



**War work of the Census and Statistics
Office**

**Report by Government Statistician Malcolm Fraser,
November 1919**

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CENSUS AND STATISTICS OFFICE.

WELLINGTON, 14th November, 1919.

The Under-Secretary,
Dept. of Internal Affairs,
WELLINGTON.

In reference to the attached I now enclose (in duplicate) a statement showing the war activities of this Office.

I trust this will fill the requirements of the compiler of the Historical War Records.

Malcolm Fraser
Government Statistician

Enclosure

----- C E N S U S A N D S T A T I S T I C S O F F I C E . -----

Return showing the number of Reservists compulsorily called up
under the Military Service Act, 1916.

Ballot No.	Number authorized by Warrant (Minister of Defence)					Date drawing started	Date drawing finished	Time taken	Number actually called up by Gazette				Total	Date Gazette Published
	First Division	Second Division			Total				First Division	Second Division				
		Class A	Class B	Class C						Class A	Class B	Class C		
1	4140				4140	16.11.16	18.11.16	20hr. 15m.	4024				4024	23.11.1916
2	3020				3020	11.12.16	12.12.16	8hr. 30m.	2886				2886	14.12.1916
3	3636				3636	8. 1.17	8.1.17	6hr. 30m.	3514				3514	12.1.1917
4	6867				6867	5.2.17	6.2.17	9hr. 5m.	6581				6581	13.2.1917
5	4503				4503	5.3.17	6.3.17	5hr. 45m.	4311				4311	13.3.1917
6	4812				4812	10.4.17	11.4.17	6hr. 5m.	4573				4573	17.4.1917
7	8530				8530	1.5.17	2.5.17	10hr. 5m.	8066				8066	8.5.1917
8	8545				8545	29.5.17	30.5.17	9hr. 20m.	8001				8001	6.6.1917
9	8117				8117	26.6.17	26.6.17	10hr. 15m.	7588				7588	4.7.1917
10	15000				15000	21.8.17	23.8.17	19hr. 30m.	14050				14050	3.9.1917
11	9500				9500	N O T B A L L O T E D			8320				8320	2.10.1917
12	1500	5000			6500	29.10.17	29.10.17	5hr. 5m.	1410	4627			6037	6.11.1917
13	1000	5000			6000	26.11.17	26.11.17	5hr. 10m.	698	4828			5526	4.12.1917
14	1000	4000			5000	N O T B A L L O T E D			822	3494			4316	15.1.1918
15	1500	500			2000	N O T B A L L O T E D			978	255			1233	19.2.1918
16	600	100			700	N O T B A L L O T E D			486	78			564	26.3.1918
17	800	100	10000		10900	16.4.18	17.4.18	10hr. 5m.	514	35	9769		10318	25.4.1918
18	600	100	8000		8700	N O T B A L L O T E D			509	33	7559		8101	21.5.1918
19	600	100	100	10000	10800	10.6.18	11.6.18	8hr. 55m.	490	38	57	9816	10401	19.6.1918
20	600	100	100	5000	5800	16.7.18	16.7.18	4hr. 30m.	574	32	36	4936	5578	24.7.1918
21	600	100	100	5000	5800	12.8.18	12.8.18	4hr. 25m.	434	23	30	4912	5399	21.8.1918
22	600	100	100	4000	4800	N O T B A L L O T E D			507	13	12	3874	4406	18.9.1918
Totals	86,070	15,200	18,400	24,000	143,670				79,336	13,456	17,463	23,538	133,793	

War Work of The Census and Statistics Office.

The war activities of the Census and Statistics Office may be classed under two distinct heads, namely, special statistical work necessitated by the conditions arising out of the war, and the direct war effort in the administration of the National Registration and Military Service Acts; the work of administering the Registration of Aliens Act, although not strictly a war effort is allied thereto and will be dealt with in that class.

Statistical Work. War was declared on 4th August 1914 and the economic conditions resulting very soon after sharply accentuated the importance of having reliable statistics. Particulars as to the production, consumption and resources of the Dominion in all directions were required and owing to the comparative unimportance previously attached to statistics, the Office was not readily able to meet the various demands made. The first special demand was made on the Office in November 1914 when the position as to the wheat supply of the Dominion became acute. Between November 1914 and October 1915 no fewer than five censuses of stocks of flour, wheat, and oats in the Dominion were taken; monthly returns of threshings from all threshing mill owners in the Dominion were also instituted; fortnightly returns of wholesale prices of agricultural produce were collected and for a short period until the establishment of the Department of Imperial Government Supplies the Office collected and dealt with returns weekly from all meat-freezing Companies.

