

Ⓛ Military commendations and medals

Recognition for military service, and acts of heroism and bravery which were considered to be exceptional, came in a variety of forms and only outline details are given here.

Campaign medals

Just five campaign medals were produced for individuals who saw service in WW1 although any individual could be issued with a maximum of three ⁶¹. These medals were issued to recognise service, not acts of gallantry. Additionally, the Silver War Badge recognised the contribution of those who had been honourably discharged or had retired as a result of sickness or wounds from war service.

Although Service medals were issued automatically to other ranks, officers (or their next of kin) had to apply for these. Medals were impressed with the name of the recipient, and some other details, on the rim of the medal or, in the case of a star, on the reverse.



◆ The 1914 Star (Mons Star)

This is a four-pointed bronze star-shaped medal, with a crown below the ribbon-attachment ring. The star form encloses two upward-pointing swords overlain by a wreath of oak leaves, with the Royal Cypher of George V at the base of the wreath and a central S-shaped scroll inscribed "AUG 1914 NOV".

The medal has a height of 50 millimetres (62 millimetres with the ring suspension included) and a width of 44 millimetres.

The silk ribbon is 32 millimetres wide and has the red, white and blue colours of the Union Flag in shaded and watered bands

<http://www.rutlandremembers.org/information/medals>

The Star was authorized by King George V in April 1917 for those who had served in France or Belgium between 5 August 1914 to midnight on 22 November 1914 inclusive. The award

was open to officers and men of the British and Indian Expeditionary Forces, doctors and nurses as well as Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Navy Reserve and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who served ashore with the Royal Naval Division in France or Belgium.

A narrow horizontal bronze clasp sewn onto the ribbon, bearing the dates '5th AUG. - 22nd NOV. 1914' shows that the recipient had actually served under fire of the enemy during that period. For every seven medals issued without a clasp there were approximately five issued with the clasp.

Recipients who received the medal with the clasp were also entitled to attach a small silver heraldic rose to the ribbon when just the ribbon was being worn. The reverse is plain with the recipient's service number, rank, name and unit impressed on it.

⁶¹ Both males and females could be awarded the medals. There were a few exceptions to the 'only three' rule.

The 1914-15 Star was not awarded alone but accompanied the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. There were approximately 378,000 1914 Stars issued.

◆ **The 1914-15 Star**

This bronze star-shaped medal was authorized in 1918 and, very similar to the 1914 Star, was issued to a much wider range of recipients. Broadly speaking it was awarded to all who served in any theatre of war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915, except those eligible for the 1914 Star. Similarly, those who received the Africa General Service Medal or the Sudan 1910 Medal were not eligible for the award.

Like the 1914 Star, the 1914-15 Star was not awarded alone, the recipient also receiving the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. As with the 1914 Star, the reverse is plain with the recipient's service number, rank, name and unit impressed on it. The size of the medal and the ribbon is the same as that of the 1914 Star.

An estimated 2.4 million of these medals were issued.

◆ **The British War Medal, 1914-18**

The most common British campaign medal of WW1, this circular medal was struck in both silver and bronze and was awarded to any member of the military (officers and other ranks), from any part of the British Empire, who left his/her home country for service abroad even if this service was not in a theatre of war.

Around 6.5 million medals were struck in silver and around 110,000 of a bronze version were issued mainly to Chinese, Maltese and Indian Labour Corps workers.

Established on 26 July 1919 the medal has a truncated bust of King George V, facing to the left, on the obverse with the legend 'GEORGIUS V BRIT: OMN: REX ET IND: IMP:' (George 5th, King of all the Britons and of India, Emperor). On the reverse there is a depiction of Saint George on a horse and holding a short sword. Below symbolic waves one of the horse's hooves is trampling a shield with the emblem of Prussia and the Central Powers and, to the left, is the skull and crossbones. A rising sun, known as the Victory Sun, is above the horse's head with the dates '1914' and '1918' to each side of the medal.

The name of the soldier, his rank, regiment and Service Number was inscribed around the rim of the medal. Medals awarded to officers do not give the name of their regiment.

Unlike the 1914 and 1914-15 Star, where a simple, attached, ring formed the ribbon attachment, the ribbon on this medal was attached by a straight clasp⁶². The ribbon, of watered silk, has a central band of golden yellow with three stripes of white, black and blue on both sides. The colours appear to have no significance.

◆ **The Allied Victory Medal**

In 1919, in accordance with the decision of the Inter-Allied Peace Conference at Versailles, it was decided that each of the allies should issue their own bronze victory medal with a

⁶² The clasp and attachment was probably made of cupro-nickel.

similar design, similar equivalent wording and identical ribbon. The medal was awarded to all eligible personnel who served in an operational theatre of war at any time between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918.

Women who had served in nursing homes and other auxiliary forces also qualified for the medal.

36mm in diameter the circular copper medal, lacquered in bronze, has a winged classical figure (representing Victory) on the obverse side, her left arm extended and holding a palm branch in her right hand. The reverse carries the inscription THE GREAT / WAR FOR / CIVILISATION / 1914-1919 in four lines, all surrounded by a laurel wreath ⁶³.

The medal, never awarded singly, was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or the 1914–15 Star, and to most of those who were awarded the British War Medal.

The 39mm wide ribbon has an iridescent colour scheme, with the violet moving through to a central red stripe where both schemes meet. As with the Star, the ribbon was attached to the medal by a simple ring. Anyone who was "Mentioned in Despatches" between 4 August 1914 and 10 August 1920 could wear an oak leaf on the medal's ribbon.

Approximately 5.7 million Victory Medals were issued and the recipient's Service Number, rank, name and unit was impressed on the rim.

Pip, Squeak and Wilfred

In May 1919, around the time that Britain was issuing the 1914 - 1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal, the *Daily Mirror* newspaper commenced a strip cartoon featuring a 'family' of three unlikely, anthropomorphic and extremely domesticated, orphaned animals called Pip, Squeak and Wilfred. The strip was conceived by Bertram J. Lamb (who wrote the stories under the name of 'Uncle Dick'), the editor of the newspaper's children's section and it was an immediate success. For reasons now unknown, the names of the characters transferred to the set of three medals which were commonly awarded together – the Star became *Pip*, the War Medal *Squeak* and the Victory Medal was *Wilfred*.

A Royal Doulton Seriesware (Children's Stories) Baby Bowl (issued from 1927 to 1935), "Goodbye Dear".

