

**19<sup>th</sup> January 1918**

Newnham  
Harpenden

This is to certify that Bert. Weston suffers from a severe and obstinate form of Gastric Catarrh.

He only remains well by carefully dieting himself, and is continuously under medical supervision and though apparently healthy in appearance is in my opinion unfitted for military service

Leonard Hine(?)

LRCP, MRCS

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**14<sup>th</sup> February 1918**

**Letter from W A C To Russell re Eames**  
HERTFORDSHIRE WAR AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
28 Castle Street  
Hertford

Dear Sir

Application for the release from the Army

Pte S.J.K. Eames

I am directed by the Hertfordshire War Agricultural Committee to refer to your application for the release from Military Service of the above named, and am to state that they are informed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries that the facts of the case have been placed before the Ministry of National Service with a view to the War Office being recommended to release this man, but the Ministry state however that they cannot see their way to recommend such a release. Under the circumstances therefore the Committee regret they are unable to take any further action in the matter.

Yours faithfully

Charles C Longmore

Dr E J Russell

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**26<sup>th</sup> February 1918**

**Letter from Russell to Gertrude Bates**

Miss Bates  
Addenbrooke's Hospital  
Cambridge

Dear Miss Bates

Owing to rising prices and an inelastic income it has become necessary for the Committee to go into the question of the allowances paid to members of the Staff on Military Service. The arrangement made was that the Committee would pay to

each man such sum as would, with military pay and allowances maintain his salary at the level at which it stood when he joined. To this arrangement we shall of course adhere, but for the reasons above mentioned the Committee feels itself unable to do more.

I should be glad therefore if you would inform me whether your military pay and allowances still fall below the salary you were getting here and if so, by what amount. We shall then continue to pay the difference, if any. Instead of taking the actual salary you received you can add £20 to this amount, that being the War Bonus to all who are paid £200 or less per annum.

I may say that the Committee went into this question reluctantly, and only after an intimation had come that the Board of Agriculture auditor might raise it.

Yours very truly

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27<sup>th</sup> February 1918

**Letter from Keen to Russell**

The Oak  
Park Hill Road  
Sidcup  
Kent

Dear Dr Russell

In answer to your letter of yesterday, I wish to inform you that my present pay & allowances exceed the sum of my pre-war salary and War Bonus.

While I regret that the Committee cannot see their way to continue paying my half salary I wish at the same time to express my appreciation of past payments since October 1914 when I took up my commission.

Yours sincerely

B A Keen

Capt.

Dr E J Russell F.R.S., O.B.E.

Rothamsted Esptl Station

Harpenden

P.S. I should be obliged if you could tell me from what date payment will be discontinued

B.A.K.

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28<sup>th</sup> February 1918

Letter from Gertrude Bates to Russell

Selwyn College  
Cambridge

Dear Dr Russell

I am sorry I did not answer your letter sooner but I never got a moment yesterday until 9.30 pm & then my brain didn't feel equal to tackling a mathematical problem. I will try my best to explain exactly how matters stand with me & if I make a hash of it I have no doubt you will be able to disentangle it. I never was any good at "sums".

My salary at the Lab was (I believe)! = £65 p.a.  
+ War Bonus = £20 p.a.  
Total = £85

My salary here is = £20 p.a.  
+ 19/- per week for messing & washing = £49 . 8  
(of this 19/-, 13/- is deducted per week before Total = £69 . 8  
we received it, & the 6/- is for washing)

So as far as I can see instead of receiving from the Lab. £2. 14 . 2 per month only about £1 . 6 . 0 will be sent, but I may be quite wrong in my surmise, anyway now that you have all the facts I will leave the rest to you! We had wild excitement here last Friday, a wire came from the War Office asking if Matron would care to go East & then a special message came later by telephone saying she might take her secretary with her, but alas the Committee would not let her go as the Hospital just now is changing both its Secretary Superintendent & assistant Matron. However when the new people have settled down again we will hope for another chance.

I hope you & Mrs Russell are quite well

Yrs sincerely

Gertrude Bates

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**1<sup>st</sup> March 1918**

**Letter from Russell to Keen**

Capt. B.A. Keen  
The Oak  
Park Hill Road  
Sidcup  
Kent

Dear Keen

As I said in my letter I am sorry the question had to be raised, but it was not our fault.

