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regulations (since I took matter up
last April and was verbally promised
them to be allowed to keep my command)
published last June by Minister of
Militia and which he has to abide by.

That is how the matter stands today.
I have therefore concluded to write Gen
Turner who is in charge of all
Canadian Forces in England, state
my case, and ask his personal
advice as to what steps to take
to get the leave and also retain my
command. I have just written the
letter and will hear in say 10 days
and before you get this. If he can
offer any suggestion I will follow it
up and advise you by cable. If he
can do nothing I will put in my
application with a rider that I wish
to retain my command and do all

Aug 25-17
Nov 25-17

1917-18

Belgium
4 Nov 17

My dear Father

Just a few lines to tell you
the present situation re my leave to
Canada.

I saw ^{my} General Farmer yesterday
(who looks after all the administrative
side for the whole Corps under Lieut.
General Curry) and showed him your
letter and said I was going to put in
an application soon and stated my
reasons. He was extremely nice
and said the case looked like a
valid one that would come under
the "leave on compassionate grounds"
regulations and he felt sure

experience in administrative work to enable me to fill a
staff appointment, such a vacancy might be a year in
accruing and I would have to hang around the Depot or
visit the lower rank and come back under Smith
or McEwen to whom I am now senior. You can
see that I would not like this and certainly could not
stand kicking my heels out around the depot with nothing
to do. The only other alternative would be to go back to
civilian life and run the chance of being called up later
as a lieutenant under conscription's act if I were needed.
That is the situation today and I believe I can get no help
over here as Corps Commanders' hands are tied by new

the Corps Commander (Lt Gen Curry)
before whom all such cases come
would approve of it when presented.

Then he said that of course I
understood that the Corps over here
had nothing to do with leave to Canada
further than recommending it and
sending the applicant to England from
where the leave was granted. That is
as far as their powers go. Further
that after 30 days elapse I would be
struck off the strength of regiment
and Corps and my place filled and
that when I came back to England
I would be posted to the Canadian
Cavalry Depot and have to wait
until there was a vacancy over
here before I could return. As there
is only one cavalry regiment in
the Corps as I have had had no

Will send my cables day rate
(not deferred) and will expect
you to answer in same way.

I am hoping of course that I
can cable as per ① but just
in case my efforts here are of
no avail thought it just as well
to let you have full particulars
at once and plan an exchange
of cables.

Thanks for letter of Sept 30th
re Tractors. I am thinking about
them and greatly in favor of going
after marine battery work very
hard. Will write fully tomorrow
and also plan a deferred lettergram
to you on subject for next week
and
very much love Ibb

I
I want to have the Corps Commander
forward it to Canadian Minister of
Militia, but of course cannot force
him to do so, nor would it be
policy for me to try to do so.

Of course I might ask you to take
the matter up with Minister at Ottawa
but I would not like this as it
would be going over heads of those
in command here and they would
not forget it to the detriment of my
interests and advancement overseas.

If I can get no satisfaction from
Gen Turner, ^{in England} or Corps Commander here
I will cable you and ask you to
decide whether you think the need

it means losing my job will cable you one of the three following:-

① "Have had reasonable promise that I can get leave without losing my command"
(no answer)

② "Do you really need me now" = I am cannot be granted by authorities in England or France without my leaving my command but if you consider my position urgently needed in Canada I am prepared to run the chance of losing command.

③ "Please see Minister" = See Minister of Militia with a view of getting him to take up matter on your behalf with authorities in England & France.

④ "Will interview Minister"
⑤. Postpone your application

for me at home is sufficient to prevent my losing my command or whether you can wait longer for my visit in the hope that later on arrangements are made to grant those who have been away longest leave to Canada as has already been talked of for 1st Division this winter but apparently dropped now. I see such an arrangement on platform of some candidates for forthcoming general election.

Whatever you cable in reply I will abide by. says to

If Gen Turner takes up matter with Minister in Ottawa I will cable you to that effect but do not want to do that on my own for reasons already stated

I will do all I reasonably can to push it through here but if