

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

* 958

**MAINE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
1948-1950**

(in three volumes)

VOLUME II

35

35

**THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT**

**DIVISION OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**State House, Augusta, Maine
June 30, 1950**

**THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT**

**DIVISION OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**State House, Augusta, Maine
June 30, 1950**

TO: GOVERNOR FREDERICK G. PAYNE

AND THE HONORABLE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

As required by Chapter 386, Public Laws of 1947,
I am pleased to transmit herewith the Third Annual
Report of the Division of Veterans Affairs, together
with the recommendations of the Director.

Sincerely yours,

FRED W. ROWELL,
Director

FOREWORD

In previous annual reports, we have given the historical background of the Division and the laws which it administers, as well as statistics covering the expenditures of public funds and the results obtained.

The program of the Division deals almost entirely with human problems. For this reason, it is felt that a more understandable picture may be presented by outlining some typical case histories.

Every effort has been made to render a report which shall be as brief as possible consistent with the requirements of the Statutes and a proper presentation of the subject matter to be covered.

The Director expresses his deep appreciation to all employees of the Division for their unselfish devotion to duty, without which the accomplishments covered by this report would not have been possible.

CASE HISTORIES

The following material is taken from the official records of the Division. For obvious reasons, and because the statutes require that our records shall be held confidential, the names of the persons concerned in the following case histories have been deleted, but the original material is a matter of record in our various field offices.

* * * * *

C. C. H., Hancock County—This veteran had seen service in both World War I and World War II. His family consisted of himself, his wife, an epileptic son and a daughter. Another son had been killed in action in World War II. The field representative of the Division first made contact with the family as a result of a routine check-up on next of kin of battle casualties. The mother was found very bitter because of the loss of her son. She did not desire any benefits, but did wish some of the son's personal effects and a picture of the overseas cemetery where he was buried. The field representative made an application for, and secured the return of the personal effects, and, through the U. S. Army Recruiting Service, the pictures of the cemetery were obtained and presented to her.

Having made this friendly contact with the family, it was natural that the mother should turn to the veterans field representative when, a year later, she once more found herself in difficulty. Accordingly, she wrote to him and urgently requested him to call. It was learned at this time that her husband (veteran of both World Wars) had become a mental problem and the family was nearly destitute.

Hospital treatment at Togus was suggested. The veteran did not have either his World War I or World War II discharge certificate. An examination was completed by a local doctor, which showed the veteran to be extremely ill, with the possibility that he would take drastic measures on himself or a member of the family. Although the veteran was, in his present mental condition, very much opposed to going to a hospital or having his family receive assistance, the field representative persuaded him to do so.

Satisfactory proof of military service was obtained, the veteran hospitalized, pension secured for him, total disability waiver of premium on his insurance obtained, and dependency benefits awarded his wife.

In all probability, without the assistance of the Division of Veterans Affairs, the veteran would have been allowed to be at large until he had committed some serious offense, and his family would have had to ask for financial assistance from the town. By hospitalizing

the veteran and obtaining the financial benefits to which he and his wife were entitled, all this was avoided, and the family is still in good social standing in the community.

* * * * *

P. L., Penobscot County—This World War I veteran died leaving a wife and three small children. A claim for widow's pension developed the fact that the veteran had been married several times; each time under a different name.

The veteran was born in Sicily and was unable to read or write. Therefore, at the time of enlistment, his name was misspelled. Birth records, marriage records, divorce records and death records all had to be traced through four different and varied ways of spelling. Records also had to be traced through various towns in Maine and Massachusetts. However, under these difficult circumstances, pension was granted three months after the initial claim was filed.

Without the expert knowledge of the field representative as to procedure, a long delay would have been inevitable.

* * * * *

W. J. L., Aroostook County—This veteran had served in the armed forces in Italy during World War II. While stationed in a small town outside of Rome, he became interested in an Italian girl. Repeated attempts were made through the commanding officer to obtain consent for their marriage. This ended in complete failure and the soldier was shipped home for discharge before marriage consent could be obtained.

