

War Veterans Allowance Board.—The War Veterans Allowance Board is a statutory body responsible for the administration of the War Veterans Allowance Act. The members are appointed by the Governor in Council and the Board reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

The administration of the Act has been almost completely decentralized through 18 District Authorities located in the district offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs across Canada. These Authorities make the initial decisions on War Veterans Allowance applications and arrange for the necessary investigations to be made by officers of the Veterans Welfare Services Branch of the Department.

The Board, which is located in Ottawa, defines policy, standardizes administrative procedures and reviews decisions of the District Authorities, either to adjudicate appeals from decisions of the Authorities or to assure the consistent administration of the Act throughout Canada.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission.—All Commonwealth Governments are members of the Commission, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1917, and are represented by their High Commissioners in London. The present title of the Commission, formerly known as the Imperial War Graves Commission, was adopted on Apr. 1, 1960 following the granting of a supplemental Royal Charter.

The Commission is entrusted with the marking and maintenance, in perpetuity, of the graves of those of the British Empire and Commonwealth Armed Forces who lost their lives between Aug. 4, 1914 and Aug. 31, 1921, and between Sept. 3, 1939 and Dec. 31, 1947. The Commission erects memorials to commemorate those with no known grave. The Minister of Veterans Affairs is the Agent of the Commission in Canada and the office of the Secretary-General of the Canadian Agency is in the Veterans Affairs Building, Ottawa.

The area of responsibility of the Canadian Agency is the Continent of North America but it has also certain duties of inspection in Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Brazil, British Guiana, British Honduras, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Falkland Islands, French West Indies, Guatemala, Hawaiian Islands, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Panama Canal Zone, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Uruguay and Windward Islands.

In North America the Agency is responsible for about 13,000 war graves in more than 2,000 cemeteries. Approximately 3,300 servicemen of both wars, missing in operations while based in North America, are commemorated on the memorials erected at Victoria, B.C., and at Halifax, N.S.

On July 1, 1959, Her Majesty the Queen unveiled a memorial in Ottawa commemorating by name approximately 800 Commonwealth Air Forces servicemen who lost their lives in the Second World War while on operations from bases in Canada and the United States, and who have no known grave.