

File # 1-12  
W.H. Harrison 1939



R. R. I. Milner, B.C.

Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1939.

Dear Mr. Reid,

I thank you very much for your sympathetic letter, which I received last evening. I trust that you personally feel that we are not asking for something to which we are not entitled. I have a clear conscience myself, & still think our case held up because of unkind reports on the part of a neighbour some time ago. We are going to have a hard time for awhile trying to meet our promises to the S.S.B. My husband received a letter from the W.V.A. secretary to the effect that the allowance was "for maintenance only, not for making payments to the S.S.B.", & yet, a few days ago, Mr. Godfrey came around to ask my husband to assign at least \$5.00 of his pension towards his monthly payment of \$6.50 to the S.S.B., arguing that maintenance included rent, or its equivalent, for a dwelling. With three children on our hands, we could not see our way to doing that just now.

I wish I could have had a talk with you. My husband, I sincerely believe, should have had a larger pension for his <sup>own</sup> disability, but the fact is,



he was so thankful to have recovered (he was in Bath hospital for seven months, & not expected to live!) & to be able to walk, he never thought of pensions at all. Fortunately the bone in his leg was not injured, so he does not walk with a limp, but the boot on his sound limb always is the first to need repair, showing he uses it more to save the injured one, but unfortunately the muscles between the knee & thigh were badly cut away, so that it is quite impossible for him to sit on his heels in a kneeling position. This makes <sup>him</sup> quite unable to work in a mine, as he had done, so when the poorly business went to pieces he could not look around for a job of that sort. We have a friend whose foot was amputated, but who had worked a diamond drill at Hedley, his disability did not prevent his doing that work, & of course he has a higher rate of pension than my husband.

However, as he was getting along in years, we thought there would be no difficulty in obtaining the full allowance, especially as we have a family to start out in the world.

I wonder if you would tell me just what the reason was for refusing your request on our behalf. Both Mr. Payne & Mr. J. Jones think we are entitled to the full allowance, so I do not understand what it can be.



In the ~~last~~ letter we received notifying us of the  
\$5.00 increase you obtained for us, it was stated  
that our case would be reconsidered later on.

Well I'm afraid this is a rather rambling  
letter, but you have been so very sympathetic  
I trust you will not mind wading through it.

Perhaps you would keep us in mind, & if  
you see an opportunity, at some future time, to  
help us out, will you?

With best Thanks from both myself & my husband,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Harold M. Harrison.

P.S. If you can manage it, will you try  
to have a few minutes talk with  
my husband at the Legion meeting in  
Sept.?



Newton, B.C.,  
August 25th, 1939.

Mrs. F. M. Harrison,  
R. R. No. 1,  
Milner, B.C.

Dear Mrs. Harrison;

Just a note following my visit to Ottawa and to say that every representation was made by myself to the War Veterans' Allowance Board on behalf of Mr. Harrison, but I am afraid the results have not been successful.

I want to assure you it was through no lack of interest on my part and I am very disappointed indeed to have to write and tell you, but deemed it advisable, however, to let you know and I am indeed sorry and I realize just what this would have meant to you.

With kind personal regards,

I remain

Yours sincerely,

Tom Reid, M.P.

TR/P

File # 1-12  
W.H. Harrison 1939





CANADA

WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCE BOARD

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO FILE NO.  
AND PLEASE QUOTE  
YOUR REGIMENTAL NUMBER

DALY BUILDING,  
OTTAWA, August 11th, 1939.

T. Reid, Esquire, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Reid:

Re: #464537 - HARRISON, William H.

Reference letter you left with me yesterday from the above named, this man was awarded Veterans' Allowance at the rate of \$20.00 per month, effective 1st of November, 1936. This was increased to \$30.00 per month, effective the 1st of January, 1938, and to \$35.00 per month, effective February 1st, 1939.

He also receives a 10% pension to a total amount for himself, wife and children, of \$13.00 per month, or a total cash income from the Government of \$48.00 per month, \$576.00 per annum.

He resides on a farm under the Soldier Settlement of Canada and his indebtedness to that body was reduced to \$1,000.00 under the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act, this sum to be repayable in monthly payments of \$6.50. In effect, he is now asking that the Dominion Government provide \$5.00 per month of this \$6.50.

