



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Defence Business Services Secretariat
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2018/11407, FOI2018/11751
& FOI2018/12033

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

1 October 2018

Dea

Thank you for your emails of 5 September and 14 September 2018 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

FOI2018/11407

"1. On completion of their service at the end of World War Two, what benefits and/or gratuity and/or pension plan were available to rank-and-file British soldiers who had been recruited in Britain during World War Two?"

2. On completion of their service at the end of World War Two, what benefits and/or gratuity and/or pension plan were available to officers who had served in the King's African Rifles during World War Two?"

FOI2018/11751 & FOI2018/12033

*"1. On completion of their service at the end of World War Two, what **war gratuity** was available to **British soldiers who had been recruited in Britain**? Please show what **amount per month of service** was on offer to **each rank** (private, lance corporal, corporal, sergeant, staff sergeant, Warrant Office I, Warrant Office II, 2nd lieutenant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier).*

if this does not exceed the appropriate limit, please then also include the following information:

*2. On completion of their service at the end of World War Two, what **war gratuity** was available to **European servicemen serving in the King's African Rifles**? Please show what **amount per month of service** was on offer to **each rank** (private, lance corporal, corporal, sergeant, staff sergeant, Warrant Office I, Warrant Office II, 2nd lieutenant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier).*

if this does not exceed the appropriate limit, please then also include the following information:

3. On completion of their service at the end of World War Two, what other **release benefits** besides war gratuity (such as clothing allowance, medical allowance, etc) were available to **British soldiers who had been recruited in Britain**? Please show what **release benefits** were available to **each rank** (private, lance corporal, corporal, sergeant, staff sergeant, Warrant Office I, Warrant Office II, 2nd lieutenant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier).

if this does not exceed the appropriate limit, please then also include the following information:

4. On completion of their service at the end of World War Two, what other **release benefits** besides war gratuity (such as clothing allowance, medical allowance, etc) were available to **European servicemen serving in the King's African Rifles**? Please show what **release benefits** were available to **each rank** (private, lance corporal, corporal, sergeant, staff sergeant, Warrant Office I, Warrant Office II, 2nd lieutenant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier)."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Please accept this letter as a response to all of your questions listed above which have been registered under three separate FOI reference numbers.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held. However, the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of an absolute exemption under Section 21 (information reasonably accessible by other means) of the FOIA.

Section 21(1) has been applied as the information is already in the public domain and therefore reasonably accessible to you via the areas listed below. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

The general matter of financial gratuities and other matters related to pay were set out in a number of official Army publications, including the Army Pay Warrant, Army Orders, the King's Regulations and the Manual of Military Law. Those published during the period you are asking about are freely available to any member of the public at the following archives:

UK's National Archives – <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

National Army Museum – <https://www.nam.ac.uk/>

Both sites have searchable databases and contain 'contact us' details should you require further information or guidance on how to identify relevant material.

Information relating to various specific payments, such as War Gratuities and Post War Credits, as well as 'Release Benefits and Allowances' is available through various repositories, including The National Archives. Specifically, details of 'War gratuity and post war credits: World War II; service by and with foreign troops and clandestine organisations' are available at the following link should you wish to request a copy of these records – <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C11500595>

Additionally, The Regimental Association, Imperial War Museum and the British Library may also hold information in scope of your request.

You may be interested to know that the responsibility for the payment of non-effective benefits in respect of imperial and war service by local East African forces was transferred from the War Office in 1957. At a meeting in Nairobi in December 1956, representatives of the War Office, East Africa High Commission and East African governments of Kenya, Tanzanyika and Uganda agreed the handover of War Office buildings if the East African government took responsibility for pensions. The transfer took place on 1 July 1957. Details of the transfer were held in Command Paper 281 of 1957 which may also be held by The National Archives.

Regarding the King's African Rifles, it is possible that the pay and benefits for such a colonial regiment may be covered in the Pay Warrant, Allowance Regulations etc. It may also be possible that The Regimental Association may be able to assist in this matter and their website is – <http://www.kingsafricanriflesassociation.co.uk/>.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)

