

CHAPTER XXIX.

REPATRIATION.

§ 1. General.

The Repatriation Commission, established under the Repatriation Act 1920-1957, is a body corporate consisting of three full-time members. It operates from departmental headquarters in Melbourne, but has a branch office in each State under the control of a Deputy Commissioner.

Its principal functions are—

- (i) the payment of war and service pensions to ex-service men and women and their dependants;
- (ii) the provision of medical treatment to ex-service men and women for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their war service;
- (iii) the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances to ex-service men and women, and to their dependants, who are suffering from injuries and illnesses not caused or aggravated by war service.

Other functions of the Repatriation Commission are outlined in a later section of this chapter (See § 5, General Benefits, page 1073).

Four statutes passed during the year 1956-57 affected the Repatriation Commission. They are the Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956, which provided benefits for members of the defence forces who served with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve in Malaya; the Native Members of the Forces Benefits Act 1957, which provided war pensions and other benefits for the natives of Papua, New Guinea and the islands in Torres Strait and the Pacific Ocean who served with the special native units raised during the 1939-45 War; the Repatriation Act 1956, which made certain amendments to the provisions governing repatriation benefits; and the Repatriation Act (No. 2) 1956, which made certain amendments necessitated by the passing of the Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act.

§ 2. War Pensions.

1. *General.*—The first provision for the payment of war pensions to members of the forces and their dependants was made by the Commonwealth Parliament in the War Pensions Act 1914, which came into operation on 21st December, 1914. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act (amended from 31st December, 1950, to the Repatriation Act). Owing to limitations of space, only some of the main features relating to war pensions under the Repatriation Act 1920-1957 are set out in the following paragraphs:—

(i) *Eligibility for Pension.* There has been a considerable widening of the provision in this respect, to the benefit, mainly, of members of the Citizen Military Forces who have not served outside Australia. These provisions are summarized as follows:—

- (a) A member of the forces who served (1) outside Australia, (2) in the Territories of Australia, such as Papua and New Guinea, or (3) within Australia in

circumstances which can be regarded as combat against the enemy, is covered for war pension purposes in respect of incapacity or death which may result from any occurrence that happened during the period from the date of his enlistment to the date of the termination of his service in respect of that enlistment.

(b) In other cases where a member served only in Australia, incapacity or death to be pensionable must have been attributable to service.

(c) There is a third ground applicable to all in (a) and (b) who have had at least six months' camp service. This provides that, where a condition existed at enlistment, a pension may accrue if it is considered that the condition was aggravated by service.

(ii) *Pensions for Incapacity.* From 20th October, 1955, the 100 per cent. pension rate for a member's incapacity was increased from £4 10s. to £4 15s. a week (higher rates were payable in respect of certain commissioned ranks). The rates for wives and children of incapacitated members are £1 15s. 6d. and 13s. 9d. a week, respectively. From 17th October, 1957, the member's 100 per cent. incapacity rate was increased from £4 15s. to £5 2s. 6d. a week.

(iii) *Supplementation of Pensions.* From 17th October, 1957, where a member is, because of his war disability, temporarily (for at least three months) precluded from earning other than a negligible percentage of a living wage an additional pension may be granted to bring the total pension to the member up to £11 a week.

(iv) *Women's Nursing and Auxiliary Services.* Members of Women's Services are eligible for pensions and other benefits as prescribed in the Act on the same basis as male members of the Forces.

(v) *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.* If at any time after discharge, a member of the Forces who served in a theatre of war became or becomes incapacitated, or died or dies, from pulmonary tuberculosis, war pension is payable as if the incapacity or death resulted from an occurrence on service. (*See also* § 3. Service Pensions.) Medical treatment may also be provided on application.

(vi) *Special Rates.* Those who have been totally blinded as the result of war service and those who are permanently and totally incapacitated receive, as from 20th October, 1955, special pensions of £9 15s. a week. The rate for Tuberculars, Class "B" (fit for light employment) was increased from £6 10s. to £7 a week. The rates were further increased to £11 and to £7 17s. 6d. a week respectively from 17th October, 1957. In addition to the special pension, an attendant's allowance of £1 15s. a week is granted to the war-blinded and to certain others who are deemed to be in need of an attendant. A war-blinded member who is also affected with total loss of speech or total deafness was entitled from 2nd October, 1952, to an attendant's allowance of £3 10s. a week in lieu of that referred to above. Attendant's allowance rates were further increased from 20th October, 1955, to £2 15s. and to £4 10s. a week, respectively. The wife and any children under 16 years of age receive the same rates as shown in sub-para. (ii).