On the 11th of February, 1939, the Chairman of this Board advised you that this recipient's Allowance was being increased from \$30.00 to \$35.00 per month, when it was hoped that the additional amount would enable him to meet his payments to the Soldier Settlement of Canada.

In the opinion of this Board, his maintenance is provided for by his cash income as set out in the first part of this letter plus whatever maintenance is secured from his small holdings, and no further increase is indicated.

Yours very truly,

*D. Carmichael*

D. Carmichael,  
Acting Chairman.

DC/CH



R. R. I. Milner, B.C.

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1939.

Dear Mr. Reid.

Could you come to our assistance one more? My husband has come to an agreement with the S.S.B., under the Farmers Credits Agreement Act, & will be required to make a monthly payment to them of about \$6.50 per month.

His 'steady' income consists of \$13.00 disability pension, & \$35.00 Veterans' Allowance. According to the Act his 'steady' income may be as much as \$60.00 per month, including the V. allowance, & this, I take it, for a married man with no dependent children! The property, on which <sup>we</sup> live, has been valued at \$1000.00, & it is this property on which we have to make the monthly payment of \$6.50, & which the Board claims in repayment of our loan. While we are glad to have come to an agreement with the S.S.B. & other creditors, it does not need explaining that \$48.00 - \$6.50 is not enough to meet necessary family requirements. The other \$5.00 would be a great help. Will you see what can be done about it?

Yours very sincerely,

Harold M. Harrison.

P.S. Would it be possible for you to drop in & see my husband some time when you are out this way?



Newton, B.C.,  
July 26th, 1939.

*W. V. a.*

Mrs. P. M. Harrison,  
R. R. No. 1,  
Milner, B.C.

Dear Mrs. Harrison;

I am in receipt of your letter of July 25th in which you again write me regarding the matter of War Veterans' Allowance and the circumstances connected with the payment to be made to the S.S.B.

I note what you say regarding the \$6.50 which you are required to pay to the S.S.B. on your property, and quite realize some of the difficulties confronting you. You are asking if it would be possible to have the War Veterans' Allowance increased from \$35.00 to \$40.00, and may say in regard to this that as I intend to go down to Ottawa in a few days will take the appeal of your case with me and hope that the representations made will bring about the desired results.

Assuring you of my continued interest on your behalf, and with kind personal regards,

I remain

Yours sincerely,

Tom Reid, M.P.

TR/P

W. H. Harrison  
1939  
File # 1-12



Mr Tom Reid M.P.  
Ottawa.

R.R. Milner 136  
Feb 17<sup>th</sup>/39

Dear Mr Reid

I have just received your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> in which you state the W.T.A. Board is increasing my allowance to \$35.00 per month. Thank you very much indeed for your interest + help in this matter. It will be a great help to us, although I still feel that they might as well have come through with the full amount while they were at it. However I am sure you have done everything you could possibly do in placing the matter ~~in~~ before them in the proper light. Perhaps when they review my case later on they may bring it up to the maximum amount.

My wife joins me in sending our kindest regards

Yours very truly  
W.H. Harrison



, Ottawa, Feb. 17th, 1939.

Mrs. W. H. Harrison,  
R. R. 1,  
Milner, B.C.

Dear Mrs. Harrison:-

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of Feb. 11th, which reached me this morning. Evidently our letters crossed for I note a letter was sent you on Feb. 13th, which no doubt you have received by this time.

I can quite understand your feelings in the matter of having a nasty neighbour, and you have my sympathy in this regard, for I at one time experienced this myself.

Assuring you, however, of my ready willingness to be of assistance at any time.

With kind regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Member for New Westminster.



R. R. I. Milner, B. C.

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1939.

Dear Mr. Reid,

I trust you will forgive me for writing, but I feel very strongly that if I gave you certain information, it might be of use to you in helping my husband, as you have so kindly promised to do, to obtain the full allowance under the V. A. Act.

I know that the investigator, Mr. Godfrey, was not content to base his reports upon his own good judgment, but must needs quiz neighbors, and I also know that we have a neighbor whose comments with regard to us would spell disaster. <sup>This man</sup> He has been described as "a man who talks too much - a very dangerous person". On more than one occasion we have discovered him spreading untrue malicious statements about us, and as he is on an S. S. B. farm, he has wide open opportunity, & would need very little prompting, to talk. Just why he is like this I do not know, but he seems to enjoy doing mischief. Mr. J. Jones knows of him, & very few have any respect for him.



