



*Suggested Amendments to the
War Pensions Act submitted
by The South African Legion
for the consideration of the
Honourable The Minister.*

Bloemfontein :
D. FRANCIS & Co. Ltd.
Printers
17 West Burgerstreet.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION, B.E.S.L.

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NATIONAL PATRON-IN-CHIEF - HIS EXCELLENCY
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ASST. NATIONAL SECRETARY - CAPTAIN H. L. McLEAN



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PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE NATIONAL SECRETARY AND IN REPLY QUOTE No.....

21st January, 1943.

10/2

The Honourable the Minister of Finance,
Treasury,
CAPE TOWN.

Sir,

WAR PENSIONS ACT, 1942

Further to this office letter of the 29th ultimo re the above, I have the honour to submit for your consideration the attached Memorandum (two copies) in which it will be found that the Legion has attempted to actually re-draft the various sections so as to include the Legion's proposals with the reasons for the proposed alteration to the relevant section as printed, the alterations being underlined if of a minor nature, and those covering substantial alterations indicated in the margin.

In submitting these proposals in their present form the Legion would express its regret that it had been unable to submit them earlier for your consideration, but the idea of framing actual amendments had not occurred to the Legion until you asked the deputation, which you were good enough to receive last month, to submit a draft on Section 2 in the light of the discussions that took place then.

I would direct your special attention to the fact that for the reasons given under section 42 the Legion has withdrawn its proposals re volunteers 70% disabled and over, and that with regard to those serving in the Union injured "off duty" it has proposed an alternative under section 35—Special Grants Board.

In drafting these amendments the Legion has endeavoured to keep within the main principles now governing the Act, and also within the scope of the proposals submitted to you last year where it was possible to do so without coming into conflict with the general provisions now governing the Act, with minor exceptions.

The Legion is confident that if the Act can be amended so as to lay down actual amounts to be awarded, wherever this is possible, not only will it facilitate its administration but prevent a lot of dissatisfaction whether legitimate or not.

With regard to the suggested new section "Benefits under other Acts," I must express my regret that this was not submitted to you by the deputation, but I am confident that the omission to do so will not prevent you from giving it your most sympathetic consideration in view of the great importance of the principle underlying it.

Should you, on receipt of this, consider any useful purpose would be served by personal discussion, a small deputation of the Legion would be prepared to come to Cape Town at any time convenient to yourself.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Legion, I would convey to you their regret that in spite of all your great efforts last year to amend the Act on a satisfactory basis it has been found necessary to submit the attached.

For your information I may state that a copy of this letter, together with a copy of the attached Memorandum has been addressed to the office of the Commissioner of Pensions, Pretoria.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. PUNTIS,
National President.

**SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE WAR PENSIONS ACT SUBMITTED
BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE
HONOURABLE THE MINISTER.**

DEFINITIONS:

1. "Child" means a child of a volunteer born before enlistment, during the volunteer's service or within sixteen years of the date of his discharge, and includes any child regularly maintained by him at the date of his enlistment.

Or as an alternative, but not recommended:

"Child" means a child of a volunteer born before enlistment, during the volunteer's service or within four years after his discharge, or within a year after the volunteer reaches the age of thirty-five years, whichever is the later, and includes any child regularly maintained by him at the date of his enlistment.

"Widow" in relation to a volunteer means the widow of the volunteer whose marriage took place prior to enlistment, during the volunteer's service or within fifteen years of his discharge, and except as is specially provided for, does not include a woman who was separated, either by order of the court or otherwise, from her husband at the date of his death.

Or as an alternative, but not recommended:

"Widow" in relation to a volunteer means the widow of the volunteer whose marriage took place prior to enlistment, during the volunteer's service or within three years after his discharge, or on his reaching the age of thirty-five years whichever is the later, and except as is specially provided for, does not include a woman who was separated, either by order of the court or otherwise, from her husband at the date of his death.

With regard to the proposed alterations in the definitions of "child" and "widow" as well as that of "wife" dealt with under Section 9 (1), the Legion is not in a position to add much to what it has already stated in the many appeals it has made in the past to have the scope of these definitions widened, but would point out that as the Act now stands no child of a volunteer unmarried or discharged from service can become eligible for the "child's" allowance. See paras. (11) and (12) of the Legion's Pension Memorandum.

PRE-WAR EARNINGS:

2. (1) "Pre-war earnings" means the average monthly earnings of the volunteer during the twelve months (or such lesser period as the board may determine) preceding the sixth day of December, 1939, or enlistment, whichever date is the more advantageous to the volunteer.

(2) Provided that enlistment took place before the age of twenty-five years and the volunteer is by reason of his disablement incapable, as the case may be, of pursuing any profession or trade, notwithstanding what his pre-war earnings may have been, the following amounts will be substituted:—

(a) On submitting proof that at the time of his enlistment he was qualifying or had qualified for a profession he shall be deemed to have had an earnings capacity of an amount not exceeding four hundred and fifty pounds per annum.

(b) On submitting proof that at the time of his enlistment he was serving under articles of apprenticeship in a recognised trade or had completed such apprenticeship, he shall be deemed to have had an

earning capacity equal to the highest standard rate of wages of that trade in which he was serving at the time of his enlistment, not exceeding £450 per annum; provided that should he submit proof that his educational standard was equivalent to the matriculation standard prior to his enlistment he shall be awarded an alternative pension as provided for in (a) of this sub-section.

(c) In all other cases not governed by those provided for in (a) and (b), the volunteer who submits proof that his educational standard was equivalent to the Matriculation standard prior to enlistment, shall be deemed to have had a pre-war earning capacity of four hundred and fifty pounds per annum, and those with lesser educational qualifications shall be deemed to have had a pre-war earnings capacity equal to the average of the rate of wages of recognised trades as provided for in (b). In the case of the personnel of the Youth Training Brigade the educational standard accepted for the purpose of assessing the volunteer's pre-war earning capacity shall be that as disclosed from the records of that Unit on the termination of the volunteer's service with it. Should more than one of the foregoing paras. (a), (b) and (c) apply to the case of a volunteer, that one which is most favourable to the volunteer shall be deemed to apply.

(d) That notwithstanding the foregoing any volunteer who enlists under the age of twenty-five years who is in a position to prove actual pre-war earnings in excess of what he might be awarded under (b) and (c) shall be assessed on the amount actually earned.