In the household Pip, a mongrel dog, assumed the 'father' role, Squeak, a mature penguin, was 'mother' and Wilfred (who didn't appear in the early episodes of the cartoon) was a small rabbit with long ears who assumed the role of the 'young son'.

The origins of the characters are mentioned in the cartoon strips. Squeak was found in the London Zoological Gardens after hatching on the South African coast years before. Pip was discovered begging by a policeman on the Thames Embankment, and was sent to a dogs' home, where he was bought for half-a-crown. Wilfred was found in a field near to his burrow and was adopted by Pip and Squeak, who were in turn looked after by 'Uncle Dick' and Angeline, the housemaid (or *Our little maid-of-all-work*) of their family house on the edge of London.



[Bowl:
<https://www.seawaychina.com/product/pip-squeak-and-wilfred-bowl-royal-doulton-seriesware/>]

The cartoons were drawn until 1939 by Austin Bowen Payne, who always signed as A. B. Payne, and the series ran until 1956.

⁶³ Countries from the British Empire which issued this medal gave the dates as 1914 - 1919.

Pip, Squeak and Wilfred

The trio of medals (The 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, 1914-18 and the Allied Victory Medal [from left to right]) with the correct, original, ribbons which were woven in watered silk.

These particular medals were not awarded to a man local to Neston or Burton but, posthumously, to Private W. Rawlinson, 9138, of the 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers who went missing, presumed killed in action, on 28 June 1915, in the Balkans. Following yet another costly, failed, attack against the Ottoman troops on the Gallipoli peninsula (Third Battle of Krithia, 4 – 6 June 1915), an assault was launched by the 2nd Battalion on 28 June which gained 1000 yards and was considered as successful although 'dearly bought' as nine officers were killed with 27 men of other ranks being killed, 57 men (including William Rawlinson) missing and a further 175 wounded.

William Rawlinson (his name is mis-engraved as *Rowlinson* on two of the medals) was the great-uncle of the author's wife. [Author's photos]



When only the British War Medal and Victory Medal are displayed together they are sometimes known as "Mutt and Jeff", after a cartoon strip in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

◆ The Territorial Force War Medal, 1914-1919

Instituted on 26 April 1920 this medal was available only to members of the Territorial Force and Territorial Force Nursing Service who had served in the Territorial Force on or before 30 September 1914 and had been in an operational theatre of war outside the United Kingdom between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. Any individual who was eligible to receive the 1914 Star or 1914/15 Star could not receive the Territorial War Medal.

The obverse (front) of the medal shows an effigy of King George V with the words GEORGIVS BRITT OMN: REX ET IND: IMP:

The reverse of the medal has the words TERRITORIAL WAR MEDAL around the rim, with a laurel wreath and the words inside the wreath FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS 1914-1919.

Approximately 34 000 Territorial Force War Medals were issued.



Source: <http://www.servicecomm.co.uk/catalogue.php?category=29>

◆ The Mercantile Marine War Medal

Instituted in 1919 the Board of Trade awarded this campaign medal to anyone who had served in the Merchant Navy and had made a voyage through a war zone, or danger zone.

A circular bronze medal, 1.42 inches in diameter, it has an effigy of King George V facing to the left with the words GEORGIUS V BRITT: OMN: REX ET IND: IMP:.

The reverse of the medal has a laurel wreath around the rim with an image of a merchant ship on a stormy sea with an enemy submarine and an old sailing vessel to the right of the merchant ship. The inscription on this side medal is FOR WAR SERVICE/MERCANTILE MARINE 1914-1918. A total of 133,135 Medals were awarded.



Sources:

<http://www.gpembertononline.co.uk/Legion/ww1Medals.html>

<https://bigburymint.com/product/mercantile-marine-war-medal/>

The Silver War Badge

Technically, the Silver War Badge was not a campaign medal but was issued as a recognition that the wearer had served in the military and had been honourably discharged or retired as a result of sickness or injury caused by their service. One of the main reasons for issuing this badge was to counter the allegations of cowardice commonly made against men who appeared to be physically able.

The most common reason for discharge and issue of the badge was under King's Regulation 392(xvi) or (xvii)⁶⁴, indicating that the soldier had been released on account of being declared as being permanently physically unfit. The War Badge was first issued on 12 September 1916 under Army Order 316 and, after April 1918, the eligibility was amended to include civilians serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps, female nurses, staff and aid workers. On application, it could be awarded retrospectively to men discharged in 1914 or 1915 who otherwise met the criteria.



Source:

<http://mfo.me.uk/showmedia.php?mediaID=1531>

Around the rim of the badge is inscribed "For King and Empire / Services Rendered". It became known for this reason also as the "Services Rendered Badge" and sometimes as the Discharge Badge or Wound Badge. Each badge was also engraved with a unique number on the reverse, although this number is unrelated to the recipient's Service Number.

⁶⁴ Discharged on account of disabilities contracted following service overseas in a theatre of operations with an Expeditionary Force in the present war or on account of disablement certified to be directly attributable to the action of the enemy e.g. air or naval raids and in the case of those serving with the flying services, disablement certified to have been caused or aggravated by military service while engaged on flying duty in connection with operations against the enemy. Entitlement to the badge did not necessarily entitle a man to the award of a certificate whilst those awarded a certificate would most certainly have been entitled to a badge. [Adapted from: <http://www.1914-1918.net/soldiers/swbrecords.html>]

The recipient would, normally, also receive a certificate (the King's Certificate [Army Orders 138 and 139 of May 1918]) with the badge. The badge was made of sterling silver and was intended to be worn on the right breast of a recipient's civilian clothing. It could not be worn on a military uniform.

There were about 1,150,000 Silver War Badges issued in total for First World War service.

The Service Medal and Award Rolls Index Cards

Catalogued with the index WO372 this card index gives outline detail of the recipients of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Military Medal, the 1914 Star, the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal, the Allied Victory Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Silver War Badge for Services Rendered, the Territorial Force War Medal and the Allied Subjects Medal.

These pink-coloured cards, which number over 5 million and relate mainly to the British army, were created by the Army Medal Office towards the end of WW1.

Most cards simply state the regiment, the recipient's name, rank and Service Number with the details of the entitlement to medals.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
PROSSER	Leves R	Plt	2987 50391
William			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTUOR	44/101	196	538
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

The British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Card of **72: William Prosser** indicates that he was entitled to the Victory Medal and British Medal, but not the Star.

