

MAJOR W. A. MERCER, 11th Cavalry
Superintendent

JOHN R. WISE
Assistant Superintendent

A. KENSLE
Sub-Master

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PA.

Dec 24/07 to Mr. [unclear]
Dec 26/07 to War Dept.

FILE

163
Carlisle

December 10, 1907.

Subject:

Request of Major W.A. Mercer, Supt.
to be relieved from duty at Carlisle
School.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
DEC 28 1907
File 163
100488
2 line

Hon. F.E. Leupp,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I have to request that I be relieved from duty as Superintendent Carlisle Indian School, to take effect December 31, 1907. and ordered to join my regiment when I shall have completed the transfer of public funds and property for which I am responsible.

I further request that the order relieving me state I am relieved at my own request.

Though in good physical health, I have, for several months past, experienced, at frequent intervals, severe pains in my head, with consequent temporary loss of brain power, and I find the daily annoying responsibilities all more than I can stand and am advised by my physician that I should have relief from them, and take a few months leave of absence. Such a course followed by a change back to the more out of door military life, I am convinced is a necessity, and that relief as above will best suit

W.A. Mercer

the conditions.

I extend to you and the members of your Office, my sincere thanks for aid rendered me in the performance of my duties, and that the uniform courtesy shown me in all our dealings is most heartily appreciated. ^{assure you}

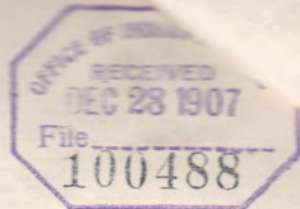
Very respectfully,

W. A. Mercer

Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

WAM/EFW



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Education

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

SUBJECT:

WASHINGTON. December 24, 1907.

Major W. A. Mercer's request to be relieved from duty at Carlisle School.

Major William A. Mercer,

Acting Supt. Indian School,

Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, requesting that you be relieved from duty as Acting Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, to take effect December 31, 1907, and that you be ordered to join your regiment when you shall have completed the transfer of public funds and property for which you are responsible.

You say:

"Though in good physical health, I have, for several months past, experienced at frequent intervals severe pains in my head, with consequent temporary loss of brain power, and I find the daily annoying responsibilities all more than I can stand and am advised by my physician that I should have relief from them, and take a few months leave of absence. Such a course, followed by a change back to the more out of door military life, I am convinced is a necessity, and that relief as above will best suit the conditions."

As you so urgently request to be relieved of your present responsibilities, I will recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that the War Department be asked to revoke your detail

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Major Mercer

as Acting Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, and that you be ordered to join your regiment when your relief at Carlisle has been effected.

Owing to the magnitude of the fiduciary responsibilities incident to the control of so large an institution as the Carlisle school, and the limited time between now and December 31, I shall be unable to have you relieved on that date, but may be able to relieve you between the middle and the last of January. I shall accomplish it as early as I possibly can. If your successor has not been selected and become qualified, the school will temporarily be placed in charge of either a Supervisor or a Special Agent, so that you may return to your regiment not later than February 1.

The granting of your request for relief, which you have simply forced upon the Department by your statement of insuperable reasons why you cannot continue longer under the strain of your present heavy burdens, must be the subject of very great regret to all in Washington who have had to do officially with Carlisle School since you took charge of it as Acting Superintendent. No one could stand in such relations to your work without admiring your loyal devotion to duty, your prompt and cheerful efforts to carry out the policy of this Office, and your unqualified success in bringing up the standards of discipline and giving to the institution generally a wholesome

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Major Mercer

tone and atmosphere. The school has never been so efficiently managed in all its history as it is today; and the best wish I can have for your successor is that he may carry your work forward with equal spirit.

I suggest that you get the property of the school into such shape that there may be no unnecessary delay in effecting the transfer when you have been notified to make ready.. As soon as I learn definitely when you can be relieved you will be informed promptly.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) *F. E. Leupp,*

Commissioner.

J.H.D.(P)

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
DEC 28 1907
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100488

2

Education

December 26, 1907.

Secretary of War

SUBJECT:

Major W. A. Mercer's request to be relieved from duty at Carlisle School.

Incident to the control of so large an institution, and the limited time between now and December 31, it would

The Secretary of War. He has relieved on that date, though it

Sir: It is possible to relieve him between the middle and the

I have the honor to say that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is in receipt of a letter from Major William A. Mercer, U. S. A., Acting Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, of date December 10, asking to be relieved from duty at that school to take effect December 31, 1907, and that he be ordered to join his regiment when he shall have completed the transfer of public funds and property for which he is responsible.

In his letter Major Mercer says:

"Though in good physical health, I have, for several months past, experienced at frequent intervals severe pains in my head, with consequent temporary loss of brain power, and I find the daily annoying responsibilities all more than I can stand and am advised by my physician that I should have relief from them, and take a few months leave of absence. Such a course, followed by a change back to the more out of door military life, I am convinced is a necessity, and that relief as above will best suit the conditions."

I am informed by the Commissioner that Major Mercer has been written that as he so urgently requests to be relieved from his present duty you would be a

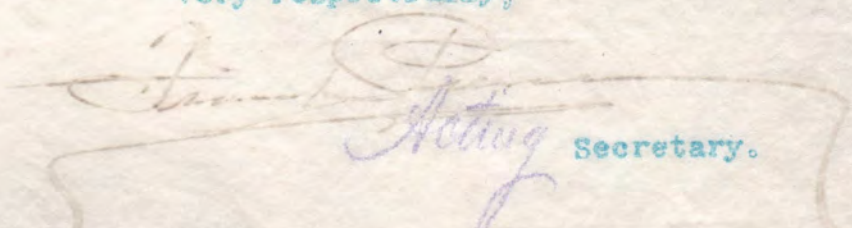
Very truly yours,
Secretary of War

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Secretary of War

but that owing to the magnitude of the fiduciary responsibilities incident to the control of so large an institution, and the limited time between now and December 31, it would be inadvisable to have him relieved on that date, though it might be possible to relieve him between the middle and the last of January; and that if his successor has not been selected and become qualified the school would temporarily be placed in charge of either a Supervisor or a Special Agent, so that he might return to his regiment not later than February 1.

As Major Mercer has asked to be relieved of his present detail, I respectfully recommend that the War Department take the necessary steps for its revocation, to take effect as soon as his successor can be appointed and become qualified, but in no event later than February 1, 1908.

Very respectfully,


Acting Secretary.

J.H.D. (F)

F 10

Carlisle

DIVISION OF MAILS & FILES
RECEIVED
DEC 30 1907
TO INDIAN OFFICE
DEPT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
DEC 31 1907
File 163
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SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 302. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, December 27, 1907

Extract.

* * * * *

21. Major *William A. Mercer*, 11th Cavalry, is relieved from special duty with reference to Indian education and as superintendent of the Indian Industrial School at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to take effect not later than February 1, 1908, and will then proceed to join his regiment. The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

[1318587. A. G. O.]

* * * * *

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

J. FRANKLIN BELL,
Major General, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

HENRY P. McCAIN,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL COPY

*The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C.*

MP