegedly and is morally as well as legally entitled to and that is Justice! But Justice could not be done in my case unless my evidence was allowed to be given before a properly constituted Court. For I am aware that no man is allowed to be his own Judge and Jury, and all my efforts and appeals to be allowed to give evidence before a properly constituted Court for the past quarter of a century were unavailing, as you will see from Mr Jones's letter to the leader of the Opposition. The Hon. F. Jones told me "not to write again as my correspondence would not be answered" which means, if my interpretation of the English language is up to the average "I will suppress your evidence."

Is that the action of an honest man who believed in Justice! The God-given right of all men irrespective of class, colour or Creed?

In this threat, he was, however, in some degree successful, for although I was not deterred by this threat at least two Hon. Members of the House ignored my correspondence. And one of whom in whose possession I put the full story as well as my official Character Certificates in order that the story might arouse sufficient interest to justify him in requesting the Minister to grant me a Public Enquiry, not alone failed to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence, but also failed to return my Army Character Certificates after an appeal to him on three different occasions and at intervals of one month. Eventually I had to pay a solicitor to write to him and demand the return of my Character Certificates.

Therefore, as I could not get a member to ask the Minister for a Public Enquiry, and in order to vindicate my charge, I was of necessity compelled a second time to exercise my rights as a citizen and that was to appeal to Parliament per medium of a Petition. This I did, and at a cost to me of approximately ten pounds which I could ill afford. And if the report brought down by the Defence Committee who listened attentively to my evidence is a criterion of such vindication I think Sir, you'll admit I have succeeded, and now Sir, it lies with you and the Prime Minister as well as all honest members of the cabinet to decide whether I should or should not be compensated. Had I been given a square deal I would today be on superannuation or had the Government honoured its side of the contract I would not today be writing this letter to you. The plain and unvarnished truth, Mr Nash, is, that I was victimized by the late Sir James Allen, and not by any officer of the Defence Department, although one or two of them whom I never served under for five minutes co-operated with him.

After five years, I was, according to my agreement which was signed by the late Sir William Hall-Jones on behalf of the New Zealand Government, to receive two hundre pounds per annum. In the presence of Sir Charles Statham I drew Sir James Allen's attention to it. The word "after", "It's a quibble!"declared Sir James.

The Prime Minister.

Sir. This letter was forwarded to Mr. Nash on the 3rd May. I would deem it a favour if you also would do me the honor of reading it. HS

Prime Minister's Office
RECEIVED

The Hon. Walter Nash,
Parliament Bldgs.,
WELLINGTON.

Sir,

I am forwarding by next mail two letters. You may read them at your leisure. One is from the Hon. F. Jones to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Holland, the other is my reply to same. If you should do me the honour of reading them I would then ask you to draw on your imagination to the extent that you can imagine yourself in the victim's place.

In 1899, at the age of 18 years and two months I joined the British Army. Attended an Army School until I obtained a third class Army School Certificate, persevered until I obtained a Second, continued to persevere, and then on the authority of the Army Council I was awarded a First (the highest). Attended the School of Musketry, Hythe, and qualified as a Musketry Instructor. Attended the School of Signalling and qualified as a Signalling Instructor. Attended the Army School of Physical Training and qualified in the Army System of Physical Training.

In virtue of the foregoing qualifications plus an exemplary character. I was, in April 1911, selected for employment as an Instructor with the New Zealand Government, and here, in August 1919, I was thrown on to the streets of Invercargill, and without any prospects of employment. The protection of my Agreement, which was signed by the late Sir William Hall-Jones, on behalf of the New Zealand Government as well as the protection contained in the Manual of Military Law (Section 43 of the Army Act) were denied to me. Can you realise, Mr Nash, the mental torture I suffered?

Victimized by a Minister of the Crown, no redress, no employment, a home and a wife and child to provide for! I was, indeed fortunate that I did not become a patient of Seacliff Mental Hospital. Undoubtedly, this crime against justice has left its mark! But why did all this happen? Because I was responsible for purging the New Zealand Staff Corps of a criminal and thereby protecting the New Zealand Taxpayer, and incidentally showing that there had been a culpable lack of supervision over Departmental affairs by the then Minister of Defence, Sir James Allen.

Yes, Mr Nash, I have in 1929 proved this before the Defence Committee set up by a Conservative Government, and recently I have proved it before the Defence Committee set up by a Labour Government and if necessary, I will prove it before any Court of Justice - Civil or Military. A man discharged with ignominy from the British

attention to it. The word "after", "It's a quibble!"declared Sir James.

[Form N.Z.—200.

, 194

Date of release and by Whom.

D 1 306 / R

d must be entered clearly.

RECEIVED 30 AUG 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill,
25 August, 1945.

Prime Minister's Office
28 AUG 1945
RECEIVED

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime Minister,

Dear Sir,

In reply to a letter forwarded by me on the 12th August, I have received a letter signed on your behalf by Mr James Thorn, M.P. In which it is stated - "I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th August and have noted the representations made by you in it. Your letter is being placed before the Hon. Minister of Defence for his consideration and attention."

Sir, what consideration will a man show to me, who in 1936 told me "my case was delt with on it merits?" when my case was never dealt with! Who, also stated "that no evidence could be found to show that I was victimized" when he had deliberately suppressed the principal and only evidence that could be found? Who told me "not to write again as my correspondence would not be answered" and thereby played the part of a Dictator.

Sir, you fought for justice at San Francisco for small nations. It is within your power Sir, to see that justice is done in my case for if you do not do it, I do not expect it from the man who put every obstacle he possibly could between me and that justice for which I had been fighting for over a quarter of a century.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal,

Hon. Min. of Defence
Referred
T.F. 28/8/45.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

29.8.45

attention to it. The word "after", "It's a quibble!" declared Sir James.

D. Series. 1
Sub-No. 306/R

Card noted ..		
Ledger noted		

Signature of officer:
Date:

PRIVATE SECRETARY.
HON. MINISTER.

Departmental File relative to this man is held by Hon. Attorney-General concerning a Petition to Parliament.

Attached papers are therefore returned to you.

3.9.45.

ARMY SECRETARY.

File 4 sheets.
3/9.

FILING 5
No. of sheets 3
Initials D 3-4

13. If the children are not under your care and guardianship, state full particulars of the parties responsible for their maintenance.
(If individual children are under the care of different persons or societies, full particulars must be given.)

Name of Child under Sixteen Years of Age.	Name of Guardian or Society.	Address of Guardian or Society.
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		

14. What amount do you contribute to all or any of these parties for maintenance of the children?

that at last I was about to obtain Justice and armed and fortified by truth I proceeded to Wellington and placed it before the Defence Committee as I did on a former occasion in 1929. Nor was I in any doubt of the result.

Each and every member of the Defence Committee without exception were agreed that I was the Subject of victimization. In fact one member came to me when the proceedings were over and congratulated me for the calm but masterly way in which I submitted my evidence.

Sir, I appeal to you and to you alone once more for Justice. Surely, Sir, I am not asking for a favour - a bribe as it were for my loyalty to the Labour Party. You want my loyalty as well as that of every individual who is capable of distinguishing between right and wrong. You'll have that Loyalty in the future Sir as well as in the past but, Sir the price of such Loyalty is Justice!

Yours Sincerely,

John Shortal.

38 Fox St.,
Invercargill.
6th Sept. 1945.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's
11 SEP 1945
ACKNOWLEDGED

Prime Minister's Office
7 SEP 1945
RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

In August 1944, I wrote asking you if you would promise me compensation if I could prove - beyond the shadow of a doubt - that I was "victimized" deprived of my employment, my Agreement with the New Zealand Government treated as if it were a scrap of paper, torn up trampled on. I also told you that there was no earthly use in placing my correspondence before the Minister of Defence who had already placed every obstacle he possibly could - even to the extent of "lying" between me and the justice I had been fighting for for over a quarter of a Century.

You promised me then that full consideration would be given to any recommendation brought down by the Defence Committee.

On that adherence from you, Sir, and believing that "truth possesses within herself a penetrating force unknown to error and to falsehood" and I, believing that

*The names of all soldiers who have been confined in the guard-room during any portion of the time the Guard has mounted to be inserted. †IMP

Lamps and Globes.
Blankets.

[Form N.Z.—200.

, 194

Date of Receipt and by Whom.

must be entered clearly.

D. Secretary's Sub-No. 3067/1 R

RECEIVED 13 SEP 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

KJ:T

11th September, 1945

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th September in which you make further representations concerning your claim against the Defence Department. I shall be glad to bring the additional points you have raised to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Defence for his consideration and attention.

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister

RECEIVED 26 OCT 1945 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Mr. J. Shortal,
38, Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Referred

Army Secretary.
Referred.

12.9.45

for the Prime Minister
11/9/45

merely a penetrating force unknown to error and to falsehood" and I, believing that

Lamps and Blankets.

EMK/MMF

D.1/306/AAS

14th September, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Mr. Shortal's complaint is the subject of a Petition to Parliament, and it is understood that other papers are with the Attorney-General.

The attached letters are referred for your direction please.

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Encl:

MEMORANDUM
14 SEP 1945
DETACHED

HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE -
Referred

1/306 R

38 Forst st.
Invercargill.
Sept. 1945

Prime M. O.
21 SEP 1945
RECEIVED

RECEIVED
27 SEP 1945
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

24/9/45

The Rt Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime minister

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 11th inst.

The Hon. F. Jones, Minister of Defence on the one hand and I on the other are the individuals concerned in this dispute. The Minister, because since 1936 has persistently and defiantly denied me the right to be heard. Sir, with due respect and sincerity I ask this question. — Is the man, who, to his own satisfaction, so skilfully misused the English language to frustrate all my efforts to place my case before a just and impartial tribunal to decide now whether I should be compensated or not? You, Sir, I am sure, will admit that there should be an impartial individual to adjudicate in the matter. I have done my part by placing my case before an impartial Committee of the House. I have had a moral victory but a moral victory is not sufficient for a man who has been grievously wronged. Is it not Sir, but fair to request that a similar procedure be adopted with reference to damages? Sir, with your reputation for fair play and just dealing, I hope you will see the logic in my reasoning.

Yours sincerely
John Shortal

GUARD REPORT

New Zealand Military Forces.
[FORM N.Z. 200.

CERTIFICATE

FILING
No. of sheets 1

Before the old Guard marched off, I took over the soldiers in arrest or under sentence. They were washed and shaved.* The articles in charge of the Guard corresponded with the inventory, and were in good order except those noted on page 2; I received over the Guard-room and everything was in good order: walls, &c., not defaced, except

I received

I explained the orders of the

Guard to

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N.B.—He

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Number.

Furnished by _____

Mounted at _____ on _____ at _____ hrs.

Dismtd. at _____ on _____ at _____ hrs.

Parole: _____

Countersign: _____

D. Series: 1 Sub-No. 306 R

* This rule does not apply to soldiers charged with drunkenness, who should not be allowed to shave till perfectly sober.
(† In case more room is required than is here given for any special certificate, &c., the latter may be appended in manuscript.)

40,000/5/43—1553]

your Minister of Defence though in possession of proof that I had been reduced to such a state through victimization told me that I was not victimized, provided your predecessor, Mr Savage, from giving me an enquiry, used the power that I helped him to attain to prevent me giving evidence. Instructed Members of Parliament not to answer my Correspondence etc., Can you wonder why my very soul revolts against him?

And he is the man that Mr Nash tells me. " there is not a more honest man in New Zealand than the hard Minister of Defence"

It reminds me of a headline in Vere Foster's Copy Book. which I and perhaps yourself may have transcribed when you were going to School

" All is not gold that glitters." I did not understand what it meant. But now, knocking at the door of 65 years. I thoroughly understand its meaning. In conclusion Sir I must apologise for trespassing on your time. but as it is one year since my petition was heard I am eager to know the result, whether or not I am to be Compensated.

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal.

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.
RECEI
R
Acc 26/10

38 Tay st.
Invercargill.
4th October 1945.

Prime Minister's Office
5 - OCT 1945
RECEIVED

The Rt. Hon P. Fraser, M.P.
Prime Minister.

Dear Sir,

Ref Defence

On the 4th October 1944 my Petition was recommended to Parliament for most favourable consideration. Why have I put up such a fight for justice? Because of the cruel injustice inflicted on me by the late Sir James Allen. I lost my home, and more important still my young wife at the early age of 34, yet! Mr Fraser, I had not sufficient money to place her in the hands of a skilled surgeon to undergo a simple operation and had to let her into a Public Hospital, left me on a Tuesday morning apparently in good health. Received a wire the following Friday, she was dead, and there unable to carry on, I handed over the Bush Section I was on both stock & Barrel to the Government, was left penniless, without even Funeral expenses not even the cost of the plot in the Cemetery. That was 23 years ago. Am I placing these facts before you Sir, for your sympathy? A thousand times no, Sir, For although I like other human beings am always grateful & thankful for genuine sympathy. Yet, Sir, you must admit that sympathy is not a substitute for justice

John [illegible]

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.
RECEIVED
Asst A Sec 24/10

D. 1/306 R

Memo

Prime Minister's Office.

Hon. Minister ... Office

Refer ... Wellington

P.

The Re... October 1945

28 ... my final appeal to you.

I am an age pensioner, On your promise that full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee. I believing that you were a gentleman of your word, scraped together sufficient to enable me to proceed to Wellington and place the truth before the Defence Committee with the result that my Petition was recommended to the Government for most favourable Consideration. Is it not, Sir, quite obvious to any impartial and intelligent individual that before such a recommendation could have been made that the members who had heard my evidence, agreed that I had been victimized? Therefore, Sir, if a man in the Government service has been victimized by being deprived of his employment for doing his duty to the State, surely, Sir, in the interests of Justice and Democracy that man should, as far as is humanly possible be compensated? Therefore, I appeal to your honor, to your sense of Justice, to all that is noble in your Character to have, to the best of your ability this injustice righted! Injustice, Sir, unlike Dewar's Whisky do not improve with age. Was it not Sir, the accumulated injustice of the past - individual as well as Collective that were responsible for the return of 54 Labour Members to Parliament in 1935. And the injustice inflicted on me as well as on my wife and Child was by no means the least injustice.

Yours Sincerely,

John Shortall.

Sympathy is not a "substitute for Justice

John Shortall

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

Asst a Sec 84/10

2

was victimized.

In his impulsive way he may have made statements that offended you but the man is genuine and I trust something can be done to redress the wrong although nothing can really recompense for what he has suffered

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

A. Arthur

A.F.D

SICK. (Excused duty only.)		ATTACHED.	
Rank.	Name.	Rank.	Name.

D. Series 1 Sub-No. 306

37 Thames St
Invercargill
29th October 1945

The Hon. F Jones
Minister of Defence
Wellington

Dear Mr Jones

Some time ago Mr Durham made an appeal for some recompense to be made to Sergt Major Shortall for injustice suffered, but so far nothing has eventuated. and I know he is in communication with the Prime Minister

I was brought up in the Milton district in fact I had a commission in the 4th Battalion and know the whole history of the case and how he

SICK. (Excused duty only.) | ATTACHED. | Rank. | Name. | Rank. | Name.

D. Sec. Sub-No. 306/1

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence
Referred
P.-7.
6/11/45

RECEIVED
9 NOV 1945
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Fox St.,
Invercargill
2nd November 1945

d your wire 29th Oct.,
to state that I held
ch involved the
of justice and therefore
necessary which you sir, as well as the
Government which you have the honor to lead so admirably
defends, should be dealt with by Cabinet and not
by a Minister who in the past has shown nothing
but bias when my Case was referred to him.
I forgive him for it.

I believe sir, that power comes from God and that
those in whose hands he places that power should
administer it in accordance with His laws which also
happens to be the laws of this land, and not to their own
satisfaction. Is the Hon. T. Jones prepared to do that now?
If so Can he assess approximately the Compensation I
should receive which Can only be done if he Could
decide whether I would have remained a Sergt-Major or if
I were Capable of earning further promotion. I Cannot answer
those questions myself, as at the time, my future in the
N.Z. Military Forces would have to be decided by my superior
officers. I Can only say that I would have done my best
to merit promotion. Sir, I have put my case before you
as Coolly and unemotionally as I am Capable and
therefore, sir, sincerely hope that you see that I
I receive a square deal

Yours sincerely,
John Shortal.

Rank. | Name. | SICK. (Excused duty only.) | Rank. | Name. | ATTACHED

D.1/306

15th November, 1945.

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th October regarding Mr. J. Shortal. Your remarks have been noted in connection with the representations which Mr. Shortal himself has already made.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

Mr. A.F. Duthie,
57 Thames St.
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
17 NOV 1945
DISPATCHED

File

FILING
No. of sheets 3
Initials D 1921

D. Series 7 Sub-No. 306 R

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence. Referred. P.7. 15/11/45

Army Secretary Referred.

