

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

1952 - 1954

(in four volumes)

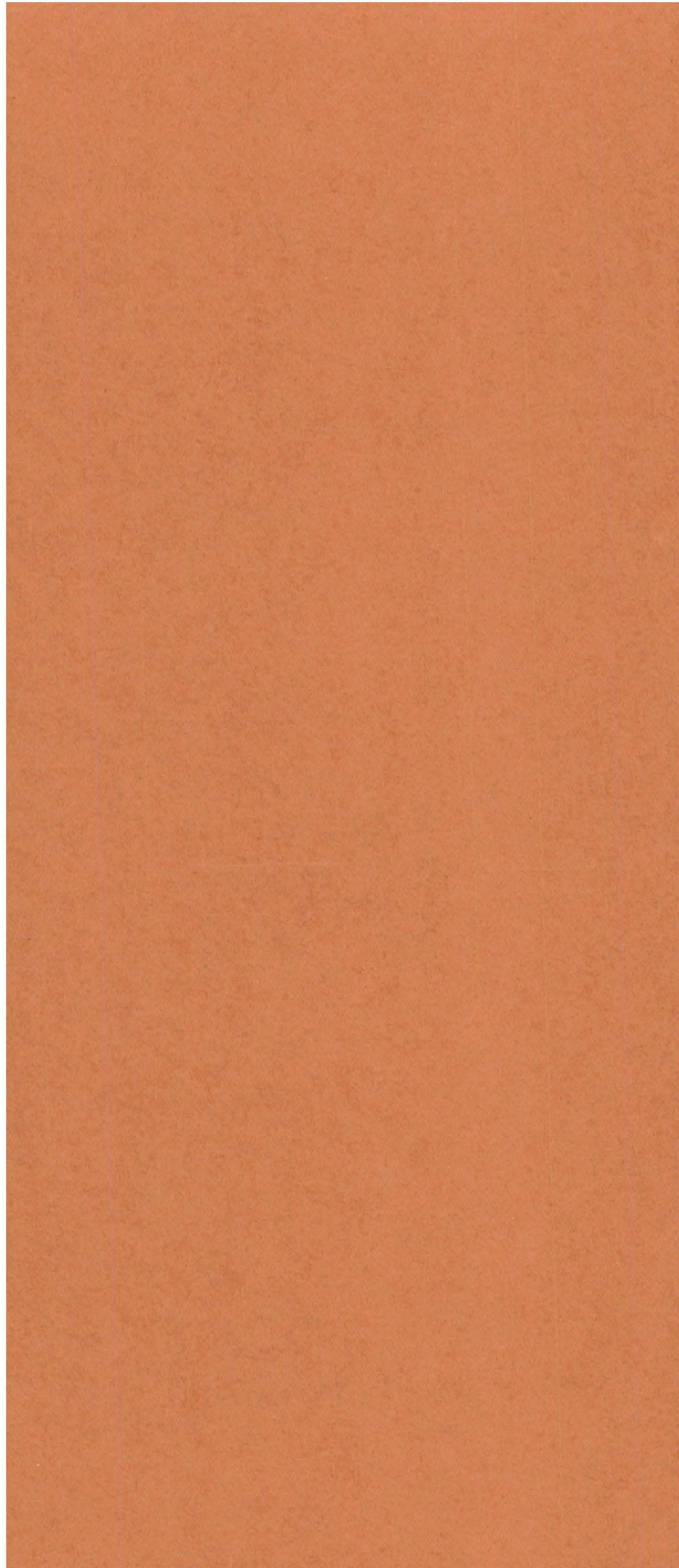
VOLUME II

**SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT**

**DIVISION OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**State House, Augusta, Maine
June 30, 1953**



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DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

State House, Augusta, Maine

July 1, 1953

To: Governor Burton M. Cross
and the Honorable Executive Council

The enclosed Annual Report of the Division of Veterans Affairs is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953, and is submitted to you in compliance with Chapter 386 of the Public Laws of 1947.

