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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

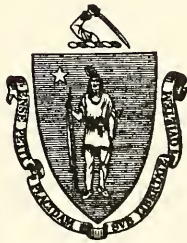
COMMISSIONER

OF

STATE AID AND PENSIONS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1931



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JANUARY 9, 1932.

To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives:

In conformity with the requirements of Chapter 115, Section 2, General Laws, I herewith submit to your honorable bodies the annual report of the Department of State Aid and Pensions, the part relating to State and Military Aid and burials being for the year 1930, and that portion relating to pensions and to Hospital or Home Care covering the year 1931.

Very respectfully,

RICHARD R. FLYNN,
Commissioner.

ANNUAL REPORT

STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES

Disbursements of State and Military Aid to soldiers, sailors and marines of the Civil and Spanish Wars, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Border Service and the War with Germany, and their dependents, and for the burial of soldiers, sailors and marines of the Civil and Spanish Wars, the Philippine Insurrection, the Indian Campaigns, the Mexican Border Service and the War with Germany, and army nurses, by 269 cities and towns in the Commonwealth during the year 1930,—reimbursement being due and payable to the disbursing municipalities on or before November 10, 1931—were as follows:

State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Civil War	\$118,581.30
State Aid to soldiers and dependents, War with Spain	18,940.00
State Aid to soldiers and dependents, Philippine Service	5,124.00
State Aid to soldiers and dependents, German War Service	28,745.25
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Civil War	342.00
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, War with Spain	2,523.50
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Philippine Service	728.50
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, Mexican Border Service	1,579.75
Military Aid to soldiers and sailors, German War Service	55,178.00
Burial expenses of soldiers and their dependents	6,731.37
Total for 1930	\$238,473.67

These figures show an increase of \$36,915.64 over 1929, which is due to the passage of Chapter 196, Acts of 1930. This act increased the amount of the State allowance to veterans and their dependents from \$6.00 to \$10.00 a month, but not more than \$20.00 can be paid to the dependents of any one veteran.

State Aid

The total number of State Aid recipients, Civil War, for 1930, was 1,536, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 234; decrease, 59.

Wives, 5.

Widows, 1,279; decrease, 226.

Children, 18; decrease, 1.

Total, 1,536.

Net decrease of recipients during 1930, 286.

Average cost to State per person aided, \$77.20+.

The total number of State Aid recipients, Spanish War, for 1930, was 268, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 85; increase, 13.
 Wives, 4.
 Widows, 155; increase, 25.
 Mothers, 23; decrease, 3.
 Army nurses, 1.
 Total, 268.

Net increase of recipients during 1930, 35.
 Average cost to State per person aided, \$70.67+.

The total number of State Aid recipients, Philippine Insurrection Service, for 1930, was 78, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 28; increase, 3.
 Widows, 39; increase, 14.
 Mothers, 11; increase, 4.
 Total, 78.

Net increase of recipients during 1930, 21.
 Average cost to State per person aided, \$65.69+.

The total number of recipients of State Aid, War with Germany, for 1930, was 410, classified as follows:

Soldiers, 70; increase, 50.
 Wives, 5; increase, 2.
 Widows, 253; increase, 81.
 Mothers, 32; increase, 12.
 Fathers, 1.
 Children, 48; increase, 3.
 Army nurses, 1.
 Total, 410.

Net increase of recipients during 1930, 148.
 Average cost to State per person aided, \$70.11+.

Military Aid

Military Aid to the amount of \$60,351.75, an increase of \$13,277.93 over 1929, was disbursed as follows:

Civil War soldiers, 5; decrease, 1.
 Spanish War soldiers, 31; decrease, 5.
 Philippine Insurrection soldiers, 7; decrease, 7.
 Mexican Border Service soldiers, 10.
 German War soldiers, 480; increase, 89.
 German War army nurses, 1; increase, 1.
 German War electricians, 1.

