

CHAPTER XXVIII.

DEFENCE.

§ 1. Department of Defence.

1. **Introduction.**—At the outbreak of the 1939–45 War, the Department of Defence comprised the three Fighting Services and a Central Secretariat. In November, 1939, separate Departments, each with its own Minister, were created for the control and administration of the Navy, Army and Air Force. The Defence Department as then reconstituted retained responsibility for over-all defence policy and for the conduct during the war of the business of the War Cabinet, set up in September, 1939, and the Advisory War Council, set up in October, 1940. These bodies ceased to function after the war.

2. **Functions and Organization.**—(i) *Functions.* Subject to the authority of Cabinet, the Minister and Department of Defence are responsible for:—

- (1) The formulation and general application of a unified defence policy relating to the Defence Forces and their requirements, including:—(a) co-operation in British Commonwealth and regional defence and the defence aspect of the Charter of the United Nations; (b) the supply aspect of defence policy, including the review of production programmes and capacity; (c) the scientific aspect of defence policy; and (d) the financial requirements of defence policy, and the allocation of funds made available.
- (2) The defence aspect of armistice and peace terms, control commissions, and forces of occupation.
- (3) Matters of policy or principle and important questions having a joint Service or inter-Departmental defence aspect.
- (4) The defence aspect of questions relating to the organization and machinery for:—(a) co-operation in British Commonwealth defence; (b) co-operation in regional security, including obligations under the United Nations Charter; (c) higher direction in war; and (d) higher direction of the Services.
- (5) The Commonwealth War Book, which is a summary of national plans for an emergency as developed in Departmental War Books.
- (6) The administration of inter-Service organizations, such as the joint intelligence machinery.
- (7) The defence aspect of:—the strength and organization of the forces, higher appointments in the Services, honours and awards.
- (8) Advice on the military aspect of civil defence.

(ii) *Organization, higher defence machinery, the control of the joint Service machinery and the Secretariat of the Council of Defence.* The joint Service and inter-Departmental advisory machinery of the Department consists of various committees headed by the Defence Committee, the Chiefs of Staff Committee, the Defence Administration Committee and the Joint War Production Committee.

The Defence Committee is a statutory body consisting of the Secretary, Department of Defence, who is Chairman, the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, the Chiefs of Staff of the three Services, the Secretary, Prime Minister's Department, the Secretary, Department of External Affairs, and the Secretary to the Treasury. Its function is to advise the Minister for Defence on:

- (a) The defence policy as a whole and also to co-ordinate military, strategic, economic, financial and external affairs aspects in framing defence programmes.
- (b) Matters of policy or principle and important questions having a joint Service or inter-Departmental defence aspect.
- (c) Such other matters having a defence aspect as are referred to the Committee by or on behalf of the Minister for Defence.

The main responsibility of the Chiefs of Staff Committee in peace is the preparation of strategic appreciation and military plans. The functions of the Defence Administration Committee, in addition to the regular review of the progress of the Defence Programme, relate to the co-ordination and integration of Service activities and the improvement of methods and organization. The function of the Joint War Production Committee is, briefly, to examine the relation between strategic plans and their requirements to ensure that the war potential for them exists. The major committees subordinate to the Defence Committee and/or the Chiefs of Staff Committee comprise the Principal Administrative Officers Committee (Maintenance and *Matériel*), the Principal Administrative Officers Committee (Personnel), the Defence Research and Development Policy Committee, the Joint Planning Committee, the Joint Intelligence Committee and the Joint Administrative Planning Committee.

(iii) *Defence Business Board.* In view of the heavy defence expenditure, the Government, in July, 1953, established the Defence Business Board in the Department of Defence. The Board deals with business matters of common interest to the three Services, or important subjects on which the collective advice of the Board is desired. The Board comprises businessmen who serve in a part-time honorary capacity and consists of an independent chairman and deputy chairman and the business advisers of the three Service Departments.