(3) In calculating pre-war earnings the following may be included for the purpose of arriving at the average monthly earnings in addition to fixed salary or wages.

(a) Any benefits, whether in cash or kind, so far as they were regular and a recognised part of the volunteer's remuneration; benefits in kind being reckoned at the value to the volunteer, not necessarily at the cost to the employer;

(b) Such other income as the board may declare to be earnings, not including any expenditure in the production of income.

(c) On the recommendation of the Board, and subject to the approval of the Minister, a volunteer who enlists over the age of twenty-five years and has qualified for a profession or trade, but whose actual pre-war earnings are below the amounts provided for in (a) and (b) of the previous sub-section on account of such enlistment may be deemed to have had an earning capacity up to those amounts.

Dealing in detail with these proposed alterations any attempt to assess the amount of the Alternative pension to be awarded by taking into account any pre-war earnings (except as provided for) must defeat the whole intention of these provisions and make it impossible to mete out equal justice to this class of volunteer. In support of this it is only necessary to instance the case of the medical student and the artiled pupil, the former with no earning capacity, the other with a definite earning capacity increasing in amount in accordance with his years of service, but of course falling far below the amount paid to a fully qualified man, and for this reason the Legion submits that proof of intention to qualify or having qualified as laid down in (a) is all that should be required to assess the pension at the maximum amount without making it dependant on the recommendation of the Board for the approval of the Minister.

In (b) which takes the place of sub-section (3) it will be noted that the Alternative pension is to be based on "the highest standard rate of wages" of the volunteer's trade instead of as in the present Act "the standard rate of wages in the district in which he was serving," and in support of this proposal the Legion would point out that, to vary the amount of compensation to two equally disabled volunteers on account of a mere geographical factor, bearing in mind the youth of the volunteer concerned, would be the negation of all principles of justice. Further, as even this scale of compensation is based only on the wages of a journeyman of the trade concerned and that, but for his war disablement, the volunteer might well have risen to the rank of foreman and higher, the proposed increase cannot be considered excessive.

In (c) it is to be noted that the Legion has based the amount to be awarded on the educational qualifications of the young volunteer who, owing either to

having enlisted straight from school, or to his pre-enlistment employment precluding him from being assessed under (b) owing to the want of legal enactments to govern his pre-enlistment employment and wages, and is, it is hoped, in conformity with the Minister's own suggestion to the deputation when discussing the Legion's proposals re the personnel of the Youth Training Brigade, and that the educational standard proposed is the highest possible. The Legion is convinced that, unless the present Act is amended to cover this class of young volunteer, a very grave injustice will be done to many now serving, and provides a solution for the problem of the farmer's son on an equitable basis by avoiding further class distinction.

The need for (d) is self-evident so as to prevent the strict interpretations of the previous provisions operating adversely to the volunteer's interests.

With regard to the addition of (c) in the proposed sub-section now numbered (3), as it is realised that all time or age limits in legislation create a crop of hard cases, and that in this instance, even if the age limit was raised to twenty-six years of age as in Act 42 of 1919, while this would undoubtedly reduce the number of these cases a certain number are bound to come to light, so, in order that these cases may be dealt with without loss of time and petition to Parliament, the Legion trusts, as its wording fully protects the taxpayer, that the Minister will concur in the inclusion in the Act of this proviso.

In support of the Legion's proposal it would direct attention to the case of doctors who, owing to the high standard of qualifications required for their profession, many do not qualify until reaching the age limit set by the Act and, as it is understood that the Defence Department insists on six months' further training in civil employment, during which period the remuneration received would be nothing like £450 per annum, the necessity of the proviso suggested by the Legion, if injustice is to be avoided, becomes apparent and other hard cases affecting trades as well as professions can readily be visualised.

In conclusion the Legion would again reiterate the incontestible principle "The greater the youth the greater the injury" and the urgent necessity of the provisions of our War Pensions Act ensuring that these young volunteers are at least compensated on a scale no less generous than that provided for their older comrades.

DISABLEMENT AND ALTERNATIVE PENSIONS:

5. (1) A discharged volunteer who is suffering from disablement which, in the opinion of the Board, is attributable to military service outside the Union or has arisen out of and in the course of the discharge of military service performed in the Union, and which is not due to his own serious misconduct, may be awarded a pension based on the degree of such disablement (hereinafter referred to as a "disablement pension") or a pension based on his loss of earning capacity due to such disablement (hereinafter referred to as an "alternative pension").

(2) If a volunteer who performed military service outside the Union during the War was prior to such service classified by the responsible authorities in the A or B1 medical categories, or who was classified as being fit for military service without any form of such service been excepted, than any disease from which he is proved to be suffering at the time of his discharge from military service shall be regarded for the purpose of this Act as attributable to such service. The onus of proof that the applicant was classified in a lower medical category than those above mentioned, or was not so classified, shall be upon the Board.

(3) If a discharged volunteer is suffering from disablement which was, in the opinion of the Board, aggravated but not caused by that service, and the aggravated condition is not due to his own serious misconduct, he may be awarded either a disablement pension or an alternative pension in respect of the degree of disablement resulting from the said aggravation only, except that in cases where the total percentage of disablement materially affects the volunteer's earning capacity in the open labour market compensation shall be payable on the full amount of the existing disablement.

In submitting the foregoing for consideration the Legion, realising that the wording of sub-section (2) as printed has proved unsatisfactory and difficult of interpretation, has attempted to redraft it in the light of its obvious intention when passed last Session.

The Legion trusts that its proposed proviso that the onus of proof with regard to the medical category of the volunteer being the responsibility of the board will be deemed to be a reasonable one, and that the deletion of the proviso in the sub-section as printed with regard to B.1. "served in a fighting capacity" although admittedly going further than was originally intended, may well be justified by the fact that B.1. medical category only includes volunteers with either remedial defects or minor physical defects, and that, after all, if the Military Authorities, owing to the volunteer's special qualifications, find it advisable to employ him in what is not generally recognised as a "fighting unit" it would appear to the Legion that they might well be dealt with on the same lines as those who are classified under A medical category which, it should be noted, is substituted for A.1. in the Act, in order to obviate further difficulties with regard to interpretation.

With regard to the proposed addition to sub-section (3), the Legion can add nothing to the reasons given in sub-para. (e) of para. (2) as set out in its Pensions Memorandum submitted last year, and trusts that it will be included in the Act.