(vii) *Specified Disabilities.* Where the disability is amputation of a limb or limbs or total loss of vision in one eye, amounts ranging from 8s. 6d. to £5 17s. 6d. a week in addition to the statutory rate of pension are payable as from 17th October, 1957. In addition, allowances of either £2 15s. or £4 10s. a week are payable in certain double amputation cases.

(viii) *Time Limit for Wives and Children Removed.* Prior to the 1950 amending Act, wives who were married and children who were born after 1st July, 1938, were ineligible to receive a war pension. This time limit was removed as from 2nd November, 1950.

(ix) *Rates of Pension for Death.* (a) *Widows.* As already indicated, rates of pension, which were previously based on the daily rate of pay of the member, are now based on the rank of the member. From 17th October, 1957, the rates were increased by 7s. 6d. a week, the minimum rate being increased from £4 10s. to £4 17s. 6d. a week. In addition to the pension, the widow, if she has dependent children, receives an allowance if she is permanently unemployable, or if she is over 50 years of age; this allowance is £2 a week. The allowance may also be paid to a widow under 50 years of age, in certain cases, so long as the child (or one of the children if more than one child) over the age of sixteen, is undergoing education or training but has not qualified for (or is not receiving) the adult wage in the occupation for which the child is training.

(b) *Children.* From 2nd October, 1952, the rate of pension for the eldest child (under 16 years of age) was increased to £1 6s. 6d. a week and that for each younger child to 18s. 6d. Additional pension of 6s. a week may be paid in certain circumstances. Where both parents are dead each child is pensioned at the rate of £2 8s. a week.

(x) *Widowed Mother on Death of Member.* A pension ranging from £2 5s. to £4 3s. a week, according to the rank of the member, may be granted to a widowed mother of a deceased unmarried son, provided widowhood occurred either prior to or within three years after the death of the member. The pension may be supplemented by payment to a prescribed person of an additional amount (not exceeding £4 7s. 6d. a week as from the 17th October, 1957) according to the extent of other income of the pensioner. The value of property owned does not affect the pension.

2. *Appeals Tribunals.*—The principal Act was amended, as from 1st June, 1929, to create tribunals to hear appeals in respect of war pensions. The War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunal is empowered to hear and decide any appeal by or on behalf of ex-members of the Forces or their dependants against a decision of the Repatriation Commission that the incapacity or death of an ex-member did not arise out of war service. Assessment Appeal Tribunals were created to hear and decide any appeal against a current assessment or a "Nil" assessment of war pension made by the Repatriation Commission in respect of the incapacity of an ex-member of the Forces which had been accepted as arising out of war service. Provision was made by subsequent legislation to enable the Tribunals to hear appeals by certain members for service pensions.

3. *Summary of War Pensions, 1956-57.*—At 30th June, 1957, the number of war pensions for the 1914-18 War was 133,240, for the 1939-45 War 476,675, and for the Korea and Malaya Operations 3,375, making a total of 613,290 with a liability of £44,872,736 per annum. The amount paid in war pensions during the year 1956-57 was £45,203,787. The outstanding features for 1956-57 for each war are listed in the following table:—

WAR PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1956-57.

Particulars.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
New claims granted	2,276	28,634	782	31,692
Restorations	479	1,443	9	1,931
Claims rejected (gross)	2,442	19,682	616	22,740
Pensions reviewed	8,263	27,302	253	35,818
Pensions cancelled or discontinued	838	10,540	55	11,433
Deaths of pensioners	4,314	2,223	8	6,545
Number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1957	133,240	476,675	3,375	613,290
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1957 £	19,074,146	25,609,726	188,864	44,872,736
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1956-57 £	(a)	(a)	(a)	45,203,787

(a) Not available.

4. *Classes of War Pensions, Australia, 1956-57.*—(a) *New Claims Granted.* The following is an analysis of the total number of new claims granted during 1956-57:—

WAR PENSIONS : NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1956-57.

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
Members	777	5,593	230	6,600
Wives of Members	1,090	5,865	190	7,145
Children	304	16,524	352	17,180
Other dependants	105	652	10	767
Total	2,276	28,634	782	31,692

(b) *Pensions in Force.* The following table shows the number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1957, for each war and for each class of pensioner:—

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1957.