16.11.45

1/306

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill.
12th November, 1945.

Prime Minister's Office
14 NOV 1945
RECEIVED

a letter received by me from the
. Holland, Dated 14th July 1941,

Dear Mr. Shortal,

I received your further letters of the 11th and 14th July and although I have read with care and sympathy what you have written, I am sorry to say I can see no means of carrying the matter any further. The decision rests with the Government, and the Minister of Defence is "quite definite" in the stand he and his Department have taken.

Yours truly,
(Sgd) S.G. Holland.

Sir,

The Department, which means the Officers of the New Zealand Staff Corps together with their Commander are gentlemen and as such would not withhold justice if my case was submitted to a military court, and I am prepared to submit my case to a military tribunal in order that I may prove that it is not the Department that is withholding Justice but the Hon. Frederick Jones.

That, Sir, is not Democracy it is Tyranny!

Why then Sir, should you break your word? "full consideration was to be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee".

It is now over thirteen months since the Defence Committee recommended my Petition to the Government for most favourable consideration.

Was Mr. S.G. Holland right when he said the Minister of Defence was "quite definite"?

What reason has Mr. Jones for doing this?

In 1936, on the advise of Mr. Denham, I placed my case before him together with the evidence.

Mr. Jones replied that my case "was dealt with on its merits".

The Irish Blood in my body surged in a torrent to my head. And amongst other things I told him that "Intelligence minus Honesty was a doubtful qualification for a Cabinet Minister" And the only way he could defend himself against the Statement was by supressing my evidence and thereby withholding Justice from me.

Mr. Fraser, is that Democracy?

Yours, sincerely
John Shortal.

File 20/11

FILING
No. of sheets 1
Initials B.21/11

MEMO. for

Mr Dixon
private secy

Can you tell me the present position of this petition please

F M Sherwood
18-10-45

M Sherwood
This petition (& several others) still awaits consideration by Cabinet
G. F. Dixon
25.10.45.

Office of the Minister of Defence.
144 pads/5/44—26141

D. 1/306/R

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

IN YOUR REPLY
D.1/306/AAS
please quote this number.

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,
14th September, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Mr. Shortal's complaint is the subject of a Petition to Parliament, and it is understood that other papers are with the Attorney-General.

The attached letters are referred for your direction please.

Army Secretary to wait the decision of the Cabinet
26.10.45

F.B. Dwyer
ARMY SECRETARY.

Encl:

K

Bring Forward.
Branch a/a/Sec
Date 28.11.45
Initials D.30/10

3/4

2

D. Series 1 Sub-No. 306 7R

Memo
Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence.
Referred

RECEIVED 3 DEC 1945 Army Headquarters

Army Secretary.
Referred.
3.12.45.

30/11/45

1/306

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill.
27th November, 1945.

Prime Minister's 29 NOV 1945 RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

Mr. Denham's Speech re my Petition must have conveyed a false impression to the House.

He stated that I had petitioned the House "three times previously". The truth, Sir, is though I may have written several times to members on only one occasion previous to October 1944, did I give evidence before a Defence Committee, and on that occasion my petition was recommended to the Government for favourable consideration.

Mr. Denham, then goes on to state - that in the Second Petition "no recommendation be made". "And" he says - "In respect of the third Petition the Committee recommended that favourable consideration be given" and the fourth (the last) "that most favourable be given".

Sir, the third and fourth Petitions referred to were the only Petitions that I gave evidence in support of. My sole reason for printing out this mistake, is, that intelligent members of the House might come to the conclusion that on each occasion I "pitched" a different tale. Otherwise, how could there be such a variety of conclusions arrived at by honest and intelligent men? Further on Mr. Denham states - "A Committee of this House was set up to go into the matter (that was the first I heard about it) and decided against Shortal" "Stating that the New Zealand Government could terminate his contract at any time", "which" he adds "was perfectly true".

Perposterous! I say, outrageous! unless a Government could enter into a solemn Contract get the High Commissioner in England, to sign that Contract on behalf of the Government, and then, notwithstanding the fact, that the Second party to the Contract, had honourably and faithfully fulfilled the conditions laid down in that Contract (as was done in my case) metaphorically speaking, "tear it up" I made it abundantly clear in my evidence before the Defence Committee, that the late Sir James Allen, together with a few officers who were prepared to sacrifice their honour to his vindictave spleen were responsible for the injustice inflicted on me and my wife and child and not through any report on my work or character, although a Major Shand and a Major Hampdon made it pretty hot for me.

Sir, if you doubt this, then I would ask you to place this letter in the hands of any one member of the Defence Committee who listened to my evidence and he or the Defence Committee will tell you that the letter is more in keeping with the evidence that I gave before the Defence Committee than that contained in Mr. Denham's Speech.

Are you Sir, going to see that Demonracy is (in my case) vindicated by compensating me for this foul and destardly injustice? A compensation I have been fighting for for twenty six years.

Yours sincerely, John Shortal.

File 6/12.

FILING No. of sheets 2 Initials D 7/12

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, (conti)

Military Tribunal because Military Officers are versed in Military Law and are sworn to Judge the case on the evidence and without partiality or favour and further it would be removed from the Political Arena.

As you will see, Sir, from the endosed letter I have, to the best of my ability written on behalf of Labour. I have for the past 35 years on every conceivable occasion voted Labour. With the help of my vote, my wife's and daughter's and with all honest voters in this Dominion, Mr Jones has been lifted from obscurity to the exalted position of a Cabinet Minister. He seems to have forgotten it or he would not abuse the power entrusted to him by those whose honesty or veracity cannot be called in question. Do you think Sir, I should again vote Labour? I am a Catholic and so are quite a number of Mr Jones's Constitutents and all "Practical" Catholics believe that truth should be the supreme arbiter between Justice and Injustice and not a Minister, who, if he could, would suppress it.

Yours sincerely,

John Shortal.
ex Staff Sergt Major N.Z.R.

Invercargill,

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P.P.C.
Prime Minister,
Government Buildings,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

With implicit confidence in your promise contained in a letter and signed on your behalf by Mr Thorn, that "full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee" I went to the expense of proceeding to Wellington to place evidence before the Defence Committee that would reveal and did prove a case - and one that I was the subject of - of victimization, I am convinced without parallel in the History of any Government Employee, before or since in this Dominion.

One year and nine months have elapsed since that Petition was heard and yet that promise has not been fullfilled; nor have I received any notification that would lead me to believe that I can entertain even a remote hope of its being honoured in the future or yet any to the contrary. Notwithstanding the fact that my Petition was recommended to the Government "for most favourable consideration" Sir, why this suspense? Owing to the suppression of Truth by the Hon. F. Jones who, with the skill and subtleness of an unscrupulous Lawyer, maliciously and deliberately substituted falsehoods. Am I now to be denied that Justice for which I have been fighting for the past 27 years and without the aid of the R.S.A. or any other such aid to help me, but that which allegedly makes men free - the pure and unadulterated Truth!

Surely, Mr Fraser, if Democracy means anything it means that Justice must not or should not be sacrificed to the whims of a Minister, who, instead of being, as he should be, the guardian and defender of truth has in this Democratic Country seenfit to adopt the mantle of a Dictator in order to suppress it! and who, by implication, told me that he would suppress it. Sir, should he have the temerity to deny any of my statements. I am prepared to submit his correspondence and my evidence plus that of a high ranking Military Officer to any Court of Justice, Military or Civil, and in the event of my failing to prove that which I have already proved before the Defence Committees of 1929 and 1944 I promise to pay the costs. For obvious reasons I would prefer a

He prevented your predecessor Mr Savage from giving me a hearing. It is also reasonable to suppose that he prevented Mr Atmore from answering or returning me my Character Certificates and correspondence which that gentleman, - after an appeal to him on three different occasions and at intervals of one month - until I was put to the expense of placing the matter in the hands of a Solicitor. My correspondence met with the same fate from Miss M. B. Howard. until five months afterwards when I was listening in to her speech on the Address in Reply when she attacked the Social Security Authorities for their lack of Courtesy towards her I congratulated her by letter and "Casually" asked her if she'd have the Courtesy to return my Correspondence.

I got it back by next mail but without the Courtesy that she demanded from All and Sundry.

I hold no ill feeling to either Mr Atmore or Miss Howard. I simply write it to show you what I've been up against.

Here is an extract from Mr. Jones letter dated 6th June 1941.

"On the 21st Aug. 1939, in reply to his letter of the 7th Inst. I informed Mr Shortal, that the continuation of further correspondence with him on the subject of his discharge <u>cannot achieve any good purpose</u>" What is that Mr Fraser, if not an attempt to intimidate me?

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal

Waverley, a suburb of Sydney, for about six years.

FILING
No. of Sheets

SECTION VIII.

Subsequent Remarks.

(Space for use of D.G.M.S. or Regional Deputy.)

Invercargill
20th June 1946

Prime Min. of
24 JUN 1946
RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

On perusing the Letters I penned on behalf of Labour. The enclosed Letter expressed, at that time, my feelings as to the Character of each individual, who, were, I believed fighting valiantly for the Cause of humanity - Justice V Injustice!

I was taken out of Dreamland by Frederick Jones. I placed evidence before him that would have convinced any honest man from Auckland to the Bluff that I was victimized I sent him my Character Certificates together with the abstract of the Defence Committee's Report of 1929. "your Case was dealt with on its merits" In reply to that I went more fully into the Case. I charged the Late Sir James Allen, who, was then a member of the Upper House with victimizing me. A Copy of that letter is now in the possession of the Minister of Justice. But Frederick Jones became more determined than ever that I would not receive the Rights a Criminal is entitled to The right to be heard

[illegible] There is an Extract from [illegible] dated 6th June 1941.

"On the 21st Aug. 1939, in reply to his Letter of the 7th Idem. I informed Mr Shortal, that the Continuation of further Correspondence with him on the Subject of his discharge Cannot achieve any good purpose" What is that Mr Fraser, if not an attempt to intimidate me?

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal

FILING
No. of sheets.....

D. Series. 1 Sub-No. 306 R

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence.
Referred.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

RECEIVED 1 JUL 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

24/6/46

File

expressed, on
the Character of each individual, who, were,
I believed fighting valiantly for the Cause
of humanity - Justice V Injustice!

I was taken out of Dreamland by
Frederick Jones. I placed evidence before him
that would have convinced any honest man
from Auckland to the Bluff that I was victimized
I sent him my Character Certificates together with
the abstract of the Defence Committee's Report of
1929. "your Case was dealt with on its merits"
In reply to that I went more fully into the
Case. I charged the late Sir James Allen, who,
was then a member of the Upper House with victimizing
me. A Copy of that letter is now in the possession
of the Minister of Justice. But Frederick Jones
became more determined than ever that I
would not receive the Rights a Criminal is
entitled to. The right to be heard
so ... there is an error from ... or
dated 6th June 1941.

"On the 21st Aug. 1939, in reply to his letter of
the 7th Idem. I informed Mr Shortal, that the Continuation
of further correspondence with him on the subject of his
discharge cannot achieve any good purpose" what is that
Mr Fraser, if not an attempt to intimidate me?

Yours respectfully,
John Shortal

FILING
No. of Items.....

Waverley, a suburb of Sydney, for about
six years.

attic

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

The Hon. Minister of Defence : D.1/306/AAS. R

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

Sgd 9/8/46

RECEIVED 12 AUG 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

F.B. Smyth
Army Secretary
9/8/1946. K

PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

In reference to the attached telegram it is understood that the Departmental (Army) and other papers are held by you in connection with Mr. Shortal's petition.

Would you please enable me to reply.

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

Encl:

Bring Forward
Branch a/a/Sec
Date 19-8
Initials DJS-8

MEMORANDUM 12 AUG 1946 DESPATCHED

B/U 19-8-46

[Form N.Z.—140.
(In pads of 50.)

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

For Ordnance use only.
No.

.DENT on _____

for Clothing for _____
(Designation of unit.)

Indenting Officer's Number: _____

To be consigned to: _____

Station: _____ Countersigned: _____
(Ordnance Officer.)

Date: _____, 194 Date: _____, 194

JACKETS, S.D.				TROUSERS, S.D.				BLOUSES, B.D.				TROUSERS, B.D.			
Size.	Quantity. On Hand.	Quantity. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	Quantity On Hand.	Quantity Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	Quantity. On Hand.	Quantity. Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.	Size.	Quantity On Hand.	Quantity Now Required.	For Ordnance use only.
1				1				0				0			
3				2				1				1			
4				3				2				2			
5				4				3				3			
8				7				4				4			
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31															
Total															

Officer.

_____, 194

NOTE.—For ... : VII, I.R.A.S.

(D. 244/2/144.) 500 pads ...

MEMO. for
Army Secretary.
Referred.
16. 8. 46.

RECEIVED
19 AUG 1946
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Minister of Defence.
144 pads/5/44—20141

But Peter is determined to fight. He petitions Parliament. He wins! However, a Tory Government is in power; a Tory Minister victimized him. So he might as well have lost.

A Labour Government eventually assumes the reins of office. Peter, after innumerable reverses at the hands of the Hon. F. Jones, eventually appeals to the Prime Minister; and the Prime Minister, being an honourable and upright man, informs Sergt.-Major Fraser that he "could rest assured that full consideration would be given to any report brought down by the Defence Committee."

His spirits immediately rise. He has the truth about his discharge! He is satisfied that the vast majority of the human race are honest. Why should Members of Parliament be different? They are not! And thank God for that.

They listened attentively to Peter's evidence -- the evidence that the man devoid of moral courage, the Hon. Frederick Jones, by equally as foul means as those of the late Sir James Allen, thought to suppress.

Yes, Mr. Fraser; I feel like the unfortunate man who threw his returned soldier's badge on the floor of the House.

Sir, are you going to honour your promise? Can I appeal to your sense of justice -- aye, to your honour -- to see that a man who was subjected to such a base injustice is compensated? For it is not possible now to right it. Or are you going to withhold justice because I, too, lost my temper with a man holding a position which demands that he exercise the strictest impartiality when dealing with complaints -- because one cannot be impartial if one ignores the virtues of truth and honesty which should be part and parcel of one's character!

Yours faithfully,

John Shortal,

ex Staff Sgt Major,

N.Z.P.S.

"You are to be returned to your Regiment by next boat!"

Peter's breath is practically taken from him. Peter has an agreement with the Government containing a number of Articles which not only do not state that he would be or could be arbitrarily returned to his Regiment, but which actually confer on him all the rights and privileges extended to other members of the Staff, unless he violates any of the Articles contained in that agreement, which was signed on behalf of the New Zealand Government by the late Sir William Hall-Jones. However, Peter's agreement does not count; like many historical "scraps of paper," that, too, is but a "scrap of paper."

Peter has not a penny to his name, his savings having been invested in a home under the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Scheme, on which there is a Government mortgage. Peter's wife is a New-Zealander, and his child was born in New Zealand. But Peter is not a fool. What else did he expect? Was he not handed a copy of "Truth" when on Gallipoli, where he read, "If Sergt.-Major Fraser would be recalled to give evidence," etc. He knew then, and he knows now with a vengeance, what the result would be for him for daring to protect the New-Zealander from being robbed by an Officer who had now suffered for his misdeeds by being sentenced to a term of imprisonment, and, of course, automatically cashiered.

Peter applied for an inquiry under Section 43 of the Army Act. But to whom is he applying? To the men who set themselves the task of victimizing him. He is supposed to be protected by his agreement, as well as by Section 43 of the Army Act. He is refused, and for no other reason than that for which, if for no other, an inquiry should be granted: "As your integrity or ability are in no way questioned, the Department cannot accede to your request.

He now appeals to the chief instigator, the man whose definition of the word "after" was a "quibble" -- the late Sir James Allen. But Sir James's idea of justice was that it was "a waste of time and public money" to give a hearing to a man whose integrity or ability were not questioned.

And now Peter, not wishing to have his wife and child exiled, appeals to his friend, the late Sir Charles Statham. And Mr. Statham (as he then was) succeeds in obtaining six months' leave without pay.

Peter is now thrown on to the streets of Invercargill. He or his wife or child is no longer of any interest to the Department or to Sir James Allen. Whether Peter can get employment or not is no affair of theirs. He and his wife and child can starve, for all they care. What a happy ending to the military career of Sergt.-Major Fraser, the man who devoted the best of his life to the interests of the Service.

38 ~~Tay~~ Fay Street,
Invercargill.

Prime Minister's Office.
12 AUG 1946
RECEIVED
13 AUG 1946
ACKNOWLEDGED.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P., P.C.,
Prime Minister,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

I have read in the morning's paper of 28th July, with deep emotion and extreme gratification, of your generous, if but just, treatment of the unfortunate returned soldier who threw his badge on the floor of the House. Unfortunately, however, we are not all in the place where we could fling our medals on the floor as a protest against the base and cowardly treatment we received. Nor is it possible for us to convey our feelings or emotions in or by the written word.