Military awards for Gallantry

The primary British awards, of which only very brief details are given (slightly longer descriptions are made for those awards known to have been given to men detailed in this work), are listed in order of their precedence ⁶⁵:

◆ **The Victoria Cross (VC)** - created on 29 January 1856 by

Queen Victoria the VC recognises acts of extreme bravery, or *Valour*, carried out under direct enemy fire. An act of supreme bravery which merits the award of the VC has to be seen and acknowledged by several witnesses and approved by the monarch. It may be awarded to a person of any rank in any service and to civilians under military command.

The medal is hand-made, traditionally using bronze taken from a gun captured in the Crimean War. Only after 1901 could the Victoria Cross be awarded posthumously to someone who was killed whilst carrying out the act of bravery.

In WW1 the VC was awarded 628 times to 627 recipients, nine being awarded for actions on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme ⁶⁶. Of the 627 recipients, 159 VCs were awarded posthumously.



⁶⁵ The full sequence of gallantry awards is not given here.

⁶⁶ Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse, a son of the Rev. Francis Chavasse (later Bishop of Liverpool) was awarded the Victoria Cross and Bar, for two separate actions in the First World War on the battlefields of Mametz and Passchendaele. He died, on 4 August 1917, from wounds received in the second action. In late 2009 Chavasse's VC and Bar were bought by Tory peer Lord Ashcroft, a pre-eminent expert on the VC, for around £1.5 million.

Two of the men detailed in this work, **9: Christopher Bushell** (also awarded the DSO) and **123: William La Touche Congreve** (awarded posthumously, also awarded the DSO and MC) gained the VC for acts of distinction in WW1.

◆ The Distinguished Service Order (DSO)

Instituted on 6 September 1886 by Queen Victoria, and first awarded on 25 November 1886, the DSO is awarded for meritorious or distinguished service by officers of the armed forces during wartime, usually when under fire or in the presence of the enemy. It is typically awarded to officers ranked Major (or equivalent) or higher, although the honour has sometimes been awarded to junior officers for exceptional acts of bravery. Until 1943 the recipient must have been Mentioned in Despatches by the commander-in-chief of the Army, or admiral of the Navy. Between 1914 and 1916, the DSO could also be awarded to staff officers when they were not under fire or in contact with the enemy, but on 1 January 1917, it was once more restricted to those who had served in the presence of the enemy. On 23 August 1916, a warrant allowed a bar to be awarded as a way of formally recognising further acts of merit.



<http://www.rutlandremembers.org/information/medals>

The medal is a silver-gilt cross, enamelled white and edged in gold. The reverse has a royal cypher in gold upon a red enamelled ground, within a wreath of laurel, enamelled green. The medal was issued without the name of the recipient being engraved on it, but some medals do bear the name of a recipient engraved on the reverse of the suspension bar. 8,981 DSOs were awarded during WW1.

Within this work the men awarded the DSO are: **9: Christopher Bushell**, **123: William La Touche Congreve** (both also gained the VC) and **145: Edward Townshend Logan**.

◆ Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)

The DSC was instituted on 15 June 1901 as the Conspicuous Service Cross and renamed in October 1914 as the Distinguished Service Cross. Awarded initially to naval officers below the rank of Lieutenant Commander for *gallantry during active operations against the enemy at sea* its eligibility was later extended to other ranks of the British Armed Forces, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the British Merchant Navy. The DSC may be awarded posthumously and 2,000 were awarded during WW1.

No one detailed in this work was awarded the DSC.



<http://www.monstermedals.com/distinguished-service-cross>

1 July 1916 was the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army - 57,470 were wounded and 19,240 died, most during the first hour of the attack.

◆ The Military Cross (MC)

Instituted in December 1914 for an act, or acts, of exemplary gallantry during active operations in the presence of the enemy, the MC was restricted (until 1993) to commissioned officers with the rank of Captain or below, or Warrant Officers. From June 1917 officers of the rank of Captain but who had a temporary rank of Major could receive the award. Until 1979 it could not be awarded posthumously.

The Military Cross is the British Army equivalent of the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) and Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). Citations for the MC were published in the *London Gazette* during WW1.



<http://www.itv.com/news/2014-10-25/family-bereft>

◆ The Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)

Instituted on 4 December 1854, during the Crimean War, this was the first official medal award to recognise an act of gallantry in the field by a member of the armed forces with a rank below that of an officer.

The DCM was discontinued as an award by the British Armed Forces in 1993, when the three awards of the DSO, the DCM and the CGM were replaced by the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross.

The DCM could be awarded to military personnel serving in any of the Sovereign's forces in the British Empire (see **30: Edwin Evans DCM**, below) and it remained an exclusively Army award until 1942, when other ranks of the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the Navies and Air Forces of the Dominions and Colonies also became eligible for the award.



<http://www.rutlandremembers.org/>

Around 25,000 Distinguished Conduct Medals were awarded during WW1, at least two of which were awarded to men detailed in this work:

30: Edwin Evans DCM

Edwin was serving with the 13th Battalion Canadian Infantry when, on 1 January 1918, he was awarded the DCM. The citation reads:

'For conspicuous gallantry, devotion to duty and consistent good service at all times. He invariably displayed great courage and resource and set a fine example of devotion to duty to all ranks. 17.04.1918'.

[Supplement to The London Gazette, 17 April 1918]. It is understood that, in this action, he and his men captured a German machine gun post.

100: Hugh Bell – Whilst in France in 1916 Hugh was wounded twice (20 July and 22 October) although the cause and nature of his injuries are not recorded. However, it is quite possible that one of these injuries - possibly that in October - was received in the action in which he was involved and for which he received the DCM. Whilst this award was 'gazetted' in January 1917 the announcement, as was usual, gave no details of the date and action for which it was awarded. However, Hugh's Service Record notes that the citation was:

For conspicuous gallantry. He single handed established communications on the right flank of his company at great personal risk. Later he rendered valuable service during the consolidating [of] the position.

◆ The Military Medal (MM)

Instituted on 25 March 1916 (and backdated to 1914) the MM was, until 1993, awarded to personnel of the British Army and other services, and formerly also to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. It was the Other Ranks' equivalent to the Military Cross (MC) and the equivalent of the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM) and the Air Force Medal (AFM).

On the reverse of the silver medal is inscribed *For Bravery in the Field*.



