



Alec Bennett being congratulated after winning the 1927 Isle of Man Senior Tourist Trophy (Brian Pratt collection)

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ATTESTATION PAPER.
No. **DUPLICATE**
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your surname? **BENNETT**
- 1a. What are your Christian names? **ALEXANDER**
- 1b. What is your present address? **1325-31st Ave. E., South Vancouver, B.C.**
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? **Belfast, Ireland**
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? **Robert Bennett**
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? **1325-31st Ave. E., South Vancouver, B.C.**
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? **Father**
5. What is the date of your birth? **April 21st, 1897.**
6. What is your Trade or Calling? **Motorside Mechanic**
7. Are you married? **No**
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? **Yes**
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? **No**
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? **No**
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? **Yes**
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force? **Yes**

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, **A. Bennett**, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date: **17th January 1916**

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, **A. Bennett**, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date: **17th January 1916**

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at **Vancouver** this **17th** day of **January** 1916.

(Signature of Justice)

x 1576

Description of **BENNETT, ALEXANDER**

Apparent Age **19** years months.

Height **5 3/4** ft. **2** ins.

Girth when fully expanded **33** ins.

Range of expansion **3** ins.

Complexion **Fair**

Eyes **Grey**

Hair **Brown**

Church of England **✓**

Presbyterian **✓**

Methodist **✓**

Baptist or Congregationalist **✓**

Roman Catholic **✓**

Jewish **✓**

Other denominations (speculative to be stated)

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him **Fit** for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date: **Vancouver BC 1916**

Place: **January 17th**

(Signature of Medical Officer)

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Alexander Bennett having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

(Signature of Officer)

Date: **JAN 25 1916**

HEAD QUARTERS BATTALION

ALEC BENNETT

Pioneer - Motorcycling

Bio courtesy of the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame

Alec Bennett was born on April 21, 1897, in what is now Northern Ireland. The Bennett family emigrated to Canada in 1905, living first in Alberta, then in Vancouver, BC. Little is known of his early motorcycle racing but by the time he was 16 he was already a competitive force on the dirt tracks of BC. In 1920, he left Canada for England to pursue his dream to be a motorcycle factory test rider and a motorcycle racer. Alec Bennett's post-First World War racing career consisted of only 29 races but he won 13 of them - a remarkable winning percentage. Of those 13 victories, 11 were in classic races. In competition at the Isle of Man races, Bennett won the Senior Tourist Trophy three times and the Junior Tourist Trophy twice. He won the Grand Prix of France four times and the Grand Prix of Belgium twice. All of his European wins were in the premier 500cc class. The races were not for the

faint of heart. When he went to the Spanish Grand Prix for the first time in 1923, the 12-hour race was on a 60-mile course that included two mountain peaks and an open stretch of near-desert. After his front fork broke, Bennett rode until his hands swelled to the size of boxing gloves. Only then did he drop out. When he retired, he did so as the most successful racer of his generation. He died in 1973 at the age of 76. To this day, no Canadian rider has come close to matching his record. He was the most successful motorcycle racer Canada ever produced.

From Wikipedia

A native of Craigtantlet in Ireland's County Down, Alec Bennett emigrated with his parents to Canada at a very young age. He did not return to the United Kingdom until active duty with the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War when he



1929 Sunbeam Factory Team

served as a dispatch rider and later as fighter pilot. After racing with the works Norton team and also with the factory Sunbeam and Velocette teams, Alec Bennett retired from motor-cycle racing in the 1930s to concentrate on his motor-trade business in Southampton, Hampshire.



Alec Bennett at Isle of Man TT (photo courtesy of CMHF archives)