For twenty-seven years I have been fighting a case of the basest injustice that a Minister of the Crown ever was guilty of perpetrating against an individual.

Repeatedly, Sir, I have appealed to yourself. I have also petitioned Parliament twice (and twice only): "Recommended to the Government for favourable consideration"; "Recommended to the Government for most favourable consideration."

Let me enact the closing scene of eight years' harassing treatment, which eventually culminated in my discharge by, as I have already stated, the most despicable and dishonourable methods which any individual entrusted with power could descend to. I will, though reluctantly, imagine that "you" (but God forbid it) were forced into a similar position. I therefore crave your pardon for the use of both your Christian name and surname. Disrespect towards you or anyone else in authority "deserving" of such respect is the furthest thing from my mind; it is purely and simply for illustration. If we have suffered pain or anguish, we can sympathize with those in a similar position; if not, the nearest approach is through the imagination. So here is Sergt.-Major Peter Fraser.

"Peter!"

"Yes, sir?"

"I have bad news for you."

Peter halts, takes a breath. "What is it, sir?"

A.

J:R.

L. 306

13th August, 1946.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date, and have noted the additional representations made in connection with your request for compensation.

As the matter is one which comes within the jurisdiction of the Hon. Minister of Defence I am placing your letter before my colleague for his consideration and attention.

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister.

Hon. Minister of Defence:

Referred.

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

for the Prime Minister.
13.8.46.

File BG 2/9.

FILING
No. of sheets all
Initials D.3.9

D. SERIES: 1 SUB-NO. 7 R 306

(D. 244/2/144.) 500 pads/3/42—15395]

NOTE.—For scale of measurements of garments, and directions for taking measurements, see Appendix VII, I.R.A.S.
Boots will be indented for on form N.Z. 10.

Total | 31 | 29 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1

Memo

Prime Minister's Office,

Hon. Minister of Defence
Referred
P.F.

Army Secretary
Referred.
28/8/46
File 5/9.

RECEIVED 2-SEP 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

ult.,
overcapell
1946.

The Rt Hon. 20.8.46

Prime M.

Dear Sir, with reference to my appeal to you for justice in the form of compensation I have received the following reply.— "as the matter is one that comes within the jurisdiction of the Hon. Minister of Defence. I am placing your letter before my Colleague for his consideration and attention.

Sir, if I remember right that information has reached me twice previously. I was of the opinion, Sir, that the findings of a committee of the House. If favourable to the Petitioner, or, as was the case with my Petition "not favourable". Then, Sir, it was a matter for Parliament to decide and not a particular Minister; And least of all a minister who.— (1) Told me my case was dealt with on its merits. (2) Prevented your predecessor, the Hon. M. J. Savage, from consenting to a hearing under any consideration. (3) Told the leader of the opposition that I was discharged in order to make room for new Enlistees. And that I was not in any way victimized and further that he saw no reason for granting me an enquiry. (4) Told me not to write again as my correspondence would not be answered. and (5) That writing again on the subject of my discharge would serve no "good" purpose.

Surely Mr. Fraser it is neither fair nor just to submit my case for consideration to a man so obviously prejudiced and biassed as the Hon. Frederick Jones, has in my case, proved himself to be. Not once! but on every possible occasion

To me, Sir, it is like sending me back to PILATE!

Please, Sir, do not ask me to appeal to a man who, as I have already stated, 'is misused the power entrusted' to him that he endeavoured to suppress the truth, by, as it were, throwing a spanner into the machinery of justice.

Forty-seven years ago when I was barely eighteen and one half years old, and a Recruit in the Leinster Regiment, I witnessed a young soldier of a similar age being sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour for the crime of Perjury, because he endeavoured, when a witness before a court-martial, to throw a spanner into the wheels of military justice, by swearing to what which was false.

Sir, is there any difference between the Hon. F. Jones's conduct and that of that poor unfortunate young soldier who received, what was looked upon as a salutary lesson?

FILING
No. of sheets 1
Initials D.G.-9

38 Fox Street,
Invercargill

8th September, 1946

Dear Bill,

Would you please ask the Prime Minister if he in possession of my Character Certificates and if not if the Acty Minister of Justice have them. I forwarded them to the Minister of Justice on or about the 22nd June, I told him to hand them to the Prime Minister when finished with them. I have wired the Minister of Justice and also the Prime Minister requesting their return. My wires have not been answered, nor have I received my Certificates my certificates were forwarded under Register Cover.

I am awaiting a reply, re my petition from the Prime Minister, I had been previously informed "that it came within the Jurisdiction of the Min. of Defence.

I forwarded some correspondence to the Editor "Zealandia" who instructed me to communicate with the Archbishop of Wellington, well I have never appealed to a Clergyman of my own Denomination or for that matter any other Denomination A fight for or beg for Justice for Justice, Bill, is the Right of the individual. So my next move will be an Appeal to the Governor General and if I do I'll get a hearing I'll forward him a copy of the letter that the P.M is already in possession of. Jones has won all rounds up to 1944 I may yet win the last one

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal

(COPY).

16th September, 1946.

Dear Mr. Denham,

With reference to the letter addressed to you by Mr. John Shortal of 38 Fox Street, Invercargill, which you recently left with me, all the papers in this case were forwarded to the Hon. Minister of Defence, to whom Mr. Shortal's request for the return of certificates is being referred.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) A.G. Osborne
for the Prime Minister.

Mr. W.M.C. Denham,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Army Secretary.
Referred.
(Sgd.) F.J.
20.9.46

Hon. Minister of Defence :
Referred.
(Sgd.) A.G. OSBORNE.
for the Prime Minister.
16.9.46

Mr. Sievwright,
Please prepare letter to Mr. Shortal returning his papers.

(Sgd.) F.B. Dwyer.
27/8.

CWS/JMS,

D.1/306./A.

MEMORANDUM for : October, 1946.

The Hon. Minister of Justice.

Re: PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

With reference to the attached correspondence between Mr. Shortal, Mr. Denham, M.P., and the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the Army Department's and other papers concerning this case were passed to you in August, 1945.

The certificates which Mr. Shortal now requests be returned were apparently amongst those papers. The request is, therefore, referred to you for whatever action you desire to take.

Encl's. : Correspondence.

Minister of Defence.

dm 4/10

38 Fox Street,

38 Fox St.
Invercargill
8th September 1946

Prime Minister's Office
16 SEP 1946
WELLINGTON

Dear Bill,

Would you please ask the Premier if he is in possession of my character certificates and if not if the only Minister of Justice have them. I forwarded them to the Minister of Justice on or about the 22nd June. I told him to hand them to the Premier when finished with them. I have wired the Minister of Justice and also the Premier requesting their return. My wires have not been answered, nor have I received my Certificates my Certificates were forwarded under Register Cover.

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I forwarded some Correspondence to the editor "Zealandia" who instructed me to communicate with the Archbishop of Wellington. Well I have never appealed to a Clergyman of my own Denomination or for that matter any other Denomination & fight for or beg for Justice for Justice, Bill, is the Right of the individual. So my next move will be an appeal to the Governor General. and if I do I'll get a hearing I'll forward him a copy of the Letter that the P.M. is already in possession of. Jones has won all rounds up to 1944 I may yet win the last one

Yours Sincerely
John Shortt

16th September, 1946.

RECEIVED 23 SEP 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Dear Mr. Denham,

With reference to the letter addressed to you by Mr. John Shortal of 38 Fox Street, Invercargill, which you recently left with me, all the papers in this case were forwarded to the Hon. Minister of Defence, to whom Mr. Shortal's request for the return of certificates is being referred.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

for the Prime Minister.

Army Secretary.
Referred.
20.9.46

Hon. Minister of Defence:
Referred.

for the Prime Minister.
16.9.46.

Mr. W. M. C. Denham,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

Legal
Any reply to Mr Denham Case
NO
11/10

ARMY 306

Legal
To prepare letter to Mr S
returning his papers
27/8

Attined
16/10/46

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

WAR.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a W

10. Who is your regular doctor?

I have read my answers to the above questions, and knowledge they are true.

OVER.

MPLETED
LICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

WAR.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

Surname: _____ *Christian names:* _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT _____ CHANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR _____

TRADE _____

1. Are

2. Wh

3. Ha

4. H

5. H

6. H

7. H

38 Hyde St.
Invercargill
22nd Sept. 1946.

The Hon. Minister of Defence,
Wellington, N.Z.

Sir,
I am informed that you are in possession of a Severe Certificate. Would you please return them to other soldiers or you receive Benefits.
Thanking you in anticipation.

John Hunter.

To Mr. Hunter
Registered
Date 10/10/46

Army Secretary
For reply for my signature please.

24.9.46

Hunter
Do other fit
I

Hunter —
Can you have those certificates. You are left on this file 7/10

Army Reg.
II Certificates not seen from the medical
is with member of
Board in connection
with a pension. 8/10

III Have obtained 8/10

(4) Asthma or hay fever: _____

8. Have you ever been rejected or discharged as unfit for any branch of H.M. Forces (state arm of Service) or other Government employment? _____ If so, give details: _____

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

RECEIVED 23 SEP 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

ARMY 306 R

CWS

D.1/306.

MEMORANDUM for : October, 1946.

The Hon. Minister of Justice.

Re: PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

With reference to the attached correspondence between Mr. Shortal, Mr. Denham, M.P., and the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the Army Department's and other papers concerning this case were passed to you in August, 1945.

The certificates which Mr. Shortal now requests be returned were apparently amongst those papers. The request is, therefore, referred to you for whatever action you desire to take.

Encl's. : Correspondence.

Minister of Defence.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

D.1/306.

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. I.

MEMORANDUM for :

October, 1946.

The Hon. Minister of Justice.

Re: PETITION - J. SHORTAL.

With reference to the attached correspondence between Mr. Shortal, Mr. Denham, M.P., and the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the Army Department's and other papers concerning this case were passed to you in August, 1945.

The certificates which Mr. Shortal now requests be returned were apparently amongst those papers. The request is, therefore, referred to you for whatever action you desire to take.

Encl's. : Correspondence.

Minister of Defence.

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/A.

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

MEMO. for

Mr. Dwyer

I think these are the papers you have been looking for.

J. A. Robertson
8.10.46.

Secretary.
10/1946.

Mr. Sutton

Office of the Minister of Defence.

144 pads/2/46—15205]

11th October, 1946.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter dated the 22nd September, and as requested therein I forward herewith the documents which you left with the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

Encls:

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
11 OCT 1946
DESPATCHED

10/10

5

FILING
No. of sheets all
Initials D 15.10

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

D.1/306/AS

The Hon. Minister of Defence:

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

RECEIVED 11 OCT 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Army Secretary.
10/10/1946.

Minister of Defence.

Encls:

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM 11 OCT 1946 DESPATCHED

FILING
No. of sheet all
Initials D 15-10

38 Forth St.
Invercargill
9th October 1946.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P. P.C.
Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Office
10 OCT 1946
RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

about a fortnight ago I wrote the Hon. T. Jones, requesting him to return my Character Certificates. He did not acknowledge the receipt of my letter or return Certificates. Sir I will be compelled to appeal to His Excellency The Governor General. If the Certificates are not returned by Monday would you Sir please ask him to return them.

Yours sincerely,
John Shortal.

RECEIVED 11 OCT 1946 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Army Secretary.

Referred.

11.10.46.

Hon. Minister of Defence

Referred

N.Z.H.

Filing

16/10

P.F.

18/10/46

FILING
No. of sheets 5
Initials D.16-10

ARMY 1
306

10 OCT 1947

JOHN SHORTAL'S PETITION

"SOUTHLAND NEWS"

REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE

(News Special Correspondent)

WELLINGTON, October 10.

The petition of John Shortal, of Invercargill, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the Army and for compensation was reported on by the Defence Committee in the House yesterday. It had no recommendation to make.

This decision was criticised by a number of Opposition members, Mr J. A. Roy stating that the petitioner was selected among a number of English non-commissioned officers to serve in New Zealand under agreement with the British Government. Shortal was allocated to the 14th South Otago Regiment and to the speaker's own knowledge was a very efficient sergeant-major. Some financial irregularities in the regiment were reported by Shortal, who considered it his duty to do so, and two officers concerned who had gone to the front in 1914, were recalled, one being convicted and sentenced. Shortal was employed as an instructor in New Zealand and towards the end of 1918 a most damaging adverse report on his efficiency was recorded. It was, he considered, a strange proceeding only to be explained by the fact that in the army if a man got offside with his superiors it was not forgotten. Shortal subsequently had good reports. His agreement terminated in 1920 and he believed but for the unfortunate circumstance mentioned he would have been retained, but he was discharged. He had several times petitioned the House, and in 1929 the committee had made a favourable recommendation.

The Minister of Defence, the Hon. F. Jones, said that he had examined the files to see if the request for an inquiry was justified in view of the allegation of victimisation. An officer was convicted in 1915 and Shortal continued to serve in the New Zealand forces. When the time came for discharge his commanding officer gave him credit for being a good instructor. He was on loan from the Imperial Forces and there were New Zealanders to be considered for positions after the war. However, Shortal's request for an extension of his term so as to qualify for an Imperial pension was allowed. There was an inquiry into his grievance in 1931 and the conclusion was reached that Shortal had no case. The officer responsible for the adverse report had nothing to do with this matter. Mr Jones concluded by declaring there was nothing to justify the setting up of a committee of inquiry.

Discussion was continued throughout the afternoon by members on both sides, who presented their view of the petitioner's case, and the Prime Minister eventually intervened to say he was prepared to go any length to see an injustice was not perpetuated though to do justice to one man should not permit injustice to others. Nothing would be gained by condemning officers of the past because of sympathy and a desire to ease the lot of the petitioner. Perhaps, he said, the Defence Committee could inquire what evidence was available, but to deal with the case after 30 years would be very difficult.

Mr J. R. Hanan, member in charge of the petition, moved that the report be referred back to the Defence Committee.

The Minister of Finance, the Hon. W. Nash, who was in charge of the House, said the Government would accept the amendment and Mr R. M. Macfarlane, chairman of the Defence Committee, stated they would have no objection to this course.

The amendment was carried on the voices.

VICTIMIZATION ALLEGED

10 OCT 1947

Discharge By Army In 1920

"SOUTHLAND TIMES"

INVERCARGILL MAN'S PETITION

(Special) WELLINGTON, October 9.

Most of this afternoon was occupied by the House of Representatives in discussing the report of the defence committee on the petition by John Shortal, of Invercargill, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances of his discharge from the New Zealand permanent military forces. The committee reported that it had no recommendation to make. Disappointment with this finding was expressed by members of the Opposition and an amendment that the petition be referred back to the committee for further consideration was accepted. The events to which the petition related occurred more than 30 years ago.

Mr J. A. Roy (Nat., Clutha) said that the petitioner was one of six sergeant-instructors who were brought to New Zealand in 1911 under an agreement between the New Zealand and the British Governments. The petitioner was allocated to the 14th South Otago Regiment, Mr Roy stating that he himself was a non-commissioned officer in that regiment and he had never come across a more efficient n.c.o. than the petitioner. In 1914 the petitioner was made regimental sergeant-major of the regiment.

"UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS"

There had been some unfortunate incidents concerning irregularities by senior officers and the petitioner had reported them. An adverse report was made on the petitioner in 1912 and in 1918 another adverse report was made about him. One report, which was made by a territorial officer who at the time was a temporary officer on the staff, stated that the petitioner was inefficient. Between the adverse reports and after 1918 there were good reports, said Mr Roy. It seemed that some sinister influence had been at work. It might be argued that in dismissing the petitioner the Army had done nothing illegal, but when the petitioner's agreement was terminated in 1920 there was still room in the New Zealand forces for a man of the petitioner's qualifications.

Mr Roy said he was perfectly convinced that had it not been for the action of the petitioner in reporting the irregularities his agreement would have been renewed. He was also convinced that an injustice had been done to the petitioner and his career had been ruined. The Government could do something even now to recompense the petitioner in his old age.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

The Minister of Defence, Mr Jones, said that the petitioner believed that because he gave evidence that led to the conviction of an officer he was victimized. The officer concerned was convicted in 1915 and the petitioner continued to serve for four years after that. The Government of the day had decided that the services of loan personnel should be terminated. Although the officer was convicted in 1915 the petitioner continued to serve until nine months after World War 1. The petitioner asked if he could be discharged in New Zealand and the War Office was approached and agreed to this and it also agreed to a further request that he should be allowed six months' leave

COPY

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE PETITION OF JOHN SHORTAL, ex Staff Sergeant Major, New Zealand Permanent Staff

, OF 38 Fox Street, Invercargill,

HUMBLY SHOWETH:-

1. That your petitioner prays that the circumstances leading up to his wrongful discharge from duty with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces should be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives of the Dominion of New Zealand, or any other competent Court or Board of Inquiry as they may direct to be established, with a view to his being justly compensated for such injury to his estate and person, the grounds of his petition being as followeth hereafter:

2. That your petitioner was victimized for the performance of his duty during his service with the New Zealand Permanent Staff after the year 1912 for an action performed in the interests of the State during the month of November of the year aforementioned; and that the attitude of certain of your petitioner's superior Officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to had a direct bearing on the wrongful termination of his engagement with the New Zealand Permanent Forces.