I have been very loath to write so about any person, but in self defense I decided it was necessary. We have suffered quite a little on account of this individual, so for quite a while now, have done all we can to steer clear of him. That however, would not prevent his tongue from continuing to wag.

I am perfectly certain that my husband is in the sort of case that the V.A. Act is intended to help to the fullest extent, and we have quite a number of neighbors who would testify in our favor were they called upon to do so. I think however, that an investigator should be able to use his own judgment & discretion - if he is lacking in discernment he should not be holding such a position, & in any case I should think they are expected to do their best for deserving cases, rather than always taking the stand that it is their duty to pass allowances down to a shade above poverty. Perhaps my letter may let in a little day light on other cases which may come to your notice.

Once more, please forgive my writing - I believe you will understand how I feel about the matter.

Again many thanks,  
(Mrs. W. H. Harrison).

Believe me  
Yours very truly  
Harriet M. Harrison



WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCE BOARD

, Ottawa, Feb. 13th, 1939.

Mr. W. H. Harrison,  
R. R. 1,  
Milner, B.C.

Dear Mr. Harrison:-

I am writing you with further reference to the matter of your appeal which you made to me regarding your War Veteran's Allowance case, and following my letter of Jan. 30th.

May say that I made personal representations to the War Veteran's Allowance Board and have just been informed by them, that they are increasing your allowance to \$35.00 per month, and will review your case later on.

Whilst realizing this is not as much as asked, am pleased, however, that some increase has been made. Having just received this information deemed it advisable to write and let you know the result of the representations made on your behalf.

If there is anything further I can do will be pleased on hearing from you to endeavour to do so.

With kind regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Member for New Westminster.

W.H. Harrison  
File # 1-12  
1939





WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCE BOARD

OTTAWA

February 11th, 1939

T. Reid, Esquire, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Reid:

Wm. H. Harrison - #464537

Further to my letter to you of February 4th, the Director of Soldier Settlement advises me that although this veteran has been receiving \$40. per month in the way of pension and Veterans' Allowance for the past year, he has made no payment on his account since 1930, and our last report is that his taxes are in arrears for the last three years.

We have no way of knowing whether or not if the allowance is increased, he will apply any portion towards the reduction of his taxes or account with the Soldier Settlement.

We are however increasing the allowance to \$35. and will review the case in a year to see if this has improved his position at all.

Yours very truly,

W.S. Woods,  
Chairman,  
War Veterans' Allowance Board.

WSW/ED

W.H. Harrison  
File # 1-12  
1939



GM/EK



#1-1199

OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR OF SOLDIER SETTLEMENT  
OTTAWA, CANADA

February 2nd, 1939.

Thomas Reid, Esq., M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
O t t a w a.

Dear Mr. Reid,-

This afternoon you phoned me enquiring as to the standing of one W. H. Harrison, of R. R. #1, Milner, with this Department.

Briefly the situation is as follows. Harrison is a returned soldier who obtained a loan from the Board in 1919 on the security of a parcel of privately owned land in the Milner district, consisting of approximately eight and a half acres and equipped with certain buildings. From time to time his account has been credited with certain legislative reductions totalling \$765.71. During the first ten years following the granting of the loan Harrison repaid \$885.00, but since 1930 has paid nothing.

Harrison is now a man aged sixty years. He draws a war disability pension for a thigh wound and in addition he is in receipt of a War Veterans' allowance of \$30.00, making a total income from these two sources of \$43.00 per month. He has three children, ages 17, 14 and 13 - all attending school. His farming operations have deteriorated to a point where he keeps a family cow and a dozen hens.

On the 1st of November, 1938, his total indebtedness to this Department stood at \$2,236.54 plus an item of fire insurance, \$18.37. It would appear from the file that our local representative suggested to Harrison the wisdom of seeking a reduction of his debt to this Department under the provisions of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act. On the 26th of September last

...