In 1917 statistics as to stocks of coal were instituted quarterly and these have been continued ever since. Special censuses of stocks of other commodities have also been taken, the complete list of collections other than in respect of stocks of wheat, flour, and oats, which now form a regular part of the annual collection of Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics, being as follows:-

Item	Date of Regulation	Date of Gazette	Page of Gazette	Date of Census
Coal	20/4/17	26/4/17	1406	30/4/17 31/7/17 31/10/17 31/1/18 30/4/18 31/7/19 31/10/18 31/1/19

Item	Date of Regulations	Date of Gazette	Page of Gazette	Date of Census
Coal (Cont'd)				30/4/19 31/7/19 31/10/19
Print-plates, &c.	22/5/17	24/5/17	2123	31/5/17 31/8/17 30/11/17
Oils	25/8/17	30/8/17	3341	31/8/17
Oils (including shipments)	13/11/17	15/11/17	4236	30/11/17
Turnip, Swede and Rape Seed	6/4/18	11/4/18	1015	13/4/18
Rop ng and Seaming Twine	22/6/18	27/6/18	2433	29/6/18
Drugs and medical Requisites	14/5/18	22/5/19	1489	21/5/19

For the actual work of issuing the forms and collecting the returns in practically all these cases the existing organization of the Post and Telegraph Department was used, and the efficiency and expedition with which the postal officers concerned carried out that part of the work was greatly appreciated.

Direct War Effort. In 1915^{when} the prolonged nature of the struggle between the great European nations was beginning to be realised, the extent to which the Dominion was committed for the supply of men, &c., made it desirable that more particular information regarding the Dominion's resources in man-power should be obtained, and accordingly the National Registration Act was passed in 1915. This Act required the Statistician to compile a National Register of Men from personal schedules which had to be supplied by all males between the ages of 17 and 60. The personal schedules were collected through the agency of the Post and Telegraph Department in October and November 1915. The total number of these received was 303,704, and with the exception of the small staff which could then be provided by the Census and Statistics Office the Post and Telegraph Department also supplied the staff for the compilation of the National Register and the statistical tables set out in Parliamentary Paper H35, completed in March 1916. From this Register the Office compiled local rolls (over 300) for each county, borough and town district in New Zealand. These rolls were supplied to local Recruiting committees to assist them in a personal canvass of their

districts for recruits in a final effort to maintain on the voluntary principle the strength of the regular reinforcements required for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Despite all efforts, however, the canvass failed to provide a sufficient number of recruits and the conviction that some measure of compulsion was necessary became general.

The Military Service Act providing for the compulsory military service of natural-born British subjects in New Zealand was passed on the 1st August 1916. The administration of this Act so far as it related to the enrolment, classification, and balloting of reservists was carried out by the Census and Statistics Office. Immediately the names of reservists drawn in the ballot were gazetted by the Government Statistician, the Defence Department took up the work, issued the notices for medical examination, mobilisation, &c., and made all necessary arrangements subsequent to the gazetting. In connection with the enrolment of the Reserve the Government Statistician was authorised to use the National Register or any other available source of information in compiling the registers.

The necessary organization for the enrolment of the Reserve was at once taken in hand. The various forms for the use of reservists were drafted and printed without delay, and were immediately distributed to every post office throughout the Dominion with an explanatory memorandum prepared specially for the guidance and instruction of postal and other officers who would be required to assist in the enrolment of reservists. A very extensive publicity campaign was organized so as to bring the requirements of the Act conspicuously before the male residents of the Dominion; advertisements were inserted in practically every newspaper, while explanatory articles were published in the news columns at short intervals.

The very great assistance and valuable services rendered by the Press of the Dominion in making the various provisions of the Act clear to all concerned was much appreciated by the Government. To the work done in this connection by the Press is due in no small measure the successful initiation of the scheme.

In addition to the Press notices large posters setting out concisely the obligations of reservists and employers were displayed at every post office, police station, and railway station, at wharves, &c., in shipping offices, shops, factories, and other public places; while copies of a small placard (a facsimile of the large poster) were exhibited in all tramcars, railway carriages, coastal boats, &c., and in the larger centres were delivered by the postal carriers into every household. The obligations, &c., of reservists and employers under the Act with directions as to how to discharge them were briefly set out on lantern slides and screened daily at all picture theatres.

The experience of the work on the National Register made it evident that the space occupied by the Census and Statistics Office in the Public Trust Building would be quite inadequate for carrying out the work arising under the Military Service Act, and while continuing to carry on part of the work there, four large rooms were secured in Routh's Building and the main staff with the Reserve Registers were transferred to the new offices.

The enrolment of the First and Second Divisions of the Reserve was proclaimed on the 1st and 2nd September 1916, respectively, and during the month of September 1916 enrolment cards, notifications of change of address, and applications for certificates of enrolment poured into the Office in enormous quantities daily. During the first three weeks of the month over 180,000 applications for certificates of enrolment and some 30,000 notifications of change of address were received. Some indication of the work involved in handling these will be gained from the fact that it took twentyone clerks to do nothing more than open the mail, which averaged ten large sacks per day, while the account for unpaid postages for the month amounted to over £2,500. Applications for certificates and notifications of change of address, particularly the latter, continued to arrive in considerable numbers during practically the whole time the Act remained in force.

