Notes for Ex-Far East and Korean Prisoners of War
About this leaflet

This leaflet is for ex-Far Eastern and Korean prisoners of war. It aims to tell you about Tropical Disease Investigations, Psychiatric Consultations and where to find help and advice.

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The War Pensions Scheme is run by Veterans UK. This leaflet gives you general guidance, but it is not a full statement of the law. Please remember that the law may change from time to time. This may affect your rights and responsibilities, including whether you are likely to get a War Pension, how much you will get, and when you are likely to get it.

If you need more advice about anything to do with war pensions, call Veterans UK Helpline on: 0808 1914 2 18.
If you live overseas, phone +44 1253 866043
Tropical Disease Investigations

Many Far East prisoners of war caught tropical diseases while they were held captive. In most cases these diseases cleared up when the prisoners returned home.

There is one disease that can last for many years, called **Strongyloidiasis**. It is nothing to worry about and you might not even know you had it, but under certain conditions it may lead to complications and should be treated. If you are being treated with certain drugs like oral steroids, they may prevent a doctor finding out about the disease activity.

If you want to find out if you need treatment for a tropical disease, we can arrange for you to have a Tropical Disease Investigation (TDI).

You can ask for a TDI if you are:

- an Ex-Far East prisoner of war, or
- an Ex-Korean prisoner of war, or
- a former member of the Chindits or 14th Army and you served behind the lines in Burma.

We cannot arrange another TDI if you have already had one since 1972.

Tropical Disease Units are attached to hospitals in different parts of the country. We will try to arrange for you to go to the hospital nearest to your home. The specially trained doctors will be able to find out if you have a tropical disease and treat it if you have. They will also give you a full medical at the same time.
Psychiatric consultations

Many ex-Far East prisoners of war suffer from things like bad nerves and stress problems. This is because of the way they were treated while they were prisoners.

If you have any problems like this we can arrange for you to talk to a psychiatrist or someone like that about them.

If you decide to have a TDI, we may be able to arrange for you to see a psychiatrist at the same time.

You can ask for a psychiatric consultation if you are

- an ex-Far East prisoner of war, or
- an ex-Korean prisoner of war, or
- a former member of the Chindits or 14th Army and you served behind the lines in Burma.

How to apply

If you decide to have an investigation or a consultation, please write to us at the address on page 7.
Treatment Allowance

If you stay in hospital for more than 8 days, and have suffered a loss of earnings you may be able to claim a part time Treatment Allowance or Treatment Allowance. Let us know and we will send you a claim form. We will need some proof from your employer to confirm earnings have been lost.
Where to get help and advice

Veterans Welfare Service

Veterans Welfare Service provide advice, guidance and support to Veterans and their families.

Our network covers the whole of the UK, and the Irish Republic.

If you want help and advice from a Welfare Officer, you can get in touch with your nearest Veterans Welfare Office. Welfare Officers can give you free and confidential advice about War Pensions. Simply call 0808 1914 218 to get details of your nearest Veterans Welfare Service office.
Veterans UK Helpline

Veterans UK free Helpline number is: **0808 1914218**.

It is open:
- 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday

The staff can give you general advice and can also help you to fill in your claim form.

If you have problems with your hearing and you have a Textphone, you can phone the free Helpline on: **0800 169 34 58**.

We may monitor your phone calls to us to make sure we maintain our high standard of customer service and to train our staff.

You can write to us at:

**Veterans UK**
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

**You can contact us by E-mail at:**
Veterans-UK@mod.gov.uk

**You can find us on the Internet at:**
www.gov.uk/veterans-uk

If you write to us please tell us your National Insurance number.
Where to get help and advice

Ex-Service organisations
There are many ex-Service organisations which help veterans and their families. They can give you help and advice on war pensions and allowances.

If you want to appeal against a decision on your claim, some of these organisations can help you with your case and represent you at the appeal. It will not cost you anything. You do not need to be a member of the organisations to get free advice.

These organisations include the following:

Burma Star Association
34 Grosvenor Gardens
London
SW1W 0DH
Tel: 0207 823 4273
e-mail: burmastar@btconnect.com
web: www.burmastar.org.uk

The association provides a welfare service and gives free and confidential advice to all holders of the Burma Star

The British Korean Veterans Association
R J Clementson
16 Ingle Head
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 3NS
Tel: 01772 717302
e-mail: richard.clementson@blueyonder.co.uk
web: www bkva.co.uk
Where to get help and advice

The Fepow Fellowship
Mrs Pauline Simpson
Whiterose Cottage
King Street
Neatishead
Norwich
NR12 8BW
Tel: 01692 630674
e-mail: pauline761@btinternet.com

The Fellowship is a branch of COFEPOW and continues the work of the National Federation of Far East Clubs and Associations, which closed in 2005. It acts as a point of contact for the clubs that still exist and individuals where their clubs have closed. It also gives welfare advice and information on British Legion FEPOW short breaks.

