

Section 3

V.A.D.'s

The V.A.D.'s herein considered are those persons who were drawn from the ranks of the Nursing Auxiliary, Canadian Red Cross Corps, or the Nursing Divisions of the St. John Ambulance Brigade who, after completing a period of probation with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, were appointed V.A.D.'s under the provisions of Order in Council P.C. 49/3546 of April 30, 1942. The R.C.N. and R.C.A.F. did not enroll any V.A.D.'s.

The Interdepartmental Committee on Veterans Affairs examined representations by the Canadian Red Cross Society, by individual V.A.D.'s and by Major General G. R. Pearkes, V.C., M.P. V.A.D.'s were enlisted to serve anywhere. They were entitled to rations and quarters, or subsistence allowance, to an outfit allowance and, generally, to all privileges accorded an officer in the R.C.A.M.C. While in Canada they were granted an allowance of \$20 a month to cover incidental expenses but outside Canada they would have received pay at a rate authorized from time to time by the Minister but not exceeding \$3 a day.

None of these personnel proceeded overseas under the terms of P.C. 49/3546.

Personnel who served in Canada did not receive army pay, were free to resign at any time during their three months' probation, were usually permitted to serve near their domicile, were permitted to receive Dependents' Allowance without reduction of V.A.D. allowances and were permitted to resign to proceed overseas under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance or Canadian Red Cross Society.

Seventy-five members of the Red Cross and 70 of the St. John Ambulance were attested and the average length of service was somewhat over one year.

The representations argue that the V.A.D.'s chose this duty rather than enlistment in the armed services, that they worked conscientiously in the military hospitals in Canada and that, having received no remuneration other than an allowance for out-of-pocket expenses, they are equally deserving with those who drew adequate pay. The representations suggest that V.A.D.'s serving in Canada, attached to the R.C.A.M.C., should receive all the benefits accruing to the regular members of the forces.

*Section 4 (a)*CANADIAN RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE PERSONNEL
OTHER THAN V.A.D.'s

The Interdepartmental Committee on Veterans Affairs examined representations from the Canadian Red Cross Society and from individual members of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance. Information as to conditions of service was obtained from both organizations.

The personnel herein considered are those members of the Canadian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade who proceeded overseas at the expense of, and were detailed for duty as members of, the Red Cross or St. John Ambulance organizations. They received no remuneration from either the Canadian or British Governments. The organization paid an allowance of \$30 a month to cover incidental expenses. Generally, the organization provided their quarters and rations and paid for medical and dental services when provided in Canadian Military Hospitals. 610 members of the Canadian Red Cross Corps and 220 members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade proceeded overseas as Assistants to Nurses in civilian hospitals in England, Ambulance Drivers, Welfare Workers, Cooks and Miscellaneous. Several of the Ambulance Drivers served in Belgium and France and the Welfare Officers served in the European and Mediterranean theatres.