For the preparation of the Register of the Reserve in accordance with the Regulations (See Gazette No.125 Nov.2nd 1916 p.3492) the first work undertaken was to extract from the National Register the

cards of all reservists included therein (i.e. natural-born British subjects of military age, &c.) this necessitating the examination of over 300,000 schedules received under the National Registration Act. The mere examination of these schedules was in itself a tremendous task, for if it had had to be completed by one clerk working ordinary office hours, and devoting only two minutes to each card it would have taken him over five years to accomplish the task. In addition to this, however, these schedules had to be separated into two groups according to whether the reservist was in the first or second Division and then all changes of address received (over 80,000 before the first ballot) had to be recorded on the respective schedules to which they applied and the reservists in the First Division classified according to the twentyone Recruiting Districts into which the Dominion had been divided (See Gazette No.109, September 26th 1919, p.3123).

Notwithstanding the huge amount of work thus involved in preparing the Registers, and in training an inexperienced staff, the first ballot was drawn on 16th November 1916, exactly two months after the close of the enrolment period.

For the protection of reservists it was decided to issue "certificates of enrolment" to all men included in the Register, and this proved a colossal task in itself. In order to ensure that the certificates should reach the men to whom they really referred a personal delivery through the post offices of the Dominion was arranged for, and so that some proof of the holder's identity could be available at any subsequent inspection each reservist was required to sign his name in the margin of the certificate and also sign a receipt in the presence of the postal officer making the delivery, the receipt being returned to the Census and Statistics Office and placed on the reservist's file.

Over two hundred thousand applications for these certificates were sent in, each applicant indicating at which post office out of the two thousand three hundred odd in the Dominion it would be most convenient for him to receive his certificate. A preliminary postcard acknowledgment of these applications was issued

immediately on receipt, and the mere addressing of these postcards required a staff of approximately two hundred postal officers working three hours each evening during three weeks in September 1916.

Subsequently the applications had to be sorted according to the respective post offices, and those for each post office placed in alphabetical order.

While the applications were being sorted a large staff of typistes was engaged typing the certificates from the enrolment cards. As soon as these were completed the applications and the certificates had to be brought together and the latter scheduled and issued to the various post offices in the Dominion, a separate advice being at the same time sent to each reservist that his certificate was awaiting delivery.

The preparation and issue of these certificates which had to be carried out concurrently with the work of enrolment, balloting, &c., took much longer than was anticipated. The difficulty of the work was very greatly increased by the number of cases in which discrepancies were found between the name on the application and on the enrolment card of the same man.

In connection with this work invaluable assistance was rendered by Mr W.S. LaTrobe and Mr Bolton of the Wellington Technical School, in having a large part of the scheduling to Postmasters performed by the typewriting class attached to the school. The work, which was done voluntarily and gratuitously, was well and accurately carried out and very greatly helped to relieve the congestion at a particularly busy time, when the whole typing staff, accommodation, &c., were otherwise taxed to the utmost.

Second Division. The Act, while classifying the Reserve into the First and Second Divisions, also provided for either Division being subdivided into classes. No subdivision was made in the case of the First Division, but the Second Division was divided into six classes according to the number of a reservist's children, irrespective of age, as follows (See Gazette no. 111 July 4th 1917, p. 2697):-

Class A, no children
Class B, one child
Class C, two children
Class D, three children
Class E, four children
Class F, five children and over.

The children whom a reservist was entitled to count for the purpose of his classification were:-

- (1) His own legitimate children of any age.
- (2) His illegitimate children if he had married their mother before the first day of May 1915.
- (3) Children legally adopted by him before the first day of May 1915.
- (4) His step-children if he had married their mother before the first day of May 1915.
- (5) A son who had died during the war while a member of any of His Majesty's Military or Naval Forces engaged in the war.

He was not entitled, however, to count any child who had been legally adopted by any other person, and a reservist who failed to provide adequate maintenance for his children was placed in Class A and regarded for the purposes of the Act as having no children.

The classification of the Second Division was notified on the 4th July, 1917, and on the same day an Order in Council was made requiring every reservist who had not already done so to notify the Government Statistician by the 21st July of the names of his children, together with information as to the date and place of birth of each. Any future change in the number of children had to be notified within ten days.

Printed forms for the notification of the necessary particulars were made available at all post offices and reservists were given any necessary assistance in connection with the filling-in of the forms. A reservist was automatically transferred from one class to another whenever authentic notification was received of alterations in the number of his children. The Recruiting Districts were abolished, all Second Division ballots being for the Dominion as a whole.

The first ballot of Class A - that is, married men without children, was gazetted on the 5th November, 1917, just five weeks after the calling-up of the whole of the reservists then remaining in the First Division. Notwithstanding the efforts made by the Office to obtain full and complete particulars for

the classification of every reservist of the second Division, a number of those called up in the first ballot appealed on the ground that they were not reservists of Class A, thus showing that they had failed to notify the birth of a child or children since the date of furnishing their enrolment cards.