3. *Basis of Current Defence Policy.*—The main strategic factors affecting current defence policy may be summarized as follows:—

(i) *Likelihood of War.* Because of the nuclear deterrent, it is believed that global (or full scale) war is unlikely to occur as the result of deliberate planning, but could occur, with little warning, as the result of miscalculation in periods of tension or in limited war. The most likely wars are limited wars (armed conflict short of global war) which could occur with little warning. Hostile powers will probably continue to seize every opportunity to attain their aims by cold war techniques, such as infiltration, subversion and armed insurrection.

(ii) *Area of Primary Strategic Interest.* South East Asia is of great strategic importance to Australia, whose primary effort will be directed to that area in cold, limited or global war.

(iii) *Collective Defence.* The defence of South East Asia and Australia is to be sought through the concept of collective security. For this reason Australia is participating in regional arrangements such as SEATO and ANZUS, and arrangements for Commonwealth co-operation. Such arrangements are entirely in accord with the United Nations Charter.

4. *The Defence Programme.*—(i) *Programme.* The level of national defences must be adequate to enable Australia to meet her regional and home defence responsibilities. The proportion of national resources that can be allotted to defence is, however, affected by the concurrent demands of the programmes of national development, industrial expansion and migration, which add to our basic defence capacity. The main emphasis in the current Defence Programme will continue to be the provision of regular forces, highly trained, well equipped, mobile and readily available. Simultaneously, a sound basic defence organization, including adequate reserve forces, is being maintained to permit rapid expansion in an emergency. The activities of the armed services are being examined with a view to employing common services to the greatest possible extent where economy and efficiency might be enhanced. Equipment used by Australian forces will be standard or compatible as far as possible with that used by United States forces, with whom they are associated in defence arrangements. The defence programme provides for the acceleration of the naval construction programme with emphasis on anti-submarine capabilities and the maintenance of a regular army brigade group, equipped with the most modern weapons available. Mobility will be greatly increased by the procurement of 12 modern C120 Hercules transport aircraft for the R.A.A.F. The R.A.A.F. is being equipped with the U.S. Sidewinder air-to-air guided missile and preliminary investigations are being made for the introduction of a ground-to-air guided weapon. Two control and reporting units are being established and further units are planned. The Army is currently being supplied with the new F.N. 30 rifle. The army brigade group will be additional to the infantry battalion in Malaya and the Citizen Military Forces will be maintained at an adequate strength.

In the field of research and development, Australia is making its principal contribution through the Long Range Weapons Establishment which is a joint United Kingdom-Australian effort for the testing of guided weapons. The executive authority for this project is the Department of Supply which is also responsible for the provision of the material requirements of the forces including the manufacture and supply of munitions and aircraft.

The estimated cost of the defence programme for 1958-59 was £190 million.

(ii) *Financial.* Details of defence expenditure for 1957-58 and the allocation of the Defence Vote for 1958-59 are set out in the two tables which follow:—

ALLOCATION OF DEFENCE VOTE OF £190,000,000 FOR 1958-59.
(£'000.)

Service or Department.	Maintenance.	Capital Material Requirements, Machinery, Plant and Equipment.	Capital Buildings, Works and Acquisition of Sites.	Total Expenditure.
Defence	1,022	34	32	1,088
Navy	32,440	8,364	1,597	42,401
Army	47,120	12,077	4,315	63,512
Air	40,555	13,763	4,984	59,302
Supply	14,617	3,109	4,031	21,757
Other Services	696	684	560	1,940
Total	136,450	38,031	15,519	190,000

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE, 1957-58.
(£'000.)

Service or Department.	Maintenance.	Capital Material Requirements, Machinery, Plant and Equipment.	Capital Buildings, Works and Acquisition of Sites.	Total Expenditure.
Defence	864	35	32	931
Navy	31,231	10,320	1,572	43,123
Army	46,120	6,892	3,841	56,853
Air	42,885	9,234	3,255	55,374
Defence Production	4,009	2,205	6,015	(a) 12,229
Supply	12,382	879	2,379	15,640
Other Services	595	166	186	947
Total	138,086	29,731	17,280	185,097

(a) The Department of Defence Production was abolished as a separate Department and its functions taken over by the Department of Supply on 23rd April, 1958; separate expenditure records were maintained, however, until the end of the financial year.

