28/4/4(11)

Government of Madras

REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 264, 11th June 1919

Assistance to returned Indian soldiers and their dependents

Requesting Collectors of districts to arrange for the posting of notices to the effect that the care of those who have served in the war and of the dependents of those who have fallen will be the special duty of the Government and of its officers and issuing orders on the question of giving free legal assistance to returned soldiers and the dependents of deceased soldiers.

1,000—22-3-18.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Number of copies { Letter. / Order.

2

Government of Madras

REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR) DEPARTMENT

FOR RECORD ONLY

G.O. No. 264, 11th June 1919

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READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from Major C. W. GWYNNE, Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board.
To—the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.
Dated—Simla, the 22nd April 1919.
No.—153-I.S.B.

I am directed to inform you that the Indian Soldiers' Board have had under consideration a minute forwarded from the Military Secretary, India Office, containing various suggestions for assistance to returned Indian soldiers and their dependents. While it is not necessary to trouble Local Governments with their suggestions in detail, two points arising out of the minute have been discussed by the Board, which it is thought may merit further consideration.

2. It has been suggested—

(*a*) that it might be possible to issue definite instructions to all District Magistrates that the dependents of soldiers who have fallen in the war should be specially protected ; and

(*b*) that more might be done to assist returned soldiers and the dependents of deceased soldiers in litigation, and in particular that some scheme for enlisting voluntarily the services of reputable pleaders at the main centres of litigation to look after 'soldier' cases might be devised.

3. In regard to (*a*), I am to say that the Board is fully alive to the fact that no district officer is likely to overlook the claims to protection of any section of the community in his district ; his doors are open to all who may seek to see him ; and there are few district officers who are not in actual fact as well as in the language of petitions 'the protectors of the poor'. Nor is it suggested that the dependents of soldiers have not during the years of war been treated with every consideration by district officers and their staffs. Reports are constantly being received from soldiers who have returned to their homes from active service of their appreciation of the care which has been bestowed, in their districts, upon the dependents they left behind when they went overseas. It will, however, be readily accepted that this class is likely to require special protection in the immediate future, and particularly so in those districts in which the soldier who has gone on service belongs to the agricultural classes. Long absence on service may have laid up for him special difficulties on his return ;—it may be with regard to boundaries, it may be in connexion with money-lenders' claims ; while in some cases the troubles may be more intimately connected with family relations. Where soldiers have fallen in the war, widows and children may be in a particularly defenceless position, especially where other male relatives may have succumbed to the recent epidemic. To remedy evils of this kind various suggestions have been made such as the establishment of advisory committees or the appointment in districts, where soldiers are numerous,

of an officer to act as Soldiers' Friend. The Board, however, hold the view that whatever measure of protection may be possible should come directly from Government through the agency of the district officer; it is to him that the people of a district look for protection, and it is obviously undesirable to establish any outside agency which might clash with his authority. The Board also think that it should be widely known that the care of those who have served in the war and of the dependents of those who have fallen will be the special duty of the Sirkar throughout the country and that the constant dissemination of this fact during the period immediately following demobilization, may of itself help to counteract oppression and hardship.

4. It is not, of course, the desire of the Board to dictate in any way to Local Governments as to how this policy if approved should be carried out, and they feel that quite possibly all that it is practicable to do in this direction has been done and is being done by district officers. It is more upon the public pronouncement of the policy that the Board would venture to lay particular stress, and they think that much good might be done by posting notices to the above effect in the offices of District Magistrates or possibly at the headquarters of tahsils and subdivisions and by adopting other means of publication.

5. I am accordingly to ask whether in the opinion of the Governor in Council it would be possible to do anything more in this direction, and whether if the policy outlined above is approved, instruction might be issued to that effect to all District Magistrates in any form which Local Governments may think desirable.