In order to make the classification of the Reserve as complete and correct as possible a postcard was then sent to every reservist in Class B advising that he was enrolled in this class and would be subject to the operation of the ballot, and requesting him at the same time, if the classification was incorrect, to furnish forthwith complete particulars on the proper form. When Class B was exhausted a similar postcard was sent to Class C reservists and later to those in Class C. The classification of a reservist was determined by the number of his children at the date he came under the operation of the ballot. A considerable number, therefore, had to be reclassified daily; an average of seventy forms giving particulars for classification were received per day for three months after the first ballot of Class A; a steady stream continued to come throughout the subsequent period.

The task of classifying the Second Division was in itself a particularly heavy one, but the preparation of Registers of Maoris in the North Island then in hand also helped to swell the troubles of an already overburdened staff, and, to crown all, the work at this period was further enormously increased by police action under section 44 in rounding up suspected First Division shirkers all over the Dominion, which had the effect of inundating the Office with telegrams and correspondence in regard to certificates of enrolment besides blocking the Office with personal local enquirers. During the rush of enquirers, plain clothes constables were on hand and quite a number of wanted or unregistered men were obtained from among the callers. The ordinary mail received on this account reached over 1,500 daily and at the same time the classification forms were being received at the rate of approximately 1,000 per day. The letters posted outward at the same time rose rapidly and reached over 1,000 per day; for the

four weeks prior to 13th August 1917 the weekly totals were:-

1st week	3,774
2nd week	4,659
3rd week	4,641
4th week	7,274
	<u>20,348</u>

The position was accentuated in that the staff had reached the limits of the accommodation available and no relief could be afforded by taking on more clerks even if suitable ones were to be got, which was not the case, and the position could only be met by working continuous overtime while the rush was on. So acute did the position become that as a result of representations made, the tenth ballot was postponed for a month and double the usual number drawn - practically two ballots in one. This was the only occasion on which the Office had to appeal for time to enable preparatory work to be completed.

Extension of Act to Maoris. The provisions of the Military Service Act were extended to Natives within the meaning of the Native Land Act, 1909, by Proclamation gazetted on the 26th June, 1917 and later regulations were gazetted constituting Native Recruiting Districts and directing the enrolment of the First Division of the Native Expeditionary Force Reserve. The constitution of the Native Recruiting Districts was gazetted on 2nd July 1917 providing for six recruiting districts in the North Island while the whole of the South Island for the purpose of calling up native reservists was deemed to be one district. Regulations as to the keeping of the Registers of Native reservists were gazetted on the 14th February 1918.

The method followed when enrolling Natives was entirely different to that adopted for the enrolment of the general Reserve. In the case of Natives, rolls for each county in New Zealand were compiled in the Census and Statistics Office from information in the possession of the Government Statistician. These rolls were then forwarded to Police Officers throughout the Dominion with instructions to carefully check and mark the names of First and Second Division reservists resident in their districts, and to make any alterations necessary from their local knowledge

and enquiries. Maoris who were married by Maori custom or otherwise before the 1st May 1915 were deemed to be Second Division reservists. These rolls when completed by the Police were returned to the Government Statistician and cards were written in the Census and Statistics Office and the Maori Registers made up. In all the Native Recruiting Districts with the exception of No. 2 (Waikato-Maniapoto) the quota for the Reinforcements was secured by voluntary enlistment, but in the Waikato-Maniapoto District a ballot was taken calling up 200 reservists and was gazetted on 7th May 1918. A further gazette containing 235 names of Native reservists from this District was gazetted on 25th June 1918.

The Ballot. The selection of men to fill the shortages in the Reinforcement drafts was made by ballot. A reservist drawn in the ballot became automatically a member of the Expeditionary Force on the day following the gazetting of his name, subject to his passing the medical test and to any appeal made on his behalf being disallowed.

Under the Act the ballot could be taken either for the Dominion as a whole or for particular Recruiting Districts, and in the latter case the selection could be done either separately or concurrently (See Gazette No. 125 Nov. 2nd 1916, p. 3493). For the first ten ballots the concurrent district scheme was adopted, but as the First Division became depleted, and as the Second Division was divided into classes it was deemed expedient to take subsequent ballots for the Dominion as a whole. Under the district scheme the country was divided into twentyone Recruiting Districts and the First Division of the Reserve into a corresponding number of District Registers (See Gazette No. 109 September 26th 1916, p. 3123). The original District Registers were not filed separately, the whole of the Division running in alphabetical order for the Dominion, and the district to which a reservist belonged being denoted by a distinctive number.