(iii) *Personnel Strengths.* The personnel strengths of the Services at 31st December, 1958 were:—

Category.	Navy.	Army.	Air Force.	Total.
Permanent Forces	(a) 10,425	21,339	15,217	46,981
Citizen Forces—				
Volunteers	8,377	(b) 17,154	853	26,384
National Service Personnel	3,702	(c) 35,618	(c)	39,320
Total Citizen Forces	12,079	52,772	853	65,704
Total Permanent and Citizen Forces	22,504	74,111	16,070	112,685

(a) Excludes 23 cadet midshipmen not on pay.

(b) Excludes 1,486 on Army Supplementary Reserve.

(c) Excludes 61,416 Army and 10,517 Air Force National Service personnel who have completed training and are on the reserve.

5. *Australian Forces Serving in Malaya.*—Australia has participated with the United Kingdom and New Zealand in the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve in Malaya since it was first established in 1955. At the request of the Government of the Federation of Malaya, the Strategic Reserve continues to be stationed in that country and to assist in the campaign against the communist terrorists.

The Australian contribution to the Strategic Reserve comprises the following forces—
Navy—Two destroyers or frigates. An aircraft carrier also pays an annual visit, and additional ships would be provided in an emergency.

Army—An infantry battalion with supporting arms, and reinforcements in Australia.

Air Force—A fighter wing of two squadrons (Sabres) and a Canberra bomber squadron were deployed to Malaya during the latter part of 1958 and the early part of 1959.

These forces play a valuable role in the cold war and are ready to meet the demands of an emergency.

6. *National Service Training*.—Under the National Service training scheme, every male person, other than those mentioned below, ordinarily resident in Australia, who, on or after 1st November, 1950, attains the age of 18 years, is required to register for National Service when called upon to do so by notice published in the *Commonwealth Gazette*. The first registration took place in May, 1951, and since then successive groups of eighteen-year-olds have been required to register, usually at six-month intervals.

Exemption from the liability to register is confined to certain diplomatic personnel and officials in the service of international bodies, members of the permanent forces, and aboriginal natives of Australia. Exemption from the liability to undergo training may be granted to theological students, ministers of religion, members of religious orders, conscientious objectors, and registrants suffering from certain prescribed physical or mental disabilities.

Registrants not exempted from service are liable to be called up for training provided they attain the standard of medical fitness required. Deferment may be granted for limited periods to students or apprentices so as to avoid undue interruption to their studies or trade training and to registrants who can establish before a court that their call-up would cause exceptional hardship to themselves, their parents or dependants. Early in 1955, provision was made to defer the call-up of registrants living outside approved C.M.F. training areas and to rural workers permanently engaged full-time on a rural holding in the production of food or raw materials.

In 1957, a new selection procedure was introduced. This is in the form of a ballot conducted shortly after each new age group is called upon to register. Registrants included by ballot are regarded as available for call up subject to the existing rules and procedures for exemption and deferment. Those excluded by ballot are granted deferment.

Up to and including the intakes in January, 1957, training was carried out in all three Services. Since that date all training has been carried out in the Army and the total number called up each year reduced from 34,000 to 12,000. Up to the time when training in the Navy and Air Force was abandoned, the total numbers called up for training in those services were Navy 6,967 and Air Force 22,267. Up to the latest Army intake in January, 1959, the total number called up for service in the Army was 189,757.

The total Army training liability is 140 days consisting of an initial continuous training period of 77 days and 21 days part-time and camp training in each of the following three years. Trainees remain on the Reserve of the Citizen Military Forces for five years from the date of call-up. The normal times for call-up are in January, May and August of each year.

