

Section 2.—Rehabilitation of Veterans

The Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to administering the legislation authorizing rehabilitation benefits still available, provides advice regarding other welfare assistance that may be available to veterans and their dependants, widows, and orphans. The solving of the many and varied problems confronting the Branch requires the closest liaison with other federal government departments, with provincial and municipal government departments and with national and local welfare agencies.

War Service Gratuity.—The payment of war service gratuities was discontinued after Dec. 31, 1954, for World War II veterans, except for those with overseas service who could not apply before that date as a result of unusual circumstances. The amounts paid in gratuities up to the end of the fiscal year 1954-55 are shown in the 1956 Year Book, p. 306. Those paid subsequently and the cumulative totals were:—

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<i>World War II</i>	<i>Special Force</i>
	<i>Veterans</i>	<i>Veterans</i>
	\$	\$
1955-56.....	30,536	16,932
1956-57.....	9,457	7,351
1957-58.....	10,016	1,230
Totals to Mar. 31, 1958.....	470,022,048	6,690,052

Re-establishment Credit.—On Mar. 31, 1958, an amount of \$20,098,967 in re-establishment credit, out of nearly \$325,000,000, had not yet been authorized on behalf of the veterans entitled to it. These veterans have until Dec. 31, 1959, or 15 years after discharge, whichever is the later, to apply for their unused credit. The amounts paid during 1956-57 and 1957-58, and the cumulative totals to Mar. 31, 1958, by required purposes, are shown in Table 1.

1.—Re-establishment Credits Paid, by Required Purpose, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1957 and 1958, with Cumulative Totals to Mar. 31, 1958

Purpose	1957	1958	Cumulative Total to Mar. 31, 1958
	\$	\$	\$
Homes	1,432,454	1,097,460	239,045,931
Purchased under National Housing Act.....	20,991	7,952	3,333,474
Purchased other than under National Housing Act.....	107,324	67,018	32,401,395
Repairs, etc.....	130,800	107,711	16,660,319
Furniture and equipment.....	1,154,285	891,304	182,165,510
Reduction of mortgage.....	19,054	23,475	4,485,233
Business	280,916	190,884	55,245,443
Purchase of a business.....	3,470	1,846	3,676,798
Working capital.....	66,109	29,265	25,236,539
Tools and equipment.....	211,337	159,773	26,332,106
Miscellaneous	389,891	292,823	10,068,707
Insurance, annuities, etc.....	201,719	170,050	8,933,701
Special equipment for training.....	17,852	13,075	729,332
Clothing.....	21,889	28,984	176,528
Reimbursements.....	148,431	80,714	229,146
Totals	2,103,261	1,581,167	301,360,081