Note.—This will cancel sub-section (2), Section 35.

RATES OF DISABLEMENT PENSION.

6. (1) A disablement pension may be awarded to a volunteer at the rate indicated in the Second Schedule as corresponding to his rank and the percentage at which his disablement has been assessed: Provided that the pension granted to a volunteer who held temporary or paid acting rank at the time he was wounded or injured or at the termination of his service may be at the rate appropriate to that rank.

(2) If the pensionable degree of disablement is assessed at less than twenty per cent., a gratuity not exceeding five hundred pounds shall be awarded instead of a pension. Such gratuity shall be at the rate indicated in the Second Schedule as corresponding to his rank and the percentage at which his disablement has been assessed.

(3) If it is considered by the Minister to be more in the interests of a volunteer, a gratuity not exceeding five hundred pounds may be substituted for a permanent pension and allowances (if any) based on twenty per cent. disablement or more: Provided that if, subsequent to the grant of a gratuity in lieu of pension, the pensionable condition materially deteriorates, a pension may be awarded to the volunteer on the basis of the new assessment and recovery of the amount of the gratuity paid shall be made from such pension at such rate as the Commissioner may determine.

The Legion's reason for proposing that the relevant Schedules should be amended to include the actual amounts payable in the form of gratuities for disablement under twenty per cent. according to rank of the volunteer is that the Act should define the actual amount of compensation wherever it is possible to do so as this tends to allay dissatisfaction, and it trusts that as the amounts suggested are in conformity with the general principles of the Act that they will be accepted.

It will be noted that nineteen per cent. has been eliminated and that the gratuities are payable on 15%, 10%, 5% and 1% disablement for reasons previously stated.

ALLOWANCES IN RESPECT OF WIFE AND CHILDREN:

9 (1) A volunteer to whom a disablement pension has been awarded, shall be granted, during the continuance of the pension, allowances in respect of his wife and children at the rates indicated in the Second Schedule. The allowance in respect of the wife shall be made whether the marriage took place before enlistment, during his military service or within fifteen years of his discharge.

Or as an alternative to the words after the word "Schedule" in the fourth line of the sub-section as above, the following, which is not recommended:—

"The allowance in respect of the wife shall be made whether the marriage took place before enlistment, during his military service, or within three years after his discharge, or on his reaching the age of thirty-five years, whichever is the later."

See explanation given under "DEFINITIONS"—"Widow."

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND CHILDREN.

17. As the only alteration proposed by the Legion in this section affects the Third Schedule, copy attached, it is unnecessary to re-quote the Section.

In asking for the deletion of the last line of this Schedule as printed and adding before the word "Major" in the first column the words "All other ranks up to and including that of Major" the Legion realises that as far as the actual pension is concerned, as only an amount of £8 per annum is involved, the request is a minor one, and that the raising of the gratuity to £300 for all below the rank of Major is the crux of the whole matter.

The Legion would, however, point out that if the Act is to be based throughout on consistent principles it fails to understand how the provisions of the Schedule can be reconciled with those laid down in the Second Schedule except on the grounds of expense. The Legion would most earnestly appeal to the Government that, having accepted last year the principle of equality of compensation to junior officers and other ranks up to and including that of Major in the Second Schedule, it must not depart from it in the Third Schedule on account of the cost; further, as the amount now stands widows of Captains and Lieutenants, without children, serving in the present war are actually to receive less in the form of gratuities than those of similar rank in previous wars.

SEPARATED WIFE:

21. (1) If a volunteer who died in the circumstances described in section seventeen was, at the time of his death, married to, but separated (whether by order of court or deed of separation) from a woman whom he, immediately prior to his death, was obliged to maintain in terms of an order of court, or deed of separation, or whom he actually maintained, and who would, but for the said separation, have been his widow, the said woman may be granted—

(a) Such a pension, not exceeding eighty-four pounds a year, as the Board may think fit to award her, and

(b) an allowance at the appropriate rate set forth in the Third Schedule in respect of each child of the deceased volunteer.

(2) If a volunteer who died in the circumstances described in section seventeen was, at the time of his death married to, but separated (whether by order of court or otherwise) from a woman, whom he, immediately prior to his death, was not obliged to maintain in terms of an order of court or deed of separation, and did not in fact maintain, and who would, but for the said separation have been his widow, the said woman may be granted—

(a) Such a pension, not exceeding eighty-four pounds a year, as the Board may think fit to award her; and

(b) an allowance at the appropriate rate set forth in the Third Schedule in respect of each child of the deceased volunteer.

Provided that the pension mentioned in paragraph (a) of this sub-section shall not be awarded to the said woman if in the opinion of the Board the length of the period of non-maintenance by the volunteer prior to enlistment or the circumstances governing the case, does not justify an award being made.

(3) The provisions of sub-section (2) of section nine and of sub-section (4) of section seventeen shall, mutatis mutandis, apply in connection with allowances mentioned in sub-sections (1) and (2) of this section.

The alterations proposed in sub-section (2) are made for the following reasons:—

Cases often arise where a wife sues for separation and gets it, but on order for maintenance is made, either because the wife has means of her own or because the husband has nothing, or for some other reason. An Order of Court

presupposes that the party obtaining the order is not at fault, but this proviso gives the Military Pensions Board, in such case, power to find, notwithstanding the Order of Court, that the wife was at fault, and thus in effect to overrule the judgment of the Supreme Court. In any case the Legion feels that the Military Pensions Board is not a fitting tribunal to decide whether or not the woman was at fault. In many cases the decision of this simple question involves a protracted hearing, with witnesses, and it often necessitates inquiry into the matrimonial history of the parties for years back.

The Legion feels that there is a serious objection to the proviso that the pension shall not be awarded if the separation occurred more than two years prior to the date on which the deceased volunteer enlisted for military service. It is pointed out that the wife may have been in absolute need, and the sole reason for her not having received any support may have been the poverty or ill-health of her husband. Even if unsupported for two years or more in such circumstances, the wife always has a prospect of receiving support should the husband's circumstances improve at any future time and this prospect is destroyed the husband's death on service, therefore, she does lose something.