The payments will be discontinued as from March 1<sup>st</sup> the February cheque will come along all right.

Yours very truly

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**5<sup>th</sup> March 1918**

**Letter from Daish to Russell**

320<sup>th</sup> Bat. R F A  
Aylsham  
Norfolk

Dear Dr Russell

Your letter dated Feb 25<sup>th</sup> has been forwarded to me here and was received to day. I was not aware that the arrangement was that the Committee would pay to each member of the staff on Military Service such sum as would, with military pay & allowances, maintain his salary at the level at which it stood when he joined. I was under the impression that it was arranged to pay half salary during absence on Military Service and this is actually the amount I have been receiving. Certainly no enquiry was ever made as to my military pay and presumably the Committee knew that my pay and allowances even as a second lieutenant were equal to the salary I was getting at the Laboratory. The question of rising prices is one which affects me as well, and possibly you can understand that the money I have been receiving has been extremely useful, & whilst appreciating the generosity of the Committee one has felt that one's services at the present time were being appreciated in a very practical manner. Presumably, however, the Committee have now come to a definite decision to discontinue paying any part of the salary, in which case there is nothing more to be said.

I note that a War Bonus of £20 has been granted to all who were paid £200 or less per annum. May I enquire whether I am entitled to this War Bonus. This is the first I have heard of it.

Yours truly

A J Daish

**7<sup>th</sup> March 1918**

**Letter from Russell to Daish**

Captain Daish  
c/o Mrs E Bates  
5 Eaton Crescent  
Clifton  
Bristol

Dear Daish

The arrangement was as stated in my letter. It was posted on the Notice Boards for many weeks, entered in the Minutes, and communicated to any who were interested. A generous view was taken by the Committee as to pay and allowances, but that of course did not affect the basis of the agreement.

You will receive the February cheque as usual.

In regard to the bonus, that was paid only to members of the staff who were left here. They have had no means of meeting the extra cost of living, and with a few trifling exceptions no increment in salary. The income of the Station being fixed, and costs rising considerably, it was not possible to do otherwise. Finally it became imperative to do something, and the bonus was arranged, but this had to be confined to those working here whose total income is below £200 per annum.

I am glad to hear that you are doing so well and that you are one of the fortunate ones whose income has gone up. As I said in my letter the Committee ..... great reluctance, but we have been overstepping our instructions, and of course we could not go on doing this indefinitely.

Yours very truly

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**13<sup>th</sup> March 1918**

**Letter from Daish to Russell**

320<sup>th</sup> Bat. R F A  
Aylsham, Norfolk

Dear Dr Russell

Your letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> inst. Received. I am afraid I still do not agree as to the arrangement made as regards the salary of the members of the Staff on military service. I remember receiving a letter, I believe from you, stating that I should receive half salary during my absence, but at the present moment I cannot turn it up as I believe it is in my desk which is now stored. However, I have no doubt I shall be able to find it later on. I have no doubt that some Notice was posted on the Notice Board but as I have only been to the Lab. two or three times since the beginning of the war I have not seen it. Presumably I may be considered as one of those interested, in which case I consider that a copy of the notice should have been sent to me. If, as you say, the arrangement was that the Committee would pay such sum as

would, with military pay & allowances, maintain my salary at the level at which it stood before the war. I cannot understand why enquiries were not made some 3 ½ years ago as to my military pay & allowances. I would point out that this is the first time I have been asked for this information. Even if the Committee did take a generous view as to pay & allowances, I should imagine they would require to know what my pay & allowances were if the original arrangement was as you state. I regret I am unable to understand all your remarks as to the Bonus. I gather however, that I am entitled to it, although in your first letter you stated that instead of taking the actual salary I received I could add £20 to that amount, that being the War Bonus to all who were paid £200 or less per annum. I also conclude from your remarks that the income of the Station is fixed, that this Bonus which is being paid only to members of the Staff who are left will be met by the withdrawal of part salary which up to the present has been paid to those of us on military service. I am not aware that I informed you in my previous letter that my income has gone up nor do I know from where you obtained such information. I believe I said that “the question of rising prices is one which affects me as well”, which appears to me to be a very different matter. I do not doubt that the Committee only reopened the question with great reluctance, but I should have thought that they would have fought the matter as strongly as possible in order to do the best possible for those of us who have given our services at this time

Yours truly

A..J. Daish

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**16<sup>th</sup> March 1918**

**Letter from Russell to Daish**

Dear Daish

On looking through the correspondence with you I find that the copy of the notice was sent to you by Mr Dunkley on August 8<sup>th</sup> 1914. The arrangements suggested in the letter were adopted by the Committee.

