

Allowances are payable from the date of application, and the current scale is as follows :—

Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Men.

Wife or guardian of motherless children, 3s. per day.

Child under sixteen years of age, 1s. 6d. per day.

Widowed mother dependent on soldier, if total income apart from allotment does not exceed 15s. a week or she does not possess capital in excess of £500, 1s. 6d. per day. This allowance is payable to a widowed mother who is solely or partially dependent on one son in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, provided he makes an allotment in her favour of not less than 3s. a day. This provision, however, may be proportionately relaxed in particular cases where a soldier establishes that he is unable to make such an allotment or can only make a smaller allotment by reason of having to provide for the maintenance of his wife or other dependants. In this respect each case will be dealt with on its merits. In the case of a married soldier who had made an allotment for his wife and family, the allowance to his widowed mother may be increased to the amount of the assistance given to her by the soldier for twelve months prior to his enlistment, up to a maximum of 3s. per day.

The general principle is that the allowance is given to supplement the soldier's allotment which the widowed mother finds is in itself insufficient for her support.

The condition permitting an income apart from allotment of 15s. per week enables those receiving the old-age pension, including the war bonus, or the widow's pension, to receive the full benefit of the widowed mother's allowance. In carrying out the provisions of this section the Pay Branch of the Defence Department took the broad view

that the widow's pension is not a direct or separate benefit to the mother, but is a payment in respect of her children only.

Other dependants, being relatives, provided they were in receipt of assistance from the soldier for twelve months prior to enlistment, amount equivalent to pre-enlistment support by soldier, with a maximum of 10s. 6d. a week.

Military Prisoners' Dependants.

Payment of allowances is continued to the dependants of military prisoners who accepted active service and subsequently committed offences against discipline, providing that it is shown that real dependency existed, and that an allotment was payable prior to the commission of the offence.

In the case of men who committed offences in order to avoid active service, the payment of allowances is made only under the most exceptional circumstances, such as proved destitution of a degree which would normally entitle the dependants to obtain charitable aid.

Separation Allowance Retrospective.

The allowance to wives and guardians of motherless children has been increased from time to time, and the Government has decided to pay the full rate of 3s. per day as from the date of embarkation for all married men from the beginning of the war.

In the case of soldiers deceased prior to the 31st December, 1917, payment will be made up to the date of decease or to the date separation allowance was paid, if later.

It will not be necessary for application to be made in respect of married soldiers undischarged on the 30th April, 1919, but in the case of married soldiers deceased or discharged prior to that date applications will be required before payments are issued.