

CHANGES IN LEGISLATION AND SERVICE MEDALS

*The Service (1917-1921) Medal with Bar*¹ was issued to all persons in possession of a Military Service Certificate entitling them to a pension under the Military Service Pensions Acts, 1924 to 1934. Persons not in possession of a Certificate, but who satisfied the Minister for Defence that, had they applied for a pension, their service was such as to qualify for the award of a pension, would also receive the Medal with Bar.

The medal, without bar was issued to applicants who were enrolled in the *Irish Republican Army, Fianna Eireann, Cumann na mBan* and *Irish Citizens Army* not less than three months prior to 11 July 1921, but who did not qualify for pension².

The *Army Pensions Act, 1943* provided for the grant of a special allowance³ in specified circumstances to persons who had been awarded pensionable service under the 1924 to 1934 Acts in respect of service during Easter Week 1916 or were awarded a wound or a disability pension for wounds etc. contracted during that week.

The *Army Pensions Act, 1946* amended Section 7 of the 1943 Act so as to make eligible for the grant of special allowances persons⁴ who fulfilled the conditions as to lack of means and incapability laid down in the 1943 Act and who were awarded a medal in respect of membership of the *IRA, Fianna Eireann, Cumann na mBan* and *Irish Citizen Army* continuously for the three months ending on the 11 July 1921.

Thus, persons with no active service were now entitled to a monetary award, once the conditions set out in the Act, as to their lack of means and incapability of self-support by reason of permanent infirmity of mind or body, were proven.

Section 41 of the *Army Pensions Act, 1953* also extended eligibility in respect of any period of service from 23 April 1916 to 11 July 1921 for which a military service certificate had been granted.

¹ Approved by Government, 26 May 1942 S.12776- 2/75446.Part 1/ 41

² 2/75446 Part 1. /39 dated 18 May 1942 and S12776 dated 26 May 1942

³ Army Pensions Act, 1943 Section 7. (persons were means tested and had to be incapable of self-support)

⁴ Army Pensions Act, 1946 Section 14