Class.	Number of Pensioners at 30th June, 1957.			
	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
Children of deceased members	542	7,728	82	8,352
Orphans	25	127	..	152
War widows	19,517	10,941	54	30,512
Members	57,380	143,055	1,279	201,714
Children	3,791	189,963	1,105	194,859
Wives	49,939	117,747	773	168,459
Parents	1,750	6,894	76	8,720
Brothers and sisters	75	108	5	188
Others	221	112	1	334
Total	133,240	476,675	3,375	613,290

(c) *Special Rate Pensions.* At 30th June, 1957, special rate pensions of £9 15s. a week were being paid to the following classes of members of the Forces:—

WAR PENSIONS: MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1957.

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
Blinded members	214	212	3	429
Tubercular members	733	929	16	1,678
Totally and permanently incapacitated members	10,853	4,008	9	14,870
Tuberculars, Class "B" (a)	153	322	4	479

(a) Rate £7 a week.

5. *Number of War Pensioners and Annual Liability, States, etc., 30th June, 1957.*—The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war at 30th June, 1957, according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on p. 1070.)

WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONERS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30th JUNE, 1957.

Where Paid.	Number of War Pensions in Force at 30th June, 1957.				Annual Pension Liability. (£.)	
	Incapacitated Members of the Forces.	Dependants of Incapacitated Members.	Dependants of Deceased Members.	Total.		
1914-18 WAR.						
New South Wales(a)	..	18,451	17,364	7,343	43,158	6,244,199
Victoria	19,265	17,645	7,322	44,232	6,256,694
Queensland	6,928	6,413	1,960	15,301	2,325,665
South Australia(b)	..	4,348	4,275	1,728	10,351	1,570,600
Western Australia	4,646	4,653	1,567	10,866	1,328,684
Tasmania	2,534	2,563	850	5,947	923,847
<i>Australia</i>	<i>56,172</i>	<i>52,913</i>	<i>20,770</i>	<i>129,855</i>	<i>18,649,689</i>
Overseas	1,208	1,270	907	3,385	424,457
Total	57,380	54,183	21,677	133,240	19,074,146

1939-45 WAR.					
New South Wales(a)	50,138	101,231	9,530	160,899	8,784,001
Victoria	38,622	83,234	6,759	128,615	6,875,676
Queensland	19,340	44,273	3,231	66,844	3,733,222
South Australia(b)	15,467	36,203	2,468	54,138	2,769,376
Western Australia	13,294	28,289	2,217	43,800	2,223,731
Tasmania	5,677	14,281	714	20,672	1,082,192
<i>Australia</i>	<i>142,538</i>	<i>307,511</i>	<i>24,919</i>	<i>474,968</i>	<i>25,468,198</i>
Overseas	517	822	368	1,707	141,528
Total	143,055	308,333	25,287	476,675	25,609,726

KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.

New South Wales(a)	491	692	84	1,267	70,720
Victoria	317	440	50	807	41,470
Queensland	202	314	27	543	32,058
South Australia(b)	87	156	7	250	14,378
Western Australia	113	190	18	321	17,446
Tasmania	48	75	9	132	7,046
<i>Australia</i>	<i>1,258</i>	<i>1,867</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>3,320</i>	<i>183,118</i>
Overseas	21	14	20	55	5,746
Total	1,279	1,881	215	3,375	188,864

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes the Northern Territory.

6. *Summary of War Pensions.*—(i) *Number.* The following table shows, for each war, the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30th June, 1953 to 1957 and the total for all war pensions for the same series of years:—

WAR PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Pensions Granted.	Claims Rejected.	Number of War Pensions in Force at 30th June.				Annual Pension Liability at 30th June. (£.)
			Incapacitated Members of the Forces.	Depend- ants of Incapacitated Members.	Depend- ants of Deceased Members.	Total.	
1914-18 WAR.							
1953	3,090	1,136	62,703	60,000	20,793	143,496	15,674,373
1954	3,063	1,559	61,634	58,390	20,980	141,004	16,574,412
1955	2,758	2,031	60,398	57,045	21,198	138,641	17,673,142
1956	2,337	1,488	58,984	55,720	21,409	136,113	18,939,411
1957	2,276	2,442	57,380	54,183	21,677	133,240	19,074,146

1939-45 WAR.

1953	33,944	8,034	125,366	248,483	25,885	399,734	18,502,675
1954	33,370	13,733	129,926	265,552	25,773	421,251	20,211,273
1955	33,748	18,380	134,979	282,367	25,516	442,862	22,424,840
1956	30,098	13,756	139,249	296,214	25,391	460,854	24,548,421
1957	28,634	19,682	143,055	308,333	25,287	476,675	25,609,726

KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.

