

and their dependants. The most recent amendment (SC 1966-67, c. 55) increased monthly rates and annual income ceilings, effective Sept. 1, 1966. The monthly rates and the maximum total annual income ceilings are:—

<i>Item</i>	<i>Monthly Rate</i>	<i>Annual Income Ceiling¹</i>
	\$	\$
Single.....	105	1,740
Married.....	175	2,940
One orphan.....	60	1,008
Two orphans.....	105	1,608
Three or more orphans.....	141	2,016

¹ Where a recipient or spouse is blind, the income ceiling is \$120 higher.

At Mar. 31, 1967, there were 86,242 recipients of War Veterans Allowances, made up of 55,131 veterans, 30,793 widows and 318 orphans; 616 of the total resided outside Canada. The annual liability for all recipients was \$105,993,313.

Civilian War Pensions and Allowances.—Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act makes available to certain groups of civilians, their widows and orphans, benefits similar to those available to veterans under the War Veterans Allowance Act. These groups, which performed meritorious service in World War I or World War II, are: Canadian merchant seamen of both Wars; non-Canadians who served on Canadian merchant ships in either War; Canadian voluntary aid detachments of World War I; Canadian firefighters of World War II; Canadian welfare workers of World War II; Canadian transatlantic aircrew of World War II; and Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit of World War II. Service for at least six months at sea or overseas in the group concerned is the prime requisite for eligibility as to service. VADs in World War I are required to have served on the Continent of Europe or for at least 365 days in Britain prior to the Armistice. A pensioner under Parts I to X of the Act is also eligible. The monthly rates and the maximum total annual income ceilings are identical to those in the War Veterans Allowance Act. At Mar. 31, 1967, there were 1,215 civilians, 301 widows and five orphans in receipt of Civilian War Allowances, a total of 1,521 recipients of whom seven were residing outside Canada. The annual liability was \$2,253,359.

Veterans' Bureau

The Veterans' Bureau, which is a branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs, assists former members of the Armed Forces and their dependants and former members of the various auxiliary organizations in preparing and presenting claims to the Canadian Pension Commission; it has been in operation for 36 years. The Chief Pensions Advocate, who heads the Bureau at Ottawa, is assisted by pensions advocates, most of whom are lawyers located in the departmental district offices. The pensions advocates appear as counsel for applicants before Appeal Boards of the Commission and, in addition, advise pensioners and applicants upon any provision of the Pension Act or phase of pension law or administration that may have a bearing on pension claims. No charge is made for the services of the Bureau.

During 1966, the Veterans' Bureau submitted 6,988 claims to the Canadian Pension Commission for adjudication, of which 33 p.c. were wholly or partially granted. These included 1,187 claims presented to Appeal Boards of the Commission. During the year, 1,530 straight entitlement claims were submitted to the Commission, based on service in World War I and peacetime, of which 244 were wholly or partially granted; claims based on service in World War II, Korea and Special Duty Areas numbered 3,247, of which 953 were wholly or partially granted; and of the 1,024 miscellaneous claims submitted, 622 were wholly or partially granted.