

STATEMENT OF IRREGULARITIES IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC MONEYS AND STORES—continued

Nature of Irregularity.	Amount involved.	Action taken, and Result.
Social Security Department		
IRREGULARITIES BY PERSONS NOT DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS		
	£ s. d.	
Postal warrant negotiated by unauthorized person	1 15 0	*
Postal warrant negotiated by unauthorized person	1 0 0	Offender convicted and ordered to come up for sentence if called upon within twelve months. Restitution ordered.
Postal warrant negotiated by unauthorized person	5 10 0	Offender convicted and discharged. Restitution made.
Postal warrant negotiated by unauthorized persons	1 5 0	Two offenders. Both pleaded guilty. One was admitted to probation for twelve months, and the other was convicted and discharged.
Fraudulent cashing of age-benefit advice	7 0 10	*
Postal warrants for rehabilitation allowance negotiated by unauthorized persons	10 8 0	Two offenders. One offender was convicted and fined £5 on the first charge, convicted and ordered to come up for sentence if called upon within twelve months on the second charge and also to refund £2 10s. within three months; on the third charge he was convicted and ordered to come up for sentence if called upon within twelve months and ordered to refund £5 4s. within three months. The other offender was discharged under section 18, Offenders Probation Act, 1920.
Two hundred and eleven cases in which recipients of rehabilitation allowances, war pensions, unemployment, sickness, and other benefits obtained payments in excess of scale rates by failing promptly to disclose material particulars of their circumstances to the Social Security Department	7,688 4 9	Proceedings instituted in five cases involving the sum of £576 17s. 5d. resulted in five convictions being entered. Three offenders sentenced to terms of imprisonment and the other two placed on probation. Restitution of the sum of £359 6s. 6d. was ordered to be made. There were 206 other cases, involving the sum of £7,111 7s. 4d. Except in a small number of cases where the beneficiaries are on active service, in straitened circumstances, or deceased, efforts have been made to obtain refunds.

(d) SCHEDULE OF SUMS ALLOWED BY THE AUDIT OFFICE AS PAID, UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 73, PUBLIC REVENUES ACT, 1926

Section 73, which requires the Audit Office to disallow any sum as paid where the voucher for the actual receipt and payment has not been produced, empowers the Minister, on satisfactory evidence being produced that the requisite papers have been lost or destroyed or that it is not possible to obtain or replace them, to order that the relative sum be allowed.

The powers of the Minister under section 73 have been delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury in terms of section 15 of the Finance Act, 1939, and the following payments have been passed by the Audit Office pursuant to orders made under the delegated powers :—

Department and Particulars.	Reason.	Amount.	Total Amount.
Agriculture		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bursaries	Receipt unobtainable.. ..	50 0 0	77 13 4
Purchase of publications	Receipt unobtainable	0 9 4	
Salaries	Receipts lost	27 4 0	
Air			
Cable charges and toll accounts	Vouchers lost	55 10 6	7,447 15 1
Electric-power charges	Vouchers lost	1 14 9	
Goods and services	Vouchers lost	247 3 11	
Goods and services	Vouchers lost in aeroplane accident	3,039 10 9	
Pay and allowances	Vouchers lost in aeroplane accident	730 15 5	
Pay and allowances	Vouchers lost	1,654 17 6*	
Pay and allowances	Vouchers lost	652 11 4	
Telegraphic remittances	Receipt unobtainable	8 0 6	
Travelling-expenses	Receipts not obtained	469 6 3	
Travelling-expenses of Supply Mission	Receipts not obtained	588 4 2	
Army			
Freight charges	Receipts not obtained	10 14 3	3,193 16 8
Goods and services	Vouchers lost	2,103 11 0	
Pay and allowances	Vouchers lost	679 0 3*	
Pay and allowances	Vouchers lost	203 19 0	
Purchase of publications	Vouchers lost	58 2 8	
Salaries	Receipts unobtainable	46 13 10	
Toll fees	Receipts unobtainable	55 9 7	
Travelling-expenses	Receipts not obtained	36 6 1	
Customs			
Refund of passport fee	Receipt lost	1 0 0	129 1 3
Salaries	Voucher lost	4 7 10	
Travelling-expenses	Receipt not obtained	2 17 6	
Travelling-expenses of official representative travelling in United States of America	Receipts unobtainable	120 15 11	

* These figures mainly represent vouchers lost as a result of enemy action.