

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS,

LATCHMERE,

HAM COMMON,

SURREY.

Telephone:

1788 KINGSTON

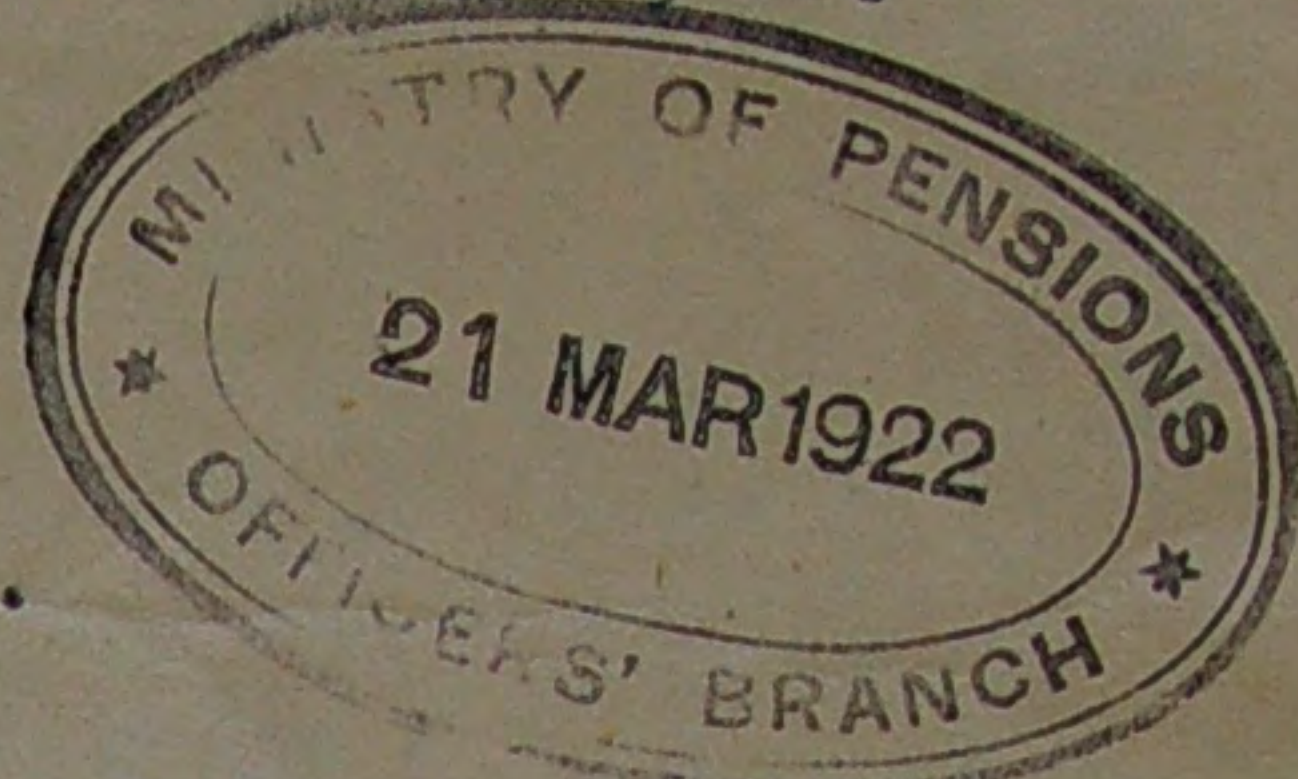
L/450/N.O.

MINISTRY
OF
PENSIONS
20 MAR 1922

Main 20.3.22

March 18th 1922.

The Director-General of Awards,
Ministry of Pensions,
2, Sanctuary Bldgs
Westminster. S.W.1.



Sir,

Re Lieut. Sydney S. Hume, R.A.F.