<http://www.worldofcoins.eu/forum/index.php?topic=14659.0>

It has been commented that, when the medal was first introduced, it was unpopular among regular soldiers as

There were no grants or allowances with the Military Medal, which without a shadow of a doubt had been introduced to save awarding too many DCMs. With the DCM went a money-grant of twenty pounds, and a man in receipt of a life pension who had won the DCM was entitled to an extra sixpence a day on to his pension. After the new decoration was introduced, for every DCM awarded there were fifty Military Medals. The old regular soldiers thought very little of the new decoration.⁶⁷

⁶⁷ Frank Richards, *Old Soldiers Never Die* (Library of Wales), Parthian Books (April 1, 2016) First published 1933.

Considered as one of the greatest memoirs of the Great War, the account of the war is unusual in that it was not written by an officer. Richards (an adopted name - he was born as Francis Philip Woodruff) [1883–1961] served from 1901 with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and he was a reservist when war broke out. He rejoined the 2nd Battalion and landed in France with them on 11 August 1914. He went right through the war with the battalion, never missing a battle, winning the DCM and MM and ending up still a Private.

Over 115,000 Military Medals were awarded for actions during WW1; over 5,700 bars to the medal were awarded and 180 second bars. Only one person, Corporal Ernest Albert Corey (55th Australian Infantry) was awarded a third bar.

Several men whose stories are given in this work were awarded the MM, those known being:

28: Samuel Mark Duddridge MM (Company Serjeant Major - MM awarded for his actions in France in November 1916 although no details are known).

53: William Taylor Kerns MM (Quarter Master Sergeant - he was mentioned in *The London Gazette* of 11 November 1916 for the MM award.

56: Raymond Frederick Lawton MM (Private [or Corporal], 46th Battalion Canadian Infantry. The MM was awarded posthumously on 11 February 1919; although no detail of the action for which this was awarded is known it appears that it relates to events on 11 September 1918, less than two weeks before he died).

77: Jonathan Robinson MM (Private - drowned when the Hospital Ship *Warilda* was torpedoed by a German submarine on 3 August 1918).

88: Joe Williams MM (Company Sergeant Major - the award was notified in *The Supplement to the London Gazette* on 21 October 1916).

130: Richard Duncan MM (Private - gained for actions alongside French troops, near Marne, on 25 July 1918).

◆ Mentioned in Despatches

Whilst Mentioned in Despatches is not an award of a medal it is a commendation of an act of gallantry.

To be Mentioned in Despatches is when an individual is recorded by name and commended for having carried out a noteworthy act of gallantry or service. A Despatch is an official report written by the senior commander of an army in the field, often giving details of the conduct of the military operations being carried out. From the time of the Boer War the Despatches were published in *The London Gazette* ⁶⁸ in full or in part.

An individual could be Mentioned in Despatches more than once and this commendation for an act of gallantry could be made posthumously. In 1919 Army Order 166/1919 confirmed that individuals Mentioned in Despatches would receive a certificate.

In 1920 Army Order 3/1920 authorized the issue of an emblem to signify that an individual had been Mentioned in Despatches between 4 August 1914 and 10 August 1920.

A bronze oak leaf was issued and could be worn on the ribbon of the British Victory Medal.



<http://www.ebay.co.uk/bhp/mentioned-in-despatches>

⁶⁸ *The London Gazette*, one of the official journals of record of the British government, publishes statutory notices in the *Supplement*.

Nearly 140, 000 army personnel were Mentioned in Despatches during WW1.

One example, relating to Billy La Touche Congreve, illustrates the format of the notification in the *Supplement*:

The London Gazette can be searched online, at no cost:

www.london-gazette.co.uk/search

Sources

A considerable number of written, and on-line, resources exist which detail military medals, gallantry awards and commendations. Some of the internet sites used in compiling this section of this work are:

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/first-world-war-service-medals>

<http://www.researchingww1.co.uk/british-war-medal>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victory_Medal_\(United_Kingdom\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victory_Medal_(United_Kingdom))

<http://www.1914-1918.net/soldiers/themedals.html>

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/medals/ww1-campaign-medals.htm#star1914>

<http://www.rutlandremembers.org/information/medals>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_War_Medal

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1914_Star

<http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/imperial/wwi/British-War-Medal-1914-20.asp>

<http://www.researchingww1.co.uk/british-war-medal>

Ⓜ How much were soldiers paid?

The daily British Army rates of pay, as defined by War Office Instruction 166 (1914), were clearly defined and are outlined in the table ⁶⁹ on the following page. The rates, which are given in shillings (s) and pence (d) show the disparities which existed ⁷⁰.

⁶⁹ The table shown here is an abbreviated version; a complete table is given in The Long, Long Trail at http://www.1914-1918.net/pay_1914.html.

⁷⁰ In pre-decimal UK currency there were 12 pennies (designated by the letter d) to each shilling (s). There were 20 shillings in a pound (£). The daily pay of a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Infantry was 28s; this could also be written as £1 8s or as £1 8s Od.



SUPPLEMENT
TO

The London Gazette

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TUESDAY, 16 MAY, 1916.

War Office,
16th May, 1916.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of the undermentioned Officers to be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order, in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the field.—

Maj. William Henry Scott, 9th Light Horse B., Australian Imp. Force.

For conspicuous ability and good work. He led a small column to reconnoitre a distant enemy post, attacked it, killed several of the enemy, and brought in thirty-eight prisoners, including the officer in command. His plans were so well laid that he effected this with the loss of only one man and one horse.

Maj. Percival Suther, 71st Hy. B., R.G.A.

For conspicuous good work on more than one occasion as Forward Liaison Officer with the Infantry. His observations were very valuable, and greatly aided the successful work of the Artillery.

Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) Wilfrid Hubert Wild, 1/Bn., North'd. Fus.

For conspicuous ability in the training and leading of his battalion. The successful capture and occupation with trifling loss of a portion of the enemy's position was mainly due to his fine example, skill, and the efficiency to which he has brought his command.

Capt. William La Touche Congreve, Rif. Brig.

For conspicuous gallantry. He consolidated a newly-won position under very difficult conditions at a critical moment, and by personal courage brought about the surrender of a considerable body of enemy officers and men.