Shortly after his arrival home, a child was born and his fiancée was financially unable to cope with her problem. It became necessary for her to report to a social agency in Italy for assistance. The veteran, upon his return home, made every effort possible to obtain the entry into the United States of his fiancée and baby. He had several social service agencies, as well as two lawyers, working on the case over a long period of time, and had expended approximately \$150 to no avail. The Department of Health and Welfare, Child Welfare Division, referred his case to this Division.

Under immigration laws then in effect, fiancées of World War II veterans from certain countries were allowed entry into the United States on the promise of marriage upon arrival. The deadline for the expiration of this law at this particular time was a matter of a few months. The field representative made out all the necessary immigration papers for the veteran which included financial statements, affidavits of character and other affidavits which would indicate the financial ability of the veteran to maintain and support his

family. It was necessary to obtain a bond as well as to forward transportation money to Italy for his fiancée's use and to make arrangements for boat transportation and transportation from port of entry to veteran's home. Social Service organizations coordinating the work were International Migration Service of New York and Traveler's Aid.

All papers were promptly presented to the American Consul in Rome. His fiancée was immediately cleared for entry into the United States and arrived in New York within six weeks of the expected expiration date of the law. Arrangements had been made to fly the family from New York to Presque Isle. The plane was met by the veteran, his family and friends as well as the field representative. Both mother and child were in very poor physical condition and suffering from malnutrition. It was necessary for them to receive medical care for an extended period.

The entire family are now in the best of health. The veteran owns a small grocery store and is an asset to his community. They own their own home and have two additional members in the family, the second child named "John" in expression of appreciation for services rendered by the field representative. Arrangements were made immediately for the legitimatization of the child born in Italy. Also steps are being taken by the wife for naturalization so that she can become an American citizen.

* * * * *

A. D., Hancock County—This man, although not a veteran, served in the Merchant Marines during World War II and after being separated from active duty, applied for his old job in a mill. Was advised that he could not be reemployed as he had voluntarily quit.

A. D. then went to the Employment Service relative to obtaining his old job. Here again he was advised that he would not be eligible for reemployment rights, as he was in the Merchant Marines.

He then contacted the veterans field representative by personal interview and a discussion of his records followed. In checking over the laws, the field representative noted that Merchant Mariners were eligible for reemployment rights, provided other factors were met.

In an interview with the manager of the mill, various excuses and reasons for not rehiring were offered. All of these were answered by direct quotes from the Laws on reemployment rights; it being pointed out also that in a court hearing the employee would have the services of the U. S. District Attorney without charge.

All of the company's responses and delay in rehiring this former employee were trivial and unimportant.

By carefully interpreting the laws and learning the man's status, it was possible to have him reemployed at his old job.

Undoubtedly, without this help, this man never would have been rehired, and as a result, he would have been forced to move from his home town for lack of employment, which was directly due to his service in the Merchant Marines.

The Division of Veterans Affairs acts as the agent in Maine of the U. S. Department of Labor in matters concerning reemployment rights of veterans and merchant mariners.

J. D. C., Cumberland County—Word was received from an interested member of the community regarding a pension claim for a World War I widow. It seemed that the veteran had died over ten years ago but the widow had never been able to receive a pension because the veteran had been married and divorced prior to his present marriage and there was no record of the divorce available. The widow was a very hard working woman and had brought up twelve children—four of whom were the veteran's by this previous marriage.

The widow stated that she had never discussed her husband's first marriage with him in any detail although his mother had told her that he had been divorced from his first wife somewhere in New York between the years 1890 and 1908. The widow appeared very positive in her own mind that a divorce had taken place—even though she had not been able to find the records. She said that her mother-in-law had been a very religious woman and would never have lied to her about the matter. Anyone who might know of the event was now long dead and there had been no family Bible kept. At first, a request for information concerning this record was sent to every County in New York State but no record was found. In the hope that a more exhaustive search might be made, a detailed letter emphasizing the widow's need and outlining the unusual circumstances in the case was again sent to each County and to the neighboring states. It was thought that possibly the first wife had not obtained a divorce in New York itself, but had gone to a nearby State for this. Finally, a favorable answer was received from one of the Counties in New York State and the divorce record forwarded. This cleared the matter up and the widow received her pension almost at once.

The above case illustrates the persistence with which our field representatives follow up all leads in obtaining required evidence.