For the purposes of the ballot which was carried through by the Government Statistician in the presence of a magistrate, the cards composing the Division were arranged in boxes containing

equal numbers of cards, including a proportion of blanks, the latter being inserted to allow of replacement by cards for new reservists without a rearrangement being necessary. Similarly cards withdrawn were replaced by blanks. For district ballots all cards not belonging to the district or districts for which the ballot was being taken were regarded as blanks. The cards used in the ballots were the original cards furnished by the reservists themselves, hence there was never any doubt as to who was drawn. Owing to the number of changes in the Registers due to voluntary enlistment, &c., it was found after experience that the blanks could be omitted altogether and the Register specially counted and prepared immediately before each ballot.

Two drums of marbles were used - namely, the drawer-drum containing as many marbles as there were drawers in the Division, and the card-drum, containing as many marbles as there were cards to a drawer. The marbles were numbered in the one case to correspond with the numbers marked on the drawers, and in the other to run consecutively from 1 onwards. All the marbles in the drawer-drum were first withdrawn one by one to determine the order in which the drawers were to be taken should the ballot or part of it not be required over the whole of the drawers. The drawers were then arranged on tables in the order in which they were drawn, being reversed so that the backs of the cards were towards the attendants, who were thus not in a position to see the names of individuals. The card-drum was then revolved and one marble withdrawn. The number was called and recorded, and the attendants took the card corresponding to such number and turned it upright in its place in the drawer, with the number of the Recruiting District showing under the district scheme, but without the name of the reservist being visible either from front or from back. For the first ten ballots the next step was for the magistrate to remove all upturned cards bearing the number of the Recruiting District or Districts for which the ballot was being taken, first satisfying himself in such cases as he thought fit that the proper card had been turned up, these processes being repeated until the cards for the whole of the reservists required for

the respective district or districts had been withdrawn. The magistrate certified to the list of men drawn in the ballot and forwarded the list to the Minister of Defence, who thereupon published it in the Gazette. A copy of the Gazette containing the list was required to be exhibited at all post offices.

The ballot for Native reservists was conducted on similar lines.

First Division Ballots. The first ballot was commenced on the 16th November 1916 and completed on the 18th November. The shortage of recruits for the current Reinforcement draft was 1,380, and 4140 First Division reservists were drawn, being in the proportion of three reservists to one vacancy. As many of the reservists had already been rejected as unfit under the system of voluntary enlistment and as the percentage of single men likely to pass the medical test had been considerably reduced by the enlistment of fit men this proportion was considered to be not too high, after allowing also for appeals. As a matter of fact it was found advisable to increase it later on.

An amendment to the Military Service Act, passed in September 1917, provided that where the number remaining in any division or class of the Reserve was not more than the number required to be called up on account of current shortages, the ballot could be dispensed with. This provision was taken advantage of for the first time on the 25th September, 1917, when the whole of the reservists remaining in the First Division, some 8,404, were automatically called up without the formality of a ballot being gone through.

The ballot processes adopted were new, and, so far as is known, entirely original. Experience proved them in principle to be sound and efficient, but with a view to increasing the speed of operation several minor improvements were introduced after the first ballot, with satisfactory results. A table is attached showing for each ballot the number drawn, time occupied, &c., which clearly illustrates how the process of the ballot was expedited with experience.

The unanimity with which the whole Press of the Dominion

and the various representatives who from time to time saw the system in operation have acknowledged the absolute fairness and impartiality of the ballot has been most gratifying. The Mayor of Wellington (J.P.Luke Esq., C.M.G.) and a representative from the Trades and Labour Council, Wellington, were present at each ballot as scrutineers for the general public, as well as some Press representatives.

Prosecutions. The penalties provided for breaches of the various sections of the military Service Act were drastic and in every case where it was ascertained that a man had failed to enrol immediate proceedings were instituted. Altogether 204 convictions were obtained and in every case the reservist convicted was called up for service by the Commandant of the New Zealand Defence Forces as provided by section 34. The relatively small number of convictions of employers in relation to the number of convictions for failure to enrol is explained by the fact that any person who made a false statement as to his age, conjugal condition, or anything else that excluded him from the class or division to which he properly belonged, failed to enrol, but of course this would not be apparent to any person employing him and if, for instance, he furnished proof of enrolment in the Second Division when he should have been in the First, an employer would be justified in employing him.

The table set out below shows the number and results of prosecutions in connection with the military Service Act 1916 separately for each year from 1916 to 1919:-

Year	Total cases	Dis-missed	Con-victed	Result of Convictions					
				Dis-charged	Im-prisoned	Fined	Amount of Fines		
							£	s	d
1916	2	-	2	-	-	2	10	0	0
1917	486	30	456	98	54	304	1,046	17	6
1918	145	9	136	32	24	80	342	15	0
1919	12	2	10	1	2	7	41	0	0
Total	645	41	604	131	80	393	1,440	12	6

A table distinguishing the Sections under which the prosecutions were taken is attached.