I sincerely hope that the statistics and tabulations on the following pages will be of interest to you and that we, in the Division, will continue to merit the support and confidence you have given us in the past.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK P. O'CONNELL

Director

ANNUAL REPORT

Since the publication of the last annual report we have seen the firing cease in Korea and an uneasy truce settle on us. We are, of course, most thankful that American blood is no longer being shed. We do, though, have to face the reality that we must stay under arms until those who would destroy our way of life give up their self-imposed task. Therefore, there will be no appreciable let-up in the number of men being inducted and then, on completion of service, discharged as veterans. These boys and girls are entitled to certain benefits as veterans. After World War II the Veterans Administration was authorized to have a Contact Division. One purpose of Contact was to act as an information center for returning veterans. State-wide coverage was fairly complete and the veterans thus obtained excellent service. As the years progressed, though, Congress and in some instances the Bureau of the Budget, became more and more parsimonious. One of their favorite targets was the Contact Service. Here in Maine we have seen this service cut to three field offices—one each at Bangor, Togus and Portland.

This means that the new veteran, who, despite statements from the Armed Forces to the contrary, has been given little or no civilian indoctrination, does not have the opportunity to find out the benefits to which he is entitled. The veteran, more and more, is turning to this Division for assistance along this line. The Veterans Representatives have noted, as they make their calls in relation to aid-in-grant, that there are many veterans living off the beaten track and unable to reach our offices or those of the Veterans Administration, who know absolutely nothing of their rights. This is not only a loss to the veteran, but it also represents a substantial loss of revenue to the State. That the veteran and the state has been aided by the work of this Division is indicated by a look-see at the prior annual reports and the yearly increases indicated therein. This increase came about by (1) increased awareness of the existence of this Division, and (2) the meat-axe actions of Congress and the Bureau of the Budget on the Veterans Administration. That our work is going to increase even more is very definitely in the cards as inferred in the first part of this statement. Not only has

the work in the field increased, but our claims representative is being swamped with work.

The past year has seen the legislature act on several bills of vital interest to the veteran of the State of Maine. This past legislature showed a keen awareness of the debt due to its veteran population. Its actions on practically all bills indicated a desire on the part of both the Governor and the Legislature to honor the veteran, consistent with what the State of Maine and its communities could give without disrupting the economy of the State.

It is not practical to outline all the bills passed. We do feel, though, that a review of activities in connection with the \$3500 tax exemption bill might be of interest. For years there has been agitation to change this law. This agitation ran the gamut from complete removal to "leave it alone." There was hardly a possibility of a type of change that was overlooked. Governor Cross, quite soon after his inauguration, expressed a desire to see the law retained in substance, but changed to relieve the towns of an anticipated hardship. He also expressed a desire to see that the law applied to those who contributed to the economy of the State and not to those who merely hoped to be a "free loader." The veterans organizations expressed similar hopes. The committee on Taxation, too, was interested in seeing substantial justice done for all interested groups. The Committee Chairman, Senator Edward Chase, appointed a sub-committee headed by Representative Seth Low of Rockland to work out an acceptable bill. Representative Low and his committee, working long hours and receiving much assistance and encouragement both from Governor Cross and the veterans' organizations succeeded in submitting a bill which still retains the exemptions and yet answers all the substantial arguments of those who, in the past, argued for its removal or strangulation.

It should be noted in passing that in 1951 Governor Frederick G. Payne, in vetoing the Perry Bill, stated that the problem would be faced squarely by all concerned when it became a problem. His faith in those who are sincerely interested in both the veteran and the State has thus been borne out. The law, as it now stands, is as follows:

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 81, § 6, sub-§ X-A, additional. Section 6 of chapter 81, of the revised statutes, as amended,

is hereby further amended by adding thereto a new subsection to be numbered X-A, to read as follows:

X-A. The polls of all soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the army or navy of the United States in the Philippine Insurrection or any federally recognized war period prior thereto, or who receive state pension; the polls of all soldiers, sailors or marines who served in World Wars I or II or the Korean Campaign who are receiving pension or retirement pay or compensation or vocational training from the United States government on account of disability incurred in or aggravated by service in said wars; and the estates up to the value of \$3,500 of veterans who served in the armed forces of the United States during any federally recognized war period, including the Korean Campaign, who were honorably discharged or honorably separated and retired to the reserve, when they shall have reached the age of 62 years or are receiving any form of pension or compensation from the United States government for total disability, service connected or non-service connected, as a veteran; and the estates up to the value of \$3,500 of the unmarried widow or minor child of any veteran who would be entitled to such exemption if living, or who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the federal government as the widow or minor child of a veteran; provided, however, that no person shall qualify for such exemption unless the veteran upon whose record the exemption is claimed was a legal resident of this state when he entered the military service of the United States or unless such veteran or his widow has been a legal resident of this state for at least 10 years prior to making the claim for exemption; and provided further that any person hereinbefore enumerated who desires to secure this exemption shall file written proof of entitlement on or before the 1st day of April with the assessors of the town in which he resides, whereupon the assessors shall grant such exemption to such person while so qualified or until notified of reason or desire for discontinuance; but no property conveyed to any person for the purpose of obtaining exemption from taxation under this subsection shall be so exempt, and the obtaining of such exemption by means of fraudulent conveyance shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than two times the amount of the taxes evaded by such fraudulent conveyance whichever amount is greater; and in case any person entitled to such exemption has property taxable in more

than 1 city or town of the state, such proportion of such total exemption shall be made in each city or town, as the value of the property taxable in such city or town bears to the value of the whole of the property of such person taxable in the state.

Cities and towns granting such exemptions shall have a valid claim against the state to recover 70% of the taxes lost by reason of this exemption as exceeds 3% of the total local tax levy, upon proof of the facts in form satisfactory to the commissioner of finance; and such claims shall be presented to the legislature next convening. Effective August 8, 1953.

Other bills of interest to the veterans, passed by the 1953 Legislature are as follows:

Chapter 385—An Act Relating to Certain Tax Exemptions for Amputee Veterans.

Chapter 43—An Act Relating to Guaranteed Loans to Veterans.

Chapter 165—An Act Relating to Preference in State Employment for Veterans.

Chapter 174—An Act Relating to Korean Campaign Veterans' Preference in State Employment.

Chapter 236—An Act Relating to Special Plates for Amputee Veterans.

Chapter 291—An Act Relating to Exemptions from Taxation of Veterans.

Keeping in mind the observations made at the beginning in regard to the fate of Veterans Administration the following recommendations are made:

- (1) That itinerant service be established by this Division.
- (2) That one more veterans' representative be added.
- (3) That a clerk-stenographer be hired for the Togus office.

In order to indicate more clearly the work done in the field we have changed the customary style of report, and broken it down into the various districts.

District # 1

(York, Cumberland and Western Oxford)

79 Exchange Street, Portland Tel. 2-6612

**Veterans Representative: Miss Mary E. Moran
Secretary, Mrs. Grace Pothier**

A veteran of World War II, Miss Mary E. Moran is in charge of District # 1. This district comprises York, Cumberland and Western Oxford Counties. Miss Moran's background fits her admirably for this work. She is a graduate of Smith College with an A.B. degree and holds an M.A. degree from Brown University. She entered the Coast Guard in 1943 and served as Civilian Readjustment Officer in the Separation Center, Coast Guard, Boston, until her release as Lt. (j.g.) in 1946. Prior to her being appointed to her present position she served as secretary in the District # 1 office.

During the past year this office processed 792 contacts for aids-in-grant for a total of \$54,979.00.

**Compilation of services rendered by District # 1
office (exclusive of emergency financial assist-
ance)**

Total number of services rendered		1792
Service-connected compensation	93	
Non-service-connected pension	56	
Dependents' Claims	55	
Training (P. L. 16 and 550)	47	
Employment	50	
Hospitalization	47	
Out-patient service	16	
Loans	20	
Insurance	28	
General Law Pension	56	
Referrals to other agencies	100	
Referrals from other agencies	131	
Miscellaneous	301	
Total money obtained for veterans and dependents		\$123,650.00
Service-connected disabilities	\$72,748	
Non-service connected disabilities	29,298	
Widows	13,404	
Parents	1,200	
Insurance	4,500	
Miscellaneous	2,500	

