



NOTES ON WAR PENSIONS FOR DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN OF THE 1914 WORLD WAR RESIDENT OVERSEAS

These short notes are for general guidance only. They include information about various benefits contained in the latest regulations for which an ex-serviceman who has a pension for disablement attributable to or aggravated by service in the 1914 World War may qualify in addition to his disablement pension.

A pensioner in receipt of an Alternative Pension cannot normally be granted any of the allowances set out in paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 6. If, however, the standard rate of disablement pension, together with any additional allowances for which the pensioner is found, on application, to be eligible amounts to more than his Alternative Pension, he may be granted, so long as it is more beneficial to him, the appropriate disablement pension and allowances instead of the Alternative Pension.

1. DISABLEMENT PENSIONS

The standard basic rate of disablement pension for disablement attributable to or aggravated by service in the 1914 World War and assessed at 100% is 45s. a week. In cases of lesser disablement (between 20% and 100%) the rate of pension is proportionate to the pensioned degree of disablement. The amount of pension also varies with the rank held in the Forces.

2. ALLOWANCES FOR WIFE AND CHILDREN

Allowances are granted in respect of a pensioner's wife and the children of the marriage, whatever the date of marriage. Where a pensioner's wife or child is living apart from him, allowances in respect of them will be dependent on proof of maintenance.

Allowances are also payable for step-children, adopted children and, under certain conditions, for foster-children and illegitimate children maintained by a pensioner.

The rate of allowances corresponds to the degree of disablement on which the pension is based.

Allowances for children will ordinarily terminate at the age of 16. An allowance may, however, be granted or continued after that age, if the child is a student receiving full-time education at a university, college, secondary or technical school, or is an apprentice undergoing full-time training for any trade, business or profession and receiving not more than nominal wages, or is incapable of self-support owing to infirmity of a prolonged or permanent nature which commenced before the age of 16.

3. EDUCATION ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN

An education allowance not exceeding £80 a year may be granted in respect of any child of the age of 5 years and over for whom an allowance as in paragraph 2 or 5 is payable. The award of an allowance is subject to the Minister being satisfied that the education is suitable for the child, and that the circumstances of the family are such as to require it.

4. ALLOWANCE FOR PERSONAL ATTENDANCE

Where regular attendance on a pensioner is necessary on account of disablement for which pension is in payment at the 100% rate, an additional allowance up to 20s. a week may be granted. In exceptional cases of very severe disablement the Minister is empowered to increase the allowance up to 40s. a week.

5. UNEMPLOYABLE PENSIONERS

A pensioner who is so seriously disabled by his pensioned disablement as to be unemployable may be eligible for a supplementary allowance of 30s. a week. In determining whether a pensioner is unemployable, any earnings up to 20s. a week are disregarded.

Where a pensioner is awarded a supplementary allowance any additional allowances payable for his wife and children will be at the rate appropriate to 100% disablement. Where a pensioner's wife is wholly dependent on him, the normal allowance of 10s. a week is increased to 16s.

Where no allowance for a wife is payable, an allowance of 16s. a week may be paid for a dependent adult relative who lives with the pensioner, or for a woman who is dependent on him, and has, in his home, the care of a child of his for whom he is drawing an allowance. The award of this allowance will depend upon the financial circumstances of the dependant.

The additional benefits set out in this paragraph are not payable if the pensioner is in receipt of Retirement Pension under the National Insurance Act, 1946, or an Old Age Pension increased by regulations made under that Act, or any analogous legislation in any country overseas.

6. ALLOWANCE FOR "SPECIAL HARDSHIP"

If a pensioner's disablement due to the continuing effects of service in the 1914 World War is assessed at less than 100% and such disablement has at any time after the 1st July, 1945, rendered him incapable and likely to remain permanently incapable of following the occupation which he regularly followed for a reasonable period up to that date and incapable of following any other suitable occupation of equivalent standard, he may be granted a special hardship allowance up to 20s. a week.* The allowance together with his pension may not, however, exceed the rate of pension payable if his pensioned disablement were assessed at 100%.

A special hardship allowance is not payable in addition to an Unemployability Supplement. (see paragraph 5.)

*This provision operates as from the 1st May, 1948.