3. That your petitioner was denied the opportunity of replying to or stating his case in respect of an adverse confidential report rendered against him during the year 1913, despite the fact that such confidential reports, both adverse and otherwise, on other Non-Commissioned Officers of the New Zealand Permanent Staff were read over to them by the Officer rendering the report.

4. That your petitioner suffered damage, both in mind and estate, through the fact that his agreement for service under the New Zealand Government was wrongfully terminated in that, whereas his engagement with the New Zealand Defence Department was extended by the War Office to a period defined as "the end of the War and six months after," his engagement was terminated and he was discharged from Service with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces on the 31st August, 1919, instead of six months from 10th January, 1920, this latter date being that declared by Proclamation by His Majesty the King as the end of the War.

5. That your petitioner was denied the protection afforded him as a soldier by Section 43, The Army Act, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the prescribed channel impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior Officers, no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever set up whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

AND your humble petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray, etc.

Signd. John Shortal.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

Christian names: _____ (In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

1. Are you now suffering from any disease or disability? _____

2. What standard of primary-school education did you reach and at what age? _____

3. Have you ever suffered from any of the following illnesses? If so, give date and duration:—

(*a*) Chest disease, including tuberculosis, pleurisy, blood-spitting, chronic cough, or asthma: _____

(*b*) Heart disease, including weakness of heart: _____

(*c*) Rheumatic fever, rheumatism, lumbago, or sciatica: _____

500/4/46—15071

Clerk of the Committee.

Mr Lawrence
to prepare report.
8/8

Leg.—61.]

Memorandum *for*

DEFENCE *Committee,*

House of Representatives,

WELLINGTON

6th. August, 1947

RECEIVED 7 AUG 1947 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

The Secretary,

Army Department,

Defence Services Building,
Featherston Street, City.

I forward herewith for your report, for the information of the above *Committee, petition No.* 42 *of* J. SHORTAL,

38, Fox Street, Invercargill.

Please return the petition, together with three copies of *your report thereon, to me, as soon as possible.*

ment: _____ If so, give details: _____

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

ARMY 1
306 R

4.

The request was declined as it was considered that a Court of Inquiry would not serve any useful purpose. It was explained to Mr. Shortal that his discharge was the result of the expiration of his agreement and that his integrity or capability was not questioned.

The Department's file dealing with this case can be made available if or when it is required by the Committee.

The petition is returned herewith.

(Sgd.) F. R. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Army Secy.

No alteration or addition to suggest.

MEGW

5 Sept. 47.

MEMORANDUM
5 SEP 1947
DESPATCHED

3.

Mounted Rifle Training: Nil

Infantry Training: Poor

Musketry Training: Poor

Physical Training: Good

In fairness to Mr. Shortal it must be stated that this adverse report conflicts with the reports he gained from 1912 to 1919. These were as follows:-

Year	Character	Zeal	Educational qualities.	If smart and Soldierly.	If recommended for promotion.	Ability in imparting instrn.	Remarks.
1912	Ex.	Ex.	Good	Yes	No	Ex.	
1913	Good	Good	Fair	Yes	No	Ex.	An excellent Instructor but very excitable causing him to forget his position. Have had to reprimand him on two occasions.
1914		No Report.					
1915	Report of OC Otago Batt. on Active Service -						This NCO (temp. W.O.) is very capable but a to get a little slack
1916		No Report.					
1917	V. Good	Ex.	6 Std.	Yes	Yes	V.Good	
1918	Exempy.	Good	Secondary.	Yes	No	Good	
1919	Exempy.	Good	Secondary.	Yes	No	V.Good	

It is also noted that the recommendation to G.O.C. referred tothe "latest confidential report." This report was dated 18/12/1918 - three months previously - yet no action had been taken up to that time to have Mr. Shortal returned to the United Kingdom or discharged. Although it can be quite definitely stated that there was no element of victimization in his discharge, it might have been that his persistent requests for promotion to Warrant Officer rank brought the question of his period of service to the notice of the authorities.

(iv) Denied a Court of Inquiry:

It appears that this refers to the request made by the petitioner in May, 1919 for a Court of Inquiry so "that the Department might have the opportunity of proving to the public that what practically amounts to my dismissal from the N.Z. Permanent Staff is for the benefit of the State and not the outcome of vindictiveness on the part of some Officer or Officers of the Department."

2.

This complaint, therefore, is principally concerned with the definition of the term "the period of the war." It was originally claimed on Mr. Shortal's behalf that the end of the war was the 28th June, 1919, the date of the signing of the Peace with Germany, but later Mr. Shortal claimed that it was the 10th January, 1920, the date of the Proclamation of the end of the war, although the discharge of Mr. Shortal had been effected before the Proclamation was issued.

The Crown Solicitor in 1919 expressed the opinion that there was no authority to engage Mr. Shortal for the period described and that the contract, therefore, was ultra vires and Mr. Shortal held his position at the will of the Government. He pointed out that 11th November, 1918, was not the date the War ended and that if the agreement with Shortal had been a legally binding one it would have had to be admitted that he had been prematurely discharged. As, however, it was not legally binding the only duty of the Department was to observe the agreement honourably in accordance with its original understanding as to its meaning. He went on to say that "In a practical and popular sense, though not in a legal sense, the Armistice (11th November, 1918) was the end of the war," and that Mr. Shortal had originally acquiesced in this interpretation.

In regard to his discharge, however, it is noted that the matter was first raised when Mr. Shortal had persisted in pressing his claim to be promoted to Warrant rank. Major F. H. Lampden, acting for the Officer Commanding the Otago District at this time, forwarded on one of Mr. Shortal's requests for promotion with the comment, "I would point out that this NCO is on loan from the Imperial authorities and would suggest that every facility be afforded this NCO of returning to his Home Unit."

At General Headquarters these papers were referred to the G.O.C. with the comment: "It would appear that this NCO's period of engagement with the N.Z. Government expires on 11th May next, and in view of the latest confidential report (copy attached) on this NCO it is recommended that he be returned to his Regiment at the earliest opportunity. His contract was intended 'for the duration of the war and six months thereafter.' Do you agree that in this and similar cases of Imperial officers and NCO's under engagement with the N.Z. Forces the words 'duration of the war' should be taken to mean the duration of actual hostilities?"

(Mr. Shortal himself chose to be discharged in New Zealand rather than be returned to his unit in the United Kingdom as would have been the normal course.)

The confidential report referred to was dated 12th December, 1918, and was in the following terms:-

"Training qualifications:	A poor instructor.
Administrative qualifications for General Office routine:	Poor in office work.
Qualifications in handling stores, expenditure, etc:	This NCO acted as QMS 7th M.R. for a period but did not prove satisfactory.

cws/c

ARMY 1/306

4th September, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for:

64

Committee Clerk,
Defence Committee,
House of Representatives,
WELLINGTON.

PETITION NO. 42 - John SHORTAL.

This petition is identical with former petitions submitted by Mr. Shortal in 1925, 1927, 1929 and 1943. Mr. Shortal apparently appeared before the Defence Committee in 1929 and 1944 (when the 1943 petition was heard) and the reports of the Committee on those occasions were that the petition should be referred to the Government for "favourable consideration" and for "most favourable consideration" respectively. In 1925 the petition was referred to the Government "for consideration" while in 1927 no recommendation was made. On all these occasions the Government has decided to take no action in the matter. In November, 1930, the case was referred to the Uniformity Committee. Their report was to the effect that the action taken was orthodox in every respect, and that there was no merit in the petition.

All the relevant papers in this case were subjected to a new and complete review before the following report was prepared. It will be convenient to deal singly with the several allegations made by the petitioner under the following headings:-

(i). Victimization for an action performed in 1912:

This apparently refers to the reporting by the petitioner of Captain J. R. Henderson for alleged defalcations in 1912. There is no evidence of his action at this time having had any connection with his subsequent discharge which was brought about by the termination of his period of engagement.

(ii). Denied the opportunity of replying to an adverse report in 1913:

At the time of the report it was not required by regulations that such reports be shown to the Warrant or Non-commissioned Officer reported upon. This practice was adopted later and has since been followed.

(iii). Wrongful termination of services:

Mr. Shortal was one of six Sergeant-Instructors of the British Regular Army engaged in April, 1911 for a period of five years' service in New Zealand. On the expiry of that period his engagement was extended for nine months and further extended, on each occasion with the consent of the War Office, "for the period of the War (of 1914-19) and six months thereafter." He was discharged from the N.Z. Permanent Staff on 31st August, 1919. As a result of representations made on his behalf, the War Office approved of his being regarded as on leave without pay from 31st August, 1919 to 7th February, 1920, thus enabling him to qualify for an Imperial Pension after 21 years' service.

ARMY 1/306/L.

NOTE FOR FILE

The hearing of this Petition before the Defence Committee of the House, commenced on 10.9.47 was continued on 8.10.47.

After lengthy discussion, the Committee decided, on a majority vote, that no recommendation be made to the House.

N.B. The Committee was agreed that the adverse report of 12.12.18 was unwarranted and unjustified, but this view was not incorporated in the decision, on a majority vote.

8 OCTOBER 1947.

LEGAL OFFICER.

SGS/TWK

ARMY 1/306/L.

8th October, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for:-

THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

PETITION BY JOHN SHORTAL.

Herewith, as requested, I forward copy of report dated 21.9.29 from Major-General Young to theHon. Minister of Defence.

F. B. DWYER

ENCL: ✓

ARMY SECRETARY.

8p

M.F.A

MEMORANDUM 8 - OCT 1947 DESPATCHED

COMPLETED DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

[F
(In

Surname: _____ ***Christian names:*** _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

1. Are you now suffering from any disease or disability? _____

2. What standard of primary-school education did you reach and at what age? _____

3. Have you ever suffered from any of the following illnesses? If so, give date and duration:—

   (*a*) Chest disease, including tuberculosis, pleurisy, blood-spitting, chronic cough, or asthma: _____

   (*b*) Heart disease, including weakness of heart: _____

   (*c*) Rheumatic fever, rheumatism, lumbago, or sciatica: _____

   (*d*) Nervous disease, neurasthenia, nervous breakdown, fits, or convulsions: _____

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/3/46—16014)

LABOURING UNDER NO OBSESSION WOULD WELCOME A JUDICIAL ENQUIRY YOUR MINISTER WOULD THEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF SWEARING TO THE TRUTHFULNESS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY HIM IN THE HOUSE HANDING THIS WIRE TO THE PRESS

+ J SHORTAL +

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

Rec'd at _____ By _____

THE PRIME MINISTER PARLIAMENT
BLDGS WELLINGTON +

D 72 43 INVERCARGILL 9 35 A +

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

Sent _____

To _____

By _____

Addr. _____

DATE-STAMP

(4) Asthma or hay fever? _____

8. Have you ever been rejected or discharged as unfit for any branch of H.M. Forces (state arm of Service) or other Government employment? _____ If so, give details: _____

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

SECTION III.

Finding of Medical Board.

Vision without Glasses.	Vision possible.	Approx. Refraction.
R_____	/ _____	/ _____
L_____	/ _____	/ _____

Colour vision: _____

Visual Grading [ ] With Glasses / Without Glasses

External and Ophth.: _____

Signed: _____, Examining Optician.

Hearing—Right ear: _____ Left ear: _____

Is there any morbid condition of (1) gums; (2) mouth; (3) throat?—

(1)_____ (2)_____ (3)_____

Are his limbs well formed? _____

Are the movements of all his joints full and perfect? _____

Is his chest well formed? _____

Are his lungs normal? _____

Pulse rate, sitting: _____

Cardiac efficiency test—Pulse standing: _____;

after exercise: _____; two minutes later: _____

What is his blood-pressure? _____

Is his heart normal? _____

Urine—Reaction: _____ Sp. G. _____

Albumin: _____ Sugar: _____

Is he free from hernia? _____

Is he free from varicocele? _____

Is he free from varicose veins? _____

Is he free from hæmorrhoids? _____

Is he free from skin-disease? _____

Is there any evidence of nervous disease? _____

SECTION IV.

Remarks. (Should include reference to any abnormality noted above, to any congenital peculiarities, previous disease, or slight defects. Particularly to Medical Statement of Candidate.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Recr *[illegible] found Tempor[illegible] by Medical Board.)*

WE consider that, after reme[illegible] [illegible]ome fit for Grade_____ Specific treatment required is_____

(For other than [illegible] temporarily unfit.)

Examined and placed in Grade [ ]

Code No. [ ]

Causes of grading lower than Grade [illegible]

Signed: _____, Member.

Bring Forward.
Branch B/RSEC
Date 23/10/47
Initials [illegible] 28/9

1-12-47

M. Sutton
Letter was
sent home on
Post form 47
10.9.47
Confirmed sick
Lower leg pitting
oedema
Urine normal
Exercise to normal
Previously
other ailments
Epilepsy
26
9

ARMY
306

3,000 pads/7/42—3546)

SHORTPAL 5

1/306

COPY.

Signed:
J.R.Hanan.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of JOHN SHORTAL, ex Staff Sergeant Major, New Zealand Permanent Staff, of 38 Fox Street, Invercargill.

HUMBLY SHOWETH:-

1. That your petitioner prays that the circumstances leading up to his wrongful discharge from duty with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces should be investigated by the Defence Committee of the House of Representatives of the Dominion of New Zealand, or any other competent Court or Board of Inquiry as they may direct to be established, with a view to his being justly compensated for such injury to his estate and person, the grounds of his petition being as followeth hereafter:

2. That your petitioner was victimized for the performance of his duty during his service with the New Zealand Permanent Staff after the year 1912 for an action performed in the interests of the State during the month of November of the year aforementioned; and that the attitude of certain of your petitioner's superior Officers consequent upon his having carried out the duty referred to had a direct bearing on the wrongful termination of his engagement with the New Zealand Permanent Forces.

3. That your petitioner was denied the opportunity of replying to or stating his case in respect of an adverse confidential report rendered against him during the year 1913, despite the fact that such confidential reports, both adverse and otherwise, on other Non-commissioned Officers of the New Zealand Permanent Staff were read over to them by the Officer rendering the report.

4. That your petitioner suffered damage, both in mind and estate, through the fact that his agreement for service under the New Zealand Government was wrongfully terminated in that, whereas his engagement with the New Zealand Defence Department was extended by the War Office to a period defined as " the end of the War and six months after", his engagement was terminated and he was discharged from Service with the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces on the 31st August, 1919, instead of six months from 10th January, 1920, this latter date being that declared by Proclamation by His Majesty the King as the end of the War.

5. That your petitioner was denied the protection afforded him as a soldier by Section 43, The Army Act, in that while a complaint submitted by him through the prescribed channels impugned a vindictive and unjust use of authority by certain of his superior Officers, no Court or Board of Inquiry was ever set up whereby the justness or otherwise of his complaints might have been established.

And your humble petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray etc.,

(Signed) JOHN SHORTAL.

Leg.—20.]

House of Representatives

DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON THE PETITION

OF

42/1947. J. SHORTAL, OF INVERCARGILL.

PRAYING FOR INQUIRY into the circumstances surrounding his discharge from the New Zealand Permanent Military Forces.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REPORT that the Committee recommends that this Petition be referred to the Government for inquiry into all the circumstances raised by the subject-matter of the Petition.

(Sd). R.M.Macfarlane,

CHAIRMAN.

6th November, 1947.

Leg.—42.]

ARMY 1
306.

No. 44

LA. 17
10/44

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives, THURSDAY, *the* 6TH *day of* NOVEMBER, 19 47

ORDERED:

That the Report of the Defence Committee on the Petition of J. Shortal be referred to the Government for inquiry.

On motion of
Mr. Chapman.

A TRUE EXTRACT.

R. Delmoe
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The Secretary,
Army Department.

Referred:
J. W. Heenan
Under Secretary,
10/11/47

BE/TWK

ARMY 1/306/L

December, 1947.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your telegram of the 18th November I have to advise that it was found impossible to arrange another committee of enquiry in connection with your case before the close of the Session.