6. With regard to (*b*), I am to say that there seems every likelihood of a large number of soldiers being confronted with law suits on their return to India, and in the case of those who have fallen their dependents may, in many cases, be harassed with threats of litigation. The majority of such soldiers will doubtless be able to pay for legal advice, but others, especially the incapacitated, and in most cases widows and minor children, will have little means at their disposal. It is thought that among lawyers in India some would be found at nearly every centre of litigation who would be glad, out of purely philanthropic motives, to assist their soldier fellow-countrymen in necessitous cases. The suggestion is by no means new: the learned professions in other countries have often made arrangements for gratuitous legal advice to the poor, and there is no reason to suppose that lawyers in India will exhibit any lesser degree of benevolence. It is possible that the various Bar Associations would be ready and willing to give the movement their active co-operation. In the opinion of the Board, the mere fact that there would be reasonable legal advice available without charge in 'soldier' cases, would go far to reassure the class whose interests it is desired specially to protect, and would minimize the risk of unscrupulous attempts to take advantage of the helplessness of those whose natural protectors have been removed by the war. I am accordingly to request that the Indian Soldiers' Board may be favoured with the views of the Governor in Council on the practicability of this proposal.

Order—No. 264, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 11th June 1919.

The Governor in Council desires to impress on all District Magistrates the necessity for affording special protection to the dependents of Indian soldiers who have fallen in the war. It is recognized that the dependents of soldiers have during the years of war been treated with every consideration by district officers and their staffs. This class is, however, likely to require special protection in the immediate future and particularly so in those districts in which the soldier who has gone on active service belongs to the agricultural classes. Long absence from home may have laid up for him special difficulties on his return and it is probable that in many cases he will be involved in debts, litigation, or disputes which are the direct result of his absence on service. Various suggestions have been made to remedy evils of this kind. The Governor in Council, however, holds the view that whatever measure of protection may be possible should come directly from the Government through the agency of the

district officer. The Governor in Council accordingly desires that it should be widely known that the care of those who have served in the war and of the dependents of those who have fallen will be the special duty of the Government and of its officers throughout the country.

2. Collectors of districts are requested to arrange for the posting of notices to the above effect, both in English and in the vernacular of the locality, at their own offices and at all taluk and subdivisional offices in their districts.

3. It has also been suggested that some scheme might be devised for giving free legal assistance to returned soldiers and the dependents of deceased soldiers. The Governor in Council recognizes that any such proposal involves the danger of encouraging the ex-sepoy to undertake unnecessary litigation with a view merely to the discomfiture of his private enemies. To guard against this possible danger such free legal assistance might be given only on the recommendation of the district officer, or of the District Soldiers' Committee or of a sub-committee appointed for the purpose. It is not unlikely that the Bar Associations in most places would arrange for free legal assistance to deserving ex-sepoys. Failing this it seems possible that individual pleaders might be found to take up 'soldier' cases free. If, however, some financial consideration is indispensable, the Government hope that District Soldiers' Committees will consider the possibility of helping ex-sepoys in genuine cases by the payment of pleaders' fees or a portion of them out of funds to be collected for the benefit of ex-soldiers and their dependents.

(True extract)

A. Y. G. Campbell,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors and District Magistrates.
,, the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
Copy to the Board of Revenue.
,, General Officer Commanding, 9th Division (with C.L.).
Editors' Table.

4

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR) DEPARTMENT

No. 265

From

THE HON'BLE MR. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL, C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Revenue (Special) (War) Department,

To

THE SECRETARY, INDIAN SOLDIERS' BOARD,
SIMLA.

Dated, Ootacamund, the 11th June 1919.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 153-I.S.B., dated the 22nd April 1919, and to say that His Excellency the Governor in Council approves of the policy outlined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter. I am to enclose for your information a copy of the proceedings of this Government No. 264, dated 11th June 1919, issuing instructions to all District Magistrates in the matter.

2. With regard to the proposal in paragraph 6 of your letter, the Governor in Council is of opinion that some qualification should be introduced to guard against the danger of encouraging the ex-sepoy to undertake unnecessary litigation with a view to the discomfiture of his private enemies. In his opinion the contemplated free legal assistance should be given only on the recommendation of the district officer or of the District Soldiers' Committee or of a sub-committee appointed for the purpose. It is not unlikely that either the Bar Associations or particular pleaders could be found in most places to take up 'soldier' cases free; but if not, it may be hoped that District Soldiers' Committees would be able to assist ex-sepoys in genuine cases by the payment of pleaders' fees or a portion of them out of funds to be collected for the benefit of ex-soldiers and their dependents. Instructions on the above lines are being issued to all district officers in the proceedings a copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR) DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 264–65, REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR), DATED 11TH JUNE 1919.

