

s.19(1)

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AS IS

CONFIDENTIAL

Camp Capetown, NB
18 Feb 60

Col E C Brown
Area Commander
HQ NB Area
FREDERICTON, NB

Sir:

I am [redacted] a Chaplain in the Canadian Army, who has been recommended for release under Item 5(b)(ii) of the table to QR (Army) 18.01.

I object to this release, and, I heretby present a redress of grievances against this recommendation, for I deny that there was at any time any action or statement between [redacted] and myself that had as its motive or intent the establishment of an unnatural relationship between [redacted] and myself. This categorical denial is contained in a letter to Col Brown, Deputy Chaplain General (P) d/25 Jan 60, and which was also made to General Rogers, General Officer Commanding, Eastern Command, on the afternoon of 25 Jan 60. Furthermore, I deny the false accusations which [redacted] has made in his statement under date of 5 Jan 60 and I assert them to be a complete distortion of facts.

My grounds for redress are as follows:

- (1) [redacted] a emotional instability, alluded to by my statement of 5 Jan 60, and which is substantiated by the statements of Mr J Mitchell and WO S Maclean attached. This is further substantiated by the following incidents, reference to which is not made in my original statement.
 - (a) On one occasion in my office, while [redacted] was typing a letter, he suddenly said, "See how, it is funny how I can like a person one minute and HATE him the next". I was taken aback by [redacted] outburst but at this moment someone came into the office and the remark passed unobserved.
 - (b) On another occasion, [redacted] said without any provocation, "You think I'm a good boy, don't you, but I'm just as full and full of fifty thoughts as the rest of the guys around here". Again I was rather startled by this remark, but before I had an opportunity to enquire as to what he meant, the telephone rang and my attention was directed to other more pressing matters.
 - (c) On the Monday afternoon, following his Christmas leave (28 Dec), [redacted] boasted to me of how his leave had been a continual round of drinking parties in

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(3) Concerning the criticism of my statement under date of 6 Jan (by the DG AP, as intimated to me by Col Brown, Deputy Chaplain General), to the effect that it does not contain a categorical denial of [redacted]'s accusation.

The terms of reference of my statement, which were given to me over the telephone by the Command Chaplain in Halifax on the evening of 7 Jan were "to relate the course of events in my acquaintanceship with [redacted] from the time he came into my employ". I read my statement to Lt Col Charles Askwith, CO of 2nd Battalion, Black Watch, on the morning of 8 Jan and, on hearing it, he said that it was a good statement and, on hearing it, he said that it was a good statement. Col Askwith did not indicate that anything further in a relation of the course of events was required in my statement. [redacted]'s statement had left me shocked but I consistently asserted that his accusations were false. The first opportunity I had to formally deny these accusations was on 25 Jan, the very day my release was authorized. No one had bothered to get statements from [redacted]'s Regimental Officers or NCOs or to interview them, and the statements which are attached are the first that have been presented.

(4) Concerning the criticism of indiscretion which arises following [redacted]'s accusations, and concerning the visit to a friend's home, which Col Brown intimated to me is now the grounds on which the DG AP recommends release.

[redacted] was always homesick and he constantly expressed the desire to be away from the restrictions of an army camp. Many evenings I had driven him to the PWL Area to various homes. He had been to our own home several times, where he was always welcome and where my wife and I received him as cordially as we received any other private soldier whom we entertained. On the trip to Saint John on 19 Oct, [redacted] himself expressed a wish to visit the home which we had visited some weeks before. I had phoned my friend after refreshments at our church meeting to enquire if this hour were too late to drop by, I was assured that it was not, and we arrived at my friend's home shortly before 2300 hrs.

In substantiation of these grounds for release I submit the following statement of events from 3 Jan to the present.

On Sunday, 3 Jan, while I was in Saint John on a preaching engagement which I had previously cleared through the Area Chaplain, Major Mattson, Padre Perrier interviewed [redacted] at the latter's request at Camp Ogdontown. When he realized the nature of the interview, Padre Perrier called in Padre Johnston as a witness and they both decided to refer the matter to Major Mattson. Padre Mattson, therefore, contacted [redacted] and had him make his formal statement before Major George, V I/O of the 1st Battalion, Black Watch, at the same time he phoned [redacted]'s father, a WO 2 in Reparville, Ont. None of the Chaplains had the consideration to refer to me before taking any action. Padre Mattson, himself although told by Major Butler, the Commanding Chaplain to take no action before speaking to me, did not speak to me.

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with me on the matter until Monday morning after he had seen [redacted]

On Monday morning Col Askwith called me into his office shortly before nine o'clock. He was about to leave but he showed me [redacted]'s statement saying, "This is awful, you must both be posted". While I was reading the statement, Col Askwith received a phone call from Brig Danby and he had to leave immediately. I was given no opportunity to make a statement or formal denial, let alone discuss the matter.