1953	399	241	326	274	144	744	53,519
1954	698	450	643	572	196	1,411	92,652
1955	642	507	878	949	207	2,034	125,738
1956	676	305	1,057	1,382	208	2,647	157,155
1957	782	616	1,279	1,881	215	3,375	188,864

TOTAL.

1953	37,433	9,411	188,395	308,757	46,822	543,974	34,230,567
1954	37,131	15,742	192,203	324,514	46,949	563,666	36,878,337
1955	37,148	20,918	196,255	340,361	46,921	583,537	40,223,720
1956	33,111	15,549	199,290	353,316	47,008	599,614	43,644,987
1957	31,692	22,740	201,714	364,397	47,179	613,290	44,872,736

(ii) *Amount Paid and Place of Payment.* The following table shows for the years 1952-53 to 1956-57 the amounts paid in pensions and the place where they were paid:—

WAR PENSIONS : AMOUNT PAID. (£.)

Place of Payment.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
New South Wales(a)	11,769,571	12,578,067	14,100,305	14,501,426	15,297,734
Victoria	9,918,742	10,600,721	11,975,025	12,718,047	13,372,248
Queensland	4,109,763	4,591,219	5,385,216	5,763,319	6,106,669
South Australia(b)	3,349,467	3,583,510	4,101,624	4,135,874	4,309,036
Western Australia	2,921,367	3,086,783	3,438,517	3,450,830	3,584,495
Tasmania	1,714,609	1,820,440	1,933,349	2,017,289	2,026,868
Overseas	572,276	536,304	514,575	578,892	506,737
Total	34,355,795	36,797,044	41,448,611	43,165,677	45,203,787

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory

(b) Includes the Northern Territory.

§ 3. Service Pensions.

1. **General.**—The Repatriation Act 1920–1957, administered by the Repatriation Department, provides for a service pension to be paid subject to a means test of income and property to:—

- (i) A male member of the Forces who is sixty years of age and who served in a theatre of war, or to a female member of the Forces who is 55 years of age and who served abroad. No pension is payable to the wife or children under 16 years of age of a member granted a service pension on account of age.
- (ii) A member of the Forces who is permanently unemployable and who served in a theatre of war (or, in the case of a female member, who served abroad). Service pensions are also payable to a pensioner's wife and up to four children under 16 years of age.
- (iii) A member of the Forces suffering incapacity from pulmonary tuberculosis whether or not the person served in a theatre of war. Service pensions are also payable to a pensioner's wife and up to four children under 16 years of age.

Only those persons who qualify under (iii) are entitled to receive both service and invalid pensions at the same time.

2. **Rate of Pension.**—The maximum rate of service pension is the same as that for age and invalid pensions paid by the Department of Social Services, namely, £4 7s. 6d. a week. Since the 18th October, 1956, a member service pensioner with two or more children under 16 years of age in his care, custody and control, is eligible for a further 10s. a week for each child except the first, if he receives a service pension on the ground of being permanently unemployable, or suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The maximum rate for a member's wife is £1 15s. a week; the rate for the first child under sixteen years of age is 11s. 6d. a week and for each other child (not exceeding three) 2s. 6d. a week.

A member who is single may have income up to £3 10s. a week from sources other than his pension and still receive the maximum service pension. If income from other sources exceeds £3 10s. a week the pension is reduced by the amount of the excess. No service pension is payable if income from other sources reaches or exceeds £7 17s. 6d. a week. For this purpose, the term "income" includes a war pension, and income derived from any source other than from property, but does not include a gift or allowance from a claimant's parents or children, maternity allowance, child endowment or other payments in respect of children, a benefit from any friendly society, a payment in respect of illness, infirmity or old age from any trade union, the value of State food relief or like assistance granted under any law of a State or Territory, Commonwealth hospital and medical benefits (including an amount received from a registered benefit organization up to the total amount of fees), pharmaceutical benefits or a tuberculosis allowance, or interest on Commonwealth war gratuities.

The rate of pension is further reduced by 4½d. a week for every complete £10 by which the value of property owned by a member exceeds £200. No pension is payable if the value of the property exceeds £1,750. For this purpose, the term "property" includes all real and personal property such as houses or land or interests therein, money in a bank or invested, or lent to any person, bonds, shares, interests in estates of deceased persons, and livestock, but excludes the value of the home of the pensioner and of his furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to £750) of any life assurance policies, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, the value of any reversionary interest, property to which the claimant or spouse is entitled from the estate of a deceased person but which has not been received, and the amount of any Commonwealth war gratuity.