[SUBJECT.—*Assistance to returned Indian soldiers and their dependents.*]

Previous papers:

G.O.	1781–82, *Revenue*, 7*th May* 1918		*G.O.*	81, *Rev.* (*Spl.*) (*War*), 21*st Feb.*	1919
	P.R.B. 318 (*XVII*)		,,	111 ,,	15*th March* ,,
G.O.	26, *Rev.* (*Spl.*) (*War*), 22*nd Jan.*	1919	,,	137 ,,	28*th* ,, ,,
,,	56 ,, 6*th Feb.*	,,	,,	164 ,,	11*th April* ,,

From the Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board, dated 22nd April 1919, No. 153-I.S.B.

The Indian Soldiers' Board suggest that—

(1) it should be made widely known that the care of those who have served in the war and of the dependents of those who have fallen in the war would be the special duty of the Sirkar and that notices to this effect should be pasted in the Huzur office or at the headquarters of Tahsils and Subdivisions, etc., and

(2) some scheme should be devised for enlisting voluntarily the services of pleaders at the chief centres of litigation to look after 'soldier' cases.

2. As regards (1) it is submitted that District Soldiers' Committees have already been formed in all districts to look after the interests of Indian soldiers and their dependents [G.O. No. 164, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 11th April 1919.] The suggestion of the Indian Soldiers' Board may be accepted and it may be brought to the notice of District Committees for such action as may be necessary. The District Committees may also be asked to consider whether it would be possible to do anything more in the direction of making public the policy outlined by the Board.

This seems to me to be the opposite of what is asked for—which is a Government Order to all district officers.

S.W.—10-5-19.

3. With regard to legal assistance to sepoys, it was suggested to Government in May 1918 that Collectors of districts should be authorized to get Government Pleaders or pleaders doing Government work to offer legal advice to men on active service and to appear for them if necessary in courts, their fee being paid by Government. The Government were not in favour of the suggestion. It is for orders whether Collectors may be requested to report on the practicability of the proposal made by the Indian Soldiers' Board; but before doing so the remarks of Home (Judicial) may be invited on it.

i.e., when they were *not* in the district to protect their own interests and to get legal advice.

A.Y.G.C.—12-5-19.

C.K.—9-5-19.

As to (1) the Indian Soldiers' Board are particularly anxious that the protection of soldiers should *not* be left to the Committees, but that definite orders should be issued—and published—making it the duty of every district *officer* to protect the soldier and his dependent. The letter truly remarks that such orders will only enforce what is already being done, but there seems to be no harm in issuing a Government Order (and placing it on the Editors' Table) on the lines of paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter, and posting up the Government Order at all taluk offices.

Yes.

A.Y.G.C.—12–5–19.

L.D.—13–5–19.

(2) *Pleaders' fees.*—The letter seems to take rather an optimistic view of the public spirit of the mufassal lawyer, but it ought not to be impossible for district committees to arrange for a reputable vakil in each large centre to give advice free and to conduct cases at reasonable rates; on the recommendation of the committee a contribution might be made towards the cost of litigation in deserving cases. There should be no difficulty in inducing a young vakil who has a practice to build up, to take up the post of 'soldiers' friend' for a low remuneration, merely as an advertisement. The obvious objection to any such proposal is the danger of encouraging unnecessary litigation. I remember that I was nearly worried to death by a sepoy who as soon as he returned from the front instituted criminal and civil cases in every court in the neighbourhood against all his friends and relatives and endeavoured to use me as his consulting solicitor! The question may however be referred to district committees for report.

S. WADSWORTH—10–5–19.

I think proposal (*b*) must be qualified in some way or there will be a danger of an ex-sepoy rushing into litigation simply to worry his private enemies. Perhaps it would be best to suggest that such free legal assistance should be given only on the recommendation of the District Soldiers' Committee or of a sub-committee appointed for the purpose. I think it not unlikely that either the Bar Associations or particular pleaders could be found in most places to take up such cases free; but if not perhaps the District Soldiers' Committees could assist ex-sepoys in genuine cases by the payment of pleaders' fees or a portion of them out of funds to be collected for the benefit of ex-soldiers and their dependents.

