

Between the years 1923 and 1938 the demand for services fluctuated very little; however, and at the request of the Department of Justice, the responsibility of the administration and supply of dental treatment for all members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was undertaken. This arrangement is still in effect.

Early in 1939, following new legislation, many ex-members of the C.E.F. became eligible for dental treatment with the result that it was necessary to expand existing facilities and, with the declaration of war in September, 1939, the demands made on the Dental Division of the then Department of Pensions and National Health again increased. As a result of an arrangement with the Department of National Defence, service personnel who are not dentally fit on demobilization are given a post-discharge dental examination. The required treatment is then provided by the Dental Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs, either in its own clinics or by private dentists on a departmental fee basis. Owing to the tremendous volume of dental treatment being requested of this Department, it was found necessary to decentralize the dental administration to a large extent. This was implemented by the appointment of a District Supervising Dentist and clerical staff in each Department of Veterans Affairs District with the exception of Prince Edward Island, which is administered from Head Office, Ottawa. The District Supervising Dentist is responsible for the allocation of authorized dental cases to clinics of the Department or private dentists in his District and is a readily accessible source of information and advice on dental treatment problems.

Dental clinics of this Department are now established in cities where D.V.A. district offices are situated, and all D.V.A. hospitals are provided with dental services.

The following ex-members of the Canadian Armed Forces are eligible for free dental treatment:—

- (1) All who are shown to have dental requirements listed on examination by the Canadian Dental Corps at the time of discharge or retirement.
- (2) Trainees and those entitled to training or other benefits under the Post-Discharge Re-establishment Order who must have dental treatment in order to avoid interference with their training because of an adverse dental condition.
- (3) Pensioners for direct dental injury or disease, gastric ulcer, duodenal ulcer, gastritis, and allied conditions; hand, and hand-and-arm amputees.
- (4) Pensioners hospitalized for pensionable disabilities.
- (5) Pensioners being treated as out-patients.
- (6) Non-pensioners with meritorious service.
- (7) Pensioners requiring institutional care.
- (8) Ex-members of the Armed Forces who served in the War of 1939-45, providing such treatment is authorized and commenced within one year of discharge.

Classes (1), (2) and (8) above, refer only to ex-members of the Armed Forces and those of auxiliary units who served in the War of 1939-45, while Classes (3) to (7) include ex-members of the C.E.F. and the Active Force.

DENTAL TREATMENTS AND PATIENTS COMPLETED, YEARS ENDED MAR. 31, 1940-46

<i>Year</i>	<i>Treatments</i>	<i>Patients Completed</i>
1940.....	121,604	9,587
1941.....	99,590	8,020
1942.....	73,113	7,380
1943.....	102,554	10,817
1944.....	66,562	11,841
1945.....	249,170	23,072
1946 ¹	509,703	56,416

¹ Incomplete.