* * * * *

C. E. W., Kennebec County—The veteran called with his wife at the office, stated that he had a chance to buy a piece of property suitable for a home, but that all the banks were turning him down. He had approximately 30 days in which to act on the purchase option. He was steadily employed in a local mill for three years, and would be forced to give up his job as he would have no place to live, having been served notice of eviction from his present home because of change in ownership. Field representative went personally with the veteran to a local bank and it was reluctantly agreed that they would at least appraise the property. Appraisal was made for only two-thirds of the purchase price. Field representative suggested that timber on the place might be sold to pay the one-third over and above the appraised value. Bank agreed that if a prospective purchaser for the timber could be found and that if he would open a savings account or deposit a certified check for the amount in excess of the appraised value, the bank would loan the balance. An extension of the option period was secured to permit negotiations. Contacts were made by phone and personally with several lumber dealers. Final meeting was held at the bank with veteran, his wife, bank treasurer, lumber dealer and field representative. Deposit was made by lumberman who purchased selected stumpage and veteran was able to purchase the home under a straight bank loan. All parties were satisfied.

* * * * *

F.H.C., M.H.C. & C.R.C., Somerset County—Field representative attended the funeral of three brothers killed in action during World War II. The thought occurred that all benefits for the parents of the deceased might not have been obtained. Subsequently a home visit was made and it was learned that a service organization had filed on the death of only one of the brothers. Field Representative filed for both parents for the other two sons, and the parents received an additional award of \$70 each monthly, despite the fact that they had been given to understand that they could receive benefits from only one son.

* * * * *

M.J., Androscoggin County—The above, a person 65 years of age, applied for old age assistance through her guardian. The Public Assistance case worker found that this applicant's father had served in the Civil War, and inquired as to the possibility of her receiving a General Law Pension.

The applicant and her half sister and the guardian were interviewed. It was then determined that there was possibility of the applicant being eligible for federal pension as a dependent child.

Neighbors, friends and relatives were interviewed, and it was found that the applicant was mentally incompetent from the time of her birth.

Affidavits from the family doctor, the applicant's former school teacher, and former Sunday School teacher, and the Town postmistress were secured. They, with application for pension, were mailed to the Veterans Administration. A guardian was appointed by the Veterans Administration, and the applicant is now receiving a federal pension.

She could have been receiving this pension ever since her father's death had the matter been referred at that time.

* * * * *

M.A.F., Franklin County

The reemployment rights problem of the above veteran was received in the field office on May 12, 1950. The veteran's former employer was interviewed, and the veteran's employment records were reviewed. It was found that he had reemployment rights from October 10, 1949.

Following a number of interviews with both parties, a compromise settlement of \$697.83 was made, and the veteran was reemployed with proper seniority.

Both parties to the controversy were satisfied with the settlement and, although the veteran received less than he might have recovered by court action, he has established a fine working relationship with his employer and is assured of life-time employment so long as his work is satisfactory.

* * * * *

W. R. L., Cumberland County—The client had been for many years a recipient of the General Law Pension in the amount of \$12.00 a month. He was considered a helpless child of a veteran of the Civil War. According to his guardian, the client had never been in good mental health nor was he ever able to take care of himself. He was also in receipt of \$20.00 a month federal pension. In discussing the matter with the guardian, it seemed odd that the amount of money received was only \$20 a month, but the guardian didn't know the reason for this. Form 3288 was signed by the guardian and sent to the Veterans Administration in Washington to see under what Act the client was receiving his pension and why the pension was in such a small amount. The information was then received that the client was drawing a pension under a Special Act of Congress and that it was necessary that a formal application again be filed in order that a determination of his entitlement under the existing laws be made.

According to the Act of May 1, 1920 as amended by the Act of July 3, 1926, the Act of June 9, 1930 and

P. L. 270, 80th Congress, pensions of this type have been raised to \$43.20. The guardian's accounting had been checked at the Probate Court and it was found that a pension of \$20 a month had been reported for many years and that the guardian had never applied for an increase. The guardian was assisted in completing Form 534 which was then sent to the Director of Dependents and Beneficiaries Claims Division, in Washington, asking that a determination of his entitlement be made. The client was awarded the increase and is now in receipt of Federal pension in the amount of \$43.20 which will continue throughout the remainder of his life.

