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Camp / A / 110

Marriage + Repatriation

Dec. 1946 - JAN. 1947

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27 JAN 1947

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SUBJECT :- Repatriation of FamiliesHQ 218 Sub Area
RICCIONE ML1 33
A/33/57
H Jan 47HQ 4 British Liaison Unit - BOLZANO5958964 Dvr. GOCCH L.A.

Reference your letter G1 dated 28 Nov 46.

Receipt of application for repatriation of the wife
of the above named has been acknowledged by GHQ CMF.

/EZ

Morris Fagnier
Lt. Col.
AA & Q.E.

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27 JAN 1947

Subject: Marriage in CMF.

HQ 216 (JEP) Sub Area
 RUCIONE MIL 33
 MAR/101

Jan 47.

List 'B'

1. The following is a note on marriage in CMF which has been forwarded to the "Union Jack" for publication extracted from CMQ letter No 6154/44 of 13 Dec 46.

POLICY.

" All marriage regulations in the theatre have been framed with the object of protecting British Army personnel from contracting hasty or improvident marriages, and of ensuring that no marriage is contracted with a person who is hostile to the Allied cause, a confirmed prostitute or a convicted criminal.

The Army in this connection has a dual responsibility - to the individual and to the state.

Service overseas produces a set of circumstances which do not arise in peace-time. Firstly, men have to spend long periods away from home influences and from womenfolk of their own nationality. Secondly, at the conclusion of a campaign there is a violent re-action from the strain of battle, a re-action which finds expression in the determination to "have a good time". This is followed in many cases by sheer boredom among troops who have to remain as occupation troops lacking any stimulus of the spectacular or the exciting. Thirdly, a large number of troops are young, some very young, and at a time of their life when they are impressionable and inexperienced, they are thrown almost exclusively into the company of foreign women.

In peace time a youngster for the first time falls for some girl and will probably imagine that he is in love with her, but he is all the time meeting other girls, and, in many cases he realises that it is not the "real thing", when he meets the girl whom he eventually marries.

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Overseas there is little opportunity to meet others, and consequently what at home would be a passing flirtation overseas becomes a life long partnership.

The Army attempts to give its personnel time to think and to be certain that it is marriage they want.

So much for the individual. Now take the Army's duty to the State.

When an alien marries a British subject she acquires British nationality and becomes a British citizen with (save in exceptional circumstances) the privilege of entering and living in the United Kingdom. Now, although it is a man's natural right to marry - a right of which the State can not deprive him - the State has a perfect right to refuse to allow a wife to reside in the U.K. It is very reluctant to use this power, and, as stated above, usually allows a wife entry to the U.K.

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It is therefore all the more incumbent on the Army to ensure before marriage that the intended wife is one who will be acceptable to the State. If she has shown herself to be an enemy of the country, to be a confirmed prostitute or a convicted criminal, she would not be a fit person to become a British citizen and live in the country. In such cases, and such cases only, the Army, acting as Trustee for the State, refuses to give military approval.

In this connection, it should be borne in mind, that the ban on marriage to Germans and Austrians which was in force until last August, was imposed, not by the War Office, but by the Cabinet, exercising the right of the State to refuse the rights of British citizenship to members of nations which had shown themselves to be hostile to that State.

REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURE.

The Army lays down that, as a normal rule, a period of six months shall elapse from the date on which the original marriage application was signed, before approval is given. During these six months the applicant has an opportunity of changing his mind, which a number have done. In addition the necessary steps are being taken by the Army to ensure that the marriage shall be valid, i.e., that there is no impediment to the marriage, and that the intended wife is fit to become a British citizen.

To achieve these two ends the following steps are taken:

1. It is ascertained that the applicant is of the nationality stated, that he is over 21, that he is free to marry, and that there is no known factor which would be grounds for a subsequent decree of nullity.

This generally involves consulting Home Records, which takes three weeks to a month.

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This generally involves consulting Home Records, which takes three weeks to a month.

2. A security and moral report on the intended wife is obtained. The length of time taken to obtain this depends on where the intended wife lives. The report is obtained by PS Sections, which, as the theatre runs down, are being disbanded, and their numbers fast diminishing.

If therefore the fiancee lives in an out-of-the-way part of Italy, a member of the PS Section will have to make a special journey, sometimes occupying several days, to obtain it. Further, this task of obtaining security reports is a very minor part of the work of the PS Secs, and has to wait until it can be spared from their main work.

It may well be a month before a report is obtained.

DEFERMENT.

Any soldier who is contemplating marriage knows when he is due to return to the UK on LEAVE or release. He also knows that he may be required to wait six months before he can be married. It is therefore up to him to submit his application sufficiently far ahead to enable him to marry before returning to the UK.

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W. H. Harrison Jr.
 Lt - Col.
 AA & ME.

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GIL

Encls: War Office letter HQ/HQ/137 (444) of 24 Jan 46.
 CHQ CME letter 6151/44 of 1 March 1946.
 " " " " 15 " "
 " " " " 29 " "

Extract from GHQ CME letter NO 6151/44 of 29 March 46.

Reference this GHQ 6151/44 dated 4 Mar 46.