REPUTED WIFE

22. Any woman who had lived in sonsubinage with a deceased volunteer for a period of not less than one year immediately prior to his enlistment, but who is not his widow, or who has in her charge a child by herself and the volunteer, may if his death occurred in the circumstances described in section seventeen and if she was actually dependent on him at the time of his death, be granted a pension not exceeding eighty-four pounds a year, and she shall be granted children's allowances as those specified in the Third Schedule.

As the death of the volunteer on service prevents the position of the reputed wife being rectified, the differentiation between the amount now granted to the separated wife and the reputed wife appears to the Legion to be hardly justified.

PENSIONS TO PARENTS:

23. (1) The parents of a volunteer whose death occurred in the circumstances described in Section seventeen may be granted a pension not exceeding one hundred pounds a year on the ground of their dependence on the volunteer; or if they are wholly or partly incapable of self-support from age or infirmity and are in pecuniary need they shall be granted a pension of one hundred pounds a year, or if there is only one surviving parent, a pension of seventy-two pounds a year.

(2) Where parents have lost more than one son by death occurring in the circumstances described in section seventeen, a pension may be granted under sub-section (1) of this section on the ground of dependence in respect of each son lost, provided that the maximum pension so awarded shall not exceed one hundred and forty-four pounds a year; and where they are incapable of self-support and in pecuniary need they shall be granted a pension of one hundred and forty-four pounds a year, or in the case of one surviving parent a pension of one hundred pounds a year.

(3) If the volunteer was under the age of twenty-six years at the time of his death his parents or surviving parent, even though not dependent upon the volunteer and not in pecuniary need, shall be granted a pension of thirteen pounds a year, or in lieu thereof, at their or his option, a gratuity of one hundred pounds, provided that the receipt of such pension or gratuity shall not debar the parents or parent, should they or he become wholly or partly incapable of self-support from age or infirmity and fall into pecuniary need, from being granted a pension under sub-section (1) and (2) hereof, subject to any necessary adjustment with regard to any payment already made.

(4) A pension awarded under sub-section (1) or (3) of this section shall be subject to review from time to time as may be deemed necessary by the Board.

As it is obvious to the Legion that in the interpretation of this section as printed, owing to its wording the awards made under it in the majority of cases fall considerably short of the maximum permissible, and if this class of dependent

is to be compensated in accordance with the more generous scale now governing the scale of compensation to others the restrictions such as proof of "reasonable expectations of receiving support," of "standard of living" and "dependence on the volunteer, except in cases of proved dependency, must be eliminated from the section and the award made on the two factors "wholly or partly incapable of self-support from old age or infirmity" and "in pecuniary need," nor can the definite amounts now proposed under these circumstances be considered excessive and they will materially assist in the administration of the Act and avoid legitimate dissatisfaction by the awarding of varying amounts.

It will, however, be noted that in cases where "dependence" can be accepted the amount to be granted is made permissive.

PENSION TO WOMEN VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS:

26. (1) Subject to the provisions of section sixteen, the provisions of Chapters 1 and 11 shall, mutatis mutandis, apply to women volunteers in prescribed units: Provided that—

(a) the rates of pension, other than alternative pensions, and gratuities, shall be as indicated in the Fourth Schedule;

(b) no allowances shall be payable in respect of the husband of a disabled woman volunteer, unless by reason of physical or mental condition he is entirely dependent upon her for maintenance.

(c) an allowance for a child of a disabled woman volunteer shall be payable only in respect of a child who is dependent for maintenance on her;

(d) a widowed, divorced or unmarried woman volunteer whose pensionable disablement has been assessed at eighty per cent. or more, may be granted, during the continuance of her pension, allowances in respect of a parent, sister or brother who is entirely dependent upon her for maintenance: Provided that such an allowance shall not exceed thirty pounds a year in respect of each such dependant.

(2) (i) If the death of a woman volunteer occurs in the circumstances described in sub-section (1) of section seventeen there may be granted—

(a) to or in respect of the children of a woman volunteer, an allowance not exceeding seventy-two pounds a year in respect of each child, subject to the conditions laid down in sub-section (2) of section nine;

(b) to a husband who is drawing an allowance as provided for in (b) of sub-section (1) of this section if her death occurred in the circumstances described in section seventeen, he shall be granted a pension if the woman volunteer was drawing an alternative pension of two-thirds of that amount, or if childless one-half, or one hundred and forty pounds a year if the woman volunteer was drawing a disablement pension, whichever is the greater, and if her death occurred in the circumstances described in section twenty, sub-section one, an amount equal to that awarded to a "widow" in that sub-section;

(c) to a parent, pension at the rates and subject to the conditions laid down in section twenty-three;

(d) to a brother, sister or other dependant, a pension not exceeding seventy-two pounds a year if the person was dependent on the deceased woman volunteer and is wholly or partially incapable of self-support and in pecuniary need, for so long as the incapacity continues.

(ii) Any pension granted to a woman under this sub-section shall cease on her marriage or re-marriage and she may then be awarded a gratuity not exceeding six months of that pension.

This amended section must be read in the light of the amended Fourth Schedule attached, from which it will be noted that the Legion suggests, that as far as applicable, they should be on the same scale as that defined in the

Second Schedule which allows for equality of compensation for junior officers and other ranks, and as this would mean on the scale now applicable an amount of £195 per annum for one hundred per cent. disablement, a difference of only £5 as compared with that granted to male European volunteers of corresponding rank, in order to maintain uniformity and avoid immaterial differences which only give rise to dissatisfaction, the Legion trusts that as the principle of equality of compensation, irrespective of rank, has to a very considerable extent been accepted, it would be illogical not to apply it to the Nursing Service and women volunteers and that even Act 42 of 1919 made no such discrimination against this class of woman volunteer. The reasons for the suggested alterations in para. (b) of sub-section (1) and para. (b) in sub-section (2) are self evident, but with regard to the latter, by the elimination of the word "widow" which bears its ordinary meaning and not as defined in the Act, this will cover the cases of a divorced or separated wife and that of an unmarried mother.