* * * * *

P. L., Oxford County—The veteran was discharged from the Army in the winter of 1946, following a period of hospitalization for combat fatigue. He came back home to Maine and received compensation for a nervous condition.

He married in August 1947. During his married life he lived in two different Maine communities. At the time of his death in September 1949 he was the father of two children.

Immediately after his death, the local service officer of a veterans' organization filed application for widow's benefit with the Veterans Administration. Pension benefits (non-service connected death) were granted in the amount of \$60 per month. This amount was supplemented by State ADC.

The field representative's attention was called to the case; investigation was instigated and reasons were found that the case should be explored for possible compensation benefits (service-connected death), instead of pension.

Relatives, neighbors, and employers were interviewed and affidavits were completed by them, giving complete description of the veteran's mental attitude, action and physical condition from the time of discharge from the Army until his death in September 1949, especially the action immediately prior to his death. The affidavits were submitted to the Veterans Administration with request that the case be reopened and reviewed with additional information. The Veterans Administration's final decision granted the widow compensation of \$130.00 a month. This being sufficient income to maintain herself and children, the ADC grant was then closed.

* * * * *

R. E. O., Aroostook County—This veteran was first known to our branch office in the early part of 1946 soon after his discharge from service. The original referral came from the Department of Health and Wel-

fare, Public Assistance Division. This department was responsible for the processing of the State of Maine, World War Assistance program for the benefit of veterans' dependents at that time.

The veteran served in the armed forces from February 29, 1941 to September 1, 1945. During the Italian campaign, he received a severe back injury and has suffered great pain from that period to current date.

The Department of Health and Welfare, Public Assistance Division, Caribou, granted World War Assistance to his dependents during the period in which he was first hospitalized at Togus. He was discharged routinely, condition not diagnosed other than general back sprain. The field representative called and filed a formal claim for service-connected compensation and also made arrangements for the veteran to be examined by Dr. Maltby, Neuro-surgeon of Portland. Diagnosis, ruptured intervertebral disc, was finally established and later recognized as service-incurred. Minimal compensation was granted in the amount of 20 per cent.

Shortly after his discharge from the hospital, the field representative obtained several interviews for possible employment for the veteran, and he was hired by a meat packing concern. The family were in need of state assistance only for the period in which the veteran was hospitalized. In spite of employment which can be considered light work, the veteran lost a great deal of time because of his condition. The field representative reviewed his case once again and submitted medical affidavits and lay affidavits and his compensation was increased from 20% to 40%. The veteran is currently receiving \$60 per month.

The veteran recently called at the office and stated that it had been necessary for him to temporarily discontinue his employment and he has been granted a leave of absence. His condition is much worse and he is not employable for the present. An application for hospitalization was filed listing the condition as emergent. Also, arrangements were made for the doctor to telephone Togus for the purpose of obtaining immediate admittance.

The veteran has a wife and four children, and due to the fact that it is impossible for the family to maintain themselves on \$60 per month, a World War Assistance grant has been authorized effective July 1, 1950. If the veteran is hospitalized for a period to exceed 22 days, arrangements will be made for the reopening of his claim and increased compensation will be paid in the amount of \$206 per month. This is based on 100% disability rating plus subsistence allowance for wife and children. Therefore, World War Assistance will be needed only during the emergency period.

This case report is submitted because it typifies the field work performed in the Caribou field office. The service work performed covered:

1. Emergency family need promptly handled through the media of State of Maine World War Assistance program.
2. Federal claims service work performed for the purpose of obtaining compensation for service-incurred disability.
3. Rehabilitation work in terms of finding suitable employment for the disabled veteran.
4. Continuous follow-up service work resulting in increased compensation for a worsening condition.

* * * * *

F. E. S., Franklin County—This is the case of a serviceman who was killed in action in the European Theater in June 1944. For purposes of narration we will call him Frank. Previous to Frank's birth his mother had been married and divorced. After the death of Frank's father, his mother again married, was divorced and remarried, each marriage and divorce occurring in a different county. At the time of Frank's birth his mother gave his name to the attending physician as Freddie Percy. Frank's father didn't like the name so he changed it to Frank without bothering to notify the town clerk or anyone else. Hence the serviceman grew up and enlisted under a name entirely different from the one shown on his birth record.