Provision is made to safeguard the rights of registrants called up for training, notably with regard to reinstatement in civilian employment. There is no statutory obligation on employers to make up any difference between the civil and service pay of employees who are undergoing training, but some employers do so voluntarily.

§ 2. Naval Defence.

1. *Administration*.—The Royal Australian Navy is administered, under the Naval Defence Act 1910–1952, by the Naval Board, which consists of the Minister for the Navy, four Naval Members, and the Secretary, Department of the Navy.

2. *Historical*.—Prior to 1901, naval defence systems were organized under the State Governments: information regarding these systems is given in Official Year Book No. 2, page 1084. An outline of the development of Australian Naval policy is given in Official Year Books No. 3, page 1060, and No. 12, page 1012. An account of the building of the Australian Navy, its cost, the compact with the Imperial Government, and other details appears in Official Year Book No. 15, pages 921–923. The growth and the activities of the Royal Australian Navy during the 1939–45 War are shown in Official Year Book No. 36, pages 1023–1027.

3. **Link with the Royal Navy.**—The strong links with the Royal Navy are maintained by a constant exchange of officers for extended tours of duty, and by a full exchange of information and ideas. A liaison staff is maintained by the Royal Australian Navy in London, and by the Royal Navy in Australia. Advanced training and staff courses in the United Kingdom are provided by the Royal Navy for Royal Australian Navy Officers.

4. **Strength of the Fleet.**—Ships in Commission at June, 1959, were:—

H.M.A. Fleet.

- 1 Aircraft carrier.
- 6 Destroyers.
- 3 Fast Anti-submarine frigates.
- 5 Frigates.
- 7 Auxiliary Vessels.

5. **Personnel.**—The authorized establishment strength of the Royal Australian Navy has been pegged at 12,800 comprising 1,519 officers and 11,281 ratings. At 31st December, 1958, the actual strength of the Naval Forces, permanent and reserves, serving full-time, was 1,257 officers and 8,850 ratings including 100 native ratings of the Papua and New Guinea Division of the Royal Australian Navy. 42 cadet midshipmen were undergoing training at the Naval College. 11 Officers and 265 ratings were serving in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service. Reserve strength comprised 1,323 officers and 10,756 ratings, serving part-time.

6. **Women's Royal Australian Naval Service.**—The established personnel strength of the W.R.A.N.S. is 14 officers and 370 ratings; they serve in the shore establishments in the following categories: Radio-operators, Regulating, Writers, Stores assistants, Sick Berth Attendants, Motor Transport Drivers, Wrens (Radar Plot), Cooks and Stewards.

7. **Reserve Training.**—Members of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve carry out limited training at night or on Saturday afternoons, plus 13 days annual continuous training; engagements are for 3 years and pay is on a par with that of the Permanent Naval Forces. Special courses and service of longer duration are available to selected members. The Royal Australian Fleet Reserve consists of former ratings of the R.A.N., R.N., or a Dominion Navy whose obligation to perform training is determined by the length of their permanent naval service.

8. **Fleet Air Arm.**—The Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Australian Navy maintains two front line squadrons, embarked in the operational carrier, *H.M.A.S. Melbourne*. This ship is fitted with an angled deck, steam catapult and mirror deck-landing sights. Training and support squadrons for *H.M.A.S. Melbourne's* Sea Venom Jet all-weather fighter and ground attack aircraft and Gannet turbo-prop anti-submarine aircraft are based at the Naval Air Station H.M.A.S. *Albatross* at Nowra, New South Wales.

9. **Ship Construction and Repair.**—Provision is made for the maintenance in Australia of a ship construction and repair industry capable of rapid expansion in war. Under the present programme, two anti-submarine frigates are fitting out and two more of the same type are under construction.

Two general purpose vessels and one Sea-air rescue craft are also under construction.

10. **Naval College.**—The Royal Australian Naval College, transferred from Jervis Bay, A.C.T., to Flinders Naval Depot in 1930, was re-established at Jervis Bay in January, 1958, and was commissioned as *H.M.A.S. Creswell*.

