PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCES TO CHILDREN OF OFFICERS.

CASES ARISING OUT OF THE PRESENT WAR.

REGULATIONS UNDER ORDER IN COUNCIL OF 29TH FEBRUARY, 1916.

1. The following revised regulations apply to all cases arising out of the present war. The revised rates of pensions and compassionate allowances referred to in paragraphs 5, 6, 7, and 10 have effect, however, from the 1st March, 1916, only, unless otherwise indicated.

2. In cases arising out of the present war, including those of Marine Officers employed on board H. M. Ships, the classification governing the award of the different Scales of Pensions and Allowances is as follows, in substitution for that shown on page 593:

- Class A: Officers killed in action, or dying of wounds received in action, whether airot or ashore, or whose deaths result from destruction of a ship, or who suffer death by drowning or other violent death due directly and wholly to War Service.

- Class B: Officers who die of disease due to exposure or exertion on service, or from injuries received in and by service, as far as not covered by Class A.

- Class C: Officers who die of disease, injury, or accident, not coming under Classes A or B.

3. In the case of Marine Officers on shore strength, the classification is as for the Army, i.e., as follows:

- Class A: Officers killed in action, or dying of wounds received in action, or from other violent death directly and wholly to War Service.

- Class B: Officers who die of disease due to active operations in the field, or otherwise directly attributable to military service, or from injuries received in and by service so far as not covered by Class A.

- Class C: Officers who die of disease, injury, or accident not coming under Classes A or B.

4. The rates of Pension for Widows of Lieutenants and Sub-Lieutenants in the Royal Navy, and other Officers of corresponding rank in the Royal Naval and Royal Marine Services are raised to the following amounts:

- Class A: £100 a year
- Class B: £75 a year
- Class C: £50 a year

5. The additional Gratuity payable in Class A cases will continue to be paid at the existing rates.

6. In the cases of Officers coming under Class C, who die during the present war without completing the minimum period of service necessary to qualify their Widows for the award of Pensions, Gratuities of not less than one year's, and not more than three years' pay will be awarded at the discretion of the Admiralty, and will be paid in each case, either in lump sum, or in instalments, as the Admiralty may consider desirable.

7. The rates of Compassionate Allowances for the children of Commissioned Officers of any rank up to and including that of Captain in the Royal Navy, or similar relative rank, are as follows:

- Class A: £30 a year
- Class B: £25 a year
- Class C: £15 a year

8. The rates for the Children of Non-Commissioned Officers, or Officers of similar relative rank, are as follows:

- Class A: £25 a year
- Class B: £20 a year
- Class C: £15 a year

9. In cases of pecuniary need, Educational Allowances of £30 a year for boys, and £25 a year for girls, will be awarded, at the discretion of the Admiralty, to the children of Commissioned Officers who die during the war, or are disabled through War Service, these allowances to be payable ordinarily between the ages of 15 and 18, but to be extended, if thought desirable, until the age of 21, or on the recommendation of a competent Education Authority, where the education is being continued at Secondary Schools, Technical Schools, or the Universities.

10. In view of the revision in the rates of Compassionate Allowances and the institution of Educational Allowances, the existing provision for the grant of double Compassionate Allowances to motherless children is abolished, subject to the proviso that the Guardian of any child, who considers the provisions of existing Regulations more beneficial to such child may, at the time the award is made, elect that the child should receive the benefit of existing Regulations, and that such option once exercised shall be final.

The following revised Regulations, provided they be more beneficial than existing Regulations, apply in cases arising out of the present war for the award of Pensions and Allowances to the Widows and Children of Commissioned Warrant Officers and Warrant Officers who...

(a) Killed in the performance of naval or military duty.

(b) Dying of wounds or injuries received in the performance of such duty, within 7 years after the receipt of the wound or injury.

(c) Dying of disease medically certified to have been contracted, or occasioned by, or in the course of, or as a result of, active service, within 5 years of their removal from duty on account of such disease.

Widow's Pension to be £50 a year in the case of Commissioned Warrant Officers, and £40 a year in the case of Warrant Officers.

Compassionate Allowances on a scale of £25 to £40 to be awarded to the children of Commissioned Warrant Officers and Warrant Officers, and the Admiralty to have discretion to continue the allowance beyond the age of 18 in the case of boys on production of satisfactory evidence that the continuance of the allowance is needed for the purpose of enabling the boy to continue his education.

In cases where separation allowance is being paid, the above Pensions and Compassionate Allowances are payable only from the date of cessation of such separation allowance.

102. The Widows, children and other dependents of Officers of H. M. Coast Guard are eligible for awards on the same scale and under the same conditions as apply to the dependents of Officers of corresponding rank in the Royal Navy. Coast Guard Officers, promoted on retirement to the rank of Honorary Lieutenant and called up for service in the present war, will for this purpose rank as Commissioned Warrant Officers.

11. The present provision that the aggregate amount of the allowances to the family of any Officer shall not exceed:

(a) In ordinary cases, the amount of the half-pay of his rank and seniority at the time of his death, and...

(b) In cases where the Officer's death is attributable to the Service, the sum of £100 more than the amount of the half-pay of his rank and seniority at the time of his death, to be waived, as also the provision that persons who are in receipt of £20 a year from other sources, or whose mothers have been refused Pensions on account of private income, shall be considered ineligible for Compassionate Allowances in ordinary circumstances.