

WAR PENSIONS APPEAL BOARD

The following table summarizes the operations of the War Pensions Appeal Board during the year with respect to appeals under war pension and related legislation : —

	War, 1914-18.	Present War.	War Pensions and Allowances (Mercantile Marine) Act, 1940.	War Veterans.	Totals.
Appeals outstanding at 31st March, 1943	52	350	..	..	402
Appeals lodged 1943-44	290	1,958	3	7	2,258
Total to be dealt with	342	2,308	3	7	2,660
Appeals upheld, 1943-44	79	619	1	1	700
Appeals dismissed, 1943-44	159	845	1	4	1,009
Appeals withdrawn and struck out, 1943-44	19	153	..	1	173
Total disposed of, 1943-44	257	1,617	2	6	1,882
Appeals outstanding at 31st March, 1944	85	691	1	1	778
Percentage upheld	30·7	38·2	50	16·6	37·1

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1943-44 cost £35,850. (This item includes the cost of treatment of pensioners resident in overseas countries.)

Railway concessions to ex-members of the Forces pensioned for total and permanent disablement and those with locomotor disabilities on permanent pensions in excess of 50 per cent. cost £4,775.

BENEFITS AND PENSIONS IN FORCE AND TOTAL PAYMENTS

Class.	As at 31st March, 1943.			As at 31st March, 1944.		
	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments 1942-43.	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments 1943-44.
		£	£		£	£
Universal superannuation	44,448	666,720	603,124	49,289	862,558	778,758
Age	99,671	7,903,910	7,783,084	102,530	8,489,484	8,101,668
Widows	10,589	864,062	866,597	10,836	981,742	949,099
Orphans	395	21,033	20,628	412	21,939	22,442
Family	14,190	764,841	790,719	15,950	1,052,700	876,858
Invalids	11,938	1,029,055	1,036,373	12,126	1,076,789	1,067,409
Miners	841	76,362	80,100	795	74,983	76,652
Maori War	2	164	190	1	85	119
Unemployment	373	..	49,639	292	..	32,316
Sickness	3,699	..	362,088	4,446	..	376,878
Emergency	1,821	..	124,268	1,915	..	115,574
War (1914-1918)	22,161	1,602,777	1,574,062	21,038	2,039,779	1,973,069
War (present war)	7,666	714,640	479,477	13,037	1,108,493	917,855
War Veterans' allowances	1,807	222,173	224,942	1,791	230,038	224,705
Boer War (Defence Act, 1909)	42	1,453	1,504	44	3,245	2,550
Mercantile Marine pensions	6	498	350	12	1,073	719
Emergency Reserve Corps	19	1,477	1,985	10	1,037	1,404
Sundry pensions and annuities	139	15,069	13,581	150	18,505	15,462
Civil Service Act, 1908	5	1,903	2,176	4	1,683	1,662
War and other pensions paid on behalf of the Governments of Great Britain, Australia, India, Canada, South Africa, and Crown colonies	3,224	242,718	352,104	3,208	256,074	290,496
Totals	223,036	14,128,855	14,366,991	237,886	16,220,207	15,825,695

COST OF ADMINISTRATION

Excluding expenditure of £1,566 on capital items, administration costs for the year amounted to £364,525, including £53,374 in respect of the administration of war pensions and allowances. This represents 2·29 per cent. on total payments.

GENERAL

Under the heading of rehabilitation allowances, which, by arrangement with the Rehabilitation Board, are made available to demobilized servicemen and servicewomen for periods up to thirteen weeks following the cessation of Service pay for the purpose of facilitating reabsorption into civil life, a total of 14,730 cases were reviewed during the year, representing 14,462 servicemen and 268 servicewomen. Grants were made in 7,196 cases, representing 7,024 servicemen and 172 servicewomen. Included in these grants were allowances in respect of 4,396 children. The large majority of the others had already been successful in returning to civil employment or had otherwise indicated that they did not require assistance. The total amount paid out by way of rehabilitation allowances for the period 1st April, 1943, to 31st March, 1944, was £235,522. As at 31st March, 1944, there were 909 allowances current, representing a weekly expenditure of £4,019.

The number of officers absent on military service as at 31st March, 1944, was 470, and of these, 24 had made the supreme sacrifice. The absence of so many of its trained personnel with the Armed Forces has thrown a very heavy burden on the existing staff of the Department, but I am happy to say that the year's achievements have been accomplished with general satisfaction to the community.

In submitting this year's report I would again like to express my full appreciation to the staff of the Department for their willingness and co-operation in bringing to a close another difficult year's work.

H. DIGBY-SMITH, Chairman, Social Security Commission.

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