General Remarks. It may be of interest to devote some

space to a few general remarks as to the work of preparing and keeping the Registers and as to the ballots. Few people really realised the magnitude and inherent difficulties to be overcome. For instance:-

The cards in the Register, which weigh approximately 2½ tons, if placed end to end would extend over 38 miles, and if opened and spread out would cover an area of some 18,765 square yards. Enquiries were received daily from employers and others as to whether persons named were registered or not, and it would appear quite a simple matter to deal with such enquiries and advise if the reservist was enrolled or not. But when it is remembered that frequently enquirers gave very imperfect information, often with inaccurate spelling and in a large proportion of cases stating initials only, and when in conjunction with this it is known that reservists with the surname of "Smith" numbered 3,799, "Wilson" 2,075, "Brown" 1,929, "Jones" 1,562, "Williams" 1,495, and "Robinson" 998, and that a search where initials only were given for a common name like say, "J. Smith" would involve the examination of 704 cards, for "A. Wilson" 262, and for "J. McKenzie" 160 cards, it will be seen that these enquiries were not so simple as they appeared.

The difficulties in searching for the card of any reservist will thus be apparent, but when it is further known that numbers of cards were incorrectly filled in and that the writing in some cases was almost illegible some idea will be gained of the amount of work and difficulty frequently involved in making a search for any reservist's card even when full particulars were given. It would naturally be expected that the particulars furnished by illiterate men would not always be correct, but it would hardly be deemed possible that educated men would make serious mistakes in filling in cards giving particulars about themselves, yet such was the case; an Anglican clergyman and an accountant in a well-known business firm returned themselves as single, but when called in the ballot they produced proof that they were married men with families. In both cases the reservist would not credit that he had made such a blunder, but when

confronted with the original card in his own handwriting the fact was undeniable. There were also numbers of cases where men who were known by one name registered under another, these principally being men who were known by their stepfathers' names and who attested in those names although they registered under their correct names. Men also transposed christian names and surnames, omitted surnames, gave nicknames instead of christian names, &c., all these errors causing endless trouble.

Moreover the position was complicated by certain facts beyond the control of the Office. The fact that the Reserve Register under the Military Service Act was based on the National Register taken in 1915 and that the voluntary system was kept going side by side with conscription greatly increased the difficulties which had to be contended with. The former loaded the Register up with a great number of names of men who had left the country either with the Expeditionary Force or otherwise, or had died and whom it was extremely difficult to identify and account for. Large numbers registered more than once with differing particulars or addresses each time while so many entries were alike in most of the items and yet related to different men that no duplicate could be discarded without the most searching enquiry and verification. For example take the two following entries:-

Date Card Received:	15/4/1918	16/11/1916
Group or Recruiting District No.:	14	14
Surname:	Ritchie	Ritchie
Christian Name:	William Thomas	William Thomas
Birthplace:	New Zealand	New Zealand
Father's Birthplace:	Ireland	Ireland
Date of Birth:	4/4/1898	15/11/1896
Address:	17 Mary Street Invercargill	42 North Street, Invercargill
Occupation:	Bank Clerk	Bank Clerk
Name of Employer:	National Bank of N.Z. Invercargill	National Bank of N.Z. Invercargill
Previous Military Training:	Artillery, Gunner Four years	Battery, Gunner Eight years

These were actually two different men, one being drawn in the 7th ballot and the other in the 18th. A special check was made after each drawing to avoid gazetting the names of men already in the Force and in this check no great blame could be attached to an officer treating the 18th ballot card as a duplicate of the card drawn in the 7th, particularly as the writing and signature were remarkably alike. Yet special telegraphic enquiry disclosed the fact that the cards related to two different men. With the voluntary system of recruiting in operation at the same time men kept enlisting just before a ballot was due - frequently giving particulars to the attesting officer slightly different from those they had registered under, and often giving different christian names where they had more than one or placing them in in a different order; this made it almost impossible to keep the Register clean and up to date at all times.

When the element of time, all important when compulsory service had been decided on, made it imperative to adopt the system which would enable the ballots to come into operation at the earliest date. Had this factor not been so pressing and important the registration would have been effected through the organization of the post office in the same way as aliens are now registered through the organization of the Police. This system would have taken much longer to effect the registration and on that account had to be modified to allow the reservist to post his application for certificate of enrolment and for the National Register cards previously collected to be used. The system of registration adopted for aliens would have been ideal with the postal organization for the enrolment of men under the Military Service Act. The reservist would then have obtained his certificate of enrolment at time of registration, thus avoiding the work involved in the subsequent issue of certificates and enabling the Police to take immediate action in rounding up defaulters; the particulars entered on the reservist's application for enrolment would have been checked by a Government Officer as received, or filled in for him, thus avoiding the many difficulties and the confusion caused by faulty registrations, &c. The pressing necessity for putting the compulsory clauses into operation (Act only passed in August, enrolment proclaimed in September, and ballot wanted not later

than November) however, compelled the adoption of methods and means which would ensure the men being obtained by ballot in time to avoid any interruption in the stream of Reinforcements required. The results justified the course taken, and, on the whole, the work so far as the Census and Statistics Office was concerned was carried through smoothly, with surprisingly little friction, and with very creditable efficiency and accuracy.