Temp. Capt. Robert McCowan Hill, M.B., R.A.M.C. (attached 2nd Bn., Arg. and Suth'd Highrs.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He went to an area which was under intense bombardment, amputated the leg of a wounded officer, and attended to other

Officers

Infantry

Lieutenant-Colonel	28s	0d
Major	16s	0d
Captain	12s	6d
Quartermaster	10s	0d
Lieutenant	8s	6d
Second Lieutenant	7s	6d

Army Service Corps

			plus Corps Pay	
Lieutenant-Colonel	21s	0d	6s	0d
Major	15s	0d	4s	0d
Captain	12s	6d	3s	0d
Lieutenant	8s	6d	3s	0d
Second Lieutenant	7s	6d	3s	0d
Quartermaster	10s	6d	----	

Royal Army Medical Corps

Lieutenant-Colonel	30s	0d
Major	23s	6d
Captain	15s	6d
Lieutenant	14s	0d*
Quartermaster	10s	6d

* Temporary Lieutenants serving under civil contracts received 24s 0d per day

Royal Field Artillery

Lieutenant-Colonel	28s	0d
Major	16s	0d
Captain	13s	6d
Quartermaster	10s	6d
Lieutenant	9s	6d
Second Lieutenant	8s	6d

Royal Engineers

			plus Engineer Pay	
Lieutenant-Colonel	21s	0d	14s	0d
Major	16s	0d	9s	0d
Captain	13s	6d	4s	0d
Lieutenant	9s	6d	3s	0d
Second Lieutenant	8s	6d	1s	0d ⁷¹
Quartermaster	10s	6d	2s	0d

⁷¹ A further 1s 6d was payable only if certified by Commanding Officer with regard to the 2nd Lieutenant's technical efficiency.

Warrant Officers, NCOs and men

Infantry (of the Line)

Sergeant-Major	5s	0d
Quartermaster-Sergeant	4s	0d
Company Sergeant-Major	4s	0d
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	3s	6d
Colour-Sergeant	3s	6d
Sergeant	2s	4d
Corporal	1s	8d
Private	1s	0d

Additional proficiency pay was payable if the soldier fulfilled certain conditions as to service and qualification: rates 3d or 6d per day, according to proficiency.

Army Service Corps

Sergeant-Major	5s	6d
Company Sergeant-Major (Mechanical Transport)	4s	11d
Company Sergeant-Major	4s	3d
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant (Mechanical Transport)	4s	5d
Staff Sergeant	4s	0d
Sergeant (Mechanical Transport)	3s	3d
Sergeant	2s	7d
Corporal (Mechanical Transport)	2s	6d
Corporal	2s	0d
Second Corporal (Mechanical Transport)	2s	2d
Second Corporal	1s	9d
Driver or Private	1s	2d

Additional proficiency pay was payable if the soldier fulfilled certain conditions as to service and qualification: rates 3d to 1s 8d per day, according to proficiency.

Royal Army Medical Corps

Sergeant-Major	5s	6d
Quartermaster-Sergeant	4s	6d
Staff-Sergeant	4s	3d
Sergeant	2s	8d
Corporal	2s	1d
Private	1s	2d

Additional proficiency pay was payable if the soldier fulfilled certain conditions as to service and qualification: rates 4d to 1s 2d per day, according to proficiency.

Royal Field Artillery

Sergeant-Major	5s	10d
Quartermaster-Sergeant	4s	2d
Battery Sergeant-Major	4s	2d
Sergeant	3s	2d
Corporal	2s	6d
Bombardier	2s	3d
Gunner	1s	2½d
Driver	1s	2½d

Additional proficiency pay was payable if the soldier fulfilled certain conditions as to service and qualification: rates 3d or 6d per day, according to proficiency.

Royal Engineers

Sergeant-Major	6s	0d
Quartermaster-Sergeant	4s	6d
Troop, Company or Squadron Sergeant-Major or Quartermaster-Sergeant	3s	9d
Sergeant	3s	3d
Corporal	2s	6d
Second Corporal	2s	2d
Sapper, Pioneer or Driver	1s	2d

In addition to these rates, Engineer Pay was issuable dependent on qualification, from 2d to 4s 0d per day.

In 1914, on the outbreak of war, the basic rate of pay for a Private serving in the Infantry was, therefore, a shilling a day⁷² although there may have been several deductions (or 'stoppages') from this. Married men normally had a 'compulsory stoppage' to be paid to his wife, normally around six pence, although this could be supplemented and a Private's wife with no children could expect to receive around 12s 6d per week). Soldiers could also elect to have further deductions made to be paid to their families. In addition, various 'trade and proficiency' allowances were made and an 'overseas allowance' of 1d per day was paid when the soldier was serving abroad.

Rates of pay were, however, complicated by other criteria which are difficult to quantify although it is understood that:

- Regular soldiers also had 1½d a day allowance saved for them as a lump sum after 7 years of service.
- Efficiency and trade pay (eg for carpenters, bricklayers, wheelwrights etc) was based on scale related to their assessed proficiency.

⁷² In 1917 basic pay was increased to 1s 3d per day.

- Regular enlisted soldiers (Privates and Lance Corporals) received Good Conduct Pay at 1d a day if they had never had their name written in the Regimental Conduct Book. A Good Conduct stripe was awarded, worn on the lower sleeve of the uniform jacket, and it was believed that the additional pay and stripe would promote discipline. Stripes were awarded for 2, 6, 12, or 18 years' service, and then at 5-year intervals, if the soldier had not been subject to formal discipline. The additional pay, and stripes, could be removed for acts of indiscipline. Additional pay and stripes were also removed if the soldier attained the rank of Corporal, as Non-Commissioned Officers were promoted by merit and punished by loss of rank.
- Supplementary payments could be made to soldiers who showed proficiency in military skills, such as marksmanship and signalling.
- Pay was related also to the date on which a soldier enlisted and whether he had previous experience in military services such as serving in the Territorials.

Confusion and ill-feeling regarding pay rates was widespread and numerous questions on the subject were raised in Parliament and documented in Hansard. One example may be quoted:

*Mr. BUTCHER*⁷³ asked the conditions under which Service pay and proficiency pay, respectively, are paid?

*Mr. BAKER*⁷⁴ The conditions under which service pay and proficiency pay are issued are laid down in Articles 1060 and following and in Appendix V. of the Royal Warrant for Pay of the Army, 1914. Service pay (Class I. 6d. to 7d. per day and Class II. 4d. to 5d. per day) is now being-drawn only in the case of men, serving with the Colours or in the Reserve on 4th August, 1914, who enlisted before 1st October, 1906, and have not since that date entered into a new contract by extension of service, re-engagement, transfer to another arm, etc. Such men draw this emolument, i.e., service pay, under the conditions in force at the time of their enlistment. Proficiency pay (Class I. 6d. per day, Class II. 3d. per day (is issuable to Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry soldiers who enlisted on or after 1st October, 1906, or who, having enlisted before that date, have relinquished their service pay rights on entering on a new contract as stated above. A service qualification of two years Colour service is the only condition necessary during mobilisation for the Class II. rate (3d. per day) of proficiency pay (service on a prior engagement in the Regular Army, Royal Marines, Special Reserve, or, subject to certain conditions as to camp attendance, in the Territorial Force, may count for this qualification). To earn the Class I. rate (6d. a day) a private soldier must in addition have passed the standard test in shooting or be a qualified signaller. Non-commissioned officers of or above the rank of sergeant get Class I. rate provided they have two years' Colour service. All Reservists who have rejoined the Colours draw service or proficiency pay according to the class of service or proficiency pay they were drawing when they were transferred to the Reserve.

