

25th April 1919

A.C.I/251/19/L.C./2

Lawes Agric Trust, Harpenden

With further reference to my circular memo sent recently, I have to inform you that the undermentioned man must rejoin here immediately after work Saturday 3 May 1919. Will you, therefore, please hand him the attached railway warrant and notice of recall and ensure that he leaves your employ in good time.

No. 355092 Pte Currant H P

No Date – possibly April 1919

Ref: A.C.I.251/19/ L.C.

Lawes Agricultural Trust, Harpenden

With reference to the undermentioned men, of the unit under my command, employed by you on agricultural work; I regret to inform you that instructions have now been received from the Army Council for the recall of these men for military duty. They will be withdrawn as they are required for disposal, and so long notice as possible will be given of the actual date of recall, but in no case will men be withdrawn before 1. 5. 19.

Attention is drawn to the following paragraph of the Army Council Instructions:-

“It is not intended in future to have any soldiers employed on the land, and it is not possible to agree to individual soldiers being allowed to remain on”

Further particulars, together with railway warrant and notice of recall will be sent in due course.

Mill Hill, N.W. 7

P.F.G. Christie, Major
Commanding 438 Agricultural Coy. Labour C.

355.092 Pte H.G Currant

1st May 1919

letter to Russell from Food Production Department

Reference No 1370/L.1

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

FOOD PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

72 Victoria Street

London, S.W.

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 29th ult. As you have no doubt seen in the Papers, Mr Churchill, has at length consented to men in Agricultural Companies remaining on the land for another 14 days, As men are urgently wanted in the Army, it appears that very little concession beyond this will be obtained, but it is hoped that a small proportion of the most urgent cases will be allowed to be selected by the Agricultural Executive Committee, for demobilisation.

If this concession is obtained, which is extremely doubtful, you are strongly recommended to keep in close touch with your Committee, whose address is 28 Castle Street, Hertford, as the time will be extremely short for their selection, if the concession is granted at all. The two forms you forwarded, are returned herewith.

It may be mentioned, that men who joined the Colours before January 1st 1916, or who are 37 of age, or who have three wound stripes, will be discharged in any case, but it is believed that few of the men come within these conditions, and from some previous papers we have about Pte. Currant, it appears he.....

E.J.Russell Esq

Lawes Agricultural Trust

1st May 1919

Messrs. Lawes Agricultural Trust,
Rothamsted Experimental Station
Harpenden

Agr/2216/19

355092 Pte. Currant, H. P.

In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, it will be seen from the attached that authority has been received from the Army Council for the postponement of the withdrawal of men of Agricultural Companies for a further fortnight. Should a definite reply not be received by you from the Board of Agriculture before 15.5.19 and you will again communicate with me it may be possible to further postpone this man's recall temporarily

Major, Commanding 438 Agricultural Coy. Labour Corps
Mill Hill, N. W. 7

1st May 1919

Lawes Agricultural Trust
No. 355092 Pte Currant H.P.

With further reference to my circular memo of Thursday last, 24th ultimo, I have to inform you that authority has now been received for the postponement of the recall of the above-named man for a further fortnight. Accordingly he should report here immediately after work on 17.5.19 unless you hear to the contrary, please.

P F G Christie, Major

Commanding 438 Agricultural Coy. Labour Corps.

Mill Hill, N.W. 7.

3rd May 1919

letter from Russell to Longmore

Sir Charles Longmore
Clerk to the Committee
28 castle Street
Hertford

Dear Sir

I beg to ask if you would be good enough to arrange for the exemption of our ploughman Herbert Currant (Pte No. 355092) at as early a date as possible. We are very anxious to retain him; he has worked here all his life and was returned to us about 18 months ago, having been placed in an Agricultural Company, on the score of ill health. He is the best ploughman we have and he has just taken charge of a newly purchased tractor; and we have absolutely no other man whom we can fit in this place which combines a good ploughman and a capable mechanic. I should be most grateful if you could do anything for us in the matter.

Yours faithfully

Director of Rothamsted Experimental Station

5th May 1919

Letter from Longmore to Russell
HERTFORDSHIRE WAR AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
28 CASTLE Street
Hertford

Dear Sir

Private Herbert Currant. N. 355092

I am directed by the Hertfordshire Agricultural Executive Committee to refer to your letter of the 3rd instant, regarding the proposed recall of Private Herbert Currant who is attached to an Agricultural Company, and I am to state that the Committee, in common with other Agricultural Executive Committees, have taken steps to bring pressure upon the Government with regard to this matter, with the result that the recall from the land of soldiers attached to Agricultural Companies has been postponed for 14 days during which time enquiries will be instituted by the Government with a view of ascertaining if it is possible to withdraw or restrict the order recalling soldiers from the land. The Committee hope that Private Currant will be allowed to remain with you.

For your information I set out below particulars of three men on the books who are requiring situations on farms. In addition to these there are also one or two agricultural labourers requiring situations:-

William Barratt, Elephant and Castle, Amwell, Wheathampstead.
22 years of age, single, two years' previous experience as cowman

Mr Howe, 48, Fishpool Street, St Albans, age 36, married, employed as stockman previous to the war.

J. Smith, Lamb Lane, Redbourne, Age 60, ploughman

If you desire to interview either of these men with a view of employing them I will upon hearing from you arrange an interview.

Yours faithfully

Charles Longmore
Clerk to the Committee

7th May 1919

Ref. A.C.I. 251/19

Agr/2242/19/C

Lawes Agric Trust

RECALL OF SOLDIER FROM AGRICULTURAL WORK

1. With further reference to my recent circular memos., in regard to the above; I have to inform you that under War Office authority 10% of men at present employed on the land will be permitted to remain.
2. The selection of such men will be made in each case by the County Agricultural Executive Committees, and accordingly, in you are of opinion that any man in your employ is indispensable, application should be immediately submitted to the Hertfordshire Agricultural Executive Committee, Castle Street, Hertford.
3. All men, whose retention is not authorised by the County Agricultural Executive Committee, will be withdrawn from agricultural work between 28.5.19 and 5.6.19. railway warrant and notice of recall, giving actual date the man must rejoin, will be sent to you in due course.
4. In conclusion, I would point out that no authority can be granted from this Office for any man to be retained in agricultural work, and it is therefore useless to submit applications, other than as detailed in paragraph 2 above

Christie, Major,
Commanding 438 Agricultural Coy., Labour Corps.

14th May 1919

Letter from Russell to C. O. Agricultural Coy.

The Officer Commanding 438 Agricultural Coy.
Mill Hill

Sir,

With reference to the above, can you please further postpone this man's recall? We have applied for exemption and the matter is being dealt with at Hertford tomorrow. Apart from this uncertainty work is extremely pressing and important for another fortnight.

Trusting you will be able to do this

I am, yours faithfully

E J Russell

Director of Rothamsted Experimental Station

14th May 1919

Letter from Russell to Sir Charles Longmore

Dear Sir, Charles

I am very much obliged to you for your courtesy in sending me the telegram. We very much desire to retain the soldier. Unfortunately I am prevented from attending the Committee on Thursday myself, but our Farm Manager will come and lay full particulars before the Committee

Yours very truly

Sir Charles Longmore
28 Castle Street, Hertford

15th May 1919

The Director
Rothamsted Experimental Station
Harpenden

Apr/2318/19

Reference attached. It will be seen from para. 3 of my circular memorandum of 7th instant that the recall of all men employed on agricultural work is postponed until 28th may, 1919. Should authority not be given for the man's retention no further extension can be granted

Major

Commanding 438 Agricultural Coy. Labour Corps

Mill Hill, N.W. 7.
