



Special Travelling Facilities For Relatives of Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen Dangerously Ill or Dead.

I. GREAT BRITAIN.

Sailors, Soldiers or Airmen Dangerously Ill or Dead ; RAILWAY WARRANTS FOR RELATIVES.

1. On Production of a Telegram as set out in paragraph 4 below, the Police may issue a railway warrant to relatives of

(a) any warrant officer (except a warrant officer of the Royal Navy) non-commissioned officer, man or boy of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army (including the Territorial Army), or Royal Air Force (including the Air Force Reserve and the Auxiliary Air Force), who is **lying dangerously ill** in hospital either during his service or while retained in hospital after discharge ;

(b) any officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer, man or boy of the above forces who has **died** either during his service, or while retained in hospital after discharge ;

(c) any member of a Naval, Army or Air Force Nursing Service or any person engaged on nursing service in a Naval, Military or Air Force Hospital, who has **died** ;

so that relatives who cannot afford the expense may, nevertheless, visit the individual referred to in (a) or attend the funeral of the individual referred to in (b) or (c).

It will be observed that although railway warrants may be issued to relatives of officers and nurses under (b) and (c), they may not be issued to the relatives of officers and nurses under (a).

2. If a railway warrant is issued, the applicant should be asked for the particulars that must be included in the notice of the issue of the warrant to be sent to the appropriate authority and this notice should be despatched without delay in accordance with the instructions accompanying the warrants. The telegram produced by the applicant should be endorsed clearly with the words "Railway warrant issued from..... to..... and return," and handed back to the applicant with an instruction to keep it carefully for the purpose of the journey and produce it when required.

The person to whom a warrant is issued must be notified to exchange it for a ticket at the railway or steamship booking office. Care should be taken before the warrant is issued to delete the inappropriate words on the front and back of the warrant.

The applicant should also be instructed to obtain a **Travellers Ration Book** from the local Food Control Office and to carry this and his **National Registration Card** with him on the journey. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.**

3. A warrant may be issued for two persons **one of whom must be a relative** and should cover both the outward and return journey.
4. (a) In the case of a sailor, soldier or airman who is dangerously ill in a Naval, Military or Air Force Hospital the telegram will read as follows:—

“ Regretdangerously ill * in.....
Hospital at..... If you wish to visit him and cannot afford expense, a return railway warrant for two persons, one a relative, will be issued on production of this telegram at the nearest police station.”

*The nature of the illness, if known, will be shown

- (b) In the case of a sailor, soldier or airman who is dangerously ill in a civil hospital, the authorities of the hospital will add to their usual telegram notifying dangerous illness the words, “If you wish to visit him and cannot afford the expense, a return railway warrant for two persons, one a relative, will be issued on production of this telegram at the nearest police station.”
- (c) In the case of an officer, sailor, soldier, airman or nurse who has died in the United Kingdom or Eire the telegram, after notifying death, the cause and the time thereof, and an offer to bring the body home for burial, will continue as follows:—

“ otherwise funeral will be at.....on.....
at.....o'clock. If you wish to attend and cannot afford expense, a railway warrant for two persons, one a relative, will be issued on production of this telegram at the nearest police station.”

5. The Police may regard the application for a warrant and the production of a telegram referring to inability to bear expense as evidence of insufficiency of means.

II. FRANCE.

Army Personnel Dangerously Ill in France ; RAILWAY WARRANTS FOR RELATIVES.

6. The arrangements to cover visits by relatives to Army personnel who are reported to be dangerously ill in hospital in France will be similar to the above, subject to the modifications in 7, 8, 9 and 10 below.
7. The number of visitors in each case will be limited to a maximum of two, **one of whom must be a relative.** Visitors will first be required to call at the Casualties Branch of the War Office, and it is proposed to instruct those who are unable to bear the expense of travelling to London to apply to the police for the issue of a railway warrant to the terminal station in London.
8. The next-of-kin will be notified by the War Office by telegram in the following form:—

“ Regret..... reported dangerously ill at No.....
Hospital in France. If you desire to visit ^(her)_(him) you must call at War Office, Casualties Branch, Bainbridge Street, W.C.1., prepared for journey bringing this telegram, National Registration Card and Ration Book. If unable to bear travelling expense to London, take this telegram to nearest police station,

where a railway warrant for a maximum of two persons, one a relative, for the **single** journey to the London terminus will be issued. Lady visitors must be accompanied."

(The Casualties Branch is housed in 2-6, Bainbridge Street, W.C.1., which is a very narrow turning off New Oxford Street, just past Tottenham Court Road, on the left hand side proceeding East towards Holborn. Telephone—Chancery 8811).

9. It will be observed that warrants issued in these cases should be for the **single** journey only, and in their application to these cases paragraphs 2 and 3 above should be modified accordingly.
10. Arrangements have not yet been made for this part of the scheme to be applied to the relatives of Naval and Royal Air Force personnel.

By Order,
B. E. SARGEAUNT,
Government Secretary.

Government Office,
Isle of Man,
11th April, 1940.