Frank married in 1937 and became the father of three children. He divorced his wife in another county in 1942 and almost immediately married a divorcee with two children. He was then inducted into the Army.

At the time of Frank's death in France, his mother's current husband was receiving Old Age Assistance, and Frank's three children by his first wife were receiving Aid to Dependent Children.

Death compensation and insurance benefits were obtained for his widow and two step-children. Death compensation was obtained for his three children by his first wife and also for his mother, thereby reducing payments on grants of Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children.

In order to secure these benefits, the following documentary evidence had to be obtained: seven marriage records (ten copies in all); four divorce records (six copies in all); affidavits showing that Freddie Percy and Frank were one and the same person; and affidavits proving dependency on the part of his mother.

Although this is not a recent case, it is cited in order to show what persistent effort will accomplish, even under most difficult circumstances, and how this effort

pays off, not only in securing benefits for the dependents themselves, but in savings to the State in grants of Public Assistance.

* * * * *

H. L. L., Sagadahoc County—Veteran was born in Maine, enlisted April 11, 1917 in Massachusetts, served until Sept. 2, 1919 at which time he was honorably discharged as an officer of the 26th Division. After discharge he returned to Maine and was employed by a Maine shipbuilding concern and one of our large public utilities. While working for the latter he developed an infection which resulted in the amputation of one of his legs above the knee. Still later it became necessary to amputate the other leg for the same reason. He was granted total and permanent non-service pension in the amount of \$60.00 per month which obviously proved insufficient for the needs of himself and wife. He first came to the attention of the Division of Veterans Affairs when he applied for assistance in October 1949. When the Veterans Field Representative first called on the family he found both the veteran and his wife in the depths of discouragement. The wife had suffered two nervous breakdowns and the veteran, because he had been given so many opiates incident to his several operations and because of mental depression, was in danger of becoming addicted to narcotics.

The family was granted World War Assistance, which relieved them of a part of their financial worries. The Veterans Field Representative then set about rehabilitating the veteran himself. Through repeated calls, the veteran was encouraged to attempt to abandon his wheel chair and learn to use the artificial legs which he already had. A "walker" was secured for him through the Veterans of Foreign Wars, taken by the Field Representative to the veteran's home and set up for him and he was instructed in its use. A few months later the veteran sustained a fall which injured his back and necessitated hospitalization at Togus. While convalescing at Togus the veteran was given further instruction and practice in the use of his artificial legs.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Education was then called in and the veteran is now progressing satisfactorily in his efforts to become self-supporting. A former employer was contacted by the Field Representative, with the result that it is expected employment will be awaiting him whenever he is ready.

Through the efforts of our Field Representative, and persistent follow-up by him, this veteran's entire outlook and that of his family has been changed from one of despair to one of hope and determination.

A thorough investigation is also being conducted on the off-chance that the condition which resulted in amputation of his legs may be traced back to "trench feet" and thus made service-connected, resulting in a very considerable increase in benefits received from the Veterans Administration.

* * * * *

F. S. F., Knox County—This World War I veteran served from August 1917 to June 1919 and was discharged as a sergeant from the 56th Pioneer Infantry. We first became acquainted with him when he was hospitalized at Togus for a heart condition, leaving his wife and six children at home. The Field Representative applied at once and secured for him non-service connected pension in the amount of \$60 per month. The family had been operating a small tourist home which brought them some revenue during the summer months but was not sufficient for their needs throughout the year. After his discharge from the hospital, he was referred to State Vocational Rehabilitation from which agency he received the necessary tools and instruction to establish a small wood-turning business. He sold his tourist home and moved into a nearby village. He now has contracts for small turnings which will be used in the manufacture of toys. This is work which he can do despite his heart condition. He shows every indication of being able to earn sufficient income for himself and his large family.