With reference to the enclosed correspondence I am afraid I cannot add anything to what Dr. Baird has said in his letter. This officer informed us when he was admitted to hospital that he had syphilis when he was in the Argentine in 1912 and that he was well treated for it. There were no symptoms of the disease when he was here at all. He was suffering from delusional insanity when he was here and was rather a bad case. But as Dr. Baird remarks in his letter very little reliance could be placed on any of his statements. There was no history of it in his case sheets and I could not in any way attribute his mental breakdown to that disease.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

H. H. Oliver

Medical Superintendent.

SURREY.

44A
H2a
H5
H8

C O P Y.

O. Air. 51520.

Keena House,

Lower Park Road,

HASTINGS.

24.2.1922.

Sir,

Lieutenant S.S. Hume.

Re your letter of 22/2/22, it is now about 2½ years since I left Latchmere and I cannot recall what Lieutenant Hume said to me re his syphilis, but I have the impression he said that he was treated in the Argentine, also that he was in a Military hospital in the Mediterranean Area and was treated for Venereal disease, but in the latter instance this may have been gonorrhoea. As the patient was suffering from Delusional Insanity, his statement should be accepted with caution. Probably the notes in the Casebook at Latchmere House would give you information.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Sgd. Harvey Baird.

The Director-General of Awards,
Officers Branch,
3, Sanctuary Buildings,
Gt. Smith Street,
Millbank, S.W.1.

10/10/20
10-530101
D AIR 51520

Main
21.12.21



25 FEB 1922

KEENA HOUSE,

LOWER PARK ROAD,

HASTINGS.

Feb. 24. 1922.

Lieut. S. S. Hume.
Re your letter of 22/2/22, it is
now about 2½ years since I
left Latchmere, & I cannot recall what Lieut.
Hume said to me re his syphilis, but I have
the impression he said that he was treated
in the Argentine, also that he was in a
military hospital in the Mediterranean area
& was treated for venereal disease, but in the
latter instance this may have been gonorrhea.
As the patient was suffering from
delusional insanity, his statements should

(August to November 1918) where when and by whom he was
treated for Syphilis on his return from the Argentine.

be accepted with caution.
Probably the notes in the Casebook at
Latchmere House would give you information.
I am, Sir,

Yours obedient servant,
Harvey Baird.

The Director General
of awards,
officers' Branch,
3 Sanctuary Bldg.,
41. Smith St.,
Millbank,
S. W. 1.

Miss Careless,
Officers' Friend Department,
Westminster House,

Re 1st Lt. Sidney Stewart Hume, R.A.F.,
Broadmoor Asylum.

This case has been brought to my personal notice by Mrs. Fowler aunt of the above named. The case is a very sad one and it would appear that the Officers' Friend Department might be able to assist.

Mrs. Fowler wishes to know whether there is any likelihood of her nephew being given a pension.

The facts, briefly stated, are as follows:-

Lt. Hume was shot down whilst flying in France on May 31st 1917, and taken prisoner.

Owing to the brutal treatment he received at the hands of his enemies he became mentally unsound. He was repatriated to England in August, 1918 and sent to Latchmere House on the 27th August, 1918. On the 30th November he became very excited, tried to escape and shot his orderly dead with his revolver which he had secreted.

He was sent to Brixton Prison. The judge, at his trial ordered him to be detained during His Majesty's pleasure, and he is at present in the above Asylum. Mrs. Fowler is most anxious to know whether he will receive a pension. Lt. Hume has no private means and he is coming to the end of his tether. He wants new clothes but cannot afford them, and the fact that he will eventually have to revert to prison clothes is not improving his mental condition.

The poor boy is in this state of mind owing entirely to the treatment he received at the hands of his captors, and if something could be done to alleviate his present want it would be only doing justice to him.

I should be most grateful if you could assist and could inform Mrs. Fowler as to the present position. She is acting as a sort of guardian to the boy and her address is:- 8, Wellington Square, King's Road, Chelsea S.W.3.

(Signed) Leslie Winterbottom.

Capt.