For the purposes of the administration of the means test, the income and property of a married person are deemed to be half the total income and property of the husband and wife (unless they are legally separated or in certain other special circumstances). This

provision means that the pension of a married person, whether or not his spouse is a pensioner, will not be reduced because of the income he receives from sources other than his pension unless that income exceeds £7 17s. 6d. a week, nor will his pension be reduced on account of the value of his property unless that value exceeds £400.

On 1st November, 1941, eligibility for service pensions was extended to veterans of the South African War 1899–1902, and in 1943 to members of the Forces of the 1939–45 War. Members who served in Korea and Malaya are also eligible.

3. *Operations, 1956–57.*—The following table gives a summary relating to service pensions during 1956–57:—

Claims granted during year—

Members of the Forces	..	..	..	5,222
Wives .. .. .	..	..	..	2,250
Children .. .. .	..	..	..	1,188
<i>Total</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	<u>8,660</u>

Claims rejected during year—

Members of the Forces	..	..	..	1,239
Wives .. .. .	..	..	..	597
Children .. .. .	..	..	..	414
<i>Total</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	<u>2,250</u>

Service pensions cancelled or discontinued during year	..	3,171
Deaths of pensioners during year	..	1,883
Pensions in force at 30th June, 1957	..	39,077
Annual pension liability on 30th June, 1957	..	£5,242,492

4. *Number of Service Pensioners and Amount Paid.*—(i) *Summary, Australia.* The following table shows the number of service pensions in force and the amount paid in pensions for the five years 1952–53 to 1956–57.

SERVICE PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number of Service Pensions at 30th June payable to—						Amount Paid in Pensions during year ended 30th June.
	Aged Members of Forces.	Members of the Forces who are—		Dependants of Members where the Member is—		Total.	
		Permanently Unemployable.	Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Permanently Unemployable.	Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		
1952–53	8,703	4,971	291	4,780	432	19,177	£ 2,225,044
1953–54	9,648	5,294	321	5,092	451	20,806	2,694,522
1954–55	10,566	5,555	379	5,286	530	22,316	3,011,861
1955–56	11,881	9,733	1,266	10,001	1,894	34,775	4,140,488
1956–57	13,547	10,794	1,449	11,074	2,213	39,077	4,907,362

(ii) *Amount Paid and State where Paid.* The following table shows for the years 1952-53 to 1956-57 the amount paid in pensions and the State where paid:—

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID.
(£.)

State where Paid.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
New South Wales(a)	764,803	977,815	1,050,593	1,472,949	1,727,099
Victoria	503,946	601,579	684,636	958,825	1,089,529
Queensland	396,090	467,038	528,571	679,181	845,828
South Australia(b)	215,626	259,438	287,624	401,159	477,229
Western Australia	278,115	302,617	361,294	482,021	547,473
Tasmania	66,464	86,035	99,143	146,353	220,204
Australia	2,225,044	2,694,522	3,011,861	4,140,488	4,907,362

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes the Northern Territory.

§ 4. Medical Treatment of Ex-Servicemen Suffering from War Service Disabilities.

At 30th June, 1957, there were 4,435 in-patients in Repatriation medical institutions and State mental hospitals, including a number whose care was undertaken by the Repatriation Commission on behalf of other countries or Commonwealth departments. There were 385,752 out-patient attendances for treatment during the year, excluding approximately 841,735 treatments by local medical officers resident in metropolitan and country areas and in New Guinea. The expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1957, was £10,288,344.

§ 5. General Benefits and Miscellaneous.

1. *Other Departmental Activities.*—(i) *General.* During the 1939-45 War, the ordinary activities of the Department in the way of general benefits for the welfare of members and dependants were carried on without interruption. They were mainly education and training of children under the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, medical benefits for widows and children of deceased members and for widowed mothers of deceased unmarried members, funeral expenses for certain classes of members and dependants, and allowances to certain classes of dependants.

