

These are the deputy minister of the Department of Veterans Affairs, for the purpose of liaison with the department, and Mr. D. M. Thompson, Dominion secretary of the Royal Canadian Legion who also serves as a member without remuneration.

The group which I term the full board, consists of the salaried members plus those two non-salaried members, meets on matters of policy from time to time. The work on files and appeals are handled by the salaried members, and they work regularly on this from day to day.

There are 19 district authorities established throughout the country, which includes the foreign countries district authority which is established in Ottawa. All the members of the district authorities are employees of the Department. The board directs the policy and has functional control over the district authorities.

As you will have gathered from Mr. Rider's remarks, his people do all the work for the board in the matter of investigations.

I would like to digress for a moment and say that Mr. Paul Cross, the deputy chairman of the board, is with me and both of us will try to answer any of your questions.

May I just answer one question? Mr. Herridge asked for information. That information is contained in the annual report which will soon be coming out. Mr. Herridge, you asked for the number of approved applications across the country; I can give it to you by wars. There were 3,590 which were approved from world war I and the South African war; 3,833 applications were approved from world war II and the Korean special force; 139 dual service veterans were approved; 1,289 commonwealth and allied forces veterans were approved. This gives a total number of 11,904, which also includes 2,987 widows and 66 orphans. This information is in the annual report, but I thought you might wish to know it at this moment.

You might be interested to know that this is the first time in the history of the war veterans' allowance board—which is now in its 34th year—and particularly since world war II that the number of applications for world war II recipients is greater than the number of applications for world war I. That is due to the ravages of time. The world war I veterans are still coming along, but at a greatly reduced rate, and the world war II veterans are beginning to appear in a more marked degree.

Mr. McINTOSH: Can you break down that figure of 1,289 commonwealth and allied services into those who saw service in world war I and those who saw service in world war II?

Mr. CROMB: No, I do not have that information.

Mr. McINTOSH: It seems to be almost one third of the world war II Canadian applications.

Mr. CROMB: These are veterans who have spent 10 years in Canada. That may be the reason. It may be that a number of them are reaching their 10 years residence in Canada just now, and that qualifies them on the residential requirement.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Do you ever have any trouble in ascertaining that a person who applies for war veterans' allowance has actually served in an allied force?

Mr. CROMB: In the cases of veterans of the Russian forces of world war I and of Polish veterans who served in the Polish forces in world war II it is very difficult at times because in many cases their documentation has been lost. We do the best we can with the evidence available, taking the full statement of the man concerned and endeavouring to find out if it has the ring of truth. We also take statutory declarations from two comrades who are com-