Neither this veteran nor the one next previously cited had any knowledge of the facilities of the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and it is doubtful if they would ever have learned of them except through our Field Representative. These two cases illustrate the close degree of cooperation which is maintained between the Division of Veterans Affairs and other State agencies, as well as with the Veterans Administration. They also illustrate the value of financial assistance from state funds (World War Assistance) as a means of meeting the needs of the family during the period of referral and readjustment.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Following is a breakdown of the contacts made by the field representatives of this Division for the year ending June 30, 1950:

<i>Type of Contacts</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Contacts</i>	
World War Assistance	4,346	32.396
Claims		
Service Connected	528	
Non-Service Connected	430	
Dependency	642	11.926
Public Assistance and related		
State Programs	1,062	7.916
Insurance	1,009	7.521
Educational & On-Job Training	724	5.396
Hospitalization	600	4.479
Employment	295	2.199
Loans	291	2.169
General Law Pensions	259	1.930
Out-Patient Treatment	253	1.885
Readjustment Allowance	79	.588
Miscellaneous	2,897	21.595
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	13,415	100.000

The amount of recoveries is as follows:

Compensation	\$60,461
Pension	59,850
Widow's Claims	23,932
Parents' Claims	14,160
NSLI Dividends (estimate)	87,500
Insurance Claims (G I & Civilian—estimate)	298,375
	<hr/>
	\$544,278

The insurance dividend figure was derived by using \$175, the average dividend and multiplying it by 500 contacts shown on our daily reports.

Following is a summary of the *World War Assistance* case load throughout the year:

Number of Active cases by months:

1949	July	372
	August	378
	September	382
	October	390
	November	430
	December	445

Number of Active cases by months (*concluded*)

1950	January	438
	February	431
	March	440
	April	436
	May	440
	June	413

Average number of active cases throughout the year	416
Applications pending beginning of year	42
Number of new applications received throughout the year	1391
Number of applications granted throughout the year	977
Number of applications denied	433

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING AID DURING THE YEAR 3348

Average amount of grants	\$59.38
Number of pending applications at end of year	22

Case Load Summary General Law Pensions

Number of active cases at the end of each month

1949	July	234
	August	238
	September	240
	October	241
	November	238
	December	242
1950	January	242
	February	238
	March	236
	April	236
	May	237
	June	235

Average number of active cases throughout the year	238
Number of new applications received during the year	55
Number of applications granted	36
Number of applications denied	19
Average amount of grants	\$11.22
Cases closed during the year	36

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Analysis of Expenses—July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950
Administrative Expense

	<i>Approp.</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Salaries	\$54,160.00	\$53,394.79	\$765.21
Other Expenses	13,075.00	** 12,967.25	107.75
	<u>*\$67,235.00</u>	<u>\$66,362.04</u>	<u>\$872.96****</u>
*Appropriation by Legislature	\$64,583.00		
Transfer from Contingent Fund for Salary Increases ..	2,652.00		
	<u>\$67,235.00</u>		
** <i>Analysis of Other Expenses</i>			
Travel Expenses	\$ 6,868.06		
Misc. Professional Fees	5.00		
Telephone and Telegrams	1,279.13		
Rent (Field Offices)	1,272.00		
Repairs to Equipment	97.00		
Postage	1,071.47		
Printing	831.31		
Dues	110.00		
Office Supplies	811.03		
***Misc. Supplies	183.59		
Office Equipment	438.66		
	<u>\$12,967.25</u>		
***Includes subscriptions, textbooks, periodicals, etc.			
	<i>World War Assistance Grants</i>		
		<i>Approp.</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>
		\$285,000.00	<i>Balance</i>
	Transferred to General Law	(150.00)	
	Transferred from Contingent Fund	17,500.00	
Grants of WWA		<u>\$302,350.00</u>	\$297,936.00
Extraordinary Medical and Dental Expense			1,178.34
	Total	<u>\$302,350.00</u>	<u>\$299,114.34</u>
	<i>General Law Pensions</i>		
		\$ 32,000.00	
	Transferred from World War	150.00	
Grants		32,150.00	\$32,035.25
	GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$401,735.00</u>	<u>\$397,511.63</u>
			<u>\$ 114.75</u>
			<u>\$4,223.37</u>

****Of this amount \$198.74 is covered by purchase orders and 231.10 is for accounts payable.

“BOQUET”

Veterans Administration Center

Togus, Maine

July 28, 1950

Your file reference:

In reply refer to: 2CN10EO

Mr. Fred W. Rowell, Director
Division of Veterans Affairs
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Rowell:

May we take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of the excellent cooperation which our Section has received from your Division in behalf of the dependents of hospitalized and otherwise disabled veterans.