7. ALLOWANCE FOR WEAR AND TEAR OF CLOTHING

A pensioner who regularly wears an artificial limb for an amputation due to war service may be granted an allowance in respect of wear and tear of clothing at the rate of £5 a year. Where a tilting-table limb or more than one artificial limb is worn £8 a year may be paid.

If in any other case the Minister is satisfied that as a result of the pensioned disablement there is exceptional wear and tear of the pensioner's clothing, an allowance not exceeding £8 a year may be granted.

8. MEDICAL TREATMENT, ARTIFICIAL LIMBS AND APPLIANCES

Where medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment is necessary on account of the condition of the pensionable disablement, as resulting from the continuing effects of war service, such treatment is provided by the Ministry.

Artificial limbs and eyes, surgical boots, spectacles, dentures and other appliances which are required as a result of war service are also provided by the Ministry.

Normally, liability cannot be accepted for the cost of any treatment, limbs or appliance obtained without the prior authority of the Ministry.

9. ALLOWANCES DURING TREATMENT

A pensioner prevented from working by reason of an approved course of treatment for disablement due to the continuing effects of war service receives, in place of the disablement pension and allowances for wife and children, a treatment allowance equivalent normally to the rate of pension for 100% disablement with corresponding allowances for his wife and children. (A pensioner in receipt of an Alternative Pension may, in similar circumstances, receive in place of his current award, an allowance at the Alternative pension rate which would be payable if he were without earning capacity). Where the wife is wholly dependent on the pensioner, the normal allowance of 10s. a week may be increased to 16s.

Where an "other rank" pensioner is not in receipt of Unemployability Supplement or a Special Allowance as described below, and is not entitled to Sickness Benefit or Retirement or Old Age Pension, or similar benefits in any country overseas, an additional allowance of 20s. a week is payable : and where benefit or pension under the National Insurance Scheme is less than 20s. a week, an additional allowance is payable to make the total from the two sources up to that figure. In cases of in-patient treatment this allowance is payable only to pensioners with dependants.

Where no allowance for a wife is payable, an allowance of 16s. a week may be paid for a dependent adult relative who lives with the pensioner, or for a woman who is dependent on him and has, in his home, the care of a child of his for whom he is drawing an allowance. The award of this allowance will depend upon the financial circumstances of the dependant. Special conditions may apply where a pensioner is permanently maintained in an institution.

Where a pensioner on completion of a course of approved in-patient treatment has to abstain from work for one month or more in consequence of the condition which necessitated that treatment, the treatment allowance may be continued and, if he is not in receipt of any Sickness Benefit, or similar benefit in any country overseas, the allowance may be increased by a Special Allowance of 20s. a week or, where benefit of less than 20s. a week is in payment, by the difference between the benefit and 20s. This sub-paragraph does not apply to a pensioner who is in receipt of an unemployability supplement (see paragraph 5).

Note :

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With effect from the 1st March, 1949, the special allowance of 20s. mentioned in the second and fourth paragraphs of Section 9 (Allowances during Treatment) has been increased to 26s.

10. PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES TO WIDOWS AND CHILDREN

Where a pensioner dies of his pensioned disablement after the 2nd September, 1939, and his death is the result of the continuing effects of his service in the 1914 World War, a pension may be granted to his widow irrespective of the date of marriage, provided she was not separated from him at the date of his death, and allowances may also be granted for his children.

An education allowance (see paragraph 3) may be paid in respect of a deceased pensioner's child for whom an allowance is being paid.

A rent allowance not exceeding 15s. a week may also be granted to a pensioned widow who has a child of the deceased pensioner living with her and is paying rent and rates in excess of 8s. a week for accommodation for herself and the child or children.

11. FUNERAL EXPENSES

A funeral grant, not exceeding £10, or the actual amount of the funeral expenses, if less, may be paid in any case where a pensioner dies as a result of his pensionable disablement, or while undergoing approved treatment in hospital.

12. APPLICATIONS

Any enquiry relating to payment of pension, or any application in connection with the allowances or benefits detailed in the foregoing paragraphs, should be addressed to the Ministry's Overseas Pensions Agent, whose address will have been communicated to the pensioner.

● **IMPORTANT**—In writing to the Ministry's Overseas Pensions Agent, the official reference number should be quoted.

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