PENSION TO NON-EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS (OTHER THAN NATIVES) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

28. (1) In the case of non-European volunteers (other than Natives) and their dependants—

(a) disablement pensions, gratuities and allowances for wives and children shall be at the rates indicated in the Fifth Schedule;

(b) the provisions of Chapters 11 and 111 regarding alternative pensions shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to disabled non-European volunteers (other than Natives) and their widows;

(c) widows' pensions (other than on the alternative basis), and allowances for children shall be at the rate indicated in the Sixth Schedule;

(d) all grants and allowances other than those mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) shall be at the rate of three-fifths of the rates applicable to European volunteers and their dependants;

(e) where a deceased volunteer leaves more than one widow eligible for compensation in terms of this Act, no alternative pension shall be payable and the amount of pension to be awarded to each widow shall be in the discretion of the Board, but shall not exceed the rate mentioned in column 1 of the Sixth Schedule;

(f) children's allowances shall terminate at the age of fourteen years in the case of a male child, and at the age of sixteen years, or previous marriage, in the case of a female child, unless a child is incapable, through mental or physical infirmity, of earning a livelihood, provided the infirmity existed before the child reached the age of fourteen years.

In addition, there may be granted, on the recommendation of the Board, an amount not exceeding eighteen pounds per year in respect of each child to meet fees payable while attending school, technical institute or University.

(2) In the granting of benefits on the basis laid down in sub-section (1) the provisions of Chapters 1, 11 and 111 shall as far as applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, apply.

It will be noted on reference to the amended Fifth and Sixth Schedules that the Legion's proposals are on the lines of those submitted last year with the addition of defining the amount of gratuities for disablement under twenty per cent. in the first and that they and the pensions and allowances are in accordance with that provided previously for European junior N.C.O.'s and privates. The only other alteration being to add to the end of sub-para. (f) the educational provision as now provided for European children.

PENSION TO NATIVES:

29 (1) In the case of Native volunteers and their dependants:

(a) Disablement pensions, gratuities and allowances for wives and children, shall be at the rates indicated in the Seventh Schedule;

(b) the provisions of Chapters 11 and 111 regarding alternative pension shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to Native volunteers and widows;

(c) widows' pensions (other than on the alternative basis), and allowances for children shall be at the rate indicated in the Eighth Schedule;

(d) all grants and allowances other than those mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) shall be at the rate of two-thirds of the rates applicable to non-European volunteers (other than Natives) and their dependants;

(e) where a deceased volunteer leaves more than one widow eligible for compensation in terms of this Act, no alternative pension shall be payable and the amount of pension to be awarded to each widow shall be in the discretion of the Board, but shall not exceed the rate mentioned in column 1 of the Eighth Schedule;

(f) children's allowances shall terminate at the age of fourteen years in the case of a male child, and at the age of sixteen years, or previous marriage, in the case of a female child, unless a child is incapable, through mental or physical infirmity, of earning a livelihood, provided the infirmity existed before the child reached the age of fourteen years. In addition, there may be granted, on the recommendation of the Board, an amount not exceeding twelve pounds per year in respect of each child to meet fees payable while attending school, technical institute or University.

(2) For the purpose of this section "wife" or "widow" means a woman between whom and the volunteer a union exists which is recognised as a marriage by the Law (including Native Law and custom) of the Union.

(3) In the granting of benefits on the basis laid down in sub-section (1) the provisions of Chapters 1, 11 and 111 shall as far as applicable *mutatis mutandis* apply.

NOTE.—The above is in substitution for sections 29, 30 and 31 as printed.

For the sake of uniformity it will be noted that the Legion has adopted the form of the previous section as far as applicable, and that the scale of compensation is two-thirds of that proposed for non-European volunteers (other than Natives) and their dependants without exception.

SPECIAL GRANTS BOARD:

35 (1) The Minister may appoint a Special Grants Board of not more than five members, to consider the cases of volunteers or their dependants whose applications have been rejected by the Board or on appeal by the Military Pensions Appeal Board.

(2) The Special Grants Board shall take into consideration the general and financial circumstances of the disabled volunteer, or of the dependants of a deceased volunteer, the extent of disablement and the length and nature of the volunteer's military service, and in no case shall it grant a lump sum exceeding two hundred pounds to any one individual in any one year or an annuity exceeding two hundred pounds to any one individual.

(3) The funds to be administered by the Special Grants Board shall be voted each year by Parliament.

NOTE.—The deletion of sub-section (2) is occasioned by the proposed alteration in Section 5 (3).

The Legion, in submitting this proposed financial increase, would point out that in all amendments so far submitted it has strictly kept to the general principles governing the Act passed last Session and has refrained from re-submitting its proposal of last year re compensation for injury off duty for those serving inside the Union (Section 5) and has done so with great reluctance, but in view of all the present circumstances decided in substitution to ask for the proposed increased financial powers so as to enable the Special Grants Board to deal somewhat more adequately with deserving cases, bearing in mind

especially the cases of volunteers killed off duty, but would make it perfectly clear that if the proposed increases cannot be granted the Legion desires that its original proposal be considered in its place.

CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF BENEFITS.

37 (1) The Minister may direct that no pension, gratuity or allowance shall be awarded under this Act to a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, does not deserve the benefit in question because of misconduct, and if a person to whom a pension, gratuity or allowance has been awarded under this Act has, in the opinion of the Minister so misconducted himself that he no longer deserves the benefit in question, the Minister may cancel the award or reduce or suspend further payment thereunder: Provided that the Minister shall not exercise any power conferred upon him by this sub-section unless he has given the beneficiary concerned a reasonable opportunity of making written representations to him against the proposed exercise of any such power; Provided always that the Minister, exercising any such power in all cases where there are dependants entitled to allowances shall direct that these allowances be continued to be paid to the dependants through such channels as he may direct, and increase such allowances to an amount that will ensure that such dependants do not suffer through no fault of their own, but in no case to an amount greater than half the pension the penalised volunteer should have or was receiving.

(2) The Minister may at any time annul wholly or in part or vary any direction or action which he may have given or taken under this section, and if he annuls the cancellation of an award of any benefit under this Act, he may retrospectively revive the award either wholly or in part.

While the Legion appreciates that the Minister desires this sub-section amended, merely to give him powers to continue the allowances to dependants, this would not meet the case of the married volunteer's wife and children as the main beneficiary in this case is the volunteer himself.

MINISTER TO DECIDE QUESTIONS:

42. Unless otherwise provided for, on representations being made to the Minister, either by the volunteer, or on his behalf, he may in cases where the volunteer's disablement is assessed at seventy per cent. disablement and over, and whose disability is such as materially to affect his earning capacity in the open labour market, but who on account, either of his actual pre-war earnings, or lack of proof thereof, is not entitled to an Alternative pension, the Minister may award an Alternative pension to the volunteer on such terms as he may consider necessary to meet the needs of the case and consistent with the provision governing the award of an Alternative pension, and whose decision will be final. Provided he may at any time vary or reverse such decision.