Or the 'district officer'.

L.D.—13–5–19.

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL—12–5–19.

L. D[AVIDSON]—13–5–19.

A draft order and a draft letter to the Indian Soldiers' Board are submitted for approval. Home (Judicial) may perhaps see the case before the drafts issue.

C.K.—16–5–19

S.W.—17–5–19.

The draft to Collectors doesn't contain anything about suggestion (*b*) as modified above. Is another draft to Collectors to be put up in that connexion.

A.Y.G.C.—19–5–19.

Submitted that the Indian Soldiers' Board have not asked us to issue instructions regarding proposal (*b*) in paragraph 6 of their letter. They have only asked for the opinion of this Government on the practicability of this proposal; while in the case of proposal (*a*) the Board have asked us, if we approved it, to issue the necessary orders. It is submitted that a further communication may be expected from the Board regarding proposal (*b*), and on its receipt definite instructions will be issued to the Collectors.

C.K.—19–5–19.

We may, however, if Secretary thinks fit, act on our own initiative in the matter.

S. WADSWORTH—20–5–19.

Yes. We need not await orders from the Indian Soldiers' Board. It does not affect other provinces or military authorities.

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL—21–5–19.

The drafts have been added to with reference to the orders above and are submitted for approval. Home (Judicial) may see the case before issue.

C.K.—22–5–19.

S.W.—22–5–19.

A.Y.G.C.—23–5–19.

HOME (JUDICIAL) DEPARTMENT.

Paragraph 3 of the draft may be perused and the case returned to Revenue (Special).

B.R.—24–5–19.

C. H. BROWN—27–5–19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—1–6–19.

REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR) DEPARTMENT.

May issue?

S.W.—2–6–19.

A.Y.G.C.—2–6–19.

Approved. His Excellency should see.

L. D[AVIDSON]—3–6–19.

A.Y.G.C.—4–6–19.

W[ILLINGDON]—4–6–19.

Issue.

A.Y.G.C.—5–6–19.

[G.O. Nos. 264–65, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 11th June 1919.]

Scott. II—10 (δ)—12-1-15.

Revenue (Special) War DEPARTMENT

Assistance to returned Indian Soldiers and their dependents.

Requesting Collectors of districts to arrange for the posting of notices to the effect that the Case of those who have served in the war or the dependents of those who have fallen will be the special duty of the Govt. of India officers and inviting orders on question of giving free legal assistance to returned soldiers and the dependents of deceased soldiers.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. ....., dated ..... 191 .

" " " " ....., " ..... 191 .

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1402, From the Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board, No. 153-1 S.B., dated 22-4-1919 191 .

" " ....., " " ....., " ....., " ..... 191 .

" " ....., " " ....., " ....., " ..... 191 .

ORDER. No. 264, dated 11th June 1919.

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2. Collectors of districts are requested to arrange for the posting of notices to the above effect, both in English and in the vernacular of the locality, at their own offices and at all taluk offices in their districts.

V.K.C./14-5.

C.K./16-5 S.W./17-5.

To

All Collectors and District Magistrates.
The Commissioner of Police, Madras.
Copy to the Board of Revenue.
,, ,, G.O.C. IXth division. (with C.L.)
Editors' Table.

order only

P.T.O.

83

51

-11-

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vrg 21.5.19

CK 22.5.19

cell 23.5.19

L. 22.5.19

Letter No. 265 dated 11th June 1919

To

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Indian Soldiers' Board,
Simla.
(with copy of the G.O.).

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I have etc.

VRS 14.5.19.

16.5.19

23.5.19

17 V 19

I am to add that instructions on the above lines are being issued to all District officers in the G.O. enclosure of which is enclosed

For Record only 10 Pl. pass as proposed Coldy 9/6

REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 264, 11 th June 1919

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Rev Dept

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JUN 1919

Superintendent

VRS 9.6.19.

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Dated—Simla, the 22nd April 1919.
No.—153-I S.B.

I am directed to inform you that the Indian Soldiers' Board have had under consideration a minute forwarded from the Military Secretary, India Office, containing various suggestions for assistance to returned Indian soldiers and their dependents. While it is not necessary to trouble Local Governments with their suggestions in detail, two points arising out of the minute have been discussed by the Board, which it is thought may merit further consideration.