Of course mistakes were made, many of them due to circumstances beyond the control of the staff; but considering all the circumstances, the magnitude of the task, the fact that the work was entirely new, that no similar system existed previously from which precedents for guidance could be obtained, that all methods and procedure had to be devised and evolved for the purpose, that the staff consisted largely of inexperienced clerks, and recognising the element of human error inseparable from such large undertakings, the number of mistakes resulting were remarkably few.

Immediately after the publication of every ballot list, the newspapers throughout the Dominion allowed reservists, who considered they were incorrectly shown in the Gazette, to explain their positions and these explanations were published under a heavy press heading "Ballot Corrections" which erroneously gave the impression that the Census and Statistics Office was responsible for the so-called errors. Quite a considerable amount of blame was thus cast on the work of the Office, and so keenly was this felt by the staff that after the tenth ballot when 14,050 names were gazetted cuttings of such references were made from all the newspapers in the Dominion, and each one investigated to ascertain how far the staff were really to blame. The result astonished the Office itself and completely exonerated the staff from any charge of careless or neglectful work. Of the total 143 "Ballot Corrections" only 4 or .028% of the 14,050 names gazetted were due to errors on the part of the Statistician's staff, which must surely be regarded as a striking testimony to the accuracy of the work done.

In the Second Division ballots numbers of men were called up in Class "A" (married men without children) and afterwards appealed and produced proof that they had children. In one ballot 12 men called in Class "A" in Wellington produced proof to the Military Service Board that they had children and claimed that they had given full particulars of these children on their enrolment cards. In these 12 cases the enrolment cards were produced and there was no mention of child or children on any of them. Probably these reservists confused the householders' schedules furnished under the Census and Statistics Act with the cards furnished under the Military Service Act. Although the Government Statistician administered both Acts, the information supplied was dealt with in separate branches, and it was quite impracticable if not impossible to check the Military Service enrolment cards with the Census schedules.

On the principle that it was better to include ten men wrongly than to strike out one man who should be included, the Office included all doubtful cases, which was strictly in accord with the direction contained in Section 6(6) of the Military Service Act which read as follows:-

"If the Government Statistician is in doubt as to whether any man is a reservist or not, he shall enrol that man in the Reserve; and if he is in doubt as to whether any man belongs to the First Division or the Second Division of the Reserve, he shall enrol that man in the First Division."

The Office was much hampered in the efficient conduct of the work by the impossibility of securing clerks with experience or training, and the staff had to be mainly built up with temporary female clerks, the majority of whom had had no previous office training whatever. With very few exceptions, however, all were imbued with an ardent patriotic desire to "do their bit" in the crisis facing the country, and looking back at what was accomplished under the trying conditions it must be admitted that they did wonders. The following figures illustrate the growth and decline of the Military Service staff during the period the Act was in force:-

Date	Males	Females	Total
1st August, 1916	7	7	14
1st November, 1916	17	75	92
1st February, 1917	26	93	119
1st May, 1917	29	109	138
1st August, 1917	59	104	163
1st November, 1917	59	130	189
1st February, 1918	59	103	162
1st May, 1918	44	68	112
1st August, 1918	36	71	107
1st November, 1918	26	43	69
1st February, 1919	3	5	8

The difficulties of obtaining adequate and experienced staff were as stated very great but the position was much intensified by the lack of proper accommodation. Sufficient suitable office accommodation was unprocurable and until the two floors in the W.F.C.A. Building, Lambton Quay, were secured the staff were practically always working under congested and cramped conditions. The fact that the staff had to be housed in different buildings made the work of administration and supervision more than usually inconvenient. To transfer such a large staff with all impedimenta in working order from one Building to another was not a task to be undertaken lightly and was only faced under the extreme stress of necessity - yet the Office had to carry out several such transfers during this very trying period as will be seen from the following table:-

From	To	Branch of Office concerned	Date
Public Trust	Rouths	Military Service	July 1916
Rouths	Nathans	Military Service	April 1917
Public Trust	Rouths	Agriculture	April 1917
Nathans	Govt. Life Insurance	Military Service (Correspondence)	July 1917
Govt. Life Insurance	Sussex Chambers	Military Service (Correspondence)	Aug. 1917
Nathans	W.F.C.A.	Military Service	Oct. 1917
Sussex Chambers			
Public Trust	Nathans	Head Office and Census	Oct. 1917
Rouths	Nathans	(Agriculture	April 1918
Nathans	W.F.C.A.	(Head Office and Census	Nov. 1918
		(Agriculture	

No office centrally situated could have carried out the work under these Acts without the help of Government organizations throughout the country and the Census and Statistics Office was absolutely dependent on assistance from various sources. This was readily and willingly forthcoming, no call for information or help being made without meeting with prompt response from practically all members of the community in Government employ and out of it. In particular the Office was very greatly assisted in carrying out the work imposed on it under the Act by officers of the Postal and Police Departments throughout the country, who had a very large amount of extra work thrown upon them in regard to enrolments and inquiries of all kinds. Without their assistance it would have been quite impossible for the office, except at enormously increased cost, to have carried out the work. Every one of these officers most readily and zealously helped whenever required.