In submitting the above in substitution to its original proposals re volunteers disabled 70 per cent. and over, the Legion realises that the amounts then suggested would be in conflict with the provisions now governing the award of an alternative pension for the various classes of volunteers, and trusts that as the Section is solely permissive it may be accepted, so as to enable the Pensions Department to deal with hard cases, thus avoiding the delays occasioned by petitions to Parliament.

VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH FORCES OTHER THAN UNION FORCES:

45. (1) A South African serving with any Allied force other than the Union forces during the War, whether with permission or not, the provision of this Act shall continue to apply to and in respect of him. Provided that in the case where permission was not granted, he resides in the Union or the Mandated Territory of South West Africa on his discharge or termination of his service with such a force.

(2) The Minister, in respect of benefits payable in terms of this section, may determine the nature and extent of any financial adjustment between the State and the Government of any other country.

The Legion, in justification of the above, can only add to what it has already said that, as these volunteers have been advised by our Prime Minister that South Africa is proud of them, the least that can be done for them is to officially recognise their services. See para. 17 of Pensions Memorandum.

SUGGESTED NEW SECTION: BENEFITS UNDER OTHER ACTS:

As all benefits payable under this Act are either for services rendered by the volunteer and in consequence of his disablement in such service, or to his dependants owing to his death due to such service, such benefits, unless based on the scale of the alternative pension, shall not debar either him or them from any benefits under other Acts that they might become entitled to in their capacity as citizens, nor shall the amounts paid under this Act be treated as income for the purpose of assessing the amounts that might be payable under such other Acts.

The Legion realises that under present conditions the principle underlying this Section could not be applied to the Social Legislation now in force, and as the Legion confidently anticipates that in the post-war period big advances will be made in this form of legislation, the urgent necessity of establishing it now becomes apparent if the beneficiaries under the disablement pension are not only to continue to be debarred from their full share of the benefits already in force in their capacity as ordinary citizens, but will also be prevented from enjoying their rightful share in the future.

NEW SECTION: APPLICATION TO OTHER WARS:

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all benefits payable under this Act shall apply equally to other wars when it is to the advantage of the pensioner and his dependants, and shall be paid as from the date the increased provisions came into force.

If from the drafting point of view the above is unacceptable might the Act be amended on the lines suggested.

SECOND SCHEDULE

DISABLEMENT PENSIONS, GRATUITIES AND ALLOWANCES IN RESPECT OF WIFE AND CHILDREN.

Rates in Pounds per annum.

Percentage of Disablement	DISABLEMENT PENSION.						Allowances for wife and children for all ranks.		
	Lieut.-General	Major-General	Brigadier-General	Brigadier	Colonel	Lieut.-Colonel	All ranks up to and including Major	Wife	Each child
100	350	325	300	275	250	225	200	30	30
90	315	292½	270	247½	225	202½	180	27	27
80	280	260	240	220	200	180	160	24	24
70	245	227½	210	192½	175	157½	140	21	21
60	210	195	180	165	150	135	120	18	18
50	175	162½	150	137½	125	112½	100	15	15
40	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	12	12
30	105	97½	90	82½	75	67½	60	9	9
20	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	6	6
GRATUITIES.									
15	500	475	450	425	400	375	350		
10	375	353-¼	342-½	318-¾	300	281-¼	262-½		
5	250	235-½	225	212-½	200	187-¾	175		
1	125	117-¾	117-½	106-¼	100	93-¾	87-½		

THIRD SCHEDULE

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ALLOWANCES IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN OF DECEASED EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS

	Widow's Pension	Widow's Gratuity	Gratuity for each child	Allowance for each child
Lieutenant-General	400	1,200	400	30
Major-General	350	1,000	333.6.8	30
Brigadier-General	300	900	300	30
Brigadier	240	800	266.13.4	30
Colonel	200	600	200	30
Lieutenant-Colonel	180	450	150	30
All ranks up to and including Major	140	300	100	30

FOURTH SCHEDULE

NURSES AND OTHER WOMEN VOLUNTEERS.

Percentage of Disablement	Matron-in-Chief or Colonel	Asst. Matron-in-Chief and principal Matron or Lieut.-Colonel	All ranks up to and including that of Major Senior Matron and Junior Matron
100	250	225	200
90	225	202½	180
80	200	180	160
70	175	157½	140
60	150	135	120
50	125	112½	100
40	100	90	80
30	75	67½	60
20	50	45	40

GRATUITIES.

15	400	375	350
10	300	281½	262½
5	200	187½	175
1	100	93¾	87½

FIFTH SCHEDULE

DISABLEMENT PENSIONS, GRATUITIES AND ALLOWANCES TO NON- EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS (OTHER THAN NATIVES).

Percentage of Disablement-	Pension to Volunteer	Gratuity	Wife	Allowances Each child
100	104		18	18
90	93-12		16-16	16-16
80	83-4		14-8	14-8
70	72-16		12-12	12-12
60	62-8		10-16	10-16
50	52		9-0	9-0
40	41-12		7-4	7-4
30	31-8		5-8	5-8
20	20-16		3-12	3-12
15		100		
10		75		
5		50		
1		25		

SIXTH SCHEDULE

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS, GRATUITIES AND ALLOWANCES IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN OF DECEASED NON-EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS (OTHER THAN NATIVES).

Widow's Pension	Widow's Gratuity	Gratuity for each child	Allowance for each child
66	66	22	18

SEVENTH SCHEDULE

DISABLEMENT PENSIONS, GRATUITIES AND ALLOWANCES FOR NATIVE VOLUNTEERS.

Percentage of Disablement	Pensions to Volunteer	Gratuity	Allowances.	
			Wife	Each child
100	69. 6.8		12	12
90	62. 8.0		10-16	10-16
80	56. 3.2		9-12	9-12
70	50.10.10		8-8	8-8
60	45. 8.11		7-4	7-4
50	40.18.0		6-0	6-0
40	36.16.2		4-16	4-16
30	33. 2.4		3-12	3-12
20	29.16.1		2-8	2-8
15		75		
10		56-5		
5		37-10		
1		18-15		

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS, GRATUITIES AND ALLOWANCES IN RESPECT OF DECEASED NATIVE VOLUNTEERS.

