

The Bonus Issue Following World War Action Taken By Foreign Governments

GREAT BRITAIN

The British Army gratuity or bonus payments totalled £114,000,000, or \$542,640,000. Great Britain was actually engaged in the war for a period of four years three months and seven days.

Privates with a minimum of a month's service or less got £5 if any portion of this service was foreign; non-commissioned officers, including Corporals, Sergeants and Warrant Officers, got £6 to £15, depending on rank. This was the basic bonus. In addition to it, privates and non-commissioned officers with more than twelve months' service got 10 shillings for each additional month up to forty-eight months if they had any overseas service, and 5 shillings for additional month if they had only home service.

Second Lieutenants, £35; Lieutenants, £40; Captains, £45; Brigade Majors, £60; Lieutenant Colonels, £75; Colonels, £100; Brigadier Generals, £140; Major Generals, £200; Lieutenant Generals, £370.

Commissioned Officers with more than a year's service got an additional bonus for each additional month up to forty-eight months, rated as follows in the case of those having any overseas service: £1 per additional month to those getting a basic bonus up to £75; 2 per additional month to those getting a basic bonus between £75 and £140; 3 per additional month to those getting a basic bonus of more than £140. If there was no overseas service, these additional payments were halved. Regular pay during war, \$11.40 per month.

CANADA

The actual cash bonus paid by Canada to her soldiers amounted to \$170,000,000. The war service period embraced, as in the case of Great Britain, four years, three months and seven days.

The bonus payments were made on the following basis:

Overseas Service—More than one and less than two years, \$280 to single and \$400 to married men; more than two and less than three years, \$350 to single and \$500 to married men; three years and over, \$420 to single and \$600 to married men.

Home Service—For less than one year no bonus was paid to men who did not leave Canada; for more than one and less than two years, \$70 to single and \$100 to married men; two years and less than three years, \$140 to single and \$200 to married men; three years and over, \$210 to single and \$300 to married men. Regular pay during war, \$33 per month.

AUSTRALIA

A war gratuity of 1s. 6d. per day of oversea service, and 1s. for home service was paid. Regular pay during war \$42 per month.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The payments made by Czechoslovakia are more in the nature of a pension and payable only to disabled. Regular pay during war, \$1.45 per month.

FRANCE

Up to the end of 1921 the total war bonuses paid by France amounted to 542,700,000 francs, or \$100,873,606.

The basis of payment was as follows:

Every French soldier who had a minimum of three months' war service, and officer up to the rank of Captain, received a demobilization bonus of 250 francs, equivalent at the November, 1918, rate of exchange to \$46.46 as a fixed sum due to all. In addition, each received a sum calculated at the rate of 15 francs for every month's service behind the lines or 20 francs per month if in the fighting line. Regular pay during war, \$1.45 per month.

ITALY

In the case of Italy bonus payments are as yet incomplete. Figures believed approximately correct place the disbursements to date at 1,500,000,000 lire, or \$235,849,056. The period of war embraces three years, five months and nineteen days.

The average bonus given by Italy to each soldier was 1,000 lire (\$157.23) and a complete outfit of civilian clothing. In cases where a man was suffering from illness, not wounds, contracted during service, the bonus was raised to a total of from 1,500 to 3,000 lire.

As regards officers and non-commissioned officers, the Commission for the Army and Navy is now considering a bill for special bonuses which, if it becomes a law, will call for over 90,000,000 lire, or about \$4,517,000, to come out of this and next year's budgets. While this sum is heavy for Italy, it has been pointed out that the disbursement would eventually reduce the army budget, because payment of such a bonus would permit final retirement of large numbers of officers who must remain on the active list until paid. Regular pay during war, \$1.75 per month.

BELGIUM

Various special payments were made at demobilization, known variously as discharge indemnities, clothing indemnities, special savings funds, family allowances, etc. Discharge indemnities ranged from \$9.50 plus \$4.75 per year of service to \$19; the special savings fund amounted to about \$76 per man; the clothing indemnity \$38, the family allowance \$57. The payment most nearly similar to our proposed bonus was a payment of \$13.85 for each month of service at the front paid as a reward in appreciation of service. Regular pay during war, \$2 per month.

GERMANY

A payment of 50 marks and 15 marks for traveling expenses was made on discharge. To crews of submarines 300 marks were paid to the unmarried men and 500 marks to married men. Regular pay during war, \$3 per month.