CIVIL WAR:—Amount expended, classes 1 and 2	\$342.00
Average cost to State per person aided, \$68.40.	
Amount expended, classes 3 and 4, none.	
SPANISH WAR:—Amount expended, classes 1 and 2	2,243.50
Average cost to State per person aided, \$74.78+.	
Amount expended, classes 3 and 4	280.00
Average cost to State per person aided, \$280.00.	
PHILIPPINE INS. SERVICE:—Amount expended, classes 1 and 2	728.50
Average cost to State per person aided, \$104.07+.	
Amount expended, classes 3 and 4, none.	
MEXICAN BORDER SERVICE:—Amount expended, classes 1 and 2	1,579.75
Average cost to State per person aided, \$157.97+.	
Amount expended, classes 3 and 4, none.	
GERMAN WAR SERVICE:—Amount expended, classes 1 and 2	55,178.00
Average cost to State per person aided, \$114.47+.	
Amount expended, classes 3 and 4, none.	
Total	\$60,351.75

Burials

During the year 1930, 77 burial claims were approved at an expense to the Commonwealth of \$6,731.37, classified as follows:

Civil War:—			
Soldiers	12	Decrease	16
Wives	1		
Widows	39	Decrease	27
Total	52		
Indian Campaigns:—			
Soldiers	2	Increase	2
Total	2		
Spanish War:—			
Soldiers	13	Increase	4
Mothers	1	Decrease	1
Wives	1	Increase	1
Total	15		
Philippine Insurrection:—			
Soldiers	2		
Total	2		
Mexican Border Service:—			
Soldiers	1	Increase	1
Total	1		
German War:—			
Soldiers	5	Increase	1
Fathers	0	Decrease	1
Total	5		

Net decrease during 1930, 36.

Average cost to State per burial, \$87.42+.

HOSPITAL OR HOME CARE OF CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS, THEIR WIVES AND WIDOWS.

The appropriation for the year 1931 under Chapter 340, Acts of 1929, was \$55,000.00, and the following is a table of beneficiaries and the amounts paid from December 1, 1930, to November 30, 1931, inclusive:

	<i>Number</i>			<i>Amount</i>
	<i>Soldiers</i>	<i>Widows</i>	<i>of Cases</i>	
December	11	100	111	\$4,595.25
January	10	101	111	4,173.00
February	11	101	112	4,312.05
March	10	97	107	4,148.00
April	9	97	106	4,231.26
May	8	99	107	4,265.82
June	8	103	111	4,725.22
July	8	102	110	4,684.68
August	9	101	110	4,226.84
September	7	102	109	4,074.27
October	7	111	118	4,678.54
November	7	121	128	5,650.97
Total				\$53,765.90

This total shows an increase of \$5,780.41 over last year's expenditure, which is due to the increase in the number of needy, aged applicants.

Total Payments of State Aid

The total payments by the Commonwealth for State and Military Aid and burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, including appropriations made by the General Court toward maintenance and improvement of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, and on account of special laws, from 1861 to the close of 1930, were		\$52,031,993.30
State and Military Aid and burial of soldiers and sailors on account of 1930, paid in 1931		238,473.67
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		\$52,270,466.97
Less State Aid refund on account of current year		30.00
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		\$52,270,436.97
Less refunds on account of State and Military Aid, payments of previous years		60.00
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		\$52,270,376.97
Less refunds on account of Chapter 340, Acts of 1929, payments of previous years		586.00
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		\$52,269,790.97
Special Laws:		
Chapter 340, Acts 1929	\$53,425.90	
Soldiers' Home, 1931, expenses, Chapter 115, Acts 1930	230,000.00	
Chapter 115, Acts 1930, certain improvements:		
1930	\$6,000.00	
1931	6,690.54	
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	12,690.54	
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		296,116.44
Total November 30, 1931		<hr/>
		\$52,565,907.41

Bounties and Gratuities

Total payments of bounties on account of soldiers in Civil War to date	\$17,872,859.82	
Gratuities (Acts 1912, Ch. 702; Acts 1913, Ch. 105 and Ch. 443)	572,250.00	
Gratuities (General Acts 1919, Ch. 283 and Ch. 342)	18,514,554.48	
Spanish American War Service	149.60	
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		36,959,813.90
Total November 30, 1931		<hr/>
		\$89,525,721.31

STATE LEGISLATION OF 1931

Chapter 248, Acts of 1931, extends the benefits of the State and Military Aid law and the Soldiers' Relief law to veterans of the Indian wars or campaigns, and also to their wives, widows and certain dependents, thus giving to them and their dependents the same rights as are given to veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish War, the Philippine Insurrection and the World War, and their dependents. The principal requirements of this act are that the veteran must have actually resided in Massachusetts at the time of his enlistment and must be in receipt of a United States pension for service in Indian wars or campaigns. The widow of an Indian war veteran

also must be in receipt of a United States pension to receive the benefit of these laws, and for State Aid purposes she must have been married to her soldier husband prior to March 4, 1917. This act is printed below.