Widow's Pension	Widow's Gratuity	Gratuity for each child	Allowance for each child
44	44	13.16.8	12

Extract.
Senate Debates no. 8 1942
13-18 April.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, one appreciates the difficulties which the Minister has had to face in considering all the representations which have been placed before him, and more particularly when he has been dealing with the needs and the rights of men and women who have placed their lives at the disposal of the country, but who live on different planes of living. It is impossible at this late hour to speak at any length on this measure, although there are many points one would have liked to have taken. But I want to address myself more particularly to the position of the Non-European soldiers, and more especially to the position of the native soldier under chapter 7 of this Bill. One realises that it is impossible to consider a measure of this kind without taking into account the actual situation in our country, that the population as a whole is not on one plane of living, and that in meeting the claims of the European and the coloured soldiers it is necessary to differentiate in the amount of their claims or the proportion of their claims. I do not, however, think that there is such a wide division or disparity between their interests as to necessitate their being treated on entirely different principles. One must accept the discriminations which are to be found in this measure in so far as the amounts of the pensions and allowances are concerned, but I cannot see what sound basis there can be for not placing all soldiers within the whole framework of the Act. I want to draw the Minister's attention to certain, what I call, special discriminations which are going to bear very hardly upon the native volunteers and their families. In clause 6 (2) the maximum gratuity available in respect of less than 20 per cent disability in the case of Europeans is £500 and in the case of a coloured man the maximum is £300. That is a gratuity. In the case of a native it is £55. In considering these figures it is necessary to keep in mind that the Coloured and the Native soldier for the most part are drawn from the unskilled classes where a physical deformity immediately makes itself felt in the earnings of the man, and I do not think that a gratuity of £55 in the case of a Native, a gratuity which may disappear before he has been at home a week, will be adequate to meet that situation. Then clause nine (2) says the maximum ages to which children's allowances may be granted or continued in the case of European males is eighteen and European females twenty-one and in the case of Coloured fourteen and sixteen respectively. I am grateful to Senator Smith for making a plea for the raising of the age of the non-European to sixteen. At least one would have liked to have been the power of discretion given to raise the age, particularly, Sir, where as in the case of the European child if it is possible to extend the maximum age where the child is apprenticed or undergoing educational training and a bursary provision is also made.....

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE: That also applies to the Coloured. The bursary provision.

SENATOR JONES: Well, I am grateful for that, but it does not apply to the Native. I shall be glad to get the Minister's assurance on that point. In regard to a widow's pension this is a very serious defect in this Bill. I refer to clauses 17 (1), 28 (1) (b) and 31 (1). In the case of a European soldier's widow and the Coloured soldier's widow a pension is guaranteed; there are fixed rates, but there is no guarantee for the Native widow and there is no fixed rate. Now that is a very serious defect and I cannot allow that to go past without an emphatic protest against that discrimination. It is not based on any ideal of equity and I cannot see how it can be said that a Native soldier deserves less in this respect than any other soldier who has given his service to his country. It is going to be extremely difficult for us who represent the Africans in this Hon. House to go outside and meet our people and tell them what is being done in this measure for the widows of soldiers killed in this war. It may be said that there is the problem of two or more widows. If need be, we are prepared to say that where more than one wife is concerned one may assume that such a man will have an allotment in the reserve and the pension might well be divided between the wives, but in a great many, if not in the majority of cases where the man has only one wife, she will be dependent entirely on what she gets in the way of pension, and I do hope the Minister will be able to give us the assurance that at an early date he will introduce legislation to put this right. We realise we cannot make any change at this hour, but I do ask the Minister to give the assurance so that we can go and give the assurance outside that the widows of the native soldiers will have their pensions guaranteed, and at a fixed rate. In clause 17 (5) and clause 28 (1) (c) there is no gratuity. Gratuities are available in respect of the widows and children of Europeans and Coloureds, but no such gratuities are available in regard to the widows and children of Native soldiers. Similarly, in clause 19, on the remarriage of the widows there is no gratuity for the Native widow whilst

there is a gratuity in the case of a European or Coloured widow. Then when we come to the position of the widow of a pensioner, in the case of a European half of the pension will be available for the widow and allowances for the children at half rates. For Coloureds, it is three-fifths of that, but no provision whatever has been made for the widows of Native pensioners. Now how can this possibly be justified, no pension whatever for the widows of Native pensioners? I cannot but believe that the Hon. Minister never appreciated the situation and I am sure he will not allow this Bill to go through with that stigma upon it that there is no provision made the widow of a Native pensioner. Then, Sir, I come to the case of the reputed wife. The Hon. Senator De Villiers referred to this clause. Now it is very easy for us to take a very superior attitude in regard to this question of reputed wives, but we do know that conditions are such amongst Europeans that you have a considerable number of such cases. Probably there are many more among the Coloured, and among the Africans in the towns, there is no doubt, that a great many cases will be found in every town where there has been long conjugal relationship between a man and a woman without a marriage having been solemnised. There is no system of registration of Lobola unions outside Natal and you will find in Johannesburg for example a large number of such unions take place where a man has paid as much as £50 and £60 and more, but there is no registration of that union. That union, unless it can be proved that Lobola has passed, cannot be proved to be anything more than an association of the man and the woman. It must be realised in urban areas that Lobola is in the form of cash and not cattle and the people who are present at such a union are often scattered to the four winds and there is no one to prove that the actual consideration of Lobola passed to make the marriage a customary union, and therefore the elimination of the Native from this clause twenty-two is bound to lead to very great hardship in such cases. Then, Sir, with regard to pensions for parents. It is known to every one in this Hon. House, I am sure, that amongst the Natives the parents are very largely dependent for their upkeep on their children when they get on in years. There is no system of old-age pension. In the case of Europeans there is a maximum of £100 a year, and three-fifths of that for Coloureds, but in the case of Natives all that is available is a gratuity up to £50. There may be nothing at all, but in favourable conditions it is possible to get a maximum of £50. Now we hold that it is most desirable that the parents of a Native soldier should be put in a safe position and should be given a pension as in the case of the other sections. Also, in the case of clause twenty-four pensions are available for the dependants of the other two groups, but a gratuity only in the case of Natives. One can speak at length on these points but I think I have made it clear that these special discriminations will have very serious results and effects upon the Native people. They will certainly have very serious effects upon the minds of the soldiers and their people, and I beg the Minister to give us the assurance that he will do two things. In the first place that he will guarantee pensions for the widows and secondly bring Natives fully under chapter 3, and more especially in respect of the widow of the deceased pensioner. If the Minister will give us that assurance it will ease our minds and make it easier for us to go out and say what the Government has been doing for the welfare of its soldiers. I should also like to ask the Minister to satisfy himself that the definition of "widow" in the Bill is consonant with the definition of wife so that there is no question that the widow under Native customs also comes under that definition. We appreciate very much that for the first time Native volunteers have been brought under a pension scheme. I do not think it is generally realised how little was done for these Natives who volunteered in the last war. It can be said that practically nothing was done - not even their medals did they get. The Hon. Senator Welsh tried very hard to get recognition for them in regard to war medals, and I am very glad to know that there is some hope that that will be put right. One must express one's gratitude that the Government has recognised the rights of native volunteers under this pensions scheme to the extent that those rights have been recognised, but I do want to urge, Sir, that really the time has come when dealing with social measures of this kind - because after all this is a social measure - you simply cannot deal with the non-European people as if they do not belong to the population, as if they are completely step-children of the State. One must recognise the differentiations in the planes of living because they exist, but surely it is necessary that the non-European people should feel that at any rate the principles of a measure of this kind are applicable to them without regard to race or colour. What I want this House to realise is the influences that are being brought to bear upon the non-Europeans to turn their eyes away from loyalty to the State and to hope for salvation somewhere else than from Europeans in South Africa. Those influences are very great. I have witnessed it myself, and I do want to urge the Government to realise that the best way to counteract those pernicious and subversive influences is to show the non-European people they are part of the State as much as we are.

