

Resignation of Lieutenant Henry Braithwaite
Archives NZ Reference AD (Army Department) Series 1 1868/4522

Entry from inwards correspondence register

1868/4522 Nov 28 With resignation of Lieutenant Braithwaite & correspondence relating there to – recommends transfer of Lieutenant R. Barton Hutt Militia to supply the place (Major Smith, Masterton)

Letter 1868/4522 Masterton 28 November 1868.

Letter to the Undersecretary, Defence Office, Wellington

Sir, I have the honor to transmit Lieut. Braithwaite's resignation of his commission in the Militia of this district, and correspondence relating thereto, and to request that the vacancy may be filled up by having Lieut. R. Barton, of the Hutt Militia, transferred to this district, where he now resides, and has consented to serve. I have the honor to be Sir, J. Valentine Smith, Major commanding Militia District.

His Excellency the Governor is respectfully advised to accept the resignation of the commission held by Lieut. Henry Braithwaite – Wairarapa Militia. [signed] T. M. Haultain.

And Correspondence relating thereto – item 1

Tawaha near Greytown 13 November 1868

Letter to Colonel Haultain, Defence Minist. ..., Wellington

Sir, When the Wairarapa Militia were called out in the year 1863, I was appointed Ensign in Captain Bidwill's company, on his resigning his commission I was promoted Lieutenant in command of No.2 Company. Captain W. Smith of No.1 Company also resigning, the two companies were amalgamated into one under Captain Burton Boys, who resigned in 1867 and left me senior officer which rank I have held till the present time, when the Militia is again called out, and fresh officers are appointed over me, some never having served in the Militia before. I wish to bring before your notice how unfair and discouraging this treatment is, and therefore beg to tender the resignation of my commission as Lieutenant. I remain, Sir, Your obedient servant, Henry Braithwaite, Lieutenant, Wairarapa Militia.

And Correspondence relating thereto – item 2

Tawaha near Greytown 13 November 1868

Letter to Major V. Smith, Commanding Wairarapa Militia, Masterton

Sir, In answer to your note of the 6th instant, I beg to state that I have given the matter due consideration and under the present arrangements I resign my commission and enclose the same to be forwarded to Colonel Haultain. I remain Sir, Your obedient servant, Henry Braithwaite, Lieutenant, Wairarapa Militia.

And Correspondence relating thereto – item 3

[no date] Letter to Major Smith, Commanding Wairarapa Militia and Volunteers

Sir, Being senior officer in No.1 Company of the Wairarapa Militia, I have been expecting to hear from you. Not having received any notice and seeing in the papers the appointment of first officers I shall be obliged by you informing me why I am not promoted to the Captaincy of my Company. If I am not considered sufficiently qualified I shall certainly resign my commission as Lieutenant. I remain Sir, Your obedient servant, Henry Braithwaite, Lieutenant Wairarapa Militia.

Memo: I replied to Mr Braithwaite (who is Mr Bidwill's stockman) to the effect that the Militia of the District was undergoing re construction: that the Lower Valley Company to which I proposed to attach him as Lieutenant, would be commanded by Captain Tully transferred from the Wellington Militia and that the matter had to be so arranged without reference to any question as to his (Mr Braithwaite's) competency or otherwise for a higher post. J. Valentine Smith, 06 November 1868.