District # 2

(Androscoggin, Franklin and Eastern Oxford)

14 Lisbon Street, Lewiston

Tel. 2-9692

Veterans Representative: Mr. Roland A. Tardiff
Secretary: Mrs. Muriel White

Roland A. Tardiff, the veterans representative for this very crowded area is a veteran of both World Wars, with an outstanding war record. From the very beginning, Mr. Tardiff showed a keen interest in the military. After having served in World War I he signed up in the Maine National Guard in 1921 and remained with it until the induction of the Maine Guard into federal service on February 24, 1941. He served with the 103rd Regiment, 43rd Infantry Division from induction until August of 1942. At that time he was appointed executive officer of a combat team, which position he held until 1943. He then was placed in command of a replacement depot. He served in that capacity until release from active duty in 1945.

Not only has he had a very fine military record but he has been in continual contact with the public, having run his own retail business from 1932 to 1941.

This office processed 665 contacts for aids-in-grant for a total of \$59,427.00.

**Compilation of services rendered by District # 2
office (exclusive of emergency financial assist-
ance)**

Total number of services rendered		4072
Service-connected compensation	187	
Non-service-connected pension	135	
Dependents' Claims	183	
Training (PL 16 and 550)	372	
Employment	155	
Hospitalization	253	
Out-patient service	393	
Loans	148	
Insurance	488	
General Law Pension	46	
Referrals to other agencies	68	
Referrals from other agencies	49	
Miscellaneous	930	
Total money obtained for veterans and dependents		\$178,950
Service-connected disabilities	\$42,348	
Non-service connected disabilities	58,209	
Widows	31,248	
Parents	13,145	
Insurance	23,000	
Miscellaneous	11,000	

District # 3

(Waldo, Knox, Lincoln and southern Sagadahoc)

356 Main Street, Rockland

Tel. 739

Veterans Representative: Mr. Philip H. Newbert
Secretary: Miss Jane Miller

Our District # 3 veterans representative, Philip H. Newbert, covers from Sandy Point through Bath and Phippsburg. A native of Friendship, Mr. Newbert is quite familiar with this entire area. In his words, he graduated from Thomaston High in 1929 to the school of hard knocks, having worked at farming, undertaking, drug store clerk, ship's cook, filling station manager, furniture store clerk, marine electrician. He claims a cum laude and we can well believe it. In his spare time he joined the Maine National Guard and served with it until induction into federal service in September 1940. On his release in 1945, he rejoined the Guard. With a background such as this, he has a working knowledge of most of the activities in his area.

This office has processed 447 contacts for aids-in-grant in the amount of \$44,893.00.

**Compilation of services rendered by District #3
office (exclusive of emergency financial assistance)**

Total number of services rendered		3591
Service-connected compensation	220	
Non-service-connected pension	256	
Dependents' Claims	153	
Training (P.L. 16 & 550)	212	
Employment	167	
Hospitalization	161	
Out-Patient service	210	
Loans	443	
Insurance	235	
General Law Pension	30	
Referrals to other agencies	157	
Referrals from other agencies	84	
Miscellaneous	814	
Total money obtained for veterans and dependents		\$153,122
Service-connected disabilities	\$50,145	
Non-service connected disabilities	31,074	
Widows	29,838	
Parents	9,065	
Insurance	22,000	
Miscellaneous	11,000	

District # 4

(Northern Sagadahoc, Kennebec and Somerset)

State House, Augusta

Tel. 3-4511

Veterans Representative: George V. Greeley
Secretary: Pauline L. Gruber

George V. Greeley, the veterans representative for District #4, has a long history of social studies, field work in assistance programs and military activities. A graduate of the University of Maine with an A.B. degree, Mr. Greeley has also done graduate work in the field of sociology. He is a graduate of the Army Medical Center Psychiatric Social Work School. A retread, like Roland Tardiff of our Lewiston office, Mr. Greeley served in the South Pacific during World War II and in Alaska during the Korean Conflict. He started working for this Division in September of 1945, working first in District #6 and then District #4, where he has worked continuously except for 18 months return to service from 1951 to 1953.

