

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
Washington 25, D.C.

December 14, 1954

Office of
Deputy Administrator
Department of Veterans Benefits

PERSONAL ATTENTION

Mr. Donald F. Pepper
Manager
VA Regional Office
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Pepper:

This is in further reference to the review of compensation and pension cases conducted pursuant to my letter of April 2, 1954.

The review is hereby extended and if necessary, corrective action will be taken in the following classes of compensation and pension cases:
(a) All running award service-connected World War II and Regular Establishment cases of veterans less than 55 years of age, and (b) All non-service-connected running award cases of veterans less than 55 years of age.

No completion date will be set. However, it is expected that the review will proceed as rapidly as possible without undue interference with the normal work. As a matter of assistance in conducting the review, those cases in which examinations or re-examinations are scheduled, and those which are otherwise subject to recall at future dates, need not be reviewed until the maturity date. Any cases included in the review coming to attention of the rating board at any time will be reviewed.

The first object of the review is to make certain that the provisions of VA Regulation 1185 are properly applied on an individual case basis, in a reasonable and realistic manner. This means that every case in which examination or re-examination has not been scheduled will be reviewed in order to determine (1) whether at the time the case was last rated the exact nature of the condition or conditions had been definitely established, and (2) Whether the condition or conditions had reached a stationary level.

In subparagraphs (A) and (B) (1) (a) of VA Regulation 1185, it is provided affirmatively that re-examinations are to be conducted periodically, IN CASES in which disability is likely to improve materially in the future,

It follows, therefore, that whether re-examination is to be waived in a particular case pursuant to subparagraph (B) (a) (b) or (c) depends first upon a determination that the case is not one of those to which subparagraph (A) applies.

The second purpose of the review, and equally important, is to gain assurance that the adjudication of each case is sound in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, that veterans are not denied benefits to which they are entitled, and that cases are not maintained on the rolls if the ratings pursuant to which they were added to the rolls were clearly and unmistakably erroneous.

It is required that the review by the Adjudication Division be conducted in addition to the regular work at the rate at which it is found possible to proceed. It is not anticipated at present that overtime may be authorized for the purpose of this review.

Essential medical treatment and examination services now being provided will not be curtailed in order to perform the re-examination required in this review.

Further needed instructions as to the details of the review and method of reporting will be furnished as required. This letter has the concurrence of the Chief Medical Director.

Sincerely yours,

/a/ Ralph H. Stone
RALPH H. STONE

Deputy Administrator for Veterans Benefits