Yours very truly

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**3<sup>rd</sup> August 1918**

**letter from Russell to O.C. Royal Irish Fusiliers**

The O.C.  
Command Depot  
Randalstown  
Ireland

Sir

Would it be possible for Private S.J.K. Eames, Royal Irish Fusiliers, to obtain harvest leave. He was our farm manager in pre-war days, and would be invaluable at the present time. I hear that he has been re-examined and I should be glad to know if his category is now sufficiently good for him to supervise the getting in of our harvest. There would be no manual work to be done, simply to help in supervising.

Yours faithfully

E J Russell

*On Reverse:- Reference Reverse*

*It is regretted that leave cannot be granted for the over mentioned purpose as according to Army Council Instructions such leave can only be given to men where category is AIII*

*L G B Rodney*

*O.C."C" Coy North of Ireland Command Depot, Randalstown*

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**9<sup>th</sup> August 1918**

**Letter from Sawyer to Russell**

86149 Pte G.C.S. 4<sup>th</sup> R. F. A.  
St George's Ward  
Auxiliary Military Hospital  
V. A. D., Southall, Middlesex

Dear Dr Russell

As it is now some little time since I was in Harpenden I thought you might probably be interested to hear of my whereabouts & recent doings. The latter may be briefly summed up with the word "nothing": I together with 3 others was out last week (Thursday night I think it was) putting up wire entanglements in front of our trenches when the Hun spotted us & turned his machine guns on us – result 3 fingers of the left hand out of action 2 of them being smashed; & now after several halts at the various dressing stations & hospitals down the line I am settled at the above address. Altogether I count myself very fortunate & except for the temporary inconvenience am in excellent form & most comfortable. The hospital here also appears to be almost all one could desire, the wards are spacious comfortable food good & plentiful & attention perfect. The building was originally erected as a concert

hall & Recreation Room for ... Maypole Dairy people & it appears to have every convenience for its present use.

For a day or two apparently I must stay in bed as that is the rule with all fresh arrivals but after that I hope to be able to be up & about; & as we are allowed one pass out a week from 10am to 8pm I shall hope to be able to run over to Harpenden before long if the trains will fit. The only disadvantage is that they do not grant us any railway warrants & train fares are no trifle these days I believe! However one can't have everything.

Have you commenced harvest at Rothamsted yet? I wonder & I hope the crops show fair promise this year. If they could only equal many of those to be seen in "No Man's Land" they would indeed be satisfactory – it does seem a shame to see such really excellent crops wasting, with no prospect of being gathered in & in fact only a nuisance as they form good cover for raiding parties etc.

I hope this letter will not have bored you too much, also I hope you will find time for a change this year.

And with kind regards to yourself & Mrs Russell

Believe me yours very sincerely

G C Sawyer

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**12<sup>th</sup> August 1918**

**Letter from Russell to Daish**

Dear Sawyer

I am very glad to hear your wound is not worse; I hope the three fingers will not suffer permanently, but that it will be possible to get them quite all right again.

If you have an opportunity of coming down we shall be very pleased to see you.

We have commenced the harvest and it promises to be a very good one.

Yours sincerely

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**21<sup>st</sup> September 1918**

**Letter from Russell to Regester re Exemptions**

W. Regester Esq  
Middlesex Guildhall  
Westminster, S.W. 1

Dear Mr Regester

I find that our farm manager, - Mrs S.J.K. Eames, - has put in an application for exemption for two of our workers, - Jackson and Howe. Although I am not financially interested in the farm I should be glad if these two could be taken



out of my Sub-Committee and put into one of the others, as I would rather not  
adjuicate on people working on the Rothamsted farm

Yours very truly

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