11. **Training Establishments.**—Flinders Naval Depot, at Crib Point, Westernport, Victoria, is the basic training establishment for ratings in the permanent forces, while several advanced training schools are established in Sydney, New South Wales. The Apprentice Training Establishment at Quaker's Hill, New South Wales, provides secondary education as well as training in trades in which the lads will be employed during their service in the Royal Australian Navy. Trainee pilots for the Fleet Air Arm graduate as pilots at Royal Australian Air Force establishments, then proceed to the Royal Australian Air Station, Nowra, for operational training. Observers are at present trained in Royal Navy schools but training will recommence at Nowra this year.

12. **The Australia Naval Station.**—Defined limits of the Australia Station are as follows:—

Eastern—

From 3° 30' North, 169° East, south to 1° South, thence east to 170° East, thence south along this meridian to 30° South, thence to 45° South, 160° East, thence south along this meridian.

Northern—

From 3° 30' North, 169° East, west to 125° East, thence south to the Coast of Celebes, thence west along the Coast of Celebes to 120° East, thence south along this meridian to 10° South, thence west to 78° East.

Western—

From 10° South, 78° East, south along this meridian.

13. **Ships Service Outside Australian Waters.**—During the year ended June, 1958, H.M.A. Ships *Melbourne*, *Anzac*, *Tobruk*, *Voyager*, *Quickmatch*, *Queenborough* and *Quiberon* served on the Far East Station as units of the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve, with Headquarters at Singapore. H.M.A. Ships *Vendetta* and *Swan* made visits beyond the limits of the Australia Station.

14. **Papua and New Guinea Division of the Royal Australian Navy.**—A Papua and New Guinea Division of the Royal Australian Navy, consisting of native ratings, was inaugurated in July, 1951, as a separate part of the Permanent Naval Forces for employment in Papua and New Guinea and adjacent waters.

15. **Ships of the Royal Australian Navy.**—The following ships were in commission or in reserve in June, 1959:—

SHIPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, JUNE, 1959.

Vessel.	Description.	Displacement.
In Commission—		Tons.
<i>Melbourne</i>	Aircraft Carrier	15,680
<i>Anzac</i>	Destroyer	2,436
<i>Tobruk</i>	"	2,436
<i>Vampire</i>	"	2,789
<i>Vendetta</i>	"	2,789
<i>Voyager</i>	"	2,801
<i>Warramunga</i>	"	2,012
<i>Queenborough</i>	Frigate	2,020
<i>Quiberon</i>	"	2,020
<i>Quickmatch</i>	"	2,020
<i>Diamantina</i> (Training)	"	1,489
<i>Gascoyne</i> (Training)	"	1,489
<i>Swan</i> (Cadets Training)	"	1,060
<i>Barcoo</i> (Survey)	"	1,477
<i>Warrego</i> (Survey)	"	1,060
In Reserve—		
<i>Sydney</i>	Aircraft Carrier	15,740
<i>Hobart</i>	Cruiser	7,100
<i>Arunta</i>	Destroyer	2,012
<i>Barwon</i>	Frigate	1,489
<i>Burdekin</i>	"	1,489
<i>Condamine</i>	"	1,537
<i>Culgoa</i>	"	1,537
<i>Hawkesbury</i>	"	1,489
<i>Macquarie</i>	"	1,553
<i>Murchison</i>	"	1,537
<i>Quadrant</i>	"	2,020
<i>Shoalhaven</i>	"	1,537
<i>Ararat</i>	Ocean Minesweeper	768
<i>Bunbury</i>	"	768
<i>Bundaberg</i>	"	797
<i>Colac</i>	"	768
<i>Cootamundra</i>	"	768
<i>Cowra</i>	"	789
<i>Fremantle</i>	"	768
<i>Gympie</i>	"	768
<i>Kapunda</i>	"	768

SHIPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, JUNE, 1959—*continued.*

Vessel.	Description.	Displacement.
<i>In Reserve—continued.</i>		Tons.
<i>Rockhampton</i>	Ocean Minesweeper ..	768
<i>Sirahan</i>	" " ..	768
<i>Wagga</i> (Training)	" " ..	768
<i>Under Dockyard Control—</i>		
<i>Parramatta</i>	Frigate (building)
<i>Yarra</i>	" "
O 2	" "
O 5	" "

§ 3. Military Defence.