This office has processed 528 contacts for aids-in-grant in the amount of \$56,136.00.

**Compilation of services rendered by District # 4
office (exclusive of emergency financial assist-
ance)**

Total number of services rendered		31,169
Service-connected compensation	141	
Non-service connected pension	118	
Dependents' Claims	122	
Training (P.L. 16 & 550)	205	
Employment	96	
Hospitalization	144	
Out-Patient service	155	
Loans	238	
Insurance	212	
General Law Pension	32	
Referrals to other agencies	87	
Referrals from other agencies	65	
Miscellaneous	669	

Total money obtained for veterans and dependents		\$149,629
Service-connected disabilities	\$41,169	
Non-service connected disabilities	35,953	
Widows	23,298	
Parents	12,209	
Insurance	29,000	
Miscellaneous	8,000	

District # 5

(Western Hancock, Northeastern Waldo, Penobscot and Piscataquis)

96 Harlow Street, Bangor

Tel. 3692

Veterans Representative: John E. Flynn

Secretary: Joan Rimbach

A Navy veteran of World War II, John E. Flynn, the District # 5 veterans representative, has worked for the Division of Veterans Affairs since 1950. Prior to that Mr. Flynn worked for a short time as a sales agent for an insurance company. His war experience took him from the Marshall Islands campaign through Okinawa aboard the USS Intrepid. After release from service he attended the University of Maine where he received his A.B. in business administration in 1950.

His first assignment with us was in District # 7, our Caribou office. He was transferred to Bangor in September 1951 where he has worked since.

This office has processed 578 contacts for aids-in-grant in the amount of \$49,953.00.

**Compilation of services rendered by District # 5
office (exclusive of emergency financial assist-
ance)**

Total number of services rendered		2742
Service-connected compensation	98	
Non-service-connected pension	123	
Dependents' claims	93	
Training (P.L. 16 & 550)	188	
Employment	90	
Hospitalization	59	
Out-patient service	96	
Loans	267	
Insurance	197	
General Law Pension	45	
Referrals to other agencies	24	
Referrals from other agencies	23	
Miscellaneous	863	
Total money obtained for veterans and dependents		\$133,568
Service-connected disabilities	\$28,419	
Non-service connected disabilities	41,912	
Widows	14,677	
Parents	11,560	
Insurance	26,000	
Miscellaneous	11,000	

District # 6

Post Office Building, Machias

Tel. 336

Veterans Representative: Harry A. Whitney
Secretary: Miss Mary Clarke

Our veterans representative for District #6, Harry A. Whitney, is most familiar with his territory, having been born in Whiting, and attended local schools as well as Washington Academy in East Machias. He received his A.B. at Fitchburg State Teachers College. After graduation in 1939 he taught, as well as coached athletics, at Winthrop High School, Maine. His military career in Infantry Communications carried him across the Pacific, engaging in most of the campaigns from New Guinea to the Philippines. He eventually wound up in Japan prior to his release in 1946. He then went to work for Public Assistance where he stayed until transferred to Veterans Affairs.

In the past year he had had 179 contacts for World War Assistance, totalling \$46,393.50.

**Compilation of services rendered by District # 6
office (exclusive of emergency financial assist-
ance)**

Total number of services rendered		1209
Service-connected compensation	85	
Non-service connected pension	69	
Dependents' claims	94	
Training (P.L. 16 and 550)	122	
Employment	30	
Hospitalization	90	
Out-Patient service	79	
Loans	78	
Insurance	77	
General Law Pension	13	
Referrals to other agencies	43	
Referrals from other agencies	44	
Miscellaneous	206	
Total money obtained for veterans and dependents		\$163,928
Service-connected disabilities	\$26,937	
Non-service connected disabilities	44,414	
Widows	31,248	
Parents	16,329	
Insurance	30,000	
Miscellaneous	15,000	

District # 7

(Aroostook County)

74 Sweden Street, Caribou

Tel. 2-2231

Veterans Representative: Fred W. Skinner

Secretary: Mrs. Thelma Russell

District # 7, covering Aroostook County, is under the supervision of Fred W. Skinner. Mr. Skinner came to work for us in 1951 from the Diamond Match Company where he had worked as Director of Public Relations. Prior to that he had charge of the Veterans Administration Contact Office in Rumford, where he had worked since his release from the service in 1945. His war record shows he had engaged in every major engagement in the Mediterranean theatre. After having serviced with the 720th Bombardment Squadron, 450th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force, he was released with disability as a Master Sergeant.

