

The War Pensions and Allowances (Mercantile Marine) Amendment Act, 1943, generally brought the rates of pension payable under that Act into line with those payable in respect of war pensions. A new provision enables the War Pensions Board to grant a pension or allowance to any member of a mercantile marine other than the New Zealand Mercantile Marine and in respect of the dependants of such member, provided that the member to, or in respect of, whom the pension or allowance is granted was immediately prior to the commencement of the present war a *bona fide* resident of New Zealand and that the claimant is actually resident in the Dominion.

DISSECTIONS OF WAR PENSIONS CURRENT AT 31ST MARCH, 1944

Class of Pension.	War, 1914-18.			Present War.			Totals.		
	Number of Pensioners	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Number of Pensioners.	Number of Children.	Annual Value.	Number of Pensioners	Number of Children.	Annual Value.
Ex-members of Forces—			£			£			£
Permanent	12,548	6	1,190,797	314	1	37,835	12,892	7	1,228,632
Temporary	2,753	—	293,735	9,836	—	715,261	12,589	—	1,008,996
Dependants of disabled ex-members	2,855	2,780	220,230	832	882	61,154	3,687	3,662	281,384
Widows	2,044	479	291,122	1,541	1,186	266,237	3,585	1,665	557,359
Other dependants of deceased members	838	87	43,895	484	204	28,006	1,322	291	71,901
Totals	21,038	3,352	2,039,779	13,037	2,273	1,108,493	34,075	5,625	3,148,272

ECONOMIC PENSIONS PAYABLE AT 31ST MARCH, 1944, IN SUPPLEMENTATION OF STATUTORY WAR PENSIONS

Class of Pension.	War, 1914-18.		Present War.		Total.	
	Number.	Annual Value.	Number.	Annual Value.	Number.	Annual Value.
Ex-members with permanent pensions	2,734	£ 239,948	92	£ 8,297	2,826	£ 248,245
Ex-members with temporary pensions	904	79,948	1,443	129,346	2,347	209,294
Widows	966	52,137	774	47,196	1,740	99,333
Widowed mothers	62	2,985	116	5,064	178	8,049
Totals	4,666	375,018	2,425	189,903	7,091	564,921

PENSIONS PAYABLE OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND AT 31ST MARCH, 1944

Class of Pension.	War, 1914-18.	Present War.	Total.
Ex-members of Forces—			
Permanent	846	1	847
Temporary	32	60	92
Wives and parents of ex-members: Temporary ..	104	7	111
Dependants of deceased members—			
Widows	207	68	275
Other dependants	258	36	294
Totals	1,447	172	1,619

SUMMARY OF WAR PENSION PAYMENTS

	Payments made in						Total.
	London.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Foreign Countries.	New Zealand.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total payments to 31st March, 1943	1,363,663	939,517	54,363	11,049	15,387	34,329,744	36,713,723
Payments in 1943-44..	78,652	61,533	6,227	805	569	2,744,542	*2,892,328
Total payments to 31st March, 1944	1,442,315	1,001,050	60,590	11,854	15,956	37,074,286	39,606,051

* Includes £917,855 in respect of war pensions in connection with the present war and £1,404 to members of the Emergency Reserve Corps.