W.H. Harrison  
File #1-12  
1939

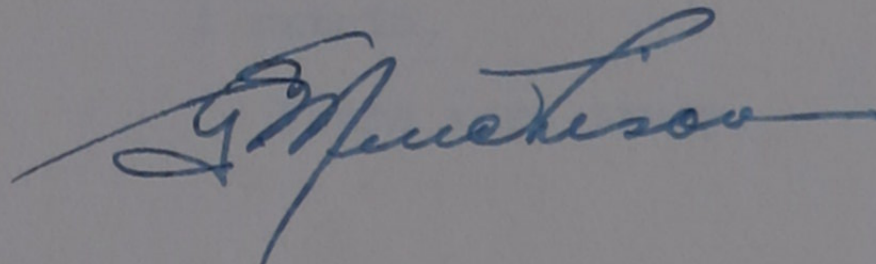


Harrison filed an application wherein he valued his land at \$1,000. and sought a reduction of the Department's claim to that point. Upon investigation the Department has duly agreed with the settler's request, and I may say that confirmation of this reduction is at the present time awaiting action by the Board of Review for the Province of British Columbia.

It is worthy of note that at the time this man made application to the Official Receiver none of his other creditors put in an appearance. Our representative suggested to Harrison that, in view of the very substantial reduction in his account, in view also of the lack of any productive farming operations, and having regard to his income from pension and War Veterans' allowance sources, he would be well advised to enter into some arrangement with us providing for small monthly instalments in order to keep the reduced debt in good standing, approximately \$6.00 a month being required. Harrison was insistent at that time that he could not spare any of his income, although it was clearly pointed out to him by the Official Receiver that if he were living anywhere else he would be expected to pay at least modest rental for his home, and I think it is not unfair on my part to endorse the attitude taken by the Official Receiver.

Trusting the foregoing will enable you to deal with the enquiry you have received in this case.

Yours faithfully,



Director.

W.H. Harrison  
File # 1-12  
1921



WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE BOARD

OTTAWA

, Ottawa, Feb. 9th, 1939.

Mr. W. H. Harrison,  
R. R. 1,  
Milner, B.C.

Dear Mr. Harrison:-

Following my letter of Jan. 30th I am again writing you regarding the matter of your appeal which you made to me regarding your War Veteran's Allowance.

For your information may say that I was down before the War Veteran's Allowance Board the other day making representations on your behalf, and understand that they are asking for a further report on your case, after which your case will be given further consideration.

Having made the representations to the Board deemed it advisable to write and let you know, and trust that the results you desire will be brought about.

Assuring you of my interest on your behalf.

With kind personal regards.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Member for New Westminster.

W.H. Harrison  
File # 1-12  
1939





WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCE BOARD

OTTAWA

February 4th, 1939

T. Reid, Esquire, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Reid:

W. H. Harrison - #12958

Your letter of February 2nd is to hand  
in the above case.

This veteran is receiving \$40. per month  
from pension and War Veterans' Allowance and is located on a  
Soldier Settlement property which contributes towards his main-  
tenance in the way of a home, fuel, milk and vegetables.

He requested an increase in his allowance  
so that he might pay the Soldier Settlement of Canada a monthly  
payment on his property.

However his chance of retiring the debt  
on this place looks to be fairly hopeless, but I am asking the  
Soldier Settlement of Canada for a report as to what he has  
paid in the past and will write you further.

Yours very truly,

W.S. Woods,  
Chairman,  
War Veterans' Allowance Board.

WSW/ED

W.H. Harrison  
File #1-12  
1939



40, 4.0 170  
, Ottawa, Feb. 2nd, 1939.

Mr. W. S. Woods,  
Chairman W.V.A.  
Daly Bldg.,  
O T T A W A

Dear Mr. Harrison:-

W. H. HARRISON # 12958

Dear Mr. Woods:-

I am appealing to you on behalf of  
Mr. W. H. Harrison of Milner, B.C.

Mr. Harrison receives War Veteran's Allowance. In 1935 at the time when his health was so poor he was rated although under sixty years unemployable. In 1937 his allowance was raised to \$30.00. His appeal to me is in an effort to have the full amount of the Allowance given to him.

Mr. Harrison lived on his present place previous to the war and received a loan under the S.S.B. on his return from Overseas so as to enable him to go into the poultry business. His payments are a long ways in arrears, I believe, and Mr. Harrison informs me he is having a most difficult time to carry on. He is a man now over sixty years of age, and it would be appreciated if you would have this case again looked into with a view of seeing if anything could be done to raise his Allowance to the full amount.

Yours very truly,

Member for New Westminster.

W.H. Harrison 1939  
File # 1-12



ARR 1914-15 120

, Ottawa, Jan. 30th, 1939

Mr. W. H. Harrison,  
R. R. 1,  
Malmner, B.C.