2. It has been suggested—

(*a*) that it might be possible to issue definite instructions to all District Magistrates that the dependents of soldiers who have fallen in the war should be specially protected ; and

(*b*) that more might be done to assist returned soldiers and the dependents of deceased soldiers in litigation, and in particular that some scheme for enlisting voluntarily the services of reputable pleaders at the main centres of litigation to look after 'soldier' cases might be devised.

3. In regard to (*a*), I am to say that the Board is fully alive to the fact that no district officer is likely to overlook the claims to protection of any section of the community in his district ; his doors are open to all who may seek to see him ; and there are few district officers who are not in actual fact as well as in the language of petitions 'the protectors of the poor'. Nor is it suggested that the dependents of soldiers have not during the years of war been treated with every consideration by district officers and their staffs. Reports are constantly being received from soldiers who have returned to their homes from active service of their appreciation of the care which has been bestowed, in their districts, upon the dependents they left behind when they went overseas. It will, however, be readily accepted that this class is likely to require special protection in the immediate future, and particularly so in those districts in which the soldier who has gone on service belongs to the agricultural classes. Long absence on service may have laid up for him special difficulties on his return ;—it may be with regard to boundaries, it may be in connexion with money-lenders' claims ; while in some cases the troubles may be more intimately connected with family relations. Where soldiers have fallen in the war, widows and children may be in a particularly defenceless position, especially where other male relatives may have succumbed to the recent epidemic. To remedy evils of this kind various suggestions have been made such as the establishment of advisory committees or the appointment in districts, where soldiers are numerous,

of an officer to act as Soldiers' Friend. The Board, however, hold the view that whatever measure of protection may be possible should come directly from Government through the agency of the district officer; it is to him that the people of a district look for protection, and it is obviously undesirable to establish any outside agency which might clash with his authority. The Board also think that it should be widely known that the care of those who have served in the war and of the dependents of those who have fallen will be the special duty of the Sirkar throughout the country and that the constant dissemination of this fact during the period immediately following demobilization, may of itself help to counteract oppression and hardship.

4. It is not, of course, the desire of the Board to dictate in any way to Local Governments as to how this policy if approved should be carried out, and they feel that quite possibly all that it is practicable to do in this direction has been done and is being done by district officers. It is more upon the public pronouncement of the policy that the Board would venture to lay particular stress, and they think that much good might be done by posting notices to the above effect in the offices of District Magistrates or possibly at the headquarters of tahsils and subdivisions and by adopting other means of publication.

5. I am accordingly to ask whether in the opinion of the Governor in Council it would be possible to do anything more in this direction, and whether if the policy outlined above is approved, instruction might be issued to that effect to all District Magistrates in any form which Local Governments may think desirable.

6. With regard to (*b*), I am to say that there seems every likelihood of a large number of soldiers being confronted with law suits on their return to India, and in the case of those who have fallen their dependents may, in many cases, be harrassed with threats of litigation. The majority of such soldiers will doubtless be able to pay for legal advice, but others, especially the incapacitated, and in most cases widows and minor children, will have little means at their disposal. It is thought that among lawyers in India some would be found at nearly every centre of litigation who would be glad, out of purely philanthropic motives, to assist their soldier fellow-countrymen in necessitous cases. The suggestion is by no means new: the learned professions in other countries have often made arrangements for gratuitous legal advice to the poor, and there is no reason to suppose that lawyers in India will exhibit any lesser degree of benevolence. It is possible that the various Bar Associations would be ready and willing to give the movement their active co-operation. In the opinion of the Board, the mere fact that there would be reasonable legal advice available without charge in 'soldier' cases, would go far to reassure the class whose interests it is desired specially to protect, and would minimize the risk of unscrupulous attempts to take advantage of the helplessness of those whose natural protectors have been removed by the war. I am accordingly to request that the Indian Soldiers' Board may be favoured with the views of the Governor in Council on the practicability of this proposal.

Order—No. 264, Revenue (Special) (War), dated 11th June 1919.

