



DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS

Overseas Volunteer Aid Detachment Personnel

May 2002

Vol. 9 No. 5

DID YOU KNOW . that more than 230 young women volunteered to go overseas with St. John Ambulance Canada during World War II and the Korean War as Volunteer Aid Detachment (VAD) Personnel? Many of these young women worked in the hospitals, worked as ambulance drivers, suppliers, etc..., leaving their families and loved ones here in Canada in order to be of help to the war effort.

St. John Ambulance Canada is attempting to contact all St. John Ambulance Volunteer Aid Detachment Personnel who served overseas during World War II and the Korean War. All VADs should be informed of recent changes to legislation may now entitle them to be eligible for benefits through Veterans Affairs Canada. Outlined below is a general overview of the changes most relevant to St. John Ambulance Overseas Volunteers.

Pension for Disabilities & Pension for Survivors

Members of civilian groups who served overseas in close support of the armed forces, such as St. John Ambulance, now qualify for veterans' benefits on the same basis as armed forces veterans.

Income Support

A monthly income support allowance, called the War Veterans Allowance, is available to qualified veterans and civilians whose income is below a certain level.

Health Care

Recently, significant health care enhancements were extended to veterans and specific civilian groups. In particular, the Veterans Independence Program (VIP) was extended to those qualified civilian groups, such as St. John Ambulance Overseas Volunteers, based on an income test.

Service Medals

Overseas Volunteers may also be eligible for various Service Medals and are encouraged to contact Veterans Affairs Canada Honours & Awards Section.

The women who served overseas during the War, are now in their 80's, and some are in their 90's. Due to the age of these Volunteers, St. John Ambulance Canada, through Veterans Affairs Canada, has employed an individual to specifically focus on contacting these volunteers to inform them of the extension of pension benefits to which they may be eligible. Much of the contact information we are working with dates back from the early 1950's. Despite this, we have managed to contact a number of our VAD's

If you know of someone who served as a St. John Ambulance Volunteer during WW II, please have them contact Patricia Kearney at 613-236-7461, ext.- 279 so they can access benefits to which they may be entitled.

The website address for Veterans Affairs Canada is: www.vac-acc.gc.ca