We must let them know that the principles of pension schemes and social welfare measures of all kinds are applicable to them, whatever differentiation may be made in the scales of improvements and allowances. If we do that we will do a great deal of good not only to them but for the safety of the State and the future of South Africa. I appeal to the Hon. Minister to assure us that he will remove these defects to which I have referred in the Bill so that we may assure the native people that the State does regard them as its children and deals with them in equity.

Extract from SENATE DEBATES, No. 8, 13th - 18th April, 1942.

Copy of letter dated 1st September, 1943.

FROM : Adviser, S. A. Institute of Race Relations.
TO : The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

LAND SETTLEMENT FOR SOLDIERS.

I understand that you have had discussions with the Natal Sugar Estates regarding the settlement of ex-service men in the Sugar Industry, and that there are proposals before you which provide against leases being sub-let to Non-Europeans. Whilst I appreciate the reasons for this, I take the opportunity to enquire of you whether any proposals are being made that will give facilities for Indian and Native ex-soldiers to get allotments in the Sugar Cane areas under a similar scheme. The Sugar Cane Industry has been built up primarily on Indian labour, and more recently on Native labour, and you will realise that ex-soldiers of these races will have reason to complain if they are excluded from any re-settlement schemes without adequate provision for them.

I shall be grateful for your sympathetic consideration of these points.

Copy of letter dated 18th September, 1943.

FROM : Under-Secretary for Lands.
TO : Adviser, S.A. Institute of Race Relations.

I have been asked by Senator Conroy to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st September, 1943, regarding the settlement of ex-servicemen on sugar farms on the Natal Coast, and to say that the proposals so far discussed with the Sugar Industry have not embraced natives or coloured people. The care of these people normally falls under the Departments of Native Affairs and Social Welfare.

The Minister understands, however, that in the Sugar Agreement which was recently published by the Minister of Economic Planning provision is made whereby one or two mills will be enabled to make provision for native and/or coloured returned soldiers, and he suggests that you get in touch with the Secretary for Commerce and Industries to obtain more detailed information thereon.

Copy of letter dated 20th September, 1943.

FROM : Adviser, S.A. Institute of Race Relations.
TO : Under-Secretary for Lands.

LAND SETTLEMENT FOR SOLDIERS.

I thank you for your letter of 18th instant, and, as suggested by you, I am communicating with the Secretary for Commerce and Industries.

DISCHARGES REVIEWING SECTION.

20 MAR 45.

O i/c N.M.C. DISPERSAL SECTION.

DISCHARGES OF N.M.C. PERSONNEL WITHOUT BENEFITS.

With reference to the attached correspondence and your enquiry the position as at 28 /2/45 was as follows :-

Total number discharged under headings not carrying Benefits.		13,327.
Number discharged "S.N.L.R." (Honourable Discharge).	5,916.	
Discharged "In the Interest of the Service".	<u>3,584</u> 9,500	<u>9,500</u>
Total number which had to be reviewed by the Discharges Reviewing Committee.		3,827
Number reviewed up to 28/2/45.		<u>3,601</u>
Still to be reviewed.		226
Reviewed by this Section during March '45.		<u>124</u> <u>102</u>

NOTES:

(a) The total of 13,327 is made up of all discharges under headings which do not carry Benefits, including "Unfitted for duties of Corps".

(b) "Honourable" discharges under the heading "S.N.L.R." are included as at the commencement of the reviews, it was decided that these had to be reviewed. Later on D.G.D. decided that as these were "Honourable" Discharges they were not to be reviewed.

A.G. (W.R.) was then asked to advise the number of "Honourable" Discharges under this heading but this could not be done at that time as these records were kept together with the "Dishonourable" discharges under this heading.

Towards the end of Feb. last this figure of 5,916 was obtained and must therefore be taken off the total of 13,327.

(c) Discharges under the heading "In the Interest of the Service" are included in the total for the reason that we are still awaiting authority to review such discharges.

(d) It will therefore be seen that the number of discharges which had to be reviewed by this section and the Reviewing Committee totals 3,827. Of these the Committee had completed 3,601 at the end of February last, leaving a balance of 226, for this month to date. This section has reviewed a further 124 leaving 102 to be done.

This figure of 102 can only be cases which have not yet been submitted to this Section by Native War Records and will no doubt come to light as and when these ex-volunteers apply for Benefits.

Of the 102 there are probably 50 outstanding for which we are awaiting more information from D.N.E.A.S.

(Sgd.) E.?. Kruger.
Lt. Col.

OFFICER I/C DISCHARGES REVIEWING SECTION.

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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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