Officers of the Customs and Marine Departments also were most helpful in bringing the requirements of the Act under the notice of and obtaining enrolments from new arrivals and men discharged in New Zealand from foreign ships.

The Government Printer and his staff, likewise, particularly in the initial stages, when time was so very important, are due credit for the care and expedition with which all the many immense and invariably very urgent orders for printing were filled.

Registration of Aliens. The Registration of Aliens Act, 1917, though perhaps not strictly a war measure, was nevertheless passed during the war mainly on account of the desirability of keeping a close record of our alien population, and of their movements. The Act is in the main administered by the Police Department, the Government Statistician, however, being charged with the compilation and custody of the Dominion Register.

The Act (which defines an alien as "a person of either sex, not less than fifteen years of age, who is not a British subject either by birth or by naturalization in New Zealand,") provided that every alien resident in New Zealand at the passing of the Act should register on or before 1st December 1917, and that

every alien arriving in the Dominion after that date should register before being permitted to land. In addition to the registration requirements the alien is obliged to notify, within 14 days, any change of address which carries him beyond the boundaries of the county or borough in which he formerly resided. All changes of address so notified are endorsed on the certificate with which the alien is furnished and which must be produced to the registration officer on demand.

For the purpose of the Act, Police officers throughout the Dominion and Customs officers at the principal ports have been appointed registration officers. These effect the registrations and receive the notifications of change of address, duplicate forms being used and forwarded when completed to the Superintendent or Inspector of Police for the District, who retains one copy for the District Register kept at his Office and forwards the other to the Government Statistician.

The preparation, from such records as were in the possession of the Census and Statistics Office, of a preliminary register of persons who should apparently be required to register as aliens was a work of some magnitude and the inauguration of the system, involving as it did the inevitable drafting of forms and instructions, the answering of a big array of queries, and the settling of various technical points and matters of procedure, made big demands on the Statistician and his staff at a time when Military service matters were also very pressing.

Many aliens, either through ignorance of the requirements or in an attempt to evade, failed to register within the prescribed period and numerous prosecutions had to be taken. It may be mentioned here that to date the total number of prosecutions for failing to register has been 318, in addition to which there have been 32 prosecutions for neglect to notify change of address.

At present the Aliens Registration involves comparatively little work for the Census and Statistics Office, the bulk of the business being merely routine work in connection with the keeping of the Dominion register. The register is kept up-to-date from the new registrations and the notifications of change of address

received from time to time, and by the cancellation of registration of those aliens who die; take out letters of naturalization, or leave the Dominion.

Table Showing the Number and Results of Prosecutions
in connection with the Military Service Act, 1916,
Distinguishing the Sections under which the Prosecutions
were taken.

Year	Total Cases	Dis- missed	Con- victed	Result of Convictions				Amount of Fines		
				Discharged	Imprisoned	Fined	£	s	d	
<u>Section 33</u>										
1916	2	-	2	-	-	2	10	0	0	
1917	137	4	133	18	43	72	492	15	0	
1918	58	4	54	15	17	22	134	0	0	
1919	7	-	7	-	1	6	21	0	0	
Total	204	8	196	33	61	102	657	15	0	
<u>Section 40</u>										
1916	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1917	10	-	10	-	-	10	215	0	0	
1918	7	1	6	-	-	6	120	0	0	
1919	3	2	1	-	-	1	20	0	0	
Total	20	3	17	-	-	17	355	0	0	
<u>Section 42</u>										
1916	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1917	9	1	8	2	2	4	16	0	0	
1918	7	-	7	1	4	2	3	0	0	
1919	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	16	1	15	3	6	6	19	0	0	
<u>Section 43</u>										
1916	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1917	325	25	300	78	6	217	313	2	6	
1918	63	4	59	15	-	44	63	15	0	
1919	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	388	29	359	93	6	260	376	17	6	
<u>Section 44</u>										
1916	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1917	5	-	5	-	3	2	10	0	0	
1918	10	-	10	1	3	6	22	0	0	
1919	2	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Total	17	-	17	2	7	8	32	0	0	
<u>Grand Totals.</u>										
1916	2	-	2	-	-	2	10	0	0	
1917	486	30	456	98	54	304	1046	17	6	
1918	145	9	136	32	24	80	342	15	0	
1919	12	2	10	1	2	7	41	0	0	
Totals	645	41	604	131	80	393	1440	12	6	