CHAPTER 248.

AN ACT EXTENDING THE BENEFITS OF STATE AND MILITARY AID AND SOLDIERS' RELIEF TO VETERANS OF THE INDIAN WARS OR CAMPAIGNS, THEIR WIVES, WIDOWS AND DEPENDENTS.

SECTION 1. Section six of chapter one hundred and fifteen of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter two hundred and nineteen of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "therein" in the forty-fourth line, as printed in chapter three hundred and fifty-seven of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-four, the following new paragraph:—Invalid pensioners of the United States who served under the authority or by the approval of the United States or any state or territory in any Indian war or campaign, or in connection with or in the zone of any active Indian hostilities in any of the states or territories of the United States prior to January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, having enlisted in said service while an inhabitant of a town in this commonwealth and actually residing therein;

SECTION 2. Said section six of said chapter one hundred and fifteen, as so amended, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "therefrom" in the ninetieth line, as so printed, the following new paragraph:—The wives of invalid pensioners who served in the Indian wars or campaigns, and the widows of soldiers dying in such service, or after honorable discharge therefrom and while in receipt of a pension from the United States;

SECTION 3. Said chapter one hundred and fifteen, as most recently amended in section seven by section one of chapter two hundred and thirty-three of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty, is hereby further amended by striking out said section seven and inserting in place thereof the following:—*Section 7.* The wife of a discharged soldier or sailor shall not be held to belong to any of the foregoing classes, nor shall she receive state aid unless, if the service of the soldier or sailor was in the war with Spain, the Philippine Insurrection or the China Relief Expedition, she was married to him before his final discharge from such service, and, if his widow, before September first, nineteen hundred and twenty-two, and if his service was in the civil war unless she was, if his wife, married to him prior to his final discharge from such service, and, if his widow, prior to June twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and ninety, and if the service of the soldier was in any Indian war or campaign unless she was, if his wife, married to him prior to his final discharge from such service, and, if his widow, prior to March fourth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, and if the service of the soldier or sailor was on the Mexican border or in the world war unless she was, if his wife, married to him prior to his final discharge from the service or release from active duty therein, and, if his widow, prior to January first, nineteen hundred and twenty-eight.

SECTION 4. The second paragraph of section ten of said chapter one hundred and fifteen, as most recently amended by section four of chapter one hundred and fifty-five of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-eight, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "wars" in the thirtieth line the words:—, Indian wars or campaigns,—so as to read as follows:—First Class, Each person of the first class shall have his settlement in the town aiding him; shall have served as a soldier, sailor or nurse in the manner and under the limitations prescribed in the first class of section six; shall have been honorably discharged or released from active duty in such United States service and from all appointments and enlistments therein; shall be poor and indigent and, by reason of sickness or other physical disability, in such need as would entitle him to relief under chapter one hundred and seventeen; shall not be, directly or indirectly, in receipt of any other state or military aid, or of any pension for services rendered or disabilities incurred either in the civil or Spanish wars, Indian wars or campaigns, the

Philippine Insurrection, the China Relief Expedition, Mexican border service or world war service as defined in section six. The disability must have arisen from causes independent of his military or naval service aforesaid.