The Governor in Council desires to impress on all District Magistrates the necessity for affording special protection to the dependents of Indian soldiers who have fallen in the war. It is recognized that the dependents of soldiers have during the years of war been treated with every consideration by district officers and their staffs. This class is, however, likely to require special protection in the immediate future and particularly so in those districts in which the soldier who has gone on active service belongs to the agricultural classes. Long absence from home may have laid up for him special difficulties on his return and it is probable that in many cases he will be involved in debts, litigation, or disputes which are the direct result of his absence on service. Various suggestions have been made to remedy evils of this kind. The Governor in Council, however, holds the view that whatever measure of protection may be possible should come directly from the Government through the agency of the district officer. The Governor in Council accordingly desires that it should be widely known that the care of those who have served in the war and of the dependents of those who have fallen will be the special duty of the Government and of its officers throughout the country.

2. Collectors of districts are requested to arrange for the posting of notices to the above effect, both in English and in the vernacular of the locality, at their own offices and at all taluk and subdivision, etc., offices in their districts.

3. It has also been suggested that some scheme might be devised for giving free legal assistance to returned soldiers and the dependents of deceased soldiers. The Governor in Council recognizes that any such proposal involves the danger of encouraging the ex-sepoy to undertake unnecessary litigation with a view merely to the discomfiture of his private enemies. To guard against this possible danger such free legal assistance might be given only on the recommendation of the district officer, or of the District Soldiers' Committee or of a sub-committee appointed for the purpose. It is not unlikely that the Bar Associations in most places would arrange for free legal assistance to deserving ex-sepoys. Failing this it seems possible that individual pleaders might be found to take up 'soldier' cases free. If, however, some financial consideration is indispensable the Government hope that District Soldiers' Committees will consider the possibility of helping ex-sepoys in genuine cases by the payment of pleaders' fees or a portion of them out of funds to be collected for the benefit of ex-soldiers and their dependents.

(True extract)

A. Y. G. Campbell,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors and District Magistrates.
,, the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
Copy to the Board of Revenue.
,, General Officer Commanding, 9th Division (with C.L.)
Editors' Table.
} (Order only.)

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 264–65, REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR), DATED 11TH JUNE 1919.

[SUBJECT.—*Assistance to returned Indian soldiers and their dependents.*]

Previous papers:

G.O.	1781–82, *Revenue*, 7*th May* P.R.B. 318 (*XVII*)	1918	G.O.	81, *Rev.* (*Spl.*) (*War*), 21*st Feb.*	1919
G.O.	26, *Rev.* (*Spl.*) (*War*), 22*nd Jan.*	1919	,,	111 ,, 15*th March*	,,
,,	56 ,, 6*th Feb.*	,,	,,	137 ,, 28*th* ,,	,,
			,,	164 ,, 11*th April*	,,

From the Secretary, Indian Soldiers' Board, dated 22nd April 1919,
No. 153-I.S.B.

REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR) DEPARTMENT.

The Indian Soldiers' Board suggest that—

(1) it should be made widely known that the care of those who have served in the war and of the dependents of those who have fallen in the war would be the special duty of the Sirkar and that notices to this effect should be pasted in the Huzur office or at the headquarters of Tahsils and Subdivisions, etc., and

(2) some scheme should be devised for enlisting voluntarily the services of pleaders at the chief centres of litigation to look after 'soldier' cases.

2. As regards (1) it is submitted that District Soldiers' Committees have already been formed in all districts to look after the interests of Indian soldiers and their dependents [G.O. No. 164, Revenue (Special) (War) dated 11th April 1919.] The suggestion of the Indian Soldiers' Board may be accepted and it may be brought to the notice of District Committees for such action as may be necessary. The District Committees may also be asked to consider whether it would be possible to do anything more in the direction of making public the policy outlined by the Board.

This seems to me to be the opposite of what is asked for—which is a Government Order to all district officers.

S.W.—10-5-19.

3. With regard to legal assistance to sepoys, it was suggested to Government in May 1918 that Collectors of districts should be authorized to get Government Pleaders or pleaders doing Government work to offer legal advice to men on active service and to appear for them if necessary in courts, their fee being paid by Government. The Government were not in favour of the suggestion. It is for orders whether Collectors may be requested to report on the practicability of the proposal made by the Indian Soldiers' Board; but before doing so the remarks of Home (Judicial) may be invited on it.

I.e., when they were *not* in the district to protect their own interests and to get legal advice.

