

TELEPHONE REGULATIONS 1919.⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

Telephone Regulations providing for the Control of a Telephone System in Rabaul.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make further provision for the granting and usage of telephones in Rabaul now therefore I George Jameson Johnston Brigadier-General Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George British Military Administrator of the Colony of German New Guinea by virtue of all powers and authorities conferred on me do hereby make the following regulations:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the “*Telephone Regulations 1919*” and shall come into force upon publication in the *Government Gazette*.⁽²⁾

2. All applications for telephone service must be made to the Administrator through the Military Secretary.

3. The Administrator may at his absolute discretion refuse any application for connection with any telephone system or for the construction of any telephone line or service.

4.—(1.) All telephone lines, instruments and fittings in connection with the telephone system shall be erected and supplied by the Administration, and no persons except employees of the Post and Telephones Department shall interfere with, or make any additions or alterations to any wires, instruments or fittings under the Administrator’s control. In the event of any such interference, the subscriber will be liable to have his line disconnected.

(1) Continued in force by the *Laws Repeal and Adopting Ordinance 1921-1939*.

(2) The *Telephone Regulations 1919* (made by the British Military Administrator of the Colony of German New Guinea) comprise the original *Telephone Regulations 1919*, as amended by the other Regulations referred to in the following Table:—

REGULATIONS MADE BY THE BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATOR.

| Description. | Date on which made by British Military Administrator. | Date on which published in <i>Govt. Gaz.</i> | Date on which came into force. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Telephone Regulations 1919</i> | 21.11.1919 | 27.11.1919 | 27.11.1919 (<i>Govt. Gaz.</i> of 27.11.1919) |
| <i>Telephone (Amendment) Regulations 1919</i> | 6.12.1919 | 24.12.1919 | 24.12.1919 (<i>Govt. Gaz.</i> of 24.12.1919) |

(2.) The following shall be the charges⁽³⁾ payable for each of the different classes of service specified:—

For each line connected with the Exchange an annual rental fee of £15, which includes the hire of telephone.

For extension lines of an ordinary telephone line or lines within the same premises an annual rental fee of £1 for each shutter or telephone in use, exclusive of the one connected with the Exchange.

(3.) No extra fees will be charged for calls made by the subscriber.

5.—(1.) Telephone lines must be rented for a period of one year at least, or for such longer time as the Administrator may permit or direct, and thereafter the rental shall continue and be payable unless and until determined by notice in accordance with these Regulations.

(2.) On or at any time after the expiration of the period for which the telephone line was rented, the renting of the line or of any extension thereof may be determined—

(a) By the subscriber giving to the Administrator one month's previous notice in writing of his intention to discontinue the use of the line or extension.

(b) By the Administrator giving to the subscriber one month's notice in writing of his intention to discontinue the service.

(3.) Rent will be charged to the expiration of the current half-year in which notice of discontinuance was given.

(4.) The notice to the Administrator may be waived in the case of the death of the subscriber, if—

(a) The telephone line is an ordinary telephone line; and

(b) A special agreement for the renting of the line for a fixed term is not in force; and

(c) The notice would involve payment of rent for any period beyond the date to which rent has already been paid.

(5.) Nothing in this Regulation shall affect the power of the Administrator to determine the agreement under any other Regulation.

6. Rent payable in respect of any telephone service shall be charged from the date on which the service is ready for use. Rents shall be payable half-yearly in advance, and shall become due on the 1st January and the 1st July in each year.

7. If any subscriber make default in payment of rent or other charges due by him, and on being requested by notice to pay such rent or charges fails to pay either of them within 14 days from the

(3) See also the *Telephone Charges Regulations 1934.*

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date of the notice, the Administrator may order that the telephone used by the subscriber shall be disconnected from the Exchange and may cancel the agreement, and cause the name of the subscriber to be removed from the list, and may order the removal of all wires, instruments and fittings, without prejudice to his right to recover any rent or other charges due under these Regulations.

Amended by
Telephone
(Amendment)
Regulations
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8. All telephone instruments, batteries or any apparatus whatever, which can be connected with any telephone exchange, shall, except when otherwise provided in these Regulations, be supplied at the cost of the Administration, and be the exclusive property of the Administrator. Upon the termination of the agreement, the Administrator may remove the instruments, batteries and apparatus, for which purpose, as also to permit of their inspection when considered necessary, his officers shall have free access to the premises of the subscriber. The subscriber shall pay to the Administrator the cost of any damage to instruments, batteries and apparatus, beyond fair wear and tear.

9.—(1.) Where the telephone applied for is intended to be used in a place of business, such telephone may be used only by the proprietor or manager of such business or by members of the staff and employees.

(2.) Where the telephone applied for is intended to be used in a private house, such telephone may be used only by the owner or occupier of such house, or by members of his family, household or servants.

(3.) For any breach of these Regulations, the Administrator may in his discretion order that the telephone of the person committing the breach shall be forthwith removed.

Amended by
Telephone
(Amendment)
Regulations
1919, r. 2.

10. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in Regulation 9 hereof, the use of any subscriber's line may, with his consent, be granted to a non-subscriber to summon medical aid in urgent cases, to give notice of fire or to call the police.

11.—(1.) Places outside a mile, as well as those within a mile radius of the Post Office may, subject to this Regulation, be allowed to be connected with the exchange.