SECTION 5. Section seventeen of said chapter one hundred and fifteen, as most recently amended by chapter one hundred and ninety-two of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "war" in the seventh line the following:—, or a pensioner of the United States who served under the authority or by the approval of the United States or any state or territory in any Indian war or campaign, or in connection with or in the zone of any active Indian hostilities in any of the states or territories of the United States prior to January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight,—so as to read as follows:—*Section 17.* If a person who served in the army or navy of the United States in the war of the rebellion, in the army, navy or marine corps in the war with Spain or the Philippine insurrection between April twenty-first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and July fourth, nineteen hundred and two, or in the army, navy or marine corps in the world war, or a pensioner of the United States who served under the authority or by the approval of the United States or any state or territory in any Indian war or campaign, or in connection with or in the zone of any active Indian hostilities in any of the states or territories of the United States prior to January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and received an honorable discharge from all enlistments therein, and who has a legal settlement in a town in the commonwealth, becomes poor and wholly or partly unable to provide maintenance for himself, his wife or minor children under sixteen years of age or for a dependent father or mother, unless such condition is the result of his own criminal or wilful misconduct, or if such person dies leaving a widow or minor children under sixteen years of age, or minor children over sixteen but under eighteen years of age who attend school or are incapacitated for work, or a dependent father or mother without proper means of support, such support as may be necessary shall be accorded to him or his said dependents by the town where they or any of them have a legal settlement, and his said dependents, in the case of his death, shall not be deemed ineligible to receive said support by reason of criminal or wilful misconduct on his part at any time during his life-time; but should such person have all the said qualifications except settlement, if he served in the war of the rebellion, or in the army, navy or marine corps in the war with Spain or the Philippine insurrection between said dates, his widow, who has acquired a legal settlement in her own right before August twelfth, nineteen hundred and sixteen, which settlement has not been defeated or lost, or if he served in the world war and at the time of his decease was a legal resident of this commonwealth, his widow, who has a legal settlement and who has not remarried, and his minor children under sixteen years of age, and those over sixteen but under eighteen years of age who attend school or are incapacitated for work, shall also be eligible to receive relief under this section. Any crippled, blind or helpless child, whether a minor or adult, of a deceased person who served in the army or navy of the United States in the war of the rebellion, or in the war with Spain or the Philippine insurrection between April twenty-first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight and July fourth, nineteen hundred and two, and received an honorable discharge from all enlistments therein, if such child is receiving a pension from the United States and is not otherwise eligible to receive relief under this section, shall also be eligible as aforesaid. Such relief shall be furnished by the aldermen or selectmen, or, in Boston, by the soldiers' relief commissioner, subject, however, to the direction of the city council of said city as to the amount to be paid. The beneficiary shall receive said relief at home, or at such other place as the aldermen, selectmen or soldiers' relief commissioner deem proper, but he shall not be compelled to receive the same at an infirmary or public institution unless his physical or mental condition requires, or, if a minor, unless his parents or guardian so elect.

If an applicant for military aid or soldiers' relief has a settlement outside of the town where the application is made, the official required to act thereon shall, within three days, notify the corresponding official in the town of the applicant's settlement, and also the commissioner. If the town of settlement of an applicant for soldiers' relief unreasonably delays in aiding the applicant after receipt of said notice, the town of the applicant's residence shall forthwith grant such aid as the commissioner may order, and the town so granting such aid shall be reimbursed in full therefor by the town of the applicant's settlement. Any town official required to act on such order of the commissioner who refuses and neglects to comply therewith shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five nor more than one hundred dollars.

This section shall also apply to army nurses who served in the army hospitals of the United States during the civil war and are entitled to state aid under section six and to army nurses and their dependents as specified herein who served in the army, navy or marine corps during the war with Spain or during the Philippine insurrection between April twenty-first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and July fourth, nineteen hundred and two, or during the world war. (*Approved April 28, 1931.*)

Chapter 324, Acts of 1931, established the office of Second Deputy Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions, and His Excellency the Governor appointed to this position Dennis H. Haverty, World War veteran who for many years held the position of State Adjutant of the American Legion. Mr. Haverty is very capably fulfilling the duties of his position, and by reason of his experience in dealing with veterans, he will be a very valuable officer in this department. Chapter 324, Acts of 1931, is printed below.

CHAPTER 324.

AN ACT FURTHER DEFINING THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS AND ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF SECOND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS.

SECTION 1. Chapter six of the General Laws, as amended in section twenty-two by section one of chapter three hundred and sixty-eight of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-three, is hereby further amended by striking out said section twenty-two and inserting in place thereof the following:—*Section 22.* There shall be an officer to be known as the commissioner of state aid and pensions, who shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, for three years, at such salary, not exceeding five thousand dollars, as the governor and council shall determine. He shall devote his whole time to the duties of his office. He shall be state agent for the settlement of pension, bounty, back pay, compensation and other claims of citizens of the commonwealth against the government of the United States, or of any state thereof, on account of military or naval service, and he shall assist and advise war veterans, and their dependents, heirs or legal representatives, with respect to the filing, prosecution and settlement of such claims.

SECTION 2. Said chapter six, as amended in section twenty-four by chapter one hundred and ninety-four of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-nine, is hereby further amended by striking out said section and inserting in place thereof the following:—*Section 24.* The governor, with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint a deputy and a second deputy commissioner of state aid and pensions for three years, who shall devote their whole time to the duties of their offices. They shall receive such salaries as may be fixed by the commissioner of state aid and pensions, subject to the approval of the governor and council, and shall be subject to the direction and control of said commissioner. The deputy commissioner, or in case of a vacancy in his office or in his absence or disability the second deputy commissioner, shall perform the duties of said commissioner during his absence on account of disability or other cause. (*Approved May 16, 1931.*)

During the year 1931, the sum of \$221.60 was expended from the "Spanish American War Reimbursement Fund,"—Chapter 280, Acts of 1928—leaving a balance of \$462.95 on December 1, 1931.