We have noted in particular your able handling of emergent situations, where you have willingly met the present need without undue delay to determine future eligibility. In addition we appreciate the fact that your interest and activities go beyond mere financial aid and include other problems which interfere with social welfare and personal happiness.

We are glad to be associated with you in this work.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) MARGARET M. SANBORN
Acting Chief Social Worker

RECOMMENDATIONS

Employment In last year's report, attention was called to the expiration date for "Readjustment Allowances" for veterans and certain recommendations were made concerning employment. In line with these recommendations, a meeting was called on March 29, 1950 at Togus by Col. Malcolm Stoddard, Manager of the Veterans Administration Center, at which was formed the "Governor's Committee on Employment." The executive committee of this group consisted of the following persons:

JOHN C. CASS, State Department of Education
BENJAMIN DORSKY, American Federation of Labor
EDWARD C. HYDE, State Chamber of Commerce
EVERETT GREATON, Maine Development Commission
LEWIS C. GUPTILL, Maine State Grange
GEORGE C. JABER, C. I. O.
MISS MARION MARTIN
State Department of Labor & Industry
ARTHUR MAXWELL
President Maine Bankers' Association
CLYDE B. MORGAN, Associated Industries
HAROLD SCHNURLE, Maine Development Credit Corp.
LEIGH WEBBER, Maine Municipal Association
COL. MALCOLM STODDARD, Veterans Administration
FRED ROWELL, State Division of Veterans Affairs

Although several meetings of this executive committee were held, definite conclusions reached and solutions suggested, the outbreak of war in Korea on June 25th seemed to obviate the necessity of immediate action.

Meanwhile, both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars had adopted resolutions calling for the creation of a RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND adequate to determine, on a scientific basis, the potentialities of our natural resources, the most practical means of developing these resources, and conducting the necessary marketing research to the end that our industrial payrolls may be materially increased.

It is recommended that legislation be enacted setting up such a fund on a stand-by basis, providing the means of financing it, and empowering the Governor and Council to implement the program when, in their opinion, economic conditions make the time opportune.

Korean Veterans It is recommended that all legislation granting State Benefits to veterans of World War I and World War II be amended to include veterans of the Korean Campaign. Such

action will almost certainly be taken by the 82d Congress with respect to federal benefits, but by the time that is done our own legislature will have adjourned.

Tax Exemptions Once more, it is recommended that the Veterans Organizations sponsor legislation which will give a more equitable basis for granting tax exemptions to veterans reaching the age of sixty-two years. Unless this is done, it is the opinion of the Director that these veterans are in danger of losing this exemption entirely.

State Veterans' Assistance Programs It is recommended that the legislature appropriate sufficient funds to enable the Division of Veterans Affairs to meet its obligations under our statutes with respect to the assistance programs which it administers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Director acknowledges with sincere thanks the whole-hearted cooperation rendered to the Division through the year by the following agencies:

Adjutant General's Department
American Legion
American Red Cross
Department of Education
Department of Health and Welfare
Employment Security Commission
Selective Service Headquarters
Veterans Administration
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Veterans Placement Service

DIRECTORY OF FIELD OFFICES

MISS MARY MORAN, Veterans Field Representative
79 Exchange St., Portland

MR. ROLAND TARDIFF,
Veterans Field Representative
14 Lisbon Street, Lewiston

MR. GEORGE GREELEY,
Veterans Field Representative
State House, Augusta

MR. PHILIP NEWBERT,
Veterans Field Representative
Farnsworth Memorial Bldg., Rockland

MR. VERNON H. SOMERS,
Veterans Field Representative
115 Franklin St., Bangor

***MR. JOHN E. FLYNN,**
Veterans Field Representative
14 Sweden St., Caribou

MR. HARRY WHITNEY,
Veterans Field Representative
Post Office Bldg., Machias

MR. JOHN S. LOWE, JR., Claims Representative
Veterans Administration Center, Togus

*Appointed September 1950.