

Medical treatment of war pensioners during 1942–43 cost £30,004. (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 £4,158.

BENEFITS AND PENSIONS IN FORCE AND TOTAL PAYMENTS

	As at 31st March, 1942.			As at 31st March, 1943.		
	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments 1941–42.	Number in Force.	Annual Value.	Total Payments 1942–43.
		£	£		£	£
Universal superannuation	41,021	512,762	445,686	44,448	666,720	603,124
Age	99,152	7,337,248	7,190,694	99,671	7,903,910	7,783,084
Widows	10,765	849,363	844,928	10,589	864,062	866,597
Orphans	372	18,909	18,275	395	21,033	20,628
Family	18,316	631,902	539,183	14,190	764,841	790,719
Invalids	12,107	1,022,611	1,011,375	11,938	1,029,055	1,036,373
Miners	888	80,403	83,258	841	76,362	80,100
Maori War	4	312	440	2	164	190
Unemployment	841	..	138,528	373	..	49,639
Sickness	3,672	..	304,154	3,699	..	362,088
Emergency	2,170	..	126,718	1,821	..	124,268
War (War Pensions Act, 1915) ..	22,894	1,619,206	1,617,481	22,161	1,602,777	1,574,062
War (War Pensions Extension Act, 1940)	3,297	313,399	178,135	7,666	714,640	479,477
War Veterans' allowances	1,888	216,864	210,575	1,807	222,173	224,942
Boer War (Defence Act, 1909) ..	45	1,478	1,581	42	1,453	1,504
Mercantile Marine pensions	3	266	617	6	498	350
Emergency Reserve Corps	2	127	1,062	19	1,477	1,985
Sundry pensions and annuities ..	76	9,377	9,329	139	15,069	13,581
Civil Service Act, 1908	6	2,337	2,354	5	1,903	2,176
War and other pensions paid on behalf of the Governments of Great Britain, Australia, India, Canada, South Africa, and Crown colonies	3,037	210,455	184,039	3,224	242,718	352,104
Totals	220,556	12,827,019	12,908,412	223,036	14,128,855	14,366,991

COST OF ADMINISTRATION

Excluding expenditure of £2,918 on capital items, administration costs for the year amounted to £351,219, including £44,769 in respect of the administration of war pensions and allowances. This represents 2·43 per cent. on total payments.

GENERAL

Under arrangements made by the Rehabilitation Board, the Secretary for War Pensions was authorized from the 1st March, 1943, to pay rehabilitation allowances to demobilized servicemen and women for periods up to thirteen weeks following the cessation of Service pay for the purpose of assisting in their reabsorption into civil life.

To meet the claims of servicemen and women whose Service pay had ceased, 2,319 cases were reviewed, and of these 849 individual grants were awarded. The large majority of the others had already been successful in obtaining employment and were not in need of assistance. As at the 31st March, 1943, 763 allowances were current representing a weekly value of £2,837, while for the period 1st to the 31st March, 1943, payments totalling £7,861 were made.

The number of officers absent on war service on the 31st March, 1943, was 511, and of these 17 had made the supreme sacrifice. In spite of the large number of officers engaged on military service, the Department, with the help of temporary female assistance, has been able to render the community very efficient service.

In submitting this report I would again like to emphasize the splendid service rendered by the staff and express my appreciation of the manner in which a difficult year's work has been brought to a successful conclusion.

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