By legislation passed in June, 1940, these benefits were extended to members engaged in the 1939-45 War and in November, 1950, to those engaged in the Korea and Malaya Operations, and new benefits designed for the re-establishment of members after discharge from the Forces were made available. The re-establishment benefits administered by the Repatriation Commission are:—payment of re-employment allowance while awaiting employment; provision of tools of trade and equipment where such are necessary to the member's employment; transportation expenses to meet the cost of fares and removal of household belongings, where a member takes up training, employment, or a business, or settles on the land; supplementing of wages of apprentices whose apprenticeships were interrupted by war service; re-establishment loans to enable members and widows to establish themselves in business, practices or other occupations, including (until the Division of War Service Land Settlement began operations early in 1946) agricultural occupations; payment of re-establishment allowance during the early stages of establishment in business; gifts up to £75 for furniture to members who are blind or totally and permanently incapacitated, also to widows with children under 16 years of age; and free passages to Australia for wives, widows and children of members who married abroad (and passages outward from Australia in certain cases of members and dependants).

In 1949, the Commission took over the functions of the Re-establishment Division of the former Department of Post-war Reconstruction, and it is now responsible for the co-ordination of all matters relating to training under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. Re-establishment of the more seriously disabled, where ordinary training is not sufficient, continues to be a function of the Commission, and special means have to be found to overcome each problem.

(ii) *General Repatriation Benefits.* The following table gives a summary of expenditure during 1956-57 on the more important general repatriation benefits for all wars.

GENERAL REPATRIATION BENEFITS, 1956-57.

Benefit.	Expenditure, 1956-57.	
	£	£
<i>Medical Treatment of Members—</i>		
Operation of Institutions	6,222,017	
Dispensing of Prescriptions	1,143,644	
Fees to Consultants, etc.	864,090	
Maintenance of Patients in other than Repatriation Institutions	658,526	
Sustenance Allowance	601,715	
Other Treatment (Surgical Aids, Dental Treatment, etc.) ..	362,105	9,852,097
<i>Medical Treatment of Dependants</i> .. .. .	..	436,247
<i>Employment and Vocational Training—</i>		
Re-employment Allowance .. .. .	..	..
Tools of Trade (gift)	31	
Tools of Trade (loan)	3,952	
Members in Training (a)	1,544	
Fares and Removal Expenses	246,304	
	1,834	253,665
<i>Business Loans</i> .. .. .	..	91,200
<i>Furniture Grants—</i>		
Widows .. .. .	..	..
Members	31	
	149	180
<i>Soldiers' Children Education Scheme</i> .. .. .	..	427,546
<i>Living Allowances</i> .. .. .	..	2,447,443
<i>Other Benefits</i> .. .. .	..	234,797
Total .. .. .	..	13,743,175

(a) Expenditure by the Department of Labour and National Service and the Universities Commission.

The following table gives a summary of expenditure during the five years 1952-53 to 1956-57 on the more important general repatriation benefits for all wars.

**EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL REPATRIATION BENEFITS, SUMMARY
1952-53 TO 1956-57.**

(£.)

Year ended 30th June.	Medical Treatment.	Employment and Vocational Training.	Business Loans and Furniture.	Living Allowances.	Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.	Other Benefits.	Total.
1953 ..	8,444,886	967,473	270,755	1,863,490	287,283	225,261	12,059,148
1954 ..	8,906,189	505,944	227,679	2,128,052	340,496	223,781	12,332,141
1955 ..	8,969,116	313,242	178,060	2,334,047	368,876	229,591	12,392,932
1956 ..	9,559,880	221,711	145,453	2,357,660	348,282	206,615	12,839,601
1957 ..	10,288,344	253,665	91,380	2,447,443	427,546	234,797	13,743,175

2. **Expenditure by the Repatriation Commission, 1956-57.**—The total expenditure by the Repatriation Commission for the year ended 30th June, 1957, was £67,758,567, distributed as follows:—

<i>Repatriation Benefits—</i>				£	£
War and Service Pensions	..	..	..	50,161,841	
Operation of Medical Institutions, Medical Treatment, etc.	..	..	..	13,069,325	
Soldiers' Children Education Scheme	..	..	..	427,546	
					63,658,712
<i>Other Benefits—Seamen's War Pensions, etc.</i>	..	..	..	..	127,372
<i>Administration</i>	..	..	..	..	3,101,060
<i>Capital Works and Services</i>	..	..	..	..	871,423
Total	..	..	..	..	67,758,567

3. **Settlement of Returned Service Personnel on the Land.**—Reference to the settlement on the land of returned service personnel will be found in Chapter IV.—Land Tenure and Settlement.