Ample notice will be given you of the proposed date, so that you may be enabled to call any other witnesses desired by you.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Defence.

J. Shortal, Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

38 Fox Street
INVERCARGILL.

10th November, 1947.

Mr. J.R. Hannan, M.P.
House of Representatives,
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I received the abstract of the Defence Committee's Report. Would be pleased if you would inform me of the date of this enquiry as it will be necessary for me to be present, and further I am going to call evidence in support of my charge of victimization.

The Minister of Defence stated that there was an enquiry held in 1931, but I was not present at that enquiry. I sincerely hope that this will not happen this time. To hold an enquiry without the presence of the Chief witness, to put it mildly I do not think it would be just.

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal.

Army Secretary

Referred.

F.J.

25/11/47

ARMY 306

RECEIVED
25 NOV 1947
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

38 Forbt.,
Lurgan
10th november 1947.

Mr J. R. Harman, M.P.
House of Representatives
Wgtn.

Dear Sir,

I received the abstract of the Defence Committee's Report. would be pleased if you would inform me of the date of this enquiry as it will be necessary for me to be present, and further I am going to call evidence in support of my Charge of victimization.

The minister of Defence stated that there was an enquiry held in 1931. but I was not present at that enquiry I sincerely hope that this will not happen this time. To hold an enquiry without the presence of the chief witness, to put it mildly I do not think it would be just.

Yours Sincerely
John Shortal

Army Secretary
Referred.
25.11.47

dst a/s
11/11

SICK. (Excused duty only.)		ATTACHED.	
Rank.	Name.	Rank.	Name.

TO BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

[Form N.Z.—355. (In pads of 100.)

Surname: _____ (In block letters.) ***Christian names:*** _____

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

1. Are you now suffering from any disease or disability? _____
2. What standard of primary-school education did you reach and at what age? _____
3. Have you ever suffered from any of the following illnesses? If so, give date and duration:—

D 169 22 INVERCARGILL 10 44 A

MR ROY M P PARLT BLDGS WELLINGTON

Rec'd at _____ By _____

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

DATE-STAMP

To _____ By _____ Ackgd. _____

HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT WITNESS TO CALL STOP

PLEASE WIRE ME DATE OF ENQUIRY + SHORTAL ++

Army Secretary

Referred.

21.11.47

Tel. 142 100,000 pads/5/49—(29)

6. Have you been rejected or deferred for LIFE INSURANCE or FRIENDLY SOCIETY? _____
7. Has any member of your family ever suffered from—
   (1) Consumption or Miners' Disease? _____
   (2) Mental disturbance, nervous breakdown, or other nervous condition? _____
   (3) Diabetes? _____
   (4) Asthma or hay fever? _____
8. Have you ever been rejected or discharged as unfit for any branch of H.M. Forces (state arm of Service) or other Government employment? _____ If so, give details: _____
9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____
10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

December, 1947.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your telegram of the 18th November I have to advise that it was found impossible to arrange another committee of enquiry in connection with your case before the close of the Session.

Ample notice will be given you of the proposed date, so that you may be enabled to call any other witnesses desired by you.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Defence.

J. Shortal, Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

early meeting
Cabinet next year

Records

Pl B/U amp secs

16.12.47

9/12

ARMY1/306/AS

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

The Hon. Minister of Defence:

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

Sgd.
23.12.47

RECEIVED 23 DEC 1947 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Army Secretary
23/12/1947.

taken place in answering your telegram which I received a month ago, and in which you requested to be advised of the date of inquiry into your case.

I was not in a position to tell you earlier than this that neither the date nor the details have yet been finalised. It is proposed that these matters be given consideration at the first meeting of Cabinet to be held in the New Year. Subsequent to that Cabinet meeting I will again communicate with you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

MEMORANDUM 23 DEC 1947 DESPATCHED

J. Shortal Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

23/12

12/1/48

was thrown on to the streets of Lurgan
I had no trade and as a means of
rehabilitating myself I depended upon my
Army character certificates which proved
to be not worth the paper they were written
on. I am not appealing to you for
pity. We are at the beginning of a new year
I would therefore ask you to begin it well
by. In the parable of our Lord, saying
"Give unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's
and unto God the things that are God's"
If you do that I will receive justice,
and you'll be rendering to God a
just account of your stewardship.

Yours faithfully
John Shortal

Army Secretary
Referred
8

(This portion of the Form can be used for any purpose where a Nominal Roll is necessary to communicate between the Station Hospital and the Corps.)

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Admission.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.

ARMY 1
306

Medical Officer.

RECEIVED 5 JAN 1948 ARMY

Sunday 28 December 47
38 Tavell.
Engll.

The Hon J Jones, M.P.
Minister of Defence,
Dear Sir,

I begin acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23rd inst. I am in possession of Hansard containing the Debate on my Case. I awaited bitter years - from 1919-1935, for the advent of a return of a Labour Government. I had hoped, believed and prayed that the injustice inflicted on me and also on my dead wife and her Child by the late Sir James Allen would be redressed. Twelve years have elapsed, yet, there is no redress. The power to give redress lies with you, in the past you have withheld it. You, perhaps did not realise the grave injury inflicted on me, when I tell you that if money could have saved your dead wife you were in the position to save her.

When I tell you that money would have saved my dead wife I was not in the position to save her, and Sir James Allen was responsible for that! I lost everything I held dear, my home, my wife, Employment

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Admission.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.

(This portion of the Form can be used for any purpose where a Nominal Roll is necessary to communicate between the Station Hospital and the Corps.)

ARMY 1
306

Mr Kelly

I do not think Pirtle's latest letter to Minister needs for any reply
Do you agree - pc?

8/1

Army Secy wanted file brought up on 12/1/48

Bring Forward
Branch
Initials

3/3/49 Secy

again on 20/2/48
Legal

FBD/MMF

ARMY1/306/AS

February, 1948.

Dear Sir,

In further reference to my letter dated the 23rd December last, I am now pleased to inform you that Mr. J.H. Boyes, C.M.G. ex Chairman, Public Service Commission, has been appointed to make full inquiry into the circumstances of your case, which was the subject of many Petitions over the past years.

At the conclusion of his investigations Mr. Boyes will report to the Government, and on receipt of his report the Government will make its decision.

I would mention that after his preliminary inquiries have been completed Mr. Boyes will probably desire your attendance in Wellington, in which case the Army Secretary will make suitable transport and accommodation arrangements. Further, if you desire that any special persons appear before Mr. Boyes to give evidence on your behalf, you are at perfect liberty to submit their names and addresses to the Army Secretary at Army Headquarters, Wellington, who will submit such requests to Mr. Boyes.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Defence.

J. Shortal Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

FBD/MMF

ARMY 1/306/AS

17th February, 1948.

Dear Mr. Boyes,

Files herewith re Shortal as arranged.

There is a clerk here named Sievwright, who has worked on the Petition quite a lot, and after you have had a preliminary read of the papers, you might like Mr. Sievwright to go out to your place (or alternatively for you to come into the office) and discuss phases of the case with him. He has a very complete knowledge of what has transpired in the past, and a talk with Mr. Sievwright may be beneficial to yourself. However, it is only a suggestion and need not necessarily be adopted.

As I told you on the telephone I have informed Mr. Kelly of what is happening, and that when you want to communicate with the Department you will get in touch with him.

Kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) F. B. DWYER

Encls:

J.H. Boyes Esq., C.M.G.,
661 Broadway,
WELLINGTON, E.5.

MEMORANDUM
18 FEB 1948
DESPATCHED

Mr Kelly
Sievwright
To note
18/2

FILING
No. of sheets
Initials

February,1948.

Dear Sir,

In further reference to my letter dated the 23rd December last, I am now pleased to inform you that Mr. J.H. Boyes,C.M.G. ex Chairman, Public Service Commission, has been appointed to make full inquiry into the circumstances of your case, which was the subject of many Petitions over the past years.

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I would mention that after his preliminary inquiries have been completed Mr. Boyes will probably desire your attendance in Wellington, in which case the Army Secretary will make suitable transport and accommodation arrangements. Further, if you desire that any special persons appear before Mr.Boyes to give evidence on your behalf, you are at perfect liberty to submit their names and addressed to the Army Secretary at Army Headquarters, Wellington, who will submit such requests to Mr.Boyes.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Defence.

J. Shortal Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Mr Kelly.

19/2

ARMY 1

306

1.3.48.

FOR RECORD ONLY

MR JOHN SHORTAL
38 FOX STREET
INVERCARGILL

YOUR LMTTER OF 27 FEBRUARY RECEIVED

I WILL BE AVAILABLE AS REQUIRED

WEIR

MEMORANDUM
1-MAR 1948
DESPATCHED

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

TO BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

Surname: _____ *Christian names:* _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/3/46—16014] 23.2.48.

+ FORM OF ENQUIRY NOT ACCEPTABLE +

Army Secretary.

Referred.

John

SHORTAL +

38 Jah A

Dunedin

Mr Begg-called on 21.2.48. He is leaving to-morrow for Dunedin. Will be back in 3 weeks. Will then be able to give an answer.

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

Rec'd at _____ By _____

D 3,78 1.0 INVERCARGILL 12 P

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

WELLINGTON

For Post Office use only

ARM No.

Sent _____

To _____

By _____

Ack'd. _____

DATE-STAMP

TELEGRAPH OFFICE WELLINGTON 23 FEB 48

(q) Other disease or disability

4. Have you ever had an OPERATION

5. Have you been a patient in MENTA

6. Have you been rejected or deferred

7. Has any member of your family e

(1) Consumption or Miners' Dis

(2) Mental disturbance, nervous

(3) Diabetes? _____

(4) Asthma or hay fever? _____

8. Have you ever been rejected or disc her Government employment? _____ If

9. Do you now receive, or have you ev

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the abov

ARMY 306

[OVER.

Army Medical
Board
Cross Court Dr Mr Begg
Dec 6
1/3

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

TO BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

Surname: _____ *Christian names:* _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

SECTION II.

Medical Statement by Candidate.

(g) Other disease or disability: _____

4. Have you ever had an OPERATION _____

5. Have you been a patient in MENTA _____

6. Have you been rejected or deferred _____

7. Has any member of your family e _____

(1) Consumption or Miners' Dis _____

(2) Mental disturbance, nervous _____

(3) Diabetes? _____

(4) Asthma or hay fever? _____

8. Have you ever been rejected or discharged as unfit for any branch of H.M. Forces (state arm of Service) or other Government employment? _____ If so, give details: _____

9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____

10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

Post Office use only

ARM No.

DATE-STAMP

23 FEB 48
TELEGRAPH OFFICE WELLINGTON

Tel. 142. 100,000 pads/3/46—16014 23.2.48.

+ FORM

Army Secretary.

Referred.

SHORTAL +

John

38 Jah 48

Mr Boyes conducted the inquiry. Shortal is now agreeable to Mr Boyes's report. He is a single man & is willing to proceed. Mr Boyes considers he is suitable for the work. 21.2.48.

Minister of Defence.

Since the above matter I have been informed on the phone by Mr Menzies (P/S to Minister) that Mr Shortal decline going to Lake Wakatipu. Mr Menzies Simple (now in Australia) and Geo Mew are available. Jan 1/3/48

Received at WELLINGTON

MINIS

D 3,78..1

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C.1.

at DUNEDIN, C.1.

27th February, 1948.

The Army Secretary,

I have spoken to Mr Shortal, who is now agreeable to Mr Boyes conducting the inquiry.

RECEIVED 1 MAR 1948 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

ARMY 306

TO BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

WAR.

RECORD OF MEDICAL BOARD.

[Form N.Z.—355.
(In pads of 100.)

Surname: _____ *Christian names:* _____
(In block letters.)

SECTION I.

EXAMINED at _____, on _____ (Date.) DECLARED AGE: _____ years _____ months.

HEIGHT: _____ ft. _____ ins. WEIGHT: _____ st. _____ lb. CHEST FULLY EXPANDED: _____ ins. RANGE: _____ ins.

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ HAIR: _____ COMPLEXION: _____ PHYSIQUE: _____

TRADE OR OCCUPATION: _____ RACE: _____ SEX: _____

1. Are yo
2. What
3. Have
4. Have
5. Have
6. Have
7. Has
(1
(2
(3
(4
8. Have ... t employ-
ment? _____ If so, give details: _____
9. Do you now receive, or have you ever received, a War Pension or Invalidity Benefit? _____
10. Who is your regular doctor? _____

I have read my answers to the above questions, and declare that to the best of my knowledge they are true.

Signature of Recruit: _____

[OVER.

RECEIVED 2 MAR 1940 ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

ARMY 306

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

MESSRS.	WILFORD
	W.E. BARNARD
	DICKIE
	JENKINS
	W. JORDAN
	POLSON
	RUSHWORTH
	SAMUEL
	WAITE
COL.	McDONALD (CHAIRMAN)

Phone 2037 Inverell

AIR TRAVEL INVERCARGILL TO WELLINGTON AND RETURN

To Wellington -	Depart I'gill Daily	10.5 a.m.	12.15 p.m.
	Arrive W'gton (ex Sundays)	4.0 p.m.	6.15 p.m.
From Wellington	Depart W'gton Daily	6.45 a.m.	9.10 a.m.
	Arrive I'gill (ex Sundays)	12.30	2.45 p.m.

COST £8: 5:0 Single
£16:10:0 Return

Availability (early April) At least three weeks' notice required. Bookings easier for mid-week than at or about week-ends. When booking, Airways like days alternative to first choice named in case of "off-loading".

==========

Rail & Steamer

UP	Train Departs Invercargill Tues. Thurs. Sat.	7 a.m.
	Steamer " Lyttelton Daily (ex. Sundays)	8 p.m.
	Steamer Arrive Wellington "	7 a.m.
DOWN	Steamer Departs Wellington Daily (ex. Sundays)	7.45 p.m.
	Train " Christchurch Tues. Thur. Sat.	8.35 a.m.
	Sundays	11 p.m.
	Train Arrives Invercargill	9.5 p.m.

FARES	Rail	1st Class Single	£3: 0:2
		" " Return	£5:14:1
		2nd " Single	£2: 1:7
		" " Return	£3:16:2
	Steamer	From 22/6 upwards	

Basis used for troops Offrs. 35/- Single
Sgts. & WO's 32/6 "
OR's 22/6 "

ACCOMMODATION Peoples' Palace not taking bookings for April.

Hotel Bristol - (15/- per day) Rooms usually available at short notice for day or so.

ARMY 1/306/L

5th March, 1948.

Dear Sir,

As I explained to you on the telephone this afternoon, I rang on behalf of the Minister of Defence to complete arrangements with you for your journey to Wellington to attend the inquiry by Mr. Boyes, who, although away from Wellington at the moment, would be returning after Easter.

You agreed that it would be convenient for you to leave Invercargill by train on the morning of Tuesday 30th instant, eventually reaching Wellington by the Lyttelton ferry steamer on the morning of Wednesday 31st.

You hoped that the proceedings would be completed on the Wednesday, and that you would be able to commence the return journey by the ferry that evening, eventually reaching home again on Thursday evening, 1st April. If, however, the proceedings were not over in one day you would be prepared to remain here on the Thursday also.

The Chief of the General Staff is prepared to attend and give evidence.

All arrangements for travel, and hotel accommodation in Wellington, (if necessary), will be made by the Army, and the tickets will be sent to you in plenty of time.

If anything unforeseen should arise to upset these arrangements, I will get in touch with you at once.

Yours faithfully,

MEMORANDUM 5 MAR 1948 DESPATCHED

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY

J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL

C.G.S.

Please see
Mr Shortal asked me to thank you for your telegram of 1st March.
E.R.K. 5/3

Seen.

8.3.48

emk/JM

ARMY 1/306/L

9th March, 1948

Dear Sir,

Following our talk on the telephone last Friday, I rang Mr. Shortal at Invercargill. He will reach Wellington by the Lyttelton ferry steamer on Wednesday morning the 31st of this month, and is hopeful that proceedings will be concluded the same day so that he can begin his homeward journey that evening. He realises, however, that it may be necessary for him to stay another day. The Chief of the General Staff is prepared to give evidence.

We are putting at your disposal a room at Army Headquarters, and I expect Mr. Shortal will appear at about 9 a.m.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY

J.H. Boyes Esq.,
551 Broadway,
WELLINGTON E.5.

MEMORANDUM
9 MAR 1948
DESPATCHED

INQUIRY - JOHN SHORTAL.

As suggested by the Hon. Minister, I rang Mr. Shortal at Invercargill last week.

In view of Mr. Boyes' absence at Turangi, Mr. Shortal is agreeable that the inquiry should take place immediately following Easter. He is not particularly anxious to come by air, so he will be leaving home by the morning train on Tuesday 30th inst., reaching here next morning, Wednesday 31st. He hopes the inquiry will conclude in one day but realises that it may be necessary for him to be here on Thursday 1st April also.