A.Y.G.C.—12-5-19.

C.K.—9-5-19.

As to (1) the Indian Soldiers' Board are particularly anxious that the protection of soldiers should *not* be left to the Committees, but that definite orders should be issued—and published—making it the duty of every district *officer* to protect the soldier and his dependent. The letter truly remarks that such orders will only enforce what is already being done, but there seems to be no harm in issuing a Government Order (and placing it on the Editors' Table) on the lines of paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter, and posting up the Government Order at all taluk offices.

Yes.

A.Y.G.C.—12-5-19.

L.D.—13-5-19.

(2) *Pleaders' fees.*—The letter seems to take rather an optimistic view of the public spirit of the mufassal lawyer, but it ought not to be impossible for district committees to arrange for a reputable vakil in each large centre to give advice free and to conduct cases at reasonable rates; on the recommendation of the committee a contribution might be made towards the cost of litigation in deserving cases. There should be no difficulty in inducing a young vakil who has a practice to build up, to take up the post of 'soldiers' friend' for a low remuneration, merely as an advertisement. The obvious objection to any such proposal is the danger of encouraging

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unnecessary litigation. I remember that I was nearly worried to death by a sepoy who as soon as he returned from the front instituted criminal and civil cases in every court in the neighbourhood against all his friends and relatives and endeavoured to use me as his consulting solicitor! The question may however be referred to district committees for report.

S. WADSWORTH—10-5-19.

I think proposal (*b*) must be qualified in some way or there will be a danger of an ex-sepoy rushing into litigation simply to worry his private enemies. Perhaps it would be best to suggest that such free legal assistance should be given only on the recommendation of the District Soldiers' Committee or of a sub-committee appointed for the purpose. I think it not unlikely that either the Bar Associations or particular pleaders could be found in most places to take up such cases free; but if not perhaps the District Soldiers' Committees could assist ex-sepoys in genuine cases by the payment of pleaders' fees or a portion of them out of funds to be collected for the benefit of ex-soldiers and their dependents.

Or the 'district officer'.

L.D.—13-5-19.

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL—12-5-19.

L. D[AVIDSON]—13-5-19.

A draft order and a draft letter to the Indian Soldiers' Board are submitted for approval. Home (Judicial) may perhaps see the case before the drafts issue.

C.K.—16-5-19

S. WADSWORTH—17-5-19.

The draft to Collectors doesn't contain anything about suggestion (*b*) as modified above. Is another draft to Collectors to be put up in that connexion.

A.Y.G.C.—19-5-19.

Submitted that the Indian Soldiers' Board have not asked us to issue instructions regarding proposal (*b*) in paragraph 6 of their letter, ~~in the current file~~. They have only asked for the opinion of this Government on the practicability of this proposal; while in the case of proposal (*a*) the Board have asked us, if we approved it, to issue the necessary orders. It is submitted that a further communication may be expected from the Board regarding proposal (*b*), and on its receipt definite instructions will be issued to the Collectors.

C.K.—19-5-19.

We may, however, if Secretary thinks fit, act on our own initiative in the matter.

S.W.—20-5-19.

Yes. We need not await orders from the Indian Soldiers' Board. It does not affect other provinces or military authorities.

A.Y.G.C.—21-5-19.

The drafts have been added to with reference to the orders above and are submitted for approval. Home (Judicial) may see the case before issue.

C.K.—22-5-19.

S.W.—22-5-19.

A.Y.G.C.—23-5-19.

HOME (JUDICIAL) DEPARTMENT.

Paragraph 3 of the draft may be perused and the case returned to Revenue (Special).

~~K.V.N.—24-5-19.~~

B.R—24-5-19.

C. H. BROWN—27-5-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—1-6-19.

REVENUE (SPECIAL) (WAR) DEPARTMENT.

May issue?

S.W.—2-6-19.

A.Y.G.C.—2-6-19.

Approved. His Excellency should see.

L. D[AVIDSON]—3-6-19.

A.Y.G.C.—4-6-19.

W[ILLINGDON]—4-6-19.

Issue.

A.Y.G.C.—5-6-19.

[G.O. Nos. 264-65, Revenue (Special), dated 11th June 1919.]

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[P.T.O.

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