1. The following rulings have been obtained from the War Office in connection with the despatch of intended wives to the UK:

- a) They proceed to the UK as civilians and are subject to normal immigration regulations in force for civilians.
- b) They have NO entitlement to free travel.
- c) Medical certificate certifying recent inoculation are required, but military medical facilities should NOT be made available for such inoculations.

Extract from GHQ CME letter NO 6151/44 of 13 March 46.

Reference this GHQ letter 6151/44 dated 4 Mar 46 enclosing copy of War Office letter HQ/POI/127 (4643) dated 24 Jan 46.

1. The following explanation of the a/1 letters is given in order to meet any queries which may have arisen in connection with them.

2. Nothing in these letters is intended to alter the existing regulations with regard to marriage applications in this theatre, with the single exception that an officer or soldier is to return to UK within the four months immediately following his application to marry a woman resident on the Continent of Europe, but outside GHQ, should be advised to adopt the procedure indicated in the War Office letter.

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Extract from GHQ CME letter NO 5151/44 of 15 March 46.

Reference this GHQ letter 6151/44 dated 4 Mar 46
enclosing copy of War Office letter HQ/20L/137 (AC44) dated 24
Jan 46.

1. The following explanation of the a/1 letters is given
in order to meet any queries which may have arisen in connection
with them.
2. Nothing in these letters is intended to alter the
existing regulations with regard to marriage implications in this
theatre, with the single exception that an officer or soldier may
to return to UK within the four months immediately following his
application to marry a woman resident on the Continent of Europe,
but outside CME, should be advised to adopt the procedure indicated
in the War Office letter.
3. The only cases where the War Office scheme would apply
to women resident in CME are those in which a soldier now serving
in the UK or has been released in the UK, and who has not previously
submitted an application for marriage, desires to marry a woman
resident in CME.

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Extract from GHQ CIG letter No 6451/44 of 4 March 45.

1. Copy of War Office letter HQ/EOL/457 (AG44) dated 24 Jan 46 is forwarded herewith.

2. In cases where British military personnel in GEF apply for permission to marry an alien living on the Continent of Europe, if the applicant is due to return to the U.K. by air or release within four months immediately following his application, he should be advised to adopt the procedure indicated on arrival in the U.K.

3. If it is not anticipated that he will return to the U.K. within four months and he wishes to proceed with his application for permission to marry an alien such as is mentioned in para 2, he should be instructed to apply in accordance with GRC 162/44, but should be warned that, owing to the necessity of ascertaining and complying with the marriage requirements of countries other than GEF, there is likely to be a considerable delay.

Extract from War Office letter HQ/EOL/157 (AG44) of 24 Jan 46.

1. Many applications are received from soldiers for leave to accompany their wives to the Continent to enable them to marry when in France, Belgium and elsewhere.

2. As a general rule leave for this purpose cannot be granted, and the applicant should be informed that the marriage must take place in the United Kingdom and that he must take the necessary steps to enable the woman to travel here for the purpose. Steps to be taken are described in para 4 - 6 below.

3. The exception to the above general rule is the case in which the soldier is due to proceed overseas in the near future or in which the woman's ill-health prevents her travelling, when the grant of special leave may be considered.

4. An applicant should write to the woman, informing her that he is a British subject now resident in England (or Scotland or Northern Ireland as the case may be) giving his full personal particulars, address etc., and stating that he is ready to marry her as soon as she arrives here. He should instruct her to produce his letter to the nearest British passport control officer or Consulate and ask for a

1. Many applications are received from soldiers for leave or compassionate leave to the Continent to enable them to marry women in France, Belgium and elsewhere.
2. As a general rule leave for this purpose cannot be granted, and the applicant should be informed that the marriage must take place in the United Kingdom and that he must take the necessary steps to enable the women to travel here for the purpose. Steps to be taken are described in para 4 - 6 below.
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5. An applicant should, if possible, call at the Home Office (Aliens Department) 10, Old Bailey, LONDON E.C.2 before he writes as above, to verify the contents of para 4, which may be subject to alteration from time to time. If it is impossible to call, the applicant should send a copy of his letter to the woman to the Home Office (Aliens Department) for information.
6. The woman will obtain a visa which will enable her to travel to the United Kingdom and remain here for two months. If she is not married within two months she is liable to be deported.
7. The procedure indicated above does not apply to women of German or Austrian nationality who are not permitted to enter the United Kingdom.

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Headquarters
4 B L U
Bolzano
Ref: G1-89
10 Dec 46

Subject: Marriage

To : HQ 217 Area
Bologna

14422104 Sigm Herbert D.C.

Ref your A 4141/45 dated 6 Dec 46.
Herewith certified true copy of Certificate by CP

(a of E).

[Signature]
for Lt. Col.
GS.

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4 B.L.U.
Bolzano

HQ 217 Area CMF
21717/SCF
26 Nov 46

Subject : Marriage.

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I have seen 14422104 Sigm Herbert, D.C. about his marriage.

Approved
for Lt. Col.
GS.

HQ 217 Area CMF
21717/SCF
26 Nov 46

Subject: Marriage.

3529

I have seen 14422104 Sigmund HERBERT, D.C. about his marriage.

I have no objections on religious or moral grounds.

AAH RADICE
CF (C of E)

Certified True Copy.

4 B.L.U.
Bolzano

Approved

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