The Chief of the General Staff is prepared to give evidence, and we are setting aside a room at Army Headquarters for the inquiry.

In the circumstances, Mr. Shortal is satisfied that the inquiry go ahead in the absence of the Hon. Mr. Semple and surviving members of the 1929 Committee. The Hon. Minister will recall that in the letter to you dated 27th February, Mr. Shortal wanted these gentlemen made available.

It appears as if Mr. Shortal's cost of travel will be approximately as follows:-

1st Class Return Rail Fares	£5:14:1
Steamer Fares	3:10:0
Hotel Accommodation (possibly)	1:10:0
	£10:14:1

We are making all the travelling arrangements.

Will the Hon. Minister please formally approve the expenditure of up to £12 accordingly.

(Sgd) F. B. DUKER
ARMY SECRETARY

Q(MN) Will you complete all arrangements please including pencilling in accommodn for 1 night (31 Mar) at Bristol. 9/3

Mr Smith
Action please
PBH 11/3

EMK/JM

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,

IN YOUR REPLY
ARMY 1/306/L
please quote this number.

RECEIVED 10 MAR 1948 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

MEMORANDUM for 9th March, 1948.

THE HON. MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

INQUIRY - JOHN SHORTAL.

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Hotel Accommodation (possibly)	1:10:0
	£10:14:1

We are making all the travelling arrangements.

Will the Hon. Minister please formally approve the expenditure of up to £12 accordingly.

Audit to Note.
E. A. Wellington
ACCOUNTANT, ARMY HEADQUARTERS, WELLINGTON.
19.3.48

AUTHORITY-CARD
BMWF 6.

Approved
9 3 48

Noted.
Comptroller and Auditor-General
23 MAR 1948

F. O. Durey
ARMY SECRETARY

K

(D. 24/2/120.) 100 rms/3/42—15484]

night (31 Mar) at Bristol.
K 10/3

Mr Smith
Action please
PBH 11/3

LGS:KM.

ARMY 1/306/O.Mov.

12 Mar. 48.

S.M.D.
R.T.O. Wellington.

For Info:

Assistant Army Secretary.
DA(MO)(Mov.)

MR. JOHN SHORTAL - TRAVEL INVERCARGILL TO WELLINGTON AND RETURN.

1. The above-named will travel from Invercargill to Wellington and return to Invercargill under Army arrangements and at Army expense.

2. HQ. S.M.D. will issue First Class Rail Warrants for journey to Wellington and return to Invercargill, Steamer Ticket at value of 35/- and two meal warrants to Mr. Shortal at 38 Fox Street, Invercargill.

3. HQ. S.M.D. will make travel reservations as follows:-

Invercargill-Lyttelton Express departing Invercargill 0700 hrs. Tues. 30 Mar. 48.

Steamer Express departing Lyttelton 2000 hrs. Tues. 30 Mar. 48.

Christchurch-Invercargill Express departing Christchurch 0835 hrs. Thurs. 1 Apr. 48.

4. R.T.O. Wellington will issue Wellington-Lyttelton Steamer ticket to value of 35/- and make reservation for Mr. Shortal to return to Lyttelton departing Wellington on evening of Wed. 31 Mar.48.

5. In event of Enquiry NOT being completed in time for Mr. Shortal to return by Steamer Express that night Assistant Army Secretary will advise as early as possible DA(MO)(Mov.) who will then make fresh travel arrangements through R.T.O. Wellington and HQ. S.M.D.

MEMORANDUM
12 MAR 1948
DESPATCHED

Brigadier,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

FILING
No. of sheets 9
Initials

LGS:KM.

ARMY 1/306/Q.Mov.

19th. March, 1948.

Dear Sir,

You will no doubt have been advised by Headquarters, Southern Military District, through Headquarters, Area 12, of the arrangements made for you to attend your inquiry at Wellington on 31st. March, 1948.

On your arrival at Wellington will you please call on the Assistant Army Secretary (Mr. E.M. Kelly) in Room No. 542 on the ground floor of the Army Headquarters Building, Featherston Street. It is suggested that you call about 8.45 a.m.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
19 MAR 1948
DESPATCHED

19/3.

FILING.
No. of sheets
Initials

R.

ARMY 1/306/Q.Mov.

12 Mar., 48.

S.M.D.
R.T.O. Wellington.

For Infm:

Assistant Army Secretary.
DAQMG(Mov.)

MR. JOHN SHORTAL - TRAVEL INVERCARGILL TO WELLINGTON AND RETURN.

1. The above-named will travel from Invercargill to Wellington and return to Invercargill under Army arrangements and at Army expense.

2. HQ. S.M.D. will issue First Class Rail Warrants for journey to Wellington and return to Invercargill, Steamer Ticket at value of 35/- and two meal warrants to Mr. Shortal at 38 Fox Street, Invercargill.

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5. In event of Enquiry NOT being completed in time for Mr. Shortal to return by Steamer Express that night Assistant Army Secretary will advise as early as possible DAQMG(Mov.) who will then make fresh travel arrangements through R.T.O. Wellington and HQ. S.M.D.

P.B. Clout Brig
for Brigadier,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

Asst. Army Secretary

1. HQ SMD advise that tickets will be issued to Mr Shortal by HQ Area 12 I'gill within one week.
2. Bristol State ~~have~~ pencilled accommodation for night of 31st March.

12/3/48.

29/3/48

again 21/4

Inquiry held 31.3.48

ARMY 306

38 Forth.
Inverangile

The minister of Defence, 28th march 1948

Dear Sir,

I would deem it a favour if you would at the forthcoming enquiry produce all copies of "Hansard" in which may be recorded the results of my "numerous" Petitions and also the name of the member who may have presented the Petition to Parliament. I can only recollect giving evidence on those occasions namely Sept. 1929. Oct 1944 & Sept 1947. For each of the forgoing dates I have the abstract of the Respective Defence Committees Reports.

Yours faithfully
John Shortal.

Army Secretary.
For reply for my signature please.
31.3.48

Received in Army Dept 5.4.48.
Inquiry held on 30.3.48
NFA meantime.
B/U 6.4.48

Bring Forward
Date
Initials

Rations

FILING
No. of items
Initials

date of his discharge. Army H.Q. was of opinion that the time meant the date of the Armistice and Shortal the date of signing of the peace and later the date of the Proclamation of the end of the war.

The great difficulty in this case is the staleness of the evidence, most of the events having occurred 30 or more years ago. The whole matter could have been dealt with more satisfactorily to all parties had the Court of Enquiry asked for by Mr. Shortal in 1919 been set up. This was refused as it was considered that the enquiry would serve no useful purpose as Mr. Shortal's integrity or capability was not questioned yet his poor report of 1918 had been used to facilitate his discharge. Mr. Shortal made his statement to me in a straightforward and candid manner and, although I should judge him to be somewhat temperamental, without embellishment. From the official file I could glean no actual evidence of victimisation but, after listening to Mr. Shortal's statement and endeavouring to sum up the reason for some of the decisions given in his case, although no doubt they were strictly legally correct, I am inclined to the opinion that more consideration could have been afforded him. For instance, I think that the persistence of his application for promotion to rank of Warrant Officer resulted in bringing up the question of his return to his Imperial Unit which action to my mind was too precipitate.

Aside from the legal aspect, I consider some redress should be afforded Mr. Shortal, but it is difficult to suggest what form such redress should take. I recommend, for your consideration, that Mr. Shortal be granted a lump sum payment of at least the amount of his salary from the date of his discharge to six months after the Proclamation of the end of the War (January 1920), and as a further token of recognition that he be promoted to 1st Class Warrant Officer for that period.

General Weir.

For your information

A H Boyes

5-4-48

Seen. Agree with recommendation. File

N M G W

7. 4. 48

1/306

5th April,1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

As requested, I have enquired into the subject matter of Mr. John Shortal's petition. Mr. Shortal appeared before me on 31st March and made a complete statement of his case. He did not bring any witnesses. I have also had the opportunity of studying fully the Army Headquarters file and discussing the case with the C.G.S. Major-General McD. Weir.

Mr.Shortal's main contention is that because he reported his senior officer, Captain Henderson, in 1912 for allegedly falsifying official records he was subsequently victimised throughout his military career.

Another grievance is that he was refused promotion to rank of Warrant Officer (first-class) to which he considers he would at least have risen had he remained with his own regiment.

Further he considers that he was prematurely discharged although he had had a good record for efficiency and behaviour.

Mr.Shortal was engaged in April 1911 for a period of 5 years service in the New Zealand Forces. He was then a Colour Sergeant in the Leinster Regiment of the British Regular Army. After a short period in New Zealand he anticipated that he would continue his military career with the New Zealand Forces until his retirement by age limit. He married a New Zealand girl which would, no doubt, strengthen his desire to remain here. Mr. Shortal, however, bases his contention on the fact that in the original agreement to serve for 5 years in the New Zealand Forces, it was stipulated that after 5 years his salary would be increased to a certain amount. The agreement bears this out. This, Mr. Shortal puts forward, entitled him to think that there would be no difficulty in the matter of re-engagement at the expiry of his 5 years service. He duly applied for re-engagement for 5 years but after some delay was re-engaged for the duration of the war and 6 months thereafter. Mr. Shortal tacitly accepted this as he does not appear to have actively protested at the time. However he now contends that there was no jurisdiction to re-engage him for less than 5 years under the regulations. The policy of Army H.Q. at this time was stated to be not to re-engage Imperial units for lengthy periods but to enlist New Zealand personnel. Early in 1919 Mr.Shortal was persisting in his application for promotion to 1st Class Warrant Officer, and it was then decided to return him to his Imperial Unit, a bearing on this decision being that on 12/12/18 there had been a poor report as to his efficiency. Other reports on Mr.Shortal's efficiency and behaviour had been good and he explains the poor one by the fact that it was made by a Territorial Officer whose experience of him had only been a few days in a Cadet Camp. Then arose a controversy as to the definition of the words "duration of the war" as applying to the

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No. of sheets 2
Initials DJ 4-4

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..2/..

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A.H. Boyes

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

IN YOUR REPLY
.....
please quote this number.

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,

5th April,1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

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Date of disch 31. 8. 1919.

Termination of War 10. 1. 1920 plus 6 mos = 10. 7. 20

= 10 mos 10 days

Salary SSM £275 p.a. £236. 11. 2 for 10 mos 10 days

Salary WO I £325 p.a. £279. 11. 5. for 10 mos 10 days

? Interest

FBD/MMF

6th April,1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

The time occupied by Mr.Boyes in considering the Petition and the circumstances of the case of Mr. Shortal, interviewing him, preparing the report,etc., was in the vicinity of three days.

I think a payment at the rate of £3.3.0 per day - £9.9.0 in all - would be appropriate in this instance, and I recommend that the Minister approve accordingly.

(Sgd) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Lm 7/4

ARMY 1/306

FBD/MMF

6th April,1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

I attach hereto a report furnished by Mr. J.H. Boyes, ex Public Service Commissioner who, by Ministerial direction was appointed to consider the Petition of Mr. John Shortal.

Mr. Boyes recommends -

(a) That Mr. Shortal be granted a lump sum payment of at least the amount of his salary from the date of his discharge to six months after the termination of the War (10th January, 1920); and

(b) That he be promoted to 1st Class Warrant Officer for that period as a token of recognition.

The two recommendations are concurred in by Major-General Weir.

The amount involved in recommendation (a) is actually £236.11.2, the salary of Mr. Shortal on a yearly basis being £275. It may be considered desirable to grant a round sum of, say, £250.

No difficulty is anticipated in granting the rank of 1st Class Warrant Officer for the period from date of discharge, 31st August,1919, to six months after the termination of the war, viz. 10th of July,1920 (10 months and 10 days), if it is so desired. This token of recognition would not, of course, carry any monetary increment over and above the amount granted under recommendation (a).

As requested by the Minister, draft Cabinet approval to meet the position is attached.

(Sd) F. B. DWYER

ARMY SECRETARY.

Encls: 2

II Major-General Weir

Do you agree, please.

6.4.48.

ARMY SECRETARY.

(111). Army Secretary.

I agree.

7.4.48

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

ARMY 1
306

The Hon. Minister of Defence :

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

Army Secretary
/4/1948.

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

IN YOUR REPLY
ARMY 1/306
please quote this number.

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,

6th April, 1948.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

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Mr. Boyes recommends -

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As requested by the Minister, draft Cabinet approval to meet the position is attached.

ARMY SECRETARY.

Encls: 2

(D. 244/2/120.) 6582—41)

[Form N.Z.—397.
(Banded in Reams.)

IN YOUR REPLY
ARMY 1/306
please quote this number.

Army Headquarters,
New Zealand Military Forces,
Wellington C. 1,

6th April, 1948.

Cabinet
for 48
10

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Hon. Minister of Defence.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

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I think a payment at the rate of £3.3.0 per day - £9.9.0 in all - would be appropriate in this instance, and I recommend that the Minister approve accordingly.

B. Boyes
ARMY SECRETARY.

ARMY 1
306

DRAFT CABINET APPROVAL

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

RECOMMENDED -

(a) That a lump sum payment of £250 be paid.

(This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th of July,1920. This represents a period of 10 months and 10 days.)

(b) That Mr.Shortal be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September 1919 until the 10th July,1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

17th April, 1948.

Dear Mr. Denham.

Knowing how deeply interested you have been in the case of Mr. John Shortal, I am writing to let you know the present position.

As the result of a petition to Parliament, the Select Committee which considered the matter, reported back with no recommendation to make. When this report was brought before the House, considerable discussion followed, and a request was made that a Committee be set up to investigate and report on the whole circumstances. This the Government agreed to, and Mr. J.H. Boyes, who you will recall is an ex-Public Service Commissioner, was asked to undertake the inquiry. As the result of his report Cabinet have now approved of -

1. Payment of a lump sum of £250 to Mr. Shortal. This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August, 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th July, 1920. +This represents a period of 10months and 10 days.

2. That he be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September, 1919 until the 10th July, 1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

I would mention for your own information that Mr. Boyes in his report stated that from the official file he could glean no actual evidence of victimisation, and although the decisions given in this case were no doubt strictly legally correct, he was of the opinion that perhaps some consideration might be given to the claims of Mr. Shortal. In view of this, Cabinet has agreed to the above.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) S. Jones

W.M.C.Denham, Esq.,
69 Bowmont Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

17.4.48

ARMY 1
306

17th April, 1948.

Dear Mr. Hanan.

In reference to the Petition which you presented to Parliament on behalf of Mr. John Shortal, 38 Fox Street, Invercargill, as you are aware the Select Committee, after considering the circumstances reported back with no recommendation to make. You will recall the request was made for a Committee to be set up to investigate the whole circumstances. This the Government agreed to and Mr. J.H. Boyes, who is an ex-Public Service Commissioner was asked to undertake the inquiry. Mr. Boyes has now submitted his report, which recommends -

1. Payment of a lump sum of £250 to Mr. Shortal. This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August, 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th July, 1920. This represents a period of 10 months and 10 days.

2. That he be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September, 1919 until the 10th July, 1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

The Government have approved of these recommendations, and in due course a cheque for the sum of £250 will be forwarded to Mr. Shortal.

I am writing to Mr. Shortal conveying the above information to him.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) T. Jones

J.R.Hanan, Esq., M.P.,
431 Elles Road,
INVERCARGILL.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

17.4.48

20th April, 1948.

Dear Mr. Boyes,

I have to thank you very much indeed for your report on the Shortal case.

I agree with the conclusions you have reached, and I propose to ask Cabinet to give effect to the recommendations that you have made.

The Army Secretary has informed me that you do not wish any monetary recompense, but I feel that it is not fair to recall you from your retirement without some tangible recognition, and I have accordingly asked the Army Secretary to arrange payment of the sum of £9.9.0.

A cheque for this amount will reach you from Treasury in the course of the next few days.

Yours faithfully,

Voucher forwarded 10/6/48.

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

MEMORANDUM 20 APR 1948 DESPATCHED

J.H. Boyes Esq.,
551 Broadway,
WELLINGTON, E.5.

Paid Voucher No 1478 Cheque 10/6/48

ARMY 1
306

13th April, 1948.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

RECOMMENDED -

(a) That a lump sum payment of £250 be paid.

(Note. This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th July 1920. This represents a period of 10 months and 10 days.)

(b) That Mr. Shortal be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September 1919 until the 10th July 1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

Voucher for £250 to Mr Boyes, passed

IN CABINET

13 APR 1948

approved.

Fess Chamberlain.

Secy

The Army Secretary.
Proceed.
F.J.
15/4/48.