BLESMA- The Limbless Veterans
185-187 High Road
Chadwell Heath
Romford
Essex
RM6 6NA
Tel: 0208 590 1124
Fax: 0208 599 2932
web: www.blesma.org
e-mail: headquarters@blesma.org
Where to get help and advice

British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association
(continued).

The association aims to promote the welfare of all those who have lost a limb or limbs, or one or both eyes, or the use of limbs as a result of their service in any branch of Her Majesty's Forces or auxiliary forces. It also aims to help dependants of these people and those ex-servicemen and servicewomen who lose a limb after service.

The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
(Combat Stress)
Tyrwhitt House
Oaklawn Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 0BX
Tel: 01372 587000
web: www.combatstress.org.uk
e-mail: contactus@combatstress.org.uk

The Society cares for ex-members of the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy, who have psychiatric disabilities. The Society provides a network of Regional Welfare Officers throughout the United Kingdom. There are also three short term treatment centres and a veterans home.
Where to get help and advice

**Defence Medical Welfare Service**
The Old Stables
Redenham Park
Fyfield
Andover
Hampshire
SP11 9AQ

**Tel:** 01264 774000  
**web:** [www.dmws.org.uk](http://www.dmws.org.uk)  
**e-mail:** info@dmws.org.uk

**Purpose:**
The Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS) delivers an independent and impartial 24 hour specialist welfare service to those members of the British Armed Forces who are receiving hospital care, their dependant relatives and entitled civilians in order to contribute to the coherence of the recovery and rehabilitation pathway for service personnel. The crucial practical and emotional support is provided at times when it is most needed and is bound by a code of confidentiality.

**Mission:**
To provide a high-quality hospital welfare service to the military community both serving and their dependants, on operations and static locations in UK and Overseas in order to sustain the delivery of military capability.
Where to get help and advice

The 'Not Forgotten' Association
4th Floor
2 Grosvenor Gardens
London
SW1W 0DH
Tel: 0207 730 2400
Fax: 0207 730 0020
web:www.nfassociation.org
The association helps disabled ex-service personnel. They provide televisions and holidays for severely disabled people and outings, concerts and gifts for people in hospitals and care homes.

Gurkhas Welfare Trust
P.O. Box 2170
22 Queen Street
Salisbury
SP2 2EX
Tel: 01722 323955
e-mail: staffassistant@gwt.org.uk
Where to get help and advice

The Officers' Association
1st Floor
Mountbarrow House
6-20 Elizabeth Street
London
SW1W 9RB

Tel: 0207 808 4160 / 0845 873 7153
e-mail: a.carrington@officersassociation.org.uk or for advice on welfare or benevolence matters
e-mail: k.wallis@officersassociation.org.uk
web: www.officersassociation.org.uk

Or, if resident in Scotland:
New Haig House
Logie Green Road
Edinburgh
EH7 4HO

Tel: 0131 550 1575 / 1581
web: www.oascotland.org.uk

The Officers Association gives advice and help to ex-officers and their families through;

• cash grants
• continuing allowances for those with very small incomes; and
• help towards care home fees.

In special circumstances they can also give help with education or training fees.
Where to get help and advice

The Officers' Association (continued)

There is a care home for single ex-officers near Teignmouth, Devon and a 12-bungalow estate near Watford for disabled ex-officers and their families.

The association also helps ex-officers to find suitable jobs, either when just leaving service or if they become unemployed.

The Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society

Head office
Weston Acres
Woodmansterne Lane
Banstead
Surrey
SM7 3HB

Tel: 01737 353763
Tel: 01737 362678

web: www.royalalfredseafarers.com

e-mail: enquiries@royalalfred.org.uk

The society provides accommodation in Surrey and Sussex for former seafarers and their dependants. Sheltered housing and care homes are available in Surrey and there are homes in Sussex.
Where to get help and advice

The Royal Air Forces Association
117½ Loughborough Road
Leicester
LE4 5ND
Tel: 0116 266 5224
Fax: 0116 266 5012
web: www.rafa.org.uk

The association gives help and advice to ex-RAF and Commonwealth Air Forces personnel.

The Royal British Legion
Haig House
199 Borough High Street
London
SE1 1AA
Tel: 0808 8028080
web: www.britishlegion.org.uk

The organisation provides for the welfare of ex-service personnel and their dependants. It provides:

• financial help
• care homes
• employment for the disabled
• small-business advice and loans
• resettlement training, and
• free pensions advice and much more.

All work is funded by public donations.

The Royal British Legion also provides a social focus for ex-service personnel through its branches and clubs all over England, Wales and Ireland
Where to get help and advice

The Royal British Legion Scotland
The Earl Haig Fund Scotland and the Officers’ Association Scotland
New Haig House
Logie Green Road
Edinburgh
EH7 4HR
Tel: 0131 550 1562 / 1583

They help all ex-service personnel, their widows or widowers and their dependants living in Scotland with pensions, welfare advice and friendship.