20th June, 1919

OFFICER'S RECORD CARD.

M. P. X 21

ON.....

SERIAL NUMBER

P/Bert 458

NAME.		Rank.	Classification.	Year of Birth.
HUME Sydney R.		Lieut.	R.A.F.	1887
Total Service in Years & Months	Total Service in War with Germany and her Allies.	Theatres of War in which the Officer served in War with Germany and her Allies.		Date of Discharge.
3 $\frac{5}{12}$	3 $\frac{5}{12}$	9. 0.		N.R.
Invaliding Disability.		Date of Origin.	Cause of Disability.	Degree of Disablement
Delusional Insanity		May 1918	M. S. Attrit	100%

Other Disabilities.

NIL.

MEDICAL REPORTS.

Surgical Appliances supplied and Dates of operations especially important.

History:- Was a P.O.W in Germany. In May/18 he developed Delusions & was sent Home as a case of Paranoia - Suffer from delusions - Says he is being hypnotised - that people do & say things to annoy him.
Suspicious.
A 45 Latchmere Not making progress.

AWARD.

Date of Board.....

1-11-18

Place of Board

Date of Board

13/1/22

Subsequent
Examination
Place and
Date.

MEDICAL REPORTS.

To include Treatment received, Progress, Present State,
and Degree of Disablement

26.4.21

Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum.

Suffer from Delusional Hissings.

Dangerous to others (Vide - 9/Pr. Co. Dr.
Geo/618. attached) / W. Power P.O.

Dom Board
Broadmoor.
Criminal
Lunatic
Asylum.
13/1/22.

History of Syphilis in Argentina. Treated with
606 on return to England. Delusions of being
under German hypnotic influence, of being
given highly seasoned food to injure his
bladder, of aeroplanes flying over building to
destroy his brain, that his thoughts are drawn
from him by people staring at him. Leads
a solitary life & refuses to associate with
other patients, think that M.O. by staring at
him can project thoughts into his head
so as to change his personality.

Exam. Sleeps fairly, but has fanciful dreams.

App. fair. Is very argumentative, inclined to be
pugnacious, Is very suspicious. M.O. Reports
is very dangerous & strongly delusional.

Board considers disability due to ill treatment
whilst P.O. H. in Germany.

To continue for at least 2 years at Broadmoor.

10070.

W. Power P.O.

1. Are you satisfied that the Officer referred to in the Medical Documents sent herewith is now before you?

yes.

2. The present state of the disability or disabilities shown on page 1 of this form, giving (a) the Officer's complaints; (b) the symptoms and physical signs; and (c) the effect of the disability or disabilities on function.

Extracts from Prison Notes.

Almost certain that ill treatment as P.O.W. in Germany was the final exciting cause. History of Syph. contracted in the Argentine & treated for with 606 on return to England. There was murder under delusions that he was under German hypnotic influence that highly seasoned food was given to him to injure his bladder, that aeroplanes flew over the building to destroy his brain, that windows were kept closed to give him headache.

These delusions exist largely at the present time together with ideas that his thoughts are drawn from him by people staring at him. Leads a solitary life, refuses to associate with other patients. Exercises in special court by himself & returns to his cell. Thinks that M.O. by staring at him can project thoughts into his head so as to change his personality.

Exam. States that he is feeling much better, sleeps fairly but dreams badly of his experiences - fanciful dreams.

Appetite fair.

Officer states that "he thinks it would be to the advantage of him self & his relations if he were not retained in Broadmoor. That he prefers to be by himself to avoid others staring at him". He prefers to dispense with his Pension as he has plenty sufficient means for his own small needs, which he earned by hard work in the Argentine & subsequently as a Loyal British Officer. Very argumentative, inclined to be peevish. M.O. reports that he

3. Amputation Cases.—Has an artificial limb, temporary or permanent, been satisfactorily fitted?

The board considers that the disability is attributable to ill treatment in Germany whilst a P.O.W.