Noted.
Controller and Auditor-General
12 MAY 1948

ON FILE

ARMY 1
306

13th April, 1948.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

PETITION - MR. JOHN SHORTAL

RECOMMENDED -

(a) That a lump sum payment of £250 be paid.

(Note. This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by Mr. Shortal from the date of his discharge (31st August 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th July 1920. This represents a period of 10 months and 10 days.)

(b) That Mr. Shortal be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September 1919 until the 10th July 1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment.

Voucher for £250 to Mr Boyes. Passed 15/4/48

IN CABINET

13 APR 1948

approved.

Fess Chamberlain.

Secy

The Army Secretary.
Proceed.
F.J.
15/4/48.

Noted.
Controller and Auditor General
12 MAY 1948

NOTES ON FILE

ARMY 1
306

MEMO. for

Mr. Dwyer.

The Minister telephoned Mr. Shortal this morning and from the conversation it would appear that he will not accept the £250.

In these circumstances I would suggest that the forwarding of the cheque be held over for a few days, as I think Mr. Shortal will be writing to the Minister on receipt of the attached communication.

26/4/48
4/5/48
J. A. Robertson
17.4.48
18/5/48

Office of the Minister of Defence.

144 pads/2 — 15205

17th April, 1948.

tion that was presented
J.R.Hanan, M.P., as you
by a Select Committee of
arliament with no
s report was brought before
ollowed, and a request
to investigate the whole
nt agreed to, and Mr.
ice Commissioner, was asked
oyes has now submitted

1. Payment of a lump sum of £250 to you. This sum is a little more than the equivalent pay of the rank held by you from the date of your discharge (31st August, 1919) until six months subsequent to the final termination of the war, that is the 10th July, 1920. This represents a period of 10 months and 10 days.

2. That you be granted the rank of 1st-Class Warrant Officer for the period 1st September, 1919, until the 10th July, 1920, this increase in rank to be regarded as a token of recognition only, and not to carry with it any additional monetary payment .

The Government have approved of these recommendations, and in due course a cheque for the sum of £250 will be forwarded to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) J. Jones

John Shortal, Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Army Secretary.
Referred.

17 4.48

03 ARMY.
WN.

261

JOHN SHORTAL ESQ.
38 FOX STREET
INVERCARGILL.

CABINET AUTHORITY 13/4/48.

11.5.48 TO:-

Grant to Mr. John Shortal of £250 equivalent of pay of rank from 31/8/19 to 19/7/20. 250 - -

unauthorised no 23.

--- two hundred and fifty ----- 250 - -

CONSOLIDATED FUND
ORDINARY REVENUE ACCOUNT is the amount is due.
UNAUTHORISED
026603/023 Grant to J. Shortal

38 Forth.
Lochargil

The Minister of Defence
Wellington

Dear Sir

Please forward me the amount you proved over the air less £5, to be given to the starving children of Europe.

no publicity to be given to such donation except receipt for same.

Yours faithfully,
John Shortal

NEW ZEALAND

Office of the Minister of Defence,

WELLINGTON C. 1.

11th May, 1948.

Dear Mr. Shortal.

I duly received your recent communication, and in reply desire to inform you that arrangements have now been made for the sum of £250 to be forwarded to you at an early date.

Your desire to donate the sum of £5 to the United Nations appeal for children is most praiseworthy. I would mention, however, that while the appeal has the wholehearted support of the Government it is being conducted by a special United Nations Appeal Committee set up for the purpose, and in the circumstances I think it preferable, if you still so desire, for you yourself to make the donation direct to the organiser of the local committee.

Yours faithfully,

John Shortal, Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Mr Dargen
Returned as discussed
with the Minister
J. A. Robertson
11/5.

Ty.—39A.] NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT (Large Size.)

03 ARMY. (Department)
WN. (Office.)

30942

To be used for address only.

JOHN SHORTAL ESQ.
38 FOX STREET
INVERCARGILL.

ADVICE NOTE ONLY

(To accompany any voucher for payment by Treasury and to be returned by Treasury to claimant with cheque.)

	Date of Service or Supply.	Particulars.	Amount.		
	19				
GABINET AUTHORITY 13/4/48.	11.5.48	TO:-			
		Grant to Mr. John Shortal of £250 equivalent of pay of rank from 31/8/19 to 19/7/20.	250	-	-
		- - - two hundred and fifty -----	250	-	-

URGENT.

CONSOLIDATED FUND
ORDINARY REVENUE ACCOUNT
UNAUTHORISED
026603/023 Grant to J. Shortal

is the amount is due.

rehed 26/ 19/5/48

1158—46]

number of years. I sent a Letter to a gentleman in Wellington. I requested him to hand it to you but only on one Condition and that is if he were convinced that a grave injustice was done. Did you Sir receive that Letter?

If so I do not think you will entertain the slightest doubt but that I was victimized! And, surely, Sir, no man who Claims to stand four square for Democracy but will admit that where victimization is abundantly proved then redress which Cannot now be fully granted should at least be as generous and equitable as is humanly possible.

Yours Sincerely

John Shortal

3% interest that would have accrued had I, at the time, deposited it in the Post Office Savings Bank a fitting recompence for an individual who, for that justice that has now been tardily granted to him who has been battling alone and against overwhelming odds for the past twentyeight years?..

If you Mr. Fraser, wish to see that I receive a conservative instalment of justice by way of compensation granted to me as well as the £250 + 3% accumulated interest for twentyeight years, then sir, I am sure you would agree that a substantial amount by way of compensation be granted me as well.

It is now recognized that I was victimized. The mere fact of granting me the Rank of warrant officer from 1st Sept. 1919, until the 10th July 1920 a rank denied to me twentyeight years ago and on the grounds that as I was only on Loan from the British Army "they could not promote me" proves conclusively that this victimization was being carried on surreptitiously for a

38 Fort St.,
Invercargill
22nd April 1948.

The Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, M.P. P.C.
House of Representatives,
Wellington.

Prime Minister's Office
30 APR 1948
ACKNOWLEDGED

Dear Sir,

With reference to my recent appeal to Parliament and now the recommendation made by Mr Boyes, I respectfully ask. –

In virtue of the arbitrary and not legal – because it was not in accordance with the Regulations or my Agreement – Agreement, (which I, for the sake of my wife and child was compelled to accept. "The duration of the war and six months thereafter" instead of renewal every five years up to the age of sixty five. Such duration of the war being for their own vendictive purposes defined twentyeight years ago as "six months after the Armistice" instead of six months from the date of ratification by His Majesty the King. And which now, twentyeight years later, is recognised as the proper interpretation

Is a belated payment of £250, for that period and without the minimum

HH:H

30th April, 1948.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd April with further reference to the matter about which you petitioned Parliament.

In order that the request conveyed in your letter may have consideration I am bringing it to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Defence with a request that he communicate with you direct in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Army Secretary.
For reply to Mr.
Shortal for my signature please.

for the Prime Minister.

5.5.48

Mr. J. Shortal,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

Hon. Minister of Defence.

Referred.

30/4/48.

ARMY DEPARTMENT. ARMY 1/306/AS

The Hon. Minister of Defence :

Submitted for signature, please, if approved.

Army Secretary
17/ 5 /1948.

FBD/MMF

ARMY 1/306/AS

17th May,1948.

Dear Mr. Shortal,

I have duly received your recent communication and I am attaching to this letter a cheque for £250, together with a Warrant as evidence of your appointment to the rank of Warrant Officer First Class as from the 1st of September,1919, until the 10th of July,1920.

Your desire to donate the sum of £5 to the United Nations appeal for children is most praiseworthy. I would mention, however, that while the appeal has the wholehearted support of the Government, it is being conducted by a special United Nations Appeal Committee set up for the purpose, and in the circumstances I think it preferable, if you still so desire, for you yourself to make the donation direct to the organiser of the local committee.

As you have already been advised, the Prime Minister has forwarded on to me the letter that you addressed to him, on which I would make the following comment.

I am sorry that it is not possible to supplement the amount of grant by accumulative interest, it having already been decided the total monetary sum that may be paid. On the other matter, i.e. the receipt of a letter from a gentleman in Wellington, I would say that so far no such letter has been presented.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. JONES

Minister of Defence.

Encls: 2

John Shortal Esq.,
38 Fox Street,
INVERCARGILL.

MEMORANDUM
17 MAY 1948
DESPATCH

Gen. Weir

to see please,

19.5.

Accn.

19.5.48

Ty.—160.]

UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE

No. 23

(For Treasury use only.)

THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER.

As it is necessary for the Public Service that the understated amount should be expended without the appropriation of Parliament, I desire in terms of section 58, subsection (1) of the Public Revenues Act, 1926, to submit the proposed expenditure for your approval, as a charge against the "Unauthorized Expenditure Account" out of the Consolidated Fund.

PARTICULARS OF THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.

Grant to Mr. John Shortal of £250 equivalent of pay of rank from 31/8/1919 to 10/7/1920. Approved by Cabinet 13th April, 1948.

Army Department.

April, 19 48

Army Secretary Head of Department.

RECOMMENDED:

April, 19 48

Minister of Defence

Forwarded to the Treasury. Departmental papers No. 1/306 herewith.

April, 19 48

Army Secretary. Head of Department.

The Honourable Minister of Finance. Submitted for approval.

The balance at credit of the "Unauthorized Expenditure Account" is sufficient to meet the charge.

, 19

Secretary to the Treasury.

Approved:

Minister of Finance.

, 19

Entered and forwarded to the Audit Office for notation.

, 19

Paymaster-General.

Noted in Audit Office.

, 19

Filed in Treasury. Departmental papers returned , 19

2,000/4/46—1522]

ARMY

306.

RECEIVED 14 MAY 1948 MAIN OFFICE

THE TREASURY,
P.O. BOX 5010,
LAMBTON QUAY POST OFFICE,
WELLINGTON. C.1.

13 MAY 1948 194 .

The Permanent Head,

ARMY Department,

Unauthorised re....GRANT TO JOHN SHORTAL £150....

.....

.....

.....

The application for the above mentioned Unauthorised has been approved by the Minister of Finance. The authority has been filed in the Treasury under No. 23

~~Departmental papers are returned herewith.~~

Encl: Army Secy

A/S

B. G. Cochrane
Secretary to the Treasury

File 23/5/48

FILING
No. of items
Initials

SICK. (Excused duty only.)		ATTACHED.	
Rank.	Name.	Rank.	Name.

ARMY 1/306

10th June, 1948.

Dear Mr. Boyes,

I enclose herewith a cheque for £8.14.9d. being the amount due to you as advised in the letter from the Minister of Defence dated 20/4/48.

I regret the delay that has been occasioned in the despatch of this cheque.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. B. DWYER

F.B. DWYER.
ARMY SECRETARY.

Encl:

Cheque for £8.14.9d.

J.H. Boyes, Esq.,
551 Broadway,
WELLINGTON.E.5.

MEMORANDUM
10 JUN 1948
DESPATCHED

File 10/6/48

FILING
No. of pieces 1
Initials DHG

[Form N.Z.—192.
(In pads of 100.)

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

EXTRACT.

202

11681

From N.Z. ARMY ORDERS 302

To

Date: 1st December, 1941

(Original on ____/____/____.)

HOME GUARD.

The following appointments to the Home Guard have been approved in the ranks stated. (All ranks are temporary). Dated 14th October, 1941:-

No. 16 Company, Manawatu.

Section Commander: Lieutenant John SHORTALL.

(D. 244/2/3.) 100 pads/7/40—5104. Forms 192/1(3).

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

[N.Z.—131.
(In pads of 50.)

RESIGNATION, TRANSFER TO THE RESERVE OF OFFICERS, OR RETIREMENT OF AN OFFICER OF TERRITORIAL FORCE.

UNIT: No 16 L. of C. M.T. Coy

D. SERIES. 308-No. 7

150 pads/11/40—12116]

Name. [Surname (in block letters), to be followed by Christian names in full.]	Present Rank.	Highest Rank held in New Zealand Expeditionary Force.	Date of Birth.	Length of Commissioned Service in New Zealand Forces.	Address.
SHORTALL, John	Lieutenant	—		10 months	Monmouth Street FEILDING

PUBLISHED IN SECURITY LIST 28

PUBLISHED IN GAZETTE No. 92 DATED 15.10.42

1. *To the Officer Commanding* No 16 L. of C. M.T. Coy

I, the above-named officer, hereby tender my application to—

(1) Resign my commission. (This means severing all connection with the Military Forces.)

~~(2) Be transferred to the RESERVE OF OFFICERS~~ {Class I (*b*). / Class II (*b*).

(To be eligible for posting to the Reserve of Officers, an officer must—(*a*) have been on active service as a commissioned officer; *or* (*b*) have served as an officer in the New Zealand Permanent Forces; *or* (*c*) have served as an officer in the Territorial Force for four years.

~~(3) Be posted to the RETIRED LIST.~~

(To be eligible for posting to the Retired List an officer must—(*a*) have been on active service as a commissioned officer; *or* (*b*) have served as a commissioned officer for not less than ten years (towards which period service on the Reserve of Officers counts half-time); *or* (*c*) have served as an officer of the New Zealand Permanent Forces for not less than four years.)

Signature of officer: John Shortall *Date:* 26 August 1942

2. *To the Staff Officer*

*i/c No.*_____ *Regimental District.*

Forwarded and recommended.

Shortall Capt

Commanding No 16 L of C. M.T. Coy

Date: 31st August 1942

(Note.—The Adjutant will inform the Brigade Commander.)

(D. 244/2/160.)

MILITARY DISTRICT No 10 RECEIVED 15 SEP 1942 HEADQUARTERS

3. *Headquarters,*

Central Military District *Command.*

Forwarded and recommended.

Major

Staff Officer i/c No._____ Regimental District.

A/c L of C, M.T. Units C.M.D.

Date: 4.9.42

4. *General Headquarters,*

Wellington.

Forwarded and recommended.

Lt Col 14.9.42.

Colonel-~~Commandant~~, District Commandant

Commanding Central Military District Command.

Date: 12/9/42

100/5/117/A

30/5/3

D. SERIES 202 SUB-NO. 11681

RECEIVED 15 SEP 1942 ARMY HEADQUARTERS

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

H.Q. Central Military District,
P.O. Box 118, Te Aro,
WELLINGTON. C.2.

14th. September, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for:-

Army Headquarters,
WELLINGTON. C.1.

RE: LIEUT. J. SHORTHALL - No.16 L. of C. M.T. COY.

Forms N.Z. 131 for the resignation of the above-named officer are forwarded herewith.

Lieut. Shorthall fractured his right leg in April and the wound has not healed. While in Hospital he contracted pneumonia and pleurisy. As it will be several months before Lieut. Shorthall will be fit for duty and the injury to his leg will probably result in a permanent limp it is recommended that his resignation be accepted.

PUBLISHED IN GAZETTE No. 92 DATED 15.10.42

PUBLISHED IN GAZETTE No. 28

A Hamilton Lt Col

COLONEL. N.Z.S.C.
District Commandant.
CENTRAL MILITARY DISTRICT.

Encl: Commission & Transport

FILING. No. of sheets 2 Initials

Do you concur?

I.T.

17 SEP 1942

Brigadier
Adjutant-General

EXTRACT.

D. 92 SERIES. SUB-NO. 11681 7

ARMY LIST 28.

Date 15th October 1942.

HOME GUARD.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION (MECHANICAL TRANSPORT) UNITS.

Captain (*temp.*) G. A. **LYE**, No. 25 Company, Christchurch, relinquishes his commission on appointment to the Territorial Force. Dated 3rd April, 1942.

Lieutenant (*temp.*) J. **SHORTHALL**, No. 16 Company, Manawatu, resigns his commission. Dated 26th August, 1942.

[Form No. 1.

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Shortal.

PERSONAL RECORD of (Surname.) Registration No. 8/1154

Shortal, John (Christian name.)

REGIMENT: Otago Infantry

GROUP: 13 NUMBER:

RECEIVED 13 NOV. 1916 FOR ADJUT.

PREVIOUS PAPERS:

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS:

DISCHARGED. NO LONGER PHYSICALLY FIT FOR WAR SERVICE.

28.3.16.

ENTERED ON HISTORY SHEET R W.P.

NOTE.

The E.F. 3a History-sheet, containing particulars of casualties, promotions, reversions, &c., is not attached to this file.

History-sheet is filed in Base Records Office, and particulars of contents will be supplied on application, if required.

[Form N.Z.—197.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

HOME GUARD.

Record No. D. 202

11681

NAME : SHORTALL, John

RETIRED.

Date of Birth :

PREVIOUS PAPERS :

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS :

REFERENCE PAPERS.
(For use of Central Registry only.)

SUBJECT :

Record No. D.

TRANSIT.

Referred to	Date.	Initials.	Referred to	Date.	Initials.	Referred to	Date.	Initials.
A.G.A.	15.9.42	A.Z.						
AG (a)	23.9.42	[illegible]						

File opened : (Date.)

