

D.S.D.C. CHAIRMAN'S CIRCULAR NO.86

Directorate of Demobilisation,  
Edward Street,  
PRETORIA.

16 Oct 45.

ALL CHAIRMEN  
DISCHARGED SOLDIERS AND  
DEMOBILISATION COMMITTEES.

DEMOBILISATION OF SERVICE GROUPS.

The A.G. has authorised the discharge of service groups C & D i.e. Volunteers who attested for full time military service during the period 1 July 1940 to 30 April 1941.

*Edgar Hym Hardeman*  
Lt Col

for DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEMOBILISATION  
(L & R)  
FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DEMOBILISATION.

SIRKULERE VOORSITTER K.O.S.D. 86

Direksie van Demobilisasie,  
Demobilisasiehoofkwartier,  
Edwardstraat,  
PRETORIA.

16 Oktober 1945.

AAN DIE VOORSITTERS,  
KOMITEES VIR ONTSLANE SOLDATE  
EN DEMOBILISASIE

DEMOBILISASIE VAN DIENSGROEPE

Die A.G. het magtiging verleen vir die ontslag van die diensgroepe C en D, m.a.w. die vrywilligers wat hulle vir voltydse militêre diens gedurende die tydperk 1 Julie 1940 tot 30 April 1941 laat inskryf het.

*Edgar Hym Hardeman*  
Lt Col

namens ADJUNK-DIREKTEUR VAN DEMOBILISASIE  
(S & H)  
namens DIREKTEUR-GENERAAL VAN DEMOBILISASIE.

Directorate of Demobilisation,  
Demobilisation Headquarters,  
Edward Street,  
PRETORIA.

TO: ALL CHAIRMEN,  
DISCHARGED SOLDIERS AND DEMOBILISATION COMMITTEES.

26 OCT. 45.

FORMS D.G.D. 32 & 33: PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Some members of D.S.D.C.'s have expressed concern that, when making reports on applicants for Financial Assistance on Forms D.G.D. 32 and 33, they may be laying themselves open to criminal proceedings or civil actions for damages for libel.
2. It is pointed out, in the first instance, that these documents are confidential and pass only between D.S.D.C.'s and this Directorate. In the normal course of events it therefore cannot be foreseen that applicants will have cognisance of their contents.
3. Further, if the head of the Government Department, giving reasons therefor, considers that the disclosure of confidential State documents, passing between the Government and its officials, would be contrary to public policy and detrimental to public interest, the Court will not readily order the disclosure of such documents. The D.S.D.C. organisation is a vital and integral part of the State's demobilisation scheme and set-up. The fact that members are so public spirited as to work in an honorary capacity does not place them in a less favourable position than that of paid State officials in so far as protection against legal action based on or arising out of their duties bona fide performed is concerned.
4. One of the defences in actions for libel is that the communication was privileged. Privileged communications have been defined as "Communications that are made bona fide in the discharge of a public or official duty, or of a merely social or religious duty, imposed upon the person in a matter in which he has an interest or in reference to which he has a duty to a person having a corresponding interest or duty".
5. It will be seen, therefore, from all the above, that members of D.S.D.C.'s will have nothing to fear from the free expression of their opinions and recommendations, provided that they act bona fide.
6. The foregoing applies equally to any other reports or recommendations made by a Committee member to this Directorate in compliance with a demobilisation subject and which reports or recommendations are made within his duty.
7. In the unlikely event of civil or criminal action being taken or threatened against any member of a D.S.D.C. based on any report or recommendation made within his duty as a member of a D.S.D.C., this Directorate should immediately be advised of the circumstances and the nature of the action or threatened action. This Directorate will then request the Government Attorney to defend such member at State expense.