PERSONNEL.

We have received cordial cooperation from the United States Veterans' Bureau, Washington, D. C., and from its Regional Office in Boston, which has resulted in prompter and better service for the veterans, and our thanks are due to these agencies for their courtesy and assistance.

Colonel Frank P. Williams, Surgeon General of the Commonwealth, and his office staff are, as always, rendering excellent service in their physical examinations of applicants for Military Aid, and in giving medical advice in behalf of the veterans.

The Chief Medical Officers of the United States Naval Hospital at Chelsea, and their assistants, and the officials of the United States Veterans' Hospitals at Rutland, Bedford and Northampton have also assisted us in the cases of those veterans in their hospitals not in receipt of Government compensation or allowance, who sought Military Aid for themselves or Soldiers' Relief for their families.

Our agents made 6,117 calls during 1931, as follows: 576 veterans were visited at various Government hospitals; 99 Soldiers' Relief appeals were investigated as to their worthiness; 4 pension applications were prepared at the homes of the applicants; 11 burial cases required special investigation; 321 cases of applicants for aid under Chapter 340, Acts of 1929, were investigated; 1058 Soldiers' Relief cases were investigated at the request of officials of the various municipalities; and 4,048 cases of applicants and recipients of State and Military Aid were investigated. These Soldiers' Relief investigations have worked to the benefit of the veterans, whose rights to receive relief from their places of settlement were thereby established.

PENSION DIVISION.

The total number of United States pension claims filed during the year ending December 31, 1931, was 2,064, classified as follows:—

Soldiers, General Law, Original	28
Soldiers, General Law, Increase	12
Soldiers, Act May 1, 1920, Civil War, Original	1
Soldiers, Act June 9, 1930, Civil War, Increase	28
Soldiers, Act March 3, 1927, Indian Wars, Original	9
Soldiers, Act March 3, 1927, Indian Wars, Increase	8
Soldiers, Act June 2, 1930, Spanish War, Original	286
Soldiers, Act June 2, 1930, Spanish War, Increase	1,343
Nurses, Act June 2, 1930, Spanish War	1
Soldiers, Act July 3, 1930, World War, Original	13
Soldiers, Act July 3, 1930, World War, Veterans' Notes	11
Widows, General Law	5
Widows, Act May 1, 1920, amended by Act June 9, 1930, Civil War	70
Widows, Act May 1, 1926, Spanish War	96
Widows, Act March 3, 1927, Indian Wars	16
Wives, Act March 3, 1899, One-half Pension	9
Mothers	4
Fathers	1
Guardians	19
Reimbursement	62
Unendorsed checks	26
Bond of Indemnity, lost check	1
New pension certificates	3
Certificates in lieu of lost discharge	11
Ten years' service pension	1
Total	2,064
Number of claims allowed	1,732
Number of claims rejected	295
Amount collected	\$123,818.58

It is a source of gratification to the State that the United States Pension Bureau has approved these claims, and that these veterans and dependents are now in receipt of pension. Among the claims allowed were two cases in which the first check amounted to more than \$1,000, one of these cases being that of a Civil War soldier's widow whose first check amounted to more than \$3,100.

In addition to the claims filed above, this department executes affidavits for persons who have filed claims through other attorneys, and advises as to the method of procedure in order to complete these claims. We also execute vouchers in cases in which payment is made to the guardian or conservator, and in cases in which the pension is divided between the soldier and his wife. This Pension Division is maintained primarily for soldiers, sailors and their dependents having a residence in the Commonwealth. A great many inquiries regarding United States pension laws have been received from persons residing in other States, however, and we have furnished the desired information. There is no expense to the claimants for the prosecution of claims, or for blanks or postage. No pension legislation was enacted in 1931.

The thanks of this department are due to General Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, Mr. E. W. Morgan, United States Pension Director, Dr. A. D. Wilkinson, Administrative Assistant, and the entire pension staff at Washington, D. C., for their ready cooperation and careful consideration of our claims. The Commissioner also takes pleasure in acknowledging the courtesies extended to him, and through him to the Commonwealth, by the officials of the United States Pension Bureau at Washington, D. C., on the occasion of his visit during the year.