[Hansard 27 April 1915 vol .71]

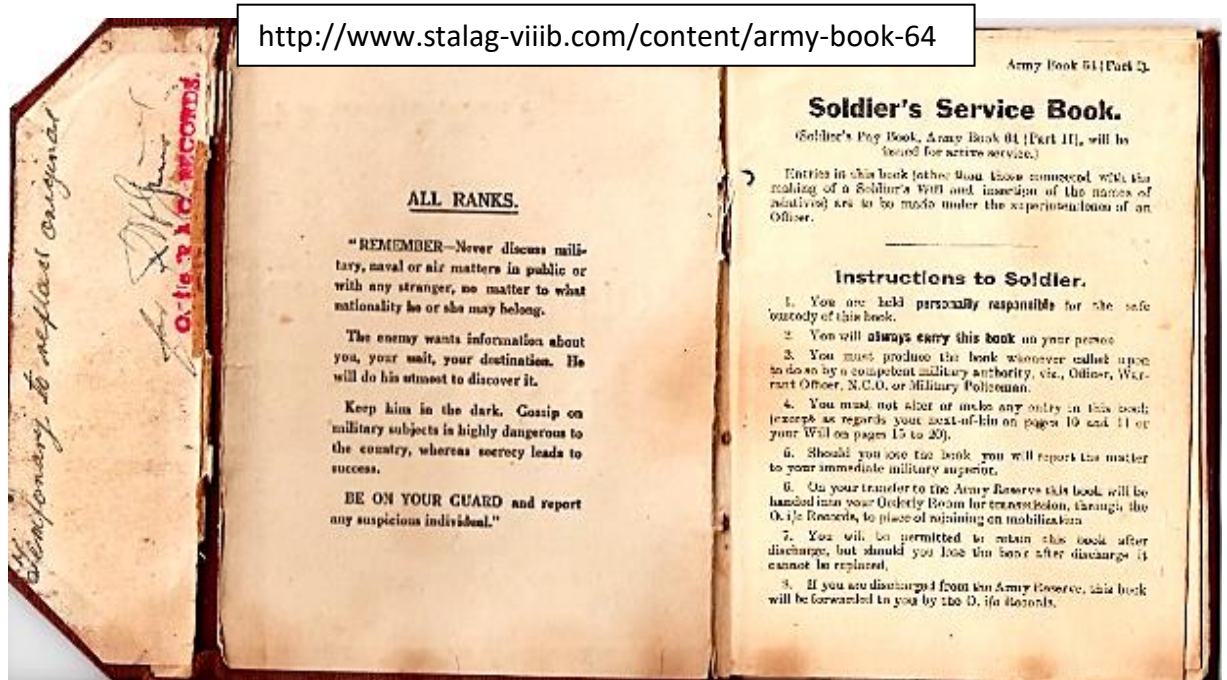
Army pay was documented in a Pay Book (Army Book 64) which contained also important information such as the Service Number, personal ID, training records, employment history, medical data, next of kin identification and a page for writing a brief last will and testament. The book had an embossed waterproof material cover to afford it some protection and

⁷³ Sir John Butcher, 1st Baron Danesfort QC. He was the Conservative MP for York from 1892 to 1906 and from 1910 to 1923.

⁷⁴ Harold Trevor Baker PC (22 January 1877 – 12 July 1960), a British scholar and Liberal politician.

instructions inside the book included:

- 1) You are held personally responsible for the safe custody of this book.
- 2) You will always carry this book on your person.
- 3) You must produce the book whenever called upon to do so by competent military authority, Officer, Warrant Officer, N.C.O, or Military Policeman.
- 4) You must not alter or make any entry in this book (except as regards your next-of-kin on page 10 and 11 or your will on pages 15 - 20).
- 5) Should you lose this book, you will report the matter to your immediate military supervisor.

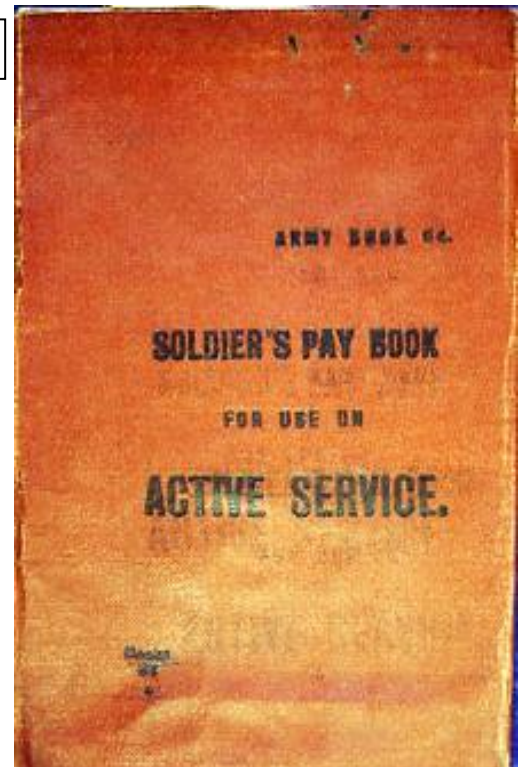


<http://www.kingsownmuseum.com/ab6>

The Army Book 64 was issued in 2 parts, the first part having to be carried at all times – it was a punishable offence not to carry it on the person.

Part 2 was issued only on active service and was a record of pay issued.

The details of how one soldier's pay was calculated is illustrated on the following page. This relates to Private Alfred Cooper⁷⁵, a Territorial serving with the Lincolnshire Regiment. As well as the statutory 1s per day Alfred received 11d per day as additional payment.



⁷⁵ Alfred Cooper had no known connection to Neston or Burton – his Army Book is used solely for illustrative purposes.

2. 1 Group (3)

Regiment or Corps 15th

Regular or Terr. Force T.F.

