

EAST AFR. PROT

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PP. 17
Dec 17

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256

Johnston
Lt. Col. M.S.

1917

12. 1917

Last previous Paper.

6344

STAFF PAY FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS

EMPLOYED WITH FORCES

Explains the contention of some from military
int. of view.

This letter is the outcome of a conversation
had with Colonel Johnston, at which I was
present. The grounds hitherto given for recommending
staff pay for Protectorate Medical Officers employed
with the Military Forces are that they deserve something
extra for the extra work that they have to do, and that
they should be compensated for the loss of private
practice. Both these reasons have hitherto been ruled
out on very intelligible grounds. Colonel Johnston
puts the matter in an entirely new light. If his view
of staff pay is correct, I think that the decision
should be re-considered. It is no good our going
back to the Officer Administering the Government on the
subject unless the War Office are with us. I would,
therefore, in the first instance send the War Office
the extract from this letter which I have put in
brackets, without indicating the source from which
they have come; and enquire whether they accept the view

Extract to Lt. Col. Johnston 22 Aug 17
Copy extract + above to Mr. [unclear] 7 Sept 17

Next subsequent Paper.

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of staff pay here stated; and say that, if they do, the Secretary of State would propose to ask the Officer Administering the Government to take up the question with the military authorities in this new light, and to submit recommendations for the grant of staff pay to medical officers in appropriate cases.

Feb

*at once
to J. S. D.*

18/9/11

Said,

With reference to

card, "Staff pay"

men who were taken on in

am writing to you this period

contactation of the case

also remind you that

of the Colonel of

support and recommendation of

Gen. Tigue.

"Staff pay"

Department to certain

specific medical

sanctioned

specific

under stood

penetration

which is to be

in the case

and financially

they can, by Military

with less or damage to any subordinate

RECORD OFFICE
ADDRESS
CO

40738 August, 1917.

unit, and such charge pay is sanctioned to meet such financial responsibility. I was given to understand that you were informed that the only reason of extra charge pay was as compensation for loss of private practice for medical officers.

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I think you will see the difference from the above comparative point of view between combatant and non-combatant officers that a stand point must be a comprehensive one, as no combatant has any private technical practice. Further, I find that in India, where the I. & S. is drafted from military service, there is no reason why they should not be treated as military officers, and not as private practitioners. It is not possible to compensate under the Indian Regulations, as incurred by the Medical Officers, who are engaged in purely military duties, as being personally and financially responsible for the military property which they have taken over as Q.C. and the Indian Regulations and King's Regulations are framed on this understanding, guiding them and safeguarding them in their duties. All officers do not get charge or staff pay, but only those who hold certain specific charges which the Government think are of a sufficient responsible nature as to warrant a charge pay, and such charge pay is on a sliding scale in India, from Rs. 100 to Rs. 300, according to the gravity of the responsibility.

40/34 August, 1917.

For example, command of a section of a field ambulance is entitled to staff pay of Rs. 180/- a month -- command of a full field ambulance Rs. 300/- -- command of a General Hospital of 500 beds 500/- a month, and so on.]

I think if the question is revised under the above 259 explanation, I trust it might help to clarify the situation, and assist you in coming to a more equitable conclusion, for I hope you fully understand I am holding no brief for any special medical friend, but simply consider it my duty as D.D.M.S. of the E.A. Forces in common fairness to those gallant medical officers who assisted in serving their country so faithfully, should have the same equity and justice as their comrades in arms in the same campaign.

Let me, in conclusion, give you an example of what actually happened in the E. A. campaign, bearing on this very subject. A certain M/O was O.C. of a big medical unit. He in the course of his duties, issued correct orders as regards the method of receiving and holding certain private monies that belonged to individual patients that came to Hospital. (for it is laid down in Regulations that all patients on entering Hospital must deposit all monies and valuables in the Government safe in the O.C.'s office). Due to exigencies of the service and very heavy pressure of work, the O.C. could not issue receipts for the same, but delegated this duty to his Divisional M/Os. To make a long story short, the head financial clerk absconded with an

14th August, 1917

present aggregating Rs. 3,000/-, and, of course, legal and military action was taken to apprehend him. Pending his apprehension, the patients had to be transferred to other stations, and they naturally asked for their monies, -- and the question put was "Where was the money to come from to pay these patients?" The answer was telegraphed back at once -- "The Officer commanding who draws the bill is held responsible for the payment pending the result of the Court of Enquiry."

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I think you will see that such a decision, which is actually in accordance with Government regulations, would be undoubtedly unfair, unless Government compensated the C. C. for such responsibility; otherwise, of course, the decision would have been. "All Medical officers and subordinates of that unit must make good the loss."

Trusting this is really of some assistance to you, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

W. S. D. S. D. S.

C.D.
1914

Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]

Extract of letter from Colonel
Johnson to [unclear] 1914, as marked
in pencil.

Handwritten note:
Please do not give
the enclosure any indication
that you have seen the
extract and return

the [unclear] Council
[unclear] [unclear]
of the [unclear]
officers of the [unclear]
Africa Protectorate
military forces [unclear]
occasion of this [unclear]
statement as to the [unclear] of staff
of which a copy is enclosed. The
grounds on which the payment of staff
pay has hitherto been suggested are
that the Protectorate medical officers

Vertical handwritten note:
1914
[unclear]

ground

more
of

be

council accept

in the

proposed

the Government

of East Africa protectorate to take

on this question with the military authori-

ties in this new light, and to submit

recommendations for the grant of staff

pay to medical officers in appropriate

cases.

1 am, etc.,

TCM

Asst Secretary