4. **The Services Canteens Trust Fund.**—(i) *Introduction.* The Services Canteens Trust Fund was established under the Services Trust Funds Act 1947. This Act transferred to the Fund the profits and assets of the Army, Navy and Air Force canteens, the mess and regimental funds of disbanded wartime units, money derived from the sale of amenities supplied to the defence forces between the 3rd September, 1939, and the 30th June, 1947, and funds held by the A.M.F. Special Benefits Committee, the trustees of the R.A.N. Relief Fund and the trustees of the R.A.A.F. Welfare Fund.

(ii) *Establishment and Administration of the Fund.* The total amount transferred to the Fund to the 31st December, 1956, was £5,505,775. The Act prescribed that of this, £2,500,000, and such further amounts as the trustees of the Fund may from time to time decide, should be devoted to the provision of education facilities for the children of eligible ex-servicemen and women, and that the balance of the fund should be used to provide relief for ex-servicemen and women and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by ten honorary trustees, appointed by the Commonwealth Government. The trustees have power to determine the persons or groups of persons to benefit from the Fund and the extent of benefits to be granted within the provisions of the Act, and to appoint regional committees to assist with the administration.

Regional committees have been established in all Australian States, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory, New Zealand and London. All Australian diplomatic and consular posts also act as local representatives of the trustees. They have delegated to them by the trustees specific powers to deal with applications for assistance from the Fund.

Members of regional committees are all persons who served in the 1939-45 War or are widows of men who served during the war, and, with the exception of regional chairmen and deputy chairmen, have been selected by the trustees from nominees of the major ex-service organizations. They also serve in an honorary capacity.

(iii) *Assistance from the Fund.* Persons eligible for assistance from the Fund are those who between 30th September, 1939, and 30th June, 1947, served in the Australian Naval, Military or Air Forces, including members of the Canteens Staff of any ship of the Royal Australian Navy, persons duly accredited to any part of the Defence Force who served in an official capacity on full-time paid duty, and their dependants.

The trustees are charged under the Services Trust Funds Act with:—

(a) providing educational assistance including professional and trade training—

- (i) for the children of deceased or incapacitated eligible servicemen or of eligible servicemen who are in needy circumstances; and
- (ii) for the children of other eligible servicemen, which children are in the opinion of the trustees particularly deserving of assistance by reason of exceptional circumstances;

(b) providing benefits for—

- (i) eligible servicemen in necessitous or deserving circumstances;
- (ii) the dependants of deceased or totally or partially incapacitated eligible servicemen or of eligible servicemen in necessitous or deserving circumstances;
- (iii) the dependants of eligible servicemen other than those mentioned in paragraph (ii) above, which dependants are, in the opinion of the trustees, in necessitous circumstances or particularly deserving of assistance;
- (iv) the provision of relief or benefit for eligible servicemen and their dependants in such other cases as the trustees think fit.

The trustees have introduced schemes for providing—

- (a) welfare relief for ex-service men and women who are eligible for benefits and their dependants;
- (b) benefits for children of eligible ex-service men and women who are suffering from serious and incapacitating afflictions; and
- (c) education benefits for the children of eligible ex-service men and women.

Because over 1,000,000 men and women and all their dependants are eligible for benefits, the assistance that can be provided in individual cases is limited and the trustees have prescribed a policy for welfare relief which makes assistance available only to those who are in genuine distress from which they cannot extricate themselves by their own efforts. In determining the nature or amount of relief to be granted, care is taken wherever possible to use the fund constructively with the object of assisting the applicant to achieve independence, and of discouraging any tendency towards increasing dependence on social welfare organizations. For example, the regular supplementing of pension or low income for an indefinite period is contrary to the policy of the trustees, as it is quite impossible for the fund to assume a general responsibility of that nature. Instead every effort is made to assist the applicant to adjust his mode of living or to increase his income himself so that he may live within it. Either the applicant, or his dependants, should be deserving of assistance. Though the fund is not used in such a way as to encourage improvidence, even the complete worthlessness of the eligible person will not debar deserving dependants.

From its inauguration in 1947, the Fund is to be available for 40 years for welfare relief, and for 30 years for educational benefits.

Applications are carefully investigated to determine the bona fides of the applicant and the case presented, and to help regional committees in deciding the kind of assistance, if any, to be given. Where possible, investigations are made by trained social workers either on the staff of the Fund or of recognized agencies.

The following amounts of welfare relief have been granted from the Fund:—

Recipients.					Year 1957.	Total to 31st December, 1957.
					£	£
Ex-service men and women	..	..	..	..	52,289	594,734
Widows and orphans	..	..	..	..	28,120	267,267
Total	..	..	..	..	80,409	862,001

A total of 22,329 ex-service men and women and 8,079 widows and orphans were granted welfare assistance from the Fund to 31st December, 1957.