Squadron, Battery, or Company C

No. 201237 Rank Plt

NAME in full W.W. Cooper

Date of Attestation 17/5/15 and

Age on Enlistment 19

If appointed to a unit formed on Mobilization, the designation of such unit should be clearly stated here—

NOTE.—The account of the soldier while on active service will be kept in the Office of the Paymaster paying the Base Depot of his Unit or by the Paymaster at the Record Office Station of his Unit, and all communications relating to his accounts should be addressed accordingly.

Notification under A.O. 1, of 4-12-17 of alteration of the net rate of pay issuable to a soldier from the 29th September, 1917.
(To be inserted in front of page 3 of A.P. 64.)

Soldier's Name Cooper A.W.

Regtl. No. and Rank 201237

Unit 1st Bn LINCOLN

Regimental Pay (including the extra 3d. a day authorised for Warrant and N.C.Os. of certain arms) ...	s.	d.
Proficiency Pay ...	1	6
Service Pay ...		
Engineer or Corps Pay ...		
Difference (if any) to make up the minimum under the Army Order ...		3
War Pay ...		2
Deduct Voluntary Allotment ...		
Compulsory Stoppage ...		
† NET DAILY RATE FOR ISSUE:	1	11


(Words) one shilling

eleven pence REGTL. PAYMASTER LICHEFIELD.
8 - MAR 1918 Regimental Paymaster
Date. Station.

† Subject to Promotions, Reductions, etc., since 29th Sept., 1917.
(M4001) W2683/G381 1500m 12/17 r859 G & S E 2298

<http://www.warrelics.eu/forum/attachments/docs-paper-items-photos-propaganda/33418d1239287109-soldiers-service-pay-book-ab64-ab64.jpg?s=66baa627018b1b2358129b64d203b808>

http://media.iwm.org.uk/ciim5/365/527/large_000000.jpg?action=d&cat=posters

G.  R.

SOLDIERS' SEPARATION ALLOWANCES

INCREASED RATES from MARCH 1, 1915

Increased Separation Allowances for the War are now given to the wives and children of married soldiers and to the dependants of unmarried men and widowers.

WIVES AND CHILDREN OF MARRIED MEN.

The New Weekly Rates are as follows:

	<small>Private and Corporal</small>	<small>Sergeant</small>	<small>Captain</small>	<small>Quarter-Master Sergeant</small>	<small>Warrant Officer (1st class)</small>
Wife - - - - -	12s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	16s. 6d.	22s. 0d.	25s. 0d.
Wife and child - -	17s. 6d.	20s. 0d.	21s. 6d.	27s. 0d.	28s. 0d.
Wife and 2 children	21s. 0d.	23s. 6d.	25s. 0d.	30s. 6d.	31s. 6d.

With 2s. extra for each additional child.

These rates include the usual allotment of 3s. 6d. a week for privates and corporals, and 5s. 10d. for other ranks.

Adopted children are admitted. The ordinary limit of age for children is now 16, and the allowance is continued up to 21 in certain cases (for higher education, apprenticeship on a nominal wage, or physical or mental infirmity). Soldiers marrying AFTER enlistment are now eligible.

An extra 3s. 6d. a week is paid in the case of soldiers living in the London postal area at the time of enlistment if the families continue to live there.

Forms of Application for Separation Allowance can be filled in at the Recruiting Office.

MOTHERLESS CHILDREN.

5s. a week clear for each child.

OTHER DEPENDANTS OF UNMARRIED SOLDIERS AND WIDOWERS.

If a soldier who is unmarried or a widower (or one whose wife is not drawing separation allowance because she was living apart from him before the war) had any person or persons (whether related or not), including children, actually dependent upon him before he enlisted, the Government will pay that dependant a weekly sum provided the soldier contributes a share (one third or less) of the amount. The intention is to allow to the dependant, within certain limits (see below), the same amount weekly that the soldier paid him or her before enlistment, less any portion that went to pay for his own keep.

As an example, if the soldier had paid 17s. 6d. a week in peace to his mother, and 7s. 6d. of this was needed for his own keep, the allowance admissible will be the remaining 10s. Towards this the soldier will contribute 5s. a day from his pay.

The amount the Government will pay to any one dependant of a soldier will not exceed the amount of separation allowance for a wife (see table above), but that limit will be raised if more persons than one were dependent on the same soldier.

To secure an allowance the soldier must complete Army Form O.1558 (which will be given to him at the Recruiting Office), and hand the completed form to his Commanding Officer within one month of enlistment.

NOTE.—As it is impossible to explain all the classes of cases on a poster, intending recruits can obtain fuller information from the two pamphlets for married and unmarried men, revised to 1st March, 1915, which they can get at any Post Office.

PUBLISHED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY RECRUITING COMMITTEE, LONDON. PAPER No. 154. 1915. 22

Ⓝ What pensions were paid to war widows?

WIDOWS AND DEPENDANTS

Pensions to the widows, children, and dependants of deceased soldiers, cannot be claimed as a right, and no pension is granted or continued to a widow or dependant who is unworthy of favour, and it is in the power of the Minister of Pensions to terminate or suspend any pension that may have been granted to such persons or to provide for its administration under such conditions as he may determine, and his decision in any case shall be final.

He may deduct from any pension or allowance the cost of any benefit which it may hereafter be decided to substitute, provided that no deduction made shall be at a greater rate than one penny for each full half-crown of the pension or allowance.

Widows' Pensions. The widow of a soldier who is killed while in the performance of Military duty, or dies as a result of wounds or injuries received, or dies of disease due to or aggravated by active service, within seven years of his removal from duty on account of such disease or injuries, may be granted a minimum pension at the following rates—

	Weekly.
	s. d.
Warrant Officer, Class I	21 3
Warrant Officer, Class II, or Non-Commissioned Officer, Class I	18 9
Non-Commissioned Officer, Class II	17 6
Non-Commissioned Officer, Class III	16 3
Non-Commissioned Officer, Class IV	15 0
Private, etc. (Class V)	13 9

The pension granted to the widow of a soldier who held paid acting rank may be at the rate appropriate to that rank.

Alternative Pension. Any widow pensioned as above who makes application and shows that the minimum pension, with children's allowances (if any), which she has been granted is less than one-half of any alternative pension that might have been awarded to the deceased soldier had he survived, may be granted, in lieu of a minimum pension and children's allowances, a pension which shall not exceed one-half of such deceased soldier's alternative pension.

The pension issuable to a widow is increased by 1s. 3d. a week when she reaches the age of 45.