This office has had 505 contacts for World War Assistance and has expended \$52,058.00.

**Compilation of services rendered by District #7
office (exclusive of emergency financial assist-
ance)**

Total number of services rendered		3461
Service-connected compensation	161	
Non-service connected pension	66	
Dependents' Claims	153	
Training (P.L. 16 & 550)	290	
Employment	86	
Hospitalization	252	
Out-Patient service	136	
Loans	470	
Insurance	246	
General Law Pension	1	
Referrals to other agencies	130	
Referrals from other agencies	61	
Miscellaneous	904	
Total money obtained for veterans dependents		\$141,459
Service-connected disabilities	\$26,416	
Non-service-connected disabilities	20,815	
Widows	14,208	
Parents	71,020	
Insurance	40,000	
Miscellaneous	29,000	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Analysis of Expenses -- July 1, 1952-June 30, 1953

	<i>Administrative Expense</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Salaries		\$63,088.00	\$61,931.60	\$1,156.40
Other Expenses		14,540.78	(2) 15,241.52	(700.74)
		(1) \$77,628.78	\$77,173.12	(3) \$ 455.66
(1) Appropriated by Legislature	\$72,020.00			
Transfer from Surplus for Salary Increases	4,569.00			
Purchase Orders Carried Forward	39.78			
Transferred from General Law	1,000.00			
	<u>\$77,628.78</u>			
(2) <i>Analysis of Other Expenses</i>				
Travel Expenses	\$ 6,744.41			
Misc. Fees and Spec. Services (Janitor)	190.00			
Telephone, Telegrams and Electric Service	1,839.98			
Rent (Field Offices)	2,623.50			
Repairs to Equipment	90.85			
Postage	1,306.81			
Printing (Reports, bulletin, etc.)	244.53			
Subscription, periodicals, dues	232.00			
Misc. Supplies and Expenses	34.08			
Office Supplies	1,349.82			
Office Equipment	585.54			
	<u>\$15,241.52</u>			
	<i>World War Assistance Grants</i>			
Grants of WWA		\$367,953.00	\$363,839.50	<u>Balance</u>
Physical Examination for Veterans		<u> </u>	91.50	
Total		\$367,953.00	\$363,931.00	<u>\$4,022.00</u>
	<i>General Law Pensions</i>			
Grants of General Law		\$ 32,000.00		
Transferred to Administrative Expense		(1,000.00)		
		<u>31,000.00</u>	\$23,544.00	\$7,456.00

(3) Of this amount \$332.00 is covered by Purchase Orders. Balance lapsed to General Fund.

WORLD WAR ASSISTANCE

Number of Active Cases by months:

1952	July	447
	August	438
	September	447
	October	447
	November	415
	December	424
1953	January	448
	February	447
	March	465
	April	451
	May	428
	June	410
Average number of active cases throughout the year		439
Application pending beginning of year		12
Number of new applications received throughout the year		1248
Number of applications granted throughout the year		941
Number of applications denied		308
Total number of individuals receiving aid during the year		3617
Average amount of grants		\$69.08
Number of pending applications at end of year		11

Case Load Summary of General Law Pensions

Number of Active Cases at the end of each month:

1952	July	182
	August	181
	September	177
	October	171
	November	169
	December	172
1953	January	173
	February	173
	March	172
	April	173
	May	170
	June	169
Average number of Active Cases throughout the year		173
Number of new applications received during the year		33
Number of applications granted		23
Number of applications denied		10
Average amount of grants		\$11.31
Cases closed during the year		32