

## Verifying applications

A standard form of application was used, in which the applicant was required to state their unit and sub-unit (Battalion and Company) and name their former Brigade, Battalion and Company Officers Commanding. The form was issued on request and administered by Finance Branch of the Department from 1943 onwards.

Verification of membership was then sought by the Department from at least two former officers of the unit or sub-unit, the ideal situation being that these officers were in receipt of a service pension.

If this was not possible then verification was sought from “pensioned” officers of a neighbouring unit or Brigade officers who might possess the necessary knowledge. When the claim was verified, a service medal was issued, the date was noted on file, and the medal in a presentation box containing a printed compliments slip from Uachtaran na hÉireann was forwarded to the applicant through the postal system.

If the claim was on behalf of a deceased veteran, the medal was inscribed with the name of the recipient and a unique serial number-the detail of which is recorded in the Department of Defence.

## Cumann na mBan

Applications for medals from former members of Cumann na mBan were submitted for verification to any local former member in receipt of a service pension as well as any available local former IRA officer. The use of the Referee's membership rolls from June 1957 greatly aided this process.



## Na Fianna Éireann

In the case of Na Fianna Éireann membership, unless a record of an organised Slua (Unit) in the local area was found, the application was rejected.

Again, the use of the Membership Rolls from June 1957 simplified this process. Also, other evidence was often found and accepted as establishing the organised existence of a Slua, particularly where individual pension applicants had been credited by the Referee or Board of Assessors (1924) with Na Fianna Éireann service in a particular area.