Training. An allowance not exceeding 12s. 6d. per week may be made to a widow for a period not exceeding thirteen weeks whilst she is undergoing any course of instruction which, in the opinion of the Minister of Pensions, will be advantageous to her. Where an allowance is granted under this subsection any fees for training, for which provision is not otherwise made, may be paid.

Temporary Pension. The widow of a soldier who has died from wounds, injuries, or disease, neither attributable to Military service nor certified as aggravated by such service, may be granted a temporary pension of 15s. a week for the period of the War and for twelve months afterwards.

Any pension granted to the widow of a soldier ceases on her re-marriage, and she may then be given a gratuity equal to one year of her minimum pension. Allowances for children may be paid after re-marriage.

The widow of a man who has been in receipt of a disablement pension of not less than 10s. a week, but whose death does not entitle her to a pension, may, provided she was living with the man at the time of his death, receive a pension of not more than one-half of the deceased soldier's pension.

Gratuity. In addition to any pension and children's allowances there may be granted—

A gratuity not exceeding £5 to meet expenses conse-

It has been calculated that, universally, one third of the 9.7 million soldiers killed or declared missing during the Great War left behind a widow each with, on average, two children. In Britain, there were 240,000 widows of the 750,000 military men killed or missing.

quent on or caused by the soldier's death, in any case when the death of the soldier occurred on or prior to July 1, 1916.

The widow of a soldier separated from him at the time of his death may, if otherwise eligible, be granted a pension equal to the amount due to her under a separation order or voluntarily paid by her husband, or both, up to a maximum of 10s. a week, and allowances for her children, if maintained by her. Allowances for children may also be granted to the separated wife of a soldier who did not contribute to her support.

Any woman who has lived as his wife with a soldier, who has died in the circumstances set forth above, may, if she had been wholly or substantially dependent on that soldier and has been drawing separation allowance as for a wife, or was eligible for such allowance, be granted a pension—

If and for so long as she has children of the soldier in her charge, 10s. a week and allowances for the children.

Or if she has no children of the soldier, or has ceased to have them in her charge (otherwise than from their being removed from her control on account of her misconduct), 10s. a week for the period of the War and twelve months afterwards, or for twelve months after ceasing to have any child of the deceased soldier in her charge, whichever be the later date, and for any subsequent period during which, from infirmity or age, she is wholly or partly incapable of supporting herself.

Children's Allowances. A widow pensioned may be granted a further allowance at the following weekly rates for each child under the age of 16 maintained by her—

	s. d.
For a first child	5 0
For a second child	4 2
For a third child	3 4
For each child after the third	2 6

Motherless Children. The child of a soldier may be awarded a pension of—

7s. a week if motherless, or is not or ceases to be under the control of its mother. In the event of two or more

children, the amount will be reduced to 6s. for each of the children after the first.

Illegitimate Children. 5s. a week where an affiliation order was in force on account of a child at the time of the soldier's death, or in the case of a child of a woman who was not married to or supported by the soldier, where there is satisfactory proof that he was its father.

This pension may continue in either case while the child is under the age of 16, and beyond that age under certain circumstances.

CHILDREN—RE-MARRIAGE

In case of the re-marriage of a soldier's widow, the child of that soldier is not entitled to pension while the woman's present husband is engaged on munition work, or separation allowance while her husband is living away from home.

These allowances are issued in respect of the child of any soldier born before or within nine months after the soldier's discharge, but not the child of a wife or widow who was married to the soldier after the end of the War, or after his discharge, or after the receipt of the wound or injury, or after removal from duty on account of the contraction or the aggravation of the disease which caused his death.

The gratuity payable to a widow on re-marriage should be calculated on the widow's rate of pension alone. The issue of the children's pensions is not affected by the re-marriage.

Children's pensions are issuable to the date inclusive on which they attain the limit of age. They cease to be payable if the children are admitted to the Duke of York's Royal Military School, the Royal Hibernian Military School, or the Queen Victoria School; or if, being over the age of 6 years, they are admitted to an Industrial School or to an orphanage receiving a Government contribution towards the maintenance of the inmates.

Life certificates will be required only once a quarter, the blank forms being sent out with the money orders for the last payment in the second month of the quarter.

When the life certificate shows that the children are being maintained in a charitable institution, it will be ascertained whether the authorities of the institution require the pension in aid of the children's maintenance. If not required, the case will be referred to the War Office.

If a child for whom a double pension has been authorized should become chargeable to the parish, the pension must be reduced to the single rate while so chargeable.

The pension of a child who becomes entitled to separation or subsistence allowance in consequence of the mother having re-married a soldier must be reduced by an amount equivalent to such allowance.

(26008) Wt. 22710/951. 50,000(4). 3/18. R. & L., Ltd.

Widows—Form 3.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—
The Secretary,
Ministry of Pensions
(Widows and Dependants Branch),
45, Grosvenor Road,
London, S.W. 1,
and the following number quoted.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS
(Widows & Dependants Branch),
45, GROSVENOR ROAD,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

No. 2180 Cheshire (Rev. W.I.)

SIR,

I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to inform you that the widow of No. 50391

Pte W.P. Prosser
Missing 1st Co Cheshire
has been awarded a Pension of 14s 7d a week, for herself and six children, with effect from the 13-1-19

The Officer issuing Separation Allowance has been informed of the award.

The Pension will be paid from the Pension Issue Office.

The certificates received in support of the application have been returned to the widow.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

Matthew Nathan

The Officer in charge of Records,

Secretary.

The calculation of pensions and other payments and gratuities was complex but the extract from *War Pensions and Allowances (1918)* [J.M. Hogge MP & T.H. Garside] gives some idea of the payments which could be expected by British war widows and dependent children of an army soldier.

As an example, the pension document received by Mary Ellen, the widow of **72: William Prosser**, a Private, records that she and her six children would be entitled to 42s 1d [£2 2s 1d] per week from 13 January 1919. This notification, sent on 21 December 1918, also has, faintly written, the word *missing* before '1st Cheshire'. This is rather strange as William died on 9 July 1918, possibly from the effects of mustard gas, at the 10th Canadian Stationary Hospital in Calais.

It is not apparent from this document how the pension was calculated as Mary was granted more than the basic payment of 13s 9d + 5s 0d

+ 4s 2d + 3s 4d + 2s 6d + 2s 6d + 2s 6d [£1 13s 9d] would indicate.

The labour value (wages) of £2 2s 1d would, in 2018, be equivalent to about £350 per week.