

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **WELFARE**

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES**

1. The Association has for many years had a supplementary allowance scheme.
2. These are intended to assist those of state retirement age who exist solely on the State Retirement Pension (a small occupational pension is normally disregarded), who for some other reason (usually poor health) find it difficult to manage. Applications on the Common Application Form at Annex A are to be made through Branch Secretaries to the General Secretary and are considered by the Finance Committee at their meetings in March and October, although the Director of Welfare may consider a grant on a pro-rata basis between these dates, should this be necessary.
3. The rate is currently £7.50 a week, payable quarterly at a rate of £97.50 in January, April, July and October each year. Payments for successful applicants will be forwarded by the General Secretary to Branch Secretaries each quarter in sufficient time for these monies to be passed on by the first day of the new quarter.

#### **WELFARE ASSISTANCE**

4. Applications for other and more substantial forms of welfare assistance are to be referred to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) or the Royal British Legion (TRBL). Full details of those in the Branch area and the procedure involved may be obtained from the General Secretary.

#### **CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

5. Applications are invited by 1<sup>st</sup> November each year for those Branch members or widows of State Retirement age to receive a Christmas Gift of £25. Branches may add to this sum as they choose. It is not a 'means tested' gift, nor is it an automatic one on reaching State Retirement age, but intended for those the Branch consider would benefit from a little extra at that time of the year. It is also not to be used in the context of 'services rendered'.
6. Branches should give very careful consideration to those selected and are advised to form a small committee to do so. Branches should also consider including a Regimental Christmas card (at the expense of the Branch) with the gift, which will invariably be handed to the recipient by the Branch Secretary or Welfare Officer.

#### **WREATHS**

7. Regimental or Association poppy wreaths for the funerals of members are provided through Association HQ with the cost borne by the Central Fund. Branch Secretaries may order two wreaths at a time and retain them for their eventual need. Wreaths will also be provided direct from Association HQ for those who do not belong to the Association, although invariably the nearest Branch will be given the

funeral details in order to provide a wreath and to send a representative as appropriate.

8. Branch Secretaries should note that poppy wreaths are supplied for Grenadier members only, and not for wives, widows or for local memorial services. In these instances Branches must bear the cost themselves.

9. **Musical Support at Funerals.** Requests for a Musician to sound Last Post and Reveille at the funeral of Grenadiers will only be entertained if that Grenadier has completed 22 years' service or has been awarded a Campaign Medal.

10. The provision of such support will be dependent on the availability of a suitable Musician and provided dependent on the exigencies of the Service. Bids are to be made by the fastest possible means to the Assn NCO.

Annex:

A. Welfare Common Application Form