

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Governor's Office.

No.

Date of Receipt.

DEF/FID/1#14

From

SUBJECT.

~~Secretary of State for the Colonies~~
GOVERNOR.

FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEERS DROWNED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Granting of pensions to widows of

No.

Date

147

8th November, 1915.

Colonial Secretary's
Record No.

MINUTES.

Despatch to S/S No. 147 of the 8th Novr. 1915.

Registered Number
of last Despatch.

No. next Despatch.

76/16.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO. 46.



Downing Street,

HR
14 April, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Allardyce's despatch No.16 of the 22nd January submitting for approval the recommendations of the Executive Council with regard to the proposed grant of gratuities to the relatives of members of the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force who lost their lives in the performance of their duties while on active service.

2. Section 16 of the Volunteer Ordinance No. 3 of 1895, empowers the Governor in Council to grant pensions as well as gratuities in such cases, and I am of opinion that, subject to the maximum limit of £200 imposed by the Ordinance, the same rates for Pensions and allowances in respect of Widows and Dependents of Volunteers killed on active service should be adopted in the Falkland Islands as have been approved by His Majesty's Government for the Dependents of Non-commissioned Officers and men of His Majesty's Forces. A similar course is being followed in the case of the dependents of members of the local defence forces in other parts of the Empire.

3. Under this new scale the widows of men serving as privates in the Volunteer force would each be entitled to a pension of 10s/- a week rising to

12s/6d

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING

THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

12s/6d at age 35 and 15s/- a week at age 45, with allowances of 5s/- a week for the first child, 3s/6d for the second and 2s/- for further children. The allowances for children would cease when they attain the age of sixteen.

The consequential rates for the higher ranks and the detailed disability rates will be announced very shortly, and you will be furnished with particulars in due course, for adoption in the Falkland Islands so far as local conditions permit.

4. In the meantime any pensions and allowances should be paid in accordance with the scale for private soldiers as stated above, in the case of dependents of those members of the Volunteer force whose death was reported in Mr Allardyce's despatch No.142 of the 2nd of December, 1914. Any such pension and allowances payable to the dependents of Corporal Spencer could be adjusted to the rate prescribed in the case of Corporals so soon as particulars of such rate are available.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

L. Harcourt.

Extract from Minutes of the Governor in Council
dated the 7th October, 1915.

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The Governor read to the Council a Minute of the Governor in Council dated January, 1915, and also the Secretary of State's despatch No 46 of the 14th April, which directed that payment should be calculated on the same basis as that in effect in the United Kingdom, subject to the maximum limit of £200 as prescribed by The Volunteer Ordinance, 1893. These rates were as follows :-

To the widow of a man serving as a private in the Force, a pension of 10/- a week, rising to 12/6 at the age of 35 and 15/- at the age of 45,

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The Colonial Secretary raised the question as to whether in the wording of the Secretary of State's despatch, specifying the different scales of pension payable to widows of different ages, it was intended to increase the payments made on the recipients' reaching the increased ages. The Council advised that the pensions be paid as set out above, and that as there was a doubt on the wording of the despatch opportunity might be taken later to ascertain the real intention of the despatch. The Governor concurred as regards the granting of the pensions and allowances and added that if necessary information would be asked for on the question which had been raised.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 147.

Government House, Stanley.

8th November, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 46, of the 14th April last, I have the honour to report that at a meeting of the Executive Council, held on the 7th October, pensions, and allowances for their children, were granted to Mrs Henrietta Spencer, at the rate of 18/6 a week, and Mrs Ellen Blythe, at the rate of 15/- a week, from the 1st December, 1914.. Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Blythe are widows of members of the Falkland Islands Volunteer Force who lost their lives by drowning, whilst in the performance of their duties on local active service.

2. From the enclosed extract from the minutes of Council it will be seen that there is a doubt as to whether the pension to the widow increases from 10/- a week, to 12/6 a week on the widow attaining the age of 35 years, and 15/- a week on attaining the age of 45 years, or whether the pension should not be calculated and fixed for the rest of the widow's single life according to the age of the widow at the date from which the pension is payable and granted.

3. I shall be glad if I may receive your instructions in this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Douglas Young
Governor.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Extract from Minutes of the Governor in Council
dated the 7th October, 1915.

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The Governor consulted the Council on the question of the pensions payable to the dependents of Volunteers who were drowned in Stanley Harbour on the 1st December, 1914. His Excellency read to the Council a Minute of the Governor in Council dated the 16th January, 1915, and also the Secretary of State's despatch No 46 of the 14th April, which directed that payment should be calculated on the same basis as that in effect in the United Kingdom, subject to the maximum limit of £200 as prescribed by The Volunteer Ordinance, 1895. These rates were as follows :-

To the widow of a man serving as a private in the Force a pension of 10/- a week rising to 12/6 at the age of 35 and 15/- a week at the age of 45, with an allowance of 5/- a week for the first child, 3/6 for the second, and 2/- for further children. The allowance for children to cease when they should attain the age of sixteen years.

The despatch further directed that in as much as the rates for pension payable in respect of dependents of men of higher rank were not yet available, any allowances payable to the dependents of Corporal Spencer should be adjusted later. His Excellency stated that, calculating on this scale, it would be necessary to provide for the payment of the following pensions :-

To

To Mrs Henrietta Spencer.

Pension to date from the 1st December, 1914, at rate of 10/- a week until the 12th January, 1922, when it will be increased to 12/6 a week until the 12th January, 1932, when it is increased to 15/- a week for the rest of single life. If Mrs Spencer should marry again, the pension to cease on and from date of re-marriage.

Allowances to Mrs Spencer in respect of her children :-

Winifred, 5/- a week to the 22nd November, 1920, when it ceases,

William, 3/6 a week to the 22nd November, 1920, and 5/- a week from that date to the 26th March, 1923, when it ceases.

To Mrs Ellen Blyth.

Pension to date from the 1st December, 1914, at rate of 10/- a week until the 20th August, 1927, when it will be increased to 12/6 a week to the 20th August, 1937, when it increased to 15/- a week for the rest of single life. If Mrs Blyth should marry again pension to cease on and from date of re-marriage.

Allowances to Mrs Blyth in respect of her child

Alfred John, 5/- a week to the 4th March, 1930, when it ceases.

The Colonial Secretary raised the question as to whether in the wording of the Secretary of State's despatch, specifying the different scales of pension payable to widows of different ages, it was intended to increase the payments made, on the recipients' reaching the increased ages. The Council advised that the pensions be paid as set out above, and that as there was a doubt on the wording of the despatch opportunity

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might be taken later to ascertain the real intention of the despatch.

The Governor concurred as regards the granting of the pensions and allowances and said that if necessary information would be asked for on the question which had been raised. (M.P. 201/15.).

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FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Extract from Minutes of the Governor in Council
dated 16th January, 1915.

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M.P. 384/14. Grant of gratuities to relatives of
Volunteers drowned in Stanley Harbour on the 1st
December, 1914. Considered in Council. Council
recommended that gratuities be granted (subject to
the approval of the Secretary of State) to the
relatives of the deceased Volunteers, on the follow-
ing scale :-

£100 to Mrs Spencer (being calculated
on a basis of a grant of £75 to the
widow, and £12.10 in respect of each
child)

£87.10. to Mrs Blyth (calculated on the
same basis)

£50 to the relatives of each of the un-
married men, if it can be shewn to the
satisfaction of the Governor in Council
that the deceased were contributors to
the upkeep of their homes or the main-
tenance of their relatives.

Governor concurred and ordered accordingly.

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