Dear Mr. Harrison:-

I am in receipt of your two letters of Jan. 23rd and the other of Jan. 25th in which you write me in connection with the matter of your War Veteran's Allowance.

I have read your letters over with a great deal of care and may say that just as soon as I have an opportunity intend to take your case up personally with the War Veteran's Allowance Board and in the hope that it may be possible to have them increase your allowance to the full amount.

Just as soon as I have made the representations will be pleased to write you again and let you know the results. You can be assured of my doing everything possible on your behalf. Trusting this will be satisfactory meantime. I remain,

Yours very truly,

Member for New Westminster.



R.R. Tailner 136

Jan 25<sup>th</sup> / 39

Mr Tom Reid M.P.

O-Hawa

Dear Sir

I have just received a letter from the Secretary of the W.V.A. committee to the effect that my case has been carefully reviewed & that my present allowance is adequate for maintenance purposes.

It seems that \$40<sup>00</sup> a month is generally admitted to be the amount necessary for the maintenance of a veteran & his wife.

It seems very unfair to me that the W.V.A. committee, should help themselves to my little pension in order to bring the \$30 they allow me up to the required \$40<sup>00</sup> thereby leaving me with nothing wherewith to meet my S.B. obligations or take care of my children. If I had met with success instead of disaster my pension would not have been taken from me as long as I lived.

I believe the W.V.A. is a substitute for the old age pension, paid to pre-aged unemployable ex service men, also to men over sixty.

There does not seem to be any question as to the amount an old age pensioner is to receive on attaining the proper age even if he lives on his own property & has an income



up to \$10<sup>00</sup> per month.

As to my S.S.B. affairs, I can do nothing if the U.V.A. committee maintain their present decision. But I wonder if you could manage to explain matters more fully to them. They seem under the impression that I want a raise in my allowance in order to pay off the debt on this property. That is quite impossible, what I want is enough to pay a monthly rental, which I should have to pay somewhere else if I am forced off this place. It is all very well to say the U.A. is for maintenance only but a man must keep a roof over his head.

If this appeal fails I am at a loss to know what to do.

Trusting you may be able to assist me in some way.

I am

Yours truly  
W.H. Harrison



R R Milner

BC

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>/39

Mr Tom Reid M.P.

Ottawa

Dear Sir

I know you are a very busy man & hate to bother you with my troubles. But as you are in Ottawa now you may be able to look into this matter for me without too much inconvenience to yourself. Last Sept when I past my sixtieth birthday I applied to the War Veterans Allowance Committee for an increase in my allowance to the full amount payable to a married man under the Act. I might say that I got half the allowance three years <sup>ago</sup> when my health was so poor that I was rated unemployable by Dr. Marr. A year ago it was raised to thirty dollars & we have barely managed to scratch along as I have three children. I got a letter from the Secretary of the Committee in reply to my application stating that they thought as I lived in the country I should manage with the amount I was getting. However a short time after, Mr Dowding the investigator called. I explained my position to him & he certainly seemed to be of the opinion that I was entitled



to the full amount. I presume he sent his report in about the end of October. Since then I have heard nothing more of the matter.

I got this place before the war, but got a loan from the S.S.B on my return from overseas to go into poultry. My payments are a long way in arrears.

As I owned the place before the war I didn't come under the revaluation scheme some years ago. Recently I was given a chance by the S.S.B to have the place revalued under the Farm Creditor Act. They offer to take a big reduction, but insist on a regular monthly payment. It is impossible for me to make that payment with my present allowance. If the W.V.A. committee would bring my allowance up to the maximum I could manage it, & should not have to spend my days & nights worrying about losing my home. As I understand the Farm Creditor Act expires in June this year I should very much like to get something definitely settled as soon as possible. This monthly payment that the S.S.B is insisting on is really a rent as I have no expectations of living long enough to pay for the place.

There are three veterans living within



three miles of here, two married & one single who are getting the full allowance & none of them have dependent children, one is on a SSB place. I can't understand why I should be discriminated against.

If you could take this matter up with the Committee I think they would understand the case better.

Archie Payne who has known me since I came to Langley in 1913 would I am sure verify this statement.

Trusting you may be able to help me in this matter, & thanking you very sincerely for your good work in behalf of all ex-service men, during the years you have been in the House.

I am

Yours truly  
W. H. Harrison

Reg # 464537

W Veterans No 12958