The Royal Naval Association
Room 209 Semaphore Tower
PP70
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
Hants
PO1 3LT
Tel: 02392 723747
Fax: 02392 723371
web: www.royal-naval association.co.uk

The Royal Naval Association believes firmly that 'welfare is not only money'. With 35,000 members, they are a brotherhood and sisterhood for life, offering friendship, comradeship and personal support to their members. Limited Welfare funds are raised by members to support these activities.
Where to get help and advice

The Royal Hospital
Chelsea
London
SW3 4SR
Tel: 0207 881 5200
web: www.chelsea.pensioners.co.uk
e-mail: info@chelsea-pensioners.org.uk

The Royal Hospital provides a home for old soldiers who are getting an army long-service pension or a war pension. It is not a hospital.

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust
Castaway House
311 Twyford Avenue
Portsmouth
PO2 8RN
Tel: 02392 690112
web: www.rnbt.org.uk
e-mail: rnbt@rnbt.org.uk

All ratings and others ranks of the Royal Navy or Royal Marines are part of the 'RNBT Family'; so are their wives, husbands and dependent children. They number three million people worldwide.

The trust provides help such as:
• financial grants
• regular payments to supplement the income of older people
• care for older people at Pembroke House, and
• advice on welfare matters.
Where to get help and advice

The Soldiers’, Sailors’, Airmen and Families Association
4 St Dunstan's Hill
London
EC3R 8AD
Tel: 0207 403 8783
web: www.ssafa.org.uk
e-mail: info@ssafa.org.uk

The association exists to help all Service and ex-Service personnel and their families. It acts as a friendly adviser, whatever the problem. It helps to obtain all the practical and financial assistance to which the clients are entitled from statutory sources. It acts as an agent for Service, Regimental and other funds in bringing relief to those in need. It offers accommodation for the disabled and residential care for the elderly. There are local representatives located throughout the UK.

Forces Pension Society
68 South Lambeth Road
Vauxhall
London
SW8 1RL
Tel: 0207 820 9988
web: www.forcespensionsociety.org.uk
e-mail: memsec@forpen.co.uk

The Society serves the pension interests of ex-service personnel of all ranks and their dependants.
Where to get help and advice

**Blind Veterans UK (formerly St Dunstan's since 1915)**
12-14 Harcourt Street
London
W1H 4HD
**Tel:** 0207 723 5021
**web:** www.blindveterans.org.uk
**e-mail:** enquiries@blindveterans.org.uk

Blind Veterans UK, formerly St Dunstan’s believe that no one who’s served our country should battle blindness alone.
With a lifetime’s practical and emotional support, regardless of when they served and how they lost their sight help blind veterans to recover their independence and discover a life beyond sight loss.

**War Widows' Association of Great Britain**
C/o Haig House
199 Borough High Street
London
SE1 1AA
**Tel:** 0845 241 2189
**e-mail:** info@warwidows.org.uk

The War Widows' Association exists to improve the conditions of war widows and widowers and their dependants in Great Britain. Its work includes anyone who receives a war widows or widowers pension regardless of whether they have lost their husband or wife in peacetime or as a result of war.
Our service

We aim to provide a high quality service and to treat everyone equally. We are always trying to improve the service that we give you. To help us give you a better service, we have a Customer Service Manager.

If you want to tell us anything about our service, you can get in touch with our Customer Service Manager.

Please contact:

Customer Service Manager
Veterans UK
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

You can contact us by e-mail at:
Veterans-UK@mod.uk

Or you can phone our Helpline (UK only) on 0808 1914 2 18 and ask for the Customer Service Manager.

If you live overseas, phone +44 1 253 866043.
How the MOD collects and uses personal information

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your personal information and ensuring that all your personal data is processed in accordance with UK data protection legislation. The MOD Personal Information Charter contains the standards you can expect when we ask for, hold or share your personal information and your rights under the UK data protection legislation. You can view the Personal Information Charter on the internet https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/personal-information-charter

Further information can be found on the internet on the way the Veterans UK processes your data in line with the charter. You can view by visiting https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-business-services-privacy-notice

Alternatively, we can send you a copy if you ask us to. Our contact details are on page 7
How to make an FOI request

You can read about the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and how to make a request on the internet https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request

To make a new request, contact us at:

Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulation requests
MOD Information Rights Team
Ground floor, zone D
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Email cio-foi@mod.uk

Please note: Not to be used for requesting your own information (Subject Access Request), Service records including for deceased relatives, or pension enquiries.

When making a request make sure you include
• your name and a contact address
• a detailed description of the information you want - for example, you might want all information held on a subject, or just a summary
Notes for people getting a War Pension living in the United Kingdom

Produced by Veterans UK
November 2018

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