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AFRICAN MILITARY SERVICE.

It is realised that war service is not a service in which people go to get rich, or to derive huge profits for themselves or their dependants. The soldier volunteers and risks his life and his all for a principle, namely, the defence of the rights he enjoys and the protection of his family in the hope that during his period of service in case of loss of life the State will make ample provision for his dependants. Besides, the conditions of service, the status during service and the consideration the ex-soldier receives after discharge, demobilisation, or disablement, encourage or discourage many from joining such service.

In the opinion of the majority of the <sup>African</sup> people of the Union, both urban and rural, the conditions of service of the African soldier discourage our people from joining the Native Military corps and cognate units.

For example, there is no justification whatsoever for the disparity between the scale of pay for African and that of Coloured volunteers. Nor has the Government adduced convincing reasons why the dependants of African soldiers <sup>do not</sup> receive the allowances payable to those of other races. To the best of our knowledge and belief, no provision has been made for African soldiers after their discharge or demobilisation. The disablement benefits and pensions are considered inadequate for the men to support themselves and their families, and therefore there should be the same pension rates for all non-Europeans.

Allowances for special services, such as clerks and trainers of motor drivers, applicable to soldiers of other races are not paid to Africans.

Promotions, Commissions and ranks of African soldiers.  
At the present moment, so far as we know, the African soldier  
can.....



can only rise to the rank of sergeant, whereas other non-Europeans may rise to the rank of Staff-Sergeant. It would seem that the position of the African N.C.O's has been adversely affected by the recent proclamation on the relations between them and European privates. This proclamation has come as a shock and disappointment among the African population and has tended to damp the enthusiasm of intelligent African opinion as regards our participation in the National War effort.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Government to withdraw their undemocratic proclamation which cuts at the very roots of military discipline.

Chaplains We would urge the appointment of African military chaplains at a rate of pay commensurate with their rank and responsibility.

Leave. Finally, we would strongly urge the same leave privileges for members of the Native military corps as for other sections of the army.

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