

During the 1953-54 fiscal year the Bureau was asked to assist in the preparation of ex-prisoner-of-war claims for compensation for maltreatment. As a result of this assignment, pensions advocates participated in the presentation of 3,100 claims before the War Claims Commission.

Section 4.—Rehabilitation of Veterans

The Veterans' Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for the administration of benefits available to discharged members of the Forces under the terms of the Veterans Rehabilitation Act, the War Service Grants Act, and the Veterans Benefit Act. The Branch renders assistance to veterans and advises them in social problems through the Social Service Section. It does not, however, duplicate any service that is already available to a veteran as a citizen.

War Service Grants Act.—The War Service Grants Act (R.S.C. 1952, c. 289) was amended by setting Dec. 31, 1954, as the last date for World War II veterans to apply for gratuities, except for veterans with overseas service who can demonstrate unusual reasons for delay in applying. The period during which application may be made for re-establishment credit was extended to Jan. 1, 1960, or 15 years after discharge, whichever is the later, and dependent children were included among those to whom the unused credit of a deceased veteran can be made available. Another amendment permits the use of re-establishment credit to obtain veterans insurance after the cut-off date for the purchase of veterans insurance has expired.

War Service Gratuities.—The amounts expended as gratuities under the War Service Grants Act up to Mar. 31, 1954, are shown in Table 1.

1.—Gratuity Payments under the War Service Grants Act, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1945-54

Year and Service	Navy	Army	Air Force	Miscellaneous	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1945—					
Forces.....	973,958	14,663,621	3,468,852	—	19,106,431
1945-46					
Forces.....	27,277,979	121,003,582	64,157,016	—	212,438,577
Canadian Fire Fighters.....	—	—	—	161,760	161,760
Auxiliary Services.....	180	58,646	36,116	—	94,942
1946-47—					
Forces.....	17,766,529	170,658,329	32,949,430	—	221,374,288
Auxiliary Services.....	365	254,616	98,475	—	353,456
1947-48—					
Forces.....	940,778	11,386,313	—	—	12,327,091
Auxiliary Services.....	—	315,046	Cr. 5,198	—	309,848
1948-49—					
Forces.....	140,907	589,132	226,686	—	956,725
Auxiliary Services.....	—	35,563	—	—	35,563
1949-50—					
Forces.....	37,595	133,117	168,582	—	339,294
Auxiliary Services.....	—	9,483	—	—	9,483
Netherlands.....	—	—	—	91,737	91,737
1950-51—					
Forces.....	21,318	76,348	344,717	—	442,383
1951-52—					
Forces.....	9,708	128,058	124,366	—	262,132
Special Force.....	1,340	18,208	—	—	19,548
1952-53—					
Forces.....	—	—	—	—	112,437
Special Force.....	600,036	2,769,829	26,567	—	3,396,432
1953-54—					
Forces.....	—	—	—	—	13,950
Special Force.....	289,441	2,161,760	25,646	—	2,476,846
Total.....	475,695,574