Of all persons eligible for assistance from the Fund, widows and orphans are likely to be in greatest need, especially in the period immediately following the death of an ex-serviceman. Consequently a special effort is made to locate these widows and orphans and their degree of need is interpreted more liberally than is that of ex-servicemen.

Also particularly deserving of assistance are dependent children suffering from afflictions which permanently disable or seriously retard their progress or prevent the enjoyment of normal health and strength, and present a prospect of complete or partial dependence on others for all or part of their lives. The trustees introduced a plan to ensure that any eligible child suffering from a serious affliction may be assisted as necessary and may have access to whatever treatment or facilities are available to help the child to become as normal, self-reliant, self-supporting, socially acceptable, mobile, and happy as possible, despite his or her handicap. The extent to which assistance will be granted in a particular case depends largely on the nature of the child's affliction, the facilities available, the family circumstances, and the funds that can be made available.

Up to 31st December, 1957, 1,490 afflicted children had been assisted under the Afflicted Children's Scheme involving an expenditure of £69,564.

Educational assistance is restricted to children who are 15 years of age and over, except in the case of orphans, when assistance commences at the age of 12 years, or in the case of orphans eligible for education allowances from the Repatriation Department, where education assistance is granted from the age of 13. The object of the trustees is to assist eligible children to obtain the highest education within their capacity.

Educational assistance from the Fund is in the form of awards ranging from £5 to £200 a year depending on the cost of the course undertaken and the family circumstances. These awards are granted for practically every type of course of education, whether secondary, tertiary or commercial. They are designed to cover, or contribute towards, the cost of essential books, fees in cases where government school courses are not available, fares between the child's home and school, essential equipment and material, a uniform allowance in certain years and a maintenance allowance for the child while at school.

The educational scheme also provides for post-graduate courses. Two post-graduate scholarships are awarded each year. One scholarship valued at £800 per annum for three years is provided for study overseas and one scholarship valued at £600 per annum for three years is available for post-graduate study in Australia.

Two post-graduate nursing awards are tenable in Australia each year. They cover fees, fares, books and a maintenance allowance at the rate of £6 per week for the duration of the course. In addition, post-graduate nursing awards are granted for post-graduate nursing training overseas in courses which are not available in Australia.

The number of children assisted under the educational scheme to 31st December, 1957, was 22,881, and the expenditure on educational awards, post-graduate scholarships and post-graduate nursing awards to 31st December, 1957, was £994,444.

§ 6. Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances.

The Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940 provides for the grant of—

- (a) pensions to Australian mariners and their dependants if the mariner, during the course of his employment, sustained injury through enemy action;
- (b) pensions to dependants of Australian mariners who, while in employment, were killed by enemy action;
- (c) detention allowances to Australian mariners and their dependants (if any) during any period of detention of mariners after capture by the enemy; and
- (d) compensation to Australian mariners in respect of personal effects lost or damaged through enemy action.

Regulations passed in 1942 provided that the wages of an Australian mariner, less the amount of any detention allowance, should continue if, while employed in sea-going service under articles of agreement entered into in Australia, or in the case of a pilot while employed on pilot duty, he fell into the hands of the enemy as a result of that employment and that the wages so continuing should be applied for the benefit of the mariner and his dependants. The wages would be paid by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia for the first 18 months of the mariner's detention if he was employed in a ship owned by, or under requisition to, that Government, the United Kingdom Government or the Government of any country in the British Commonwealth, and thereafter irrespective of his employment.

Subsequent amendments to the Act and regulations raised pensions to rates corresponding to those payable under the Repatriation Act, and made mariners eligible for general benefits on the same scale as those available under that Act.

The following table gives a summary of the main statistics relating to seamen's war pensions and allowances.

SEAMEN'S WAR PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	12 months ended 30th June.			Pensions payable at 30th June—			
	Pensions Granted.	Claims Rejected.	Expenditure.	To Incapa- citated Mariners.	To Dependants of Incapa- citated Mariners.	To Dependants of Deceased Mariners.	Total.
	No.	No.	£	No.	No.	No.	No.
1953 ..	20	44	24,953	36	26	141	203
1954 ..	3	34	24,436	39	27	136	202
1955 ..	20	40	27,805	52	34	130	216
1956 ..	24	15	30,416	52	48	127	227
1957 ..	27	38	32,629	54	65	115	234