

## Impact of legislation

Certain changes in the legislation relating to the Army Pensions Acts had a profound impact on the numbers applying for service pensions and/or the service medal. The first such change occurred under Section 14 of the Act, 1946 which extended the scope of special allowances, already provided for in the case of 1916 Medal holders, to include persons who were the holders of duly awarded medals in respect of membership of the listed organisations during the three months ended 11 July 1921.

Other pertinent amendments include that of 1949 which made the allowance subject to periodic review. In 1953 the scope of qualified persons was amended and included a review of means at the Minister's discretion. In 1959, Section 6 of the Act sets out the rates payable to persons over 70 years of age and of persons under 70 years of age, having regard to marital status and dependants. Further increases in the rates of special allowances were provided for in Acts from 1961 to 1964.



In effect, the provision for payment of an allowance to qualifying holders of the Service (1917-1921) Medal significantly increased the numbers applying for the medal, either through an application for a service certificate or solely for the medal itself. For example, in the eight years to 1967 the average number of applications received for the medal was 772 per year. Following the provision of a free electricity allowance, free travel, a free monochrome TV licence and a radio licence for qualifying veterans in the Government Budget for 1968, a three fold increase in applications for the medal is recorded at 2,326 in 1968/69. In the following decade the average number of applications is recorded at an average of 406 per year.