

(J.E. READ TO N.A. ROBERTSON)

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JER/S
Nov.26/41.

NOTE FOR MR. ROBERTSON

The attached Dominions Office despatch, D.132, October 14, 1941, with regard to loss of insignia of Orders, Decorations and Medals destroyed by enemy action, has been considered by the Prime Minister, who has asked whether more than routine treatment is necessary.

2. The points involved are of slight importance, in so far as their application to this country is concerned; 99% of the cases arising will be confined to the Armed Forces.

3. It is assumed that the Services will, by appropriate orders, make similar regulations, and there can be no good reason for differentiation from the rules in force in the United Kingdom with regard to these matters.

4. If a case does arise involving loss of insignia by a civilian, there would be much to be said in favour of leaving the matter to be dealt with in the same way as other items of property. The sort of case that one would envisage would be loss, say by the Minister of National Defence, of his insignia as a C.M.G. while crossing the Atlantic either way. There would be a good deal to be said for leaving the insignia to be dealt with in precisely the same manner as other items of his personal effects. For practical purposes, nobody but a Cabinet Minister would need to take his insignia overseas during the war.

5. There is the further point that in this country, by reason of the Nickle Resolution, the number of persons entitled to wear insignia of Orders is insignificant.

6. There is, however, one point which is suggested, although not involved in this Memorandum. The Prime Minister might want to take the initiative in having the Canadian Government, rather than the United Kingdom tax-payer, pay for all these things, including medals and decorations generally.