(2.) The total length of line necessary for the connection must not exceed 10 miles.

(3.) The charges shall be as follows:—

(a) Within a mile radius of the Post Office proportional charges as under:—

(i) If the connection be made from existing posts, 50/-.

- (ii) Where extra posts are necessary an additional charge of 5/- per post to the minimum charge of 50/- will be made.
- (b) Where a telephone line connects a place with the telephone exchange and extends beyond the mile radius from the Post Office, but not more than 10 radial miles from the Post Office, the charge for erection shall be £10 per radial mile.
- (c) When party lines are connected under this Regulation, the charges for the actual length of line shall be at the rate prescribed in (b), plus 50 per centum.

12.—(1.) Party line services will be furnished to subscribers beyond the mile limit of the Post Office.

(2.) Party line services will be provided only when the subscribers desiring to be connected to the same line are located within a reasonable distance to each other or of the line. The reasonableness will be determined by the officers of the Administration in each case.

(3.) Code rings will be provided on party line services.

(4.) No conversation over any party line shall exceed 6 minutes in duration.

(5.) Extension lines will not be provided in connection with party line services.

13. No conversation over the Rabaul-Kokopo line shall, except by Administrative Departments, exceed 3 minutes in duration.

14.—(1.) Where connection by a telephone exchange is desired, such connection shall be made in the exchange nearest the premises referred to in the application, except for Departmental convenience or at the request of the subscriber approved by the Administrator.

(2.) The Administrator may disconnect a subscriber's service from one exchange and connect it to another, should he consider such action desirable.

15.—(1.) (a) Should a subscriber's telephone be removed at the subscriber's request to another address or position, or should the subscriber require any alteration to be made, he shall pay the cost of such removal or alteration.

(b) The charges for such removal or alteration should be in accordance with the following scale:—

(1) Change of apparatus, but not its location, 7/6.

(2) Removal of telephone instrument, bell, or extension bell to another position—

(i) Within the same room, 9/-.

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- (ii) To another room, involving not more than 50 yards of internal wiring, 15/-.
- (3) Reversal of position of main and extension sets when—
 - (i) They are in the same room, 16/-.
 - (ii) They are in different rooms, and the change involves not more than 50 yards of internal wiring, 25/-.
 - (iii) When the change involves more than 50 yards of internal wiring, 30/-.
- (4) Alteration of an Exchange number at a subscriber's request, 4/-.

(2.) In cases where subscribers request the removal of instruments to other premises the Administrator may, should he think fit, demand payment in advance of the estimated cost of removal, and the subscriber shall, upon such demand, forthwith, pay the amount.

(3.) In the event of a subscriber removing from or giving up possession of the premises upon which the telephone is situated, without paying in advance the cost of removing the instruments or making other arrangements approved by the Administrator for the removal or discontinuance of the service, the Administrator may disconnect the telephone and remove any instruments and fittings belonging to him, and, notwithstanding such disconnexion and removal, may recover from the subscriber the rent and any charges payable to the end of the term agreed upon or which are due under the Regulations.

(4.) Subscribers who desire to have their lines removed, or the positions of their telephones altered, should give notice as follows:—

- (a) For removal of line, 14 clear days;
- (b) For altering the position of the telephone or apparatus in the building, 3 clear days.

(5.) Switchboard operators are not permitted to receive or despatch verbal or written messages (other than those necessary and usual in the ordinary course of their duties as such operators) from or to subscribers or non-subscribers.

(6.) Subscribers connected with telephone exchanges may have their telephone lines connected from 10 o'clock p.m. to 6 o'clock a.m. with other subscribers to the same exchange in anticipation of calls being made during such period. No additional charge shall be made for such connexions, and no responsibility incurred by the authorities in the event of any failure to make such connexions effective.

16.—(1.) No telephone message shall contain unbecoming expressions, or language of an obscene or offensive nature, or of a character calculated to provoke a breach of the peace; nor shall any telephone

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service be mischievously used for the purpose of irritating any person. Any violation of this Regulation shall render the subscriber liable to have the telephone disconnected, and any instruments and fittings belonging to the Administrator removed, without prejudice to the right of the Administrator to recover the rent and/or other charges payable to the end of the term agreed upon.

(2.) Any violation of this Regulation by the user of any public telephone shall render the user liable to a penalty not exceeding Five pounds.

17.—(1.) The fee for the use of a public telephone for a conversation of three minutes, or part of three minutes, shall be Threepence, whether the call be made by a subscriber or non-subscriber.

(2.) This fee covers only the conversation from the public telephone to any subscriber connected with the exchange.

(3.) If a person speaks from one public telephone to a person at a second public telephone, the fee for the use of each telephone must be paid.

(4.) Any person who uses or attempts to obtain the use of any public telephone contrary to this Regulation shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable, on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding Five pounds.

18. The exchange shall be open between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily.

19. Amendments⁽⁴⁾ may from time to time be made to these Regulations, and amendments so made may be made applicable to the services established before the commencement of those amendments, as well as to services established after the commencement of those amendments.

20. On being given a telephone service, subscribers shall in all cases be deemed to have agreed to be bound by the several provisions of the Regulations in force from time to time.

21. Every person who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of any offence against these Regulations shall be liable to the same punishment as if he actually committed the offence.

(4) Amendments made by the *Telephone (Amendment) Regulations 1919* are incorporated in these Regulations.