File closed : (Date.)

5,000/1/42—15523]

I.S.

[Form N.Z.—227.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCES

PART 2

UNIQUE NO - 0359959

Record No. D. 1

NAME: SHORTAL, JOHN.

Army No. 306

DISCHARGED

1st NZEF	8/1/54
2nd NZEF	HG - NW
RF - TF	

VOL. II.

PREVIOUS PAPERS: I/306

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS:

REFERENCE PAPERS.

Subject:

Confidential Papers See

~~Record No.~~

"C" 45/62

TRANSIT.

Referred to	Date.	Initials.	Referred to	Date.	Initials.	Referred to	Date.	Initials.
26 FEB 1931			R.	26.4.39	EZ	Army Sec	15.8	
M.S.D.	5-3-31		Army Sec	13.7.39	BLO	A2	21/8	
R.	4-7-31		R.	24.7.39		Army Sec	22.8	
	8-5-34		Army Sec	10.8.39	BLO	A2	28.9	
			Army Sec	15.8.39	BLO	A2	4.10	
	31-5-39		R.	24.8.39	EZ			
R	19-6-34		Army Sec	31.8.39	BLO	A/Sec	10-3	
			R	8-9-39		C.G.S.	10-3	
R	5-10-34		Army Sec	22-5-40		A/S A/Sec	13-3	
	18-5-36		R	23.5.40		Army Sec	17-10	
R	18.5.36		A	22.5.41	BLO	A/Sec	20-10	
	26-4-36		A	2.10.42				
	2.10.36		A6	25.7.43	BLO	A/S A/S		
Army Sec	9.8.38		A6	23.8		A/S A/S	6.1.48	
Army Sec	17.3.39	BLO	A2	98		A/S A/Sec	8-1	
R	21-7-39		A Sec	14.8.49		A/S A/Sec	19-1	
Army Sec	12-4-39		A2	148				

File OPENED: 1937 File CLOSED: (Date)

500/3/27—6721

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of Shortal (Surname.) John. (Christian Name.) No. 8/1154.

Regiment or Corps.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank.	Date.	Authority for Entry.
O. S. B.	Sgt. Mjr (temporary) not to effect pay & allowances	W. Office	15.11.14 (GO 103 (17.10.14))	
	Transfd to Otago Dist.		10.6.16.	TPO. 539/2

CONDUCT-SHEET.

Regiment or Corps.	Place.	Date.	Offence.	Punishment.	Authority for Entry.

Special instances of gallant or meritorious conduct:

	Name of Medal.	Clasps.	Date of Grant.
Medals and Decorations			

PARTICULARS OF MARRIAGE.

Wife's Maiden Name (in full).	Place of Marriage.	Date.	Officiating Clergyman or Registrar.
Elizabeth Mechen. Spinster.	Milton Otago	6. 12. 11.	Rev. Jas. Howard.

PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN.

Christian Names.	Date of Birth and Age.	Where born.	Where registered.
Mary Phyllis.	6 9. 12.	Milton Otago	Milton Otago.

[50,000/10/15—15774

[B.F. Form No. 3a.

No.

8/164

Zealand address:

Service

	Years.	Days.
Home Service		214
Foreign Service		325
Total Service	1	173

Wounds ...

Sick ...

	11.9.15.	England Netley Hos. (slightly sick. 3-9-15)
248	103	Admtd to Hos. Malta ex H.S. Valdivia 20.8.15
Left on H.S. 8-1-5-17		Influenza Diarrhoea & Piles
248	103	Embk. on H.T. Ruahine for N.Z. from England & struck off strength N.Z.E.F. 17-11-15

Killed in action ...

Died of wounds* sickness*

Missing ...

Prisoner ...

Injuries in or by the Service ... Struck off strength of N.Z.E.F. (Specify year.) No longer phys. fit for War Service

Discharge ... Provisional: (Date) Final: 28-8-16 ~~17-11-15~~ (Date) Intended address: ~~Wind Home Hotel, Milton.~~ Inglefakere

Pension ...

ISSUE AUTHORISED
Gallipoli Lapel badge A608
Gallipoli Medallion
Date 11/6/67

* Strike out words not required.

N.Z.E.F. WAR ACCOUNTS AND RECORD OFFICE,
Government Buildings,
Wellington.

Dear Sir—

As it is hoped that it may shortly be possible to issue the British War Medal and Illuminated Certificate of Service, it is desired to give you an opportunity of agreeing with the information held by this office concerning yourself, and which will be embodied on the medal and certificate or other documents yet to be issued, as medals and documents once issued can only be altered at the recipient's expense.

If all you please, therefore, check the particulars on the back hereof and return this form complete to me as early as possible after appending your signature in the space provided at the foot.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. HUTCHEN,
Officer in Charge.

, 192

E.F. Form No. 3A.

No. 8/1154

Zealand address:

Service

			Rank	Days	Home Service Years	Home Service Days
N.Z.	14-10-14	14-2-15		130		214
Foreign.	14-2-15	2-1-16		325	Foreign Service	325
Returning N.Z. Rarohine 4.1.16						
N.Z.	5-1-16	28-3-16		84	Total Service	
			1	173	1	173

Wounds

No. 8/1154. Rank L.S.M. (NCI)

Name: John Sherlock

Address: Inglewood

Periods of Service.		Theatres of Operation.
In New Zealand:	years 213 days.	Australasian
Overseas ...	years 325 days.	Egyptian
Total service ...	1 years 173 days.	Egyptian E.F.
Date commenced duty:	7-10-14	Balkan
Date finally discharged:	28-3-16	Western European / Asiatic

Decorations:

The foregoing particulars are correct.

Signature

N.B. Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

Sick ... 1 to 3-9-15 / 20-8-15 from 17-11-15

Killed in action

Died of wounds / sickness

Missing ...

Prisoner ...

Injuries in or by the Service ... Struck by bomb No longer physically fit for War Service

Discharge ... Provisional: 28-3-16 (Date) Final: 17-11-15 (Date) Intended address: Inglewood

Pension ...

ISSUE AUTHORISED
Gallipoli Lapel Badge
Gallipoli Medallion A608
Date 11/5/67

* Strike out words not required.

3rd.

HISTORY-SHEET.

Notice of posting to soldier: [E.F. Form No. 3A.
Duplicate to Headquarters: 29/4/16

Unit.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.	No.
O.I.B. 16th Coy.	R.S.M. (W.O.)	Shortal	John.	8/1154

Occupation: Soldier.
Last employer: N. Z. Government.
Religion: R. C. 8-12-1890
Last New Zealand address: Milton Otago

Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand): Mrs Elizabeth Shortal - Wife. Milton Otago.

Home Service.	
Years.	Days.
	214
Foreign Service:	
	325
Total Service:	
1	173

No. 8/1154. Rank: R.S.M. W.O.I.
Name: John Shortal
Address: Invercargill

Periods of Service.

In New Zealand: — years 213 days.
Overseas ... — years 325 days.
Total service ... 1 years 173 days.
Date commenced duty: 7.10.14
Date finally discharged: 25.3.16

Theatres of Operation.

Australasian
Egyptian 1915
Egyptian E.F.
Balkan Gallip. 6.9.15 to 20
Western European
Asiatic

Decorations:

1914-15 (Ex.) BRITISH WAR MEDAL MEDAL ACTION COMPLETE. 11/4/2nd
VICTORY MEDAL

The foregoing particulars are correct.
Signature:

N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

Decorations:

1914-15 (Ex.) BRITISH WAR MEDAL 13 DEC 1920 5 AUG 1921
VICTORY MEDAL 20 JAN 1922

The foregoing particulars are correct.
Signature: J Shortal

N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

Killed in action ...
Died of wounds or sickness ...
Missing ...
Prisoner ...
Injuries in or by the Service ... No longer plays fit for War Service. Struck off Sgts. 8/2/18 (Signature of Sgt.)

Discharge ... Provisional: 28-3-16 (Date) Final: 17-11-15 (Date)
Intended address: ~~Wide Home Hotel, Milton~~ Invercargill

Pension ...

ISSUE AUTHORISED
Gallipoli Lapel badge A608
Gallipoli Medallion
Date 11/6/67

* Strike out words not required.

WILL FOR THE FAMILY OF 'JOHN SHORTAL'

/1970

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND

CANTERBURY DISTRICT,

TIMARU REGISTRY.

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SHORTAL

late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor deceased.

I, ARTHUR COLIN ROWDEN DALEY of Timaru in New Zealand, District Public Trustee, make oath and say as follows:

1. THAT I am duly appointed the District Public Trustee for Timaru and am authorised by the Public Trustee to make this affidavit.

2. THAT JOHN SHORTAL late of Invercargill, in New Zealand died at Timaru, in New Zealand, on or about the 21st day of November, 1969, as I am able to depose from an affidavit of death of the said deceased now in my possession and intended to be filed herein.

3. THAT I believe the paperwriting now produced and shown to me, bearing date the 16th day of August, 1961, to be the last will and testament of the said deceased.

4. THAT the Public Trustee is the executor named therein.

5. THAT the Public Trustee will faithfully execute the said will by paying the debts and legacies of the said deceased so far as the property will extend and the law binds, and will whenever ordered so to do after the grant of probate to him file in this Court and verify by affidavit a true, full, and perfect inventory of all the estate, effects, and credits of the said deceased which shall have come into his hands, possession, or knowledge, and also a full, distinct and proper account of his execution of the will which shall set forth the dates and particulars of all receipts and disbursements and show which of the same are, in his opinion, on account of capital and on account of income respectively.

SWORN AT TIMARU aforesaid this 30th day of January, 1970, before me,

A Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

Probate No. 30 /1970 P.T.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND

CANTERBURY *District*,
TIMARU *Registry*.

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SHORTAL
late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor, deceased.

EX PARTE:
NOTICE OF MOTION FOR PROBATE AND AFFIDAVIT TO LEAD GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that ~~Counsel~~/Solicitor for the applicant will move the ~~Judge~~ Registrar in Chambers for an order that Probate of the will of the above-named deceased be granted to the Public Trustee, the executor therein named, upon the grounds appearing in the affidavits filed herein.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 1970.

To the Registrar of the Supreme Court at Timaru.

Certified pursuant to the rules of Court to be correct.

This application is made in reliance on section 4 of the Administration Act 1952 and rule 518 *et seq.* of the Code of Civil Procedure.

J. A. Callaghan
~~Counsel moving~~
Solicitor engaged in the proceedings.

OA 21.11.69

Accordingly,

P. D. Clancy
Registrar, Christchurch
9/2/70

-2 II 70 1720 $-5.00

JUSTICE DEPT
-2 FEB 1970
TIMARU

THE SOLICITOR,
PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE,
Timaru.

Public Trustee - 3 FEB 1970
Solicitors 16 FEB 1970
Stamp Duties Dep 20 FEB 1970

Public Trust
No. 316

In the Supreme Court of New Zealand,

CANTERBURY District

TIMARU Registry

In the Estate of JOHN SHORTAL

late of Invercargill,
in New Zealand, Retired
Army Instructor, deceased.

I, MARY PHYLLIS LAWRENCE

of Timaru, in New Zealand,
Married Woman, make oath and say as follows:

1. That I knew JOHN SHORTAL of
Invercargill, in New Zealand,
Retired Army Instructor, now deceased, when alive, and

that the said deceased was resident or was domiciled at Invercargill.

2. That the said deceased died at Timaru
on or about the 21st day of November, 1969, as
I am able to depose from having been present at his funeral.

SWORN at Timaru
this 5th day of December,
1969, before me—

M. P. Lawrence

A Solicitor of the Supreme Court
of New Zealand.

200 pads/9/65—9603 W

2.

P. 30/~~69~~ 70

In the Supreme Court of New Zealand
CANTERBURY DISTRICT
TIMARU REGISTRY

In the Estate of JOHN SHORTAL late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor

, deceased

AFFIDAVIT OF DEATH

of the Deceased

SUPREME COURT
- 2 FEB 1970
TIMARU

THE SOLICITOR,
PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE,
TIMARU.

Public Trust,
No. 27

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND,

CANTERBURY DISTRICT,
TIMARU REGISTRY.

No. 30/70

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SHORTAL

late of Invercargill,

in New Zealand,

Retired Army Instructor, deceased.

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN that on this 9th day of February, 1970 the last will of JOHN SHORTAL late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor, deceased, who died on or about the 21st day of November, 1969 a copy of which is hereunto annexed, has been exhibited, read, and proved in Chambers before Mr Registrar Clancy at Christchurch acting under rule 426H of the Code of Civil Procedure

and administration of the estate, effects, and credits of the deceased has been and is hereby granted to the PUBLIC TRUSTEE, the executor named in the said will, being first sworn faithfully to execute the said will by paying the debts and legacies of the deceased so far as the property extends and the law binds and, whenever ordered so to do, to file in this Court and verify by affidavit a true, full and perfect inventory of all the estate, effects, and credits of the deceased which shall have come into his hands, possession, or knowledge, and also a full, distinct, and proper account of his execution of the will.

GIVEN under the seal of the Supreme Court of New Zealand at Timaru this 9th day of February, 1970

D.G.L. STEED

Deputy Registrar.

L.S.

REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT
TIMARU

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
DEPUTY Registrar.

Public Trust, No. 27

DUTIES DIVISION, INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT № 174437

From the Registrar, Supreme Court Timaru 30/70

~~Letters of Administration/Order to Administer~~/Copy Will/~~Exemplification~~

John Shortal deceased. No. 30/70

20th day of February 1970

This copy to be signed by Duties Division and returned to Supreme Court.

INLAND REVENUE DEPT. 20 FEB 1970

Assistant Commissioner of Stamp Duties.

in New Zealand,

Retired Army Instructor, deceased.

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN that on this 9th day of February, 1970 the last will of JOHN SHORTAL late of Invercargill, in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor, deceased, who died on or about the 21st day of November, 1969 a copy of which is hereunto annexed, has been exhibited, read, and proved in Chambers before Mr Registrar Clancy at Christchurch acting under rule 426H of the Code of Civil Procedure

and administration of the estate, effects, and credits of the deceased has been and is hereby granted to the PUBLIC TRUSTEE, the executor named in the said will, being first sworn faithfully to execute the said will by paying the debts and legacies of the deceased so far as the property extends and the law binds and, whenever ordered so to do, to file in this Court and verify by affidavit a true, full and perfect inventory of all the estate, effects, and credits of the deceased which shall have come into his hands, possession, or knowledge, and also a full, distinct, and proper account of his execution of the will.

GIVEN under the seal of the Supreme Court of New Zealand at Timaru this 9th day of February, 1970

D.G.L. STEED

Deputy Registrar.

L.S.

REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT TIMARU

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

DEPUTY Registrar.

NO. 30/70
IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND,

CANTERBURY DISTRICT,
TIMARU REGISTRY.

IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN SHORTAL

late of Timaru, in New Zealand,

Retired Army Instructor, deceased.

Copy PROBATE

THE SOLICITOR,
PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE,
TIMARU.

SUPREME COURT
19 FEB 1970
TIMARU

P.T.—199

This is the Last Will

of me, JOHN SHORTAL

of Invercargill

in New Zealand, Retired Army Instructor.

1. I REVOKE all former Wills, AND I APPOINT THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE of New Zealand to be my Executor and Trustee.

2. I GIVE AND BEQUEATH the sum of One hundred English pounds (£Eng.100) to my second-cousin DELIA O'SHEA.

3. I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH the whole of my estate both real and personal of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situate not hereinbefore otherwise disposed of unto my trustee UPON TRUST to pay thereout my just debts funeral and testamentary expenses and all death duties payable in respect of my estate and to stand possessed of the residue for my daughter MARY PHYLLIS LAWRENCE should she survive me but should she predecease me then for such of them her children as survive me and if more than one in equal shares.

This is the paper writing now produced and shown to Arthur Colin Rowden Daley District Public Trustee for Timaru, and referred to in his affidavit to lead grant of probate to the Public Trustee as sole executor, sworn at Timaru, this 30th day of January, 1970, before me:-

A Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

As witness my hand, this 16th day of August 1961.

Signed by the above-named JOHN SHORTAL as his last Will, in the presence of us, together present at the same time, who at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

John Shortal

Solicitor
Invercargill

Civil Servant
Invercargill

:00 pads/2/60—18517 W

3.

P. 30/970

Dated 16th day of August 1961.

Will

OF

JOHN SHORTAL

THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

SUPREME COURT
2 FEB 1970
TIMARU

NOTE: SEE JOURNAL TWO FOR COMPLETE GENEALOGY BREAKDOWN FOR THE 'SHORTALL (SHORTAL) AND MECHAM FAMILIES'