Monday afternoon I put a call through to Arthur Limerick, a Fredericton lawyer, with the intent of suing [redacted] for defamation of character. I told Padre Matten this when he visited me in my office but he advised me not to do anything until Maj Butler, the Command Chaplain, arrived from Halifax. When Mr. Limerick telephoned, therefore, I discussed another matter with him and I have not pursued the subject since. Padre Butler arrived at our home between ten and half-past ten Monday night. Padre Butler had not seen [redacted]'s statement at this time and I tried to explain to him, as well as I remembered from my brief glance at it in the morning, what it contained. I denied [redacted]'s allegations and stated that I could not understand why [redacted] would want to do such a dastardly thing.

Padre Butler was visibly much upset and acknowledged quite frankly that he did not know what to do. I told him that Col Askwith felt both Walker and I should be posted but that I would prefer to fight the thing out here. My wife and I urged Padre Butler to interview [redacted], a step which he debated doing, but which he eventually did. I also requested that he see Walker and me together, a step which he thought unwise and refused. At no time, therefore, was I given the opportunity to confront [redacted] either in presence of [redacted]

Tuesday morning Padre Butler consulted with [redacted] and various individuals. I saw him very briefly about noon-time. In the afternoon he met again at the Chapel, where the other three Chaplains were all assembled. Padre Butler showed me [redacted]'s statement again in the presence of the Area Chaplain. A call was put through to the Assistant Chaplain General, Col Snow, in Ottawa, who, Padre Butler told me, would request my release if there were any grounds in [redacted]'s statement. I assured Padre Butler that Walker's statement was a lie and that I would not resign as there was no just cause for my resignation. I also requested an interview with [redacted] at the earliest possible moment.

Although Padre Butler visited our home on Tuesday evening, 3 Jan, the matter was not discussed again. As I was driving Padre Butler back to Camp, I stated that I would not have believed [redacted] could be so vindictive. Wednesday morning, before Padre Butler left for Halifax, I telephoned him to ask whether or not it would be a good thing for me to see [redacted]. He agreed that it would be a good thing and I put in a request through my Commanding Officer, Lt [redacted]. I saw Brig Danby on Thursday, who received me sympathetically and who assured me that

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I would be going to Ottawa to see Col Brown, the first of the following week, where he felt the matter would have to be settled. This is the only interview I had with Brig Denby prior to 19 Jan when he presented me with a statement of intent to release. This notice of intent to release states, "As a result of discussions you and I have had concerning incidents which have been under investigation this month, I consider that your usefulness to the Canadian Army has been prejudiced". I fail to understand Brig Denby's reference to "discussions" when I had seen him only once on the matter, at my own request. I also fail to understand how my usefulness to the Army has been prejudiced, merely on the grounds of a statement, the truth of which I have denied. I contend that there has been general confusion throughout army channels in this matter, for the DG AP had ruled that there must be a complete referral on a staff net before I would be allowed an interview with Col Brown, whereas at Brigadier level, certainly both the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion Black Watch and the Brigadier indicated that the decision rested in Ottawa with the Director of Chaplains Service.

Tuesday evening Padre Butler informed me by telephone that I was to make a statement, the terms of reference for which I quoted in para 5. I prepared a statement, which I read to Col Aswith on Friday morning, 9 Jan. This statement was typed that afternoon and, at the very moment that Maj George was in my office to witness my signature to this statement (1630 hrs), Padre Butler telephoned to inform me that he had just signed a recommendation for my release. I was stunned for no one had seen my statement, other than Col Aswith. Obviously Maj Butler's decision was made before I was given the opportunity to outline my position.

The following week passed and there was still no authority for my visit with the Deputy Chaplain General. On Tuesday, 19 Jan, I was summoned to Brig Denby's office where he read me the notice of intent to release. That same afternoon, in Brig Denby's office, I protested my release, stating that I felt it was unjust. I also again requested an interview with Col Brown.

On the Friday following I asked Col Aswith for advice as to whether I should not see a lawyer or the D.A.J.A.G. He replied that he wished I could get to Ottawa. I requested that he call the Brigadier to ask his opinion and he advised that I not take any step until authority came for me to go to Ottawa to see the Deputy Chaplain General. On Monday, 25 Jan, while I was in Col Aswith's office, I learned that General Hogart was in the camp. I asked to see him, a request which was granted, but before I saw him I was informed by Brig Denby that my request for an interview with the Deputy Chaplain General was refused and that I was to be released immediately. I requested General Hogart to petition again for permission to interview the Deputy Chaplain General. This petition was granted and I had an interview with Col Brown in Ottawa on Friday, 29 Jan, when, for the first time in the course of events, the incidents related in a statement were formally dealt with - after my release had been authorized.

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My release is still pending and I wish to state that I feel a profound sense of injustice that a Chaplain who has served his Queen and country faithfully should be subjected to the slanderous fabrication of a young man who obviously should never have joined the Army.

If you, sir, cannot deal with this matter, I would request that my address be forwarded to the GOC, Eastern Command, and to higher authority if required.

[Redacted]
Camp Dagetown, SB

- Annex I My own statement, under date 8 Jan
- Annex II [Redacted] statement
- Annex III [Redacted] statement
- Annex IV [Redacted] intent to release

A copy of [Redacted]'s statement is not attached as the Brigadier has stated that I am not entitled to a copy.

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