1. *State Systems.*—A detailed historical account of the Australian defence forces prior to Federation appears in Official Year Book No. 2, pages 1075–1080. *See also* Official Year Book No. 12, page 999.

The strength of the military forces of the States on 31st December, 1900 (the eve of Federation) was:—New South Wales, 9,338; Victoria, 6,335; Queensland, 4,028; South Australia, 2,932; Western Australia, 2,696; Tasmania, 2,024; total for Australia, 27,353. This total is exclusive of cadets, reservists and rifle club members.

2. *Commonwealth Systems.*—(i) *General.* Under the terms of the Constitution Act 1900, the Commonwealth took over control of defence matters in March, 1901. The growth of the Commonwealth Military Forces may be considered to have taken place in sixteen phases. For particulars of the phases which cover the period from the welding together of the military forces of the States into one homogeneous army in 1902 up to the decision to increase the training strength of the militia to 70,000 in the year before the 1939–45 War (phases 1–7), *see* Official Year Book No. 36 and earlier issues.

Phases 8–10, covering the period immediately prior to, and just following, the outbreak of the 1939–45 War, relate to the initial steps necessary to put the Australian Military Forces on a war-time basis, and to its organization into commands.

The eleventh phase, in January, 1942, was the division of Northern, Eastern and Southern Commands into separate commands and base headquarters to handle operational and administrative matters respectively, and the twelfth phase was the revision of the machinery for command administration of lines of communication areas. The thirteenth phase was the appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir Iven Mackay as G.O.C.-in-C. Home Forces commanding the forces in Northern, Eastern and Southern Commands. The fourteenth phase covered the period following the outbreak of war with Japan and the entry of United States of America Forces into the South-West Pacific Area, and related to the appointment of General Sir Thomas Blamey as Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, the cessation of the Military Board, and the replacement of the system of commands and bases by the field army and lines of communication areas. In March, 1943, First and Second Armies took over from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria Lines of Communication Areas the command of all coast and static anti-aircraft artillery defences and training establishments. On 16th June, 1944, Western Command was re-established and took over the combined responsibilities of Third Australian Corps and Western Australia Line of Communication Area.

The fifteenth phase was the re-introduction in March, 1946, of the Military Board and the organization of commands and military districts, and the sixteenth phase was the commencement of the National Service Training Scheme in August, 1951 (*see* § 1, para. 6 above and sub-para. (iv) (c) following).

For greater detail on phases 8–14, *see* Official Year Book No. 38 and earlier issues.

(ii) *Population of Military Age, 30th June, 1958.* The following particulars show the estimated numbers of males of military age in the population of Australia as at 30th June, 1958. The total number of cadet age, 14 and under 18, was 300,861; of citizen soldier age, 18 and under 26, 522,221; and 26 and under 35, 682,047; making a total of 1,505,129 aged 18 and under 35, which is considered the best period for military service. In addition, there were 1,510,823 males 35 and under 60 in Australia at 30th June, 1958.

(iii) *Allotment of Units.* Under the Command Organization (see above), units are raised on a territorial basis, each State supplying its proportion of the personnel required for the fighting services. Commands and all formations and units under them conform generally to State boundaries as follows:—Northern Command, Queensland; Eastern Command, New South Wales; Southern Command, Victoria; Central Command, South Australia; Western Command, Western Australia; Tasmania Command and Northern Territory Command. New Guinea is the responsibility of Northern Command.

(iv) *Military Training Systems.* (a) *General.* Particulars of the military training systems in operation prior to the 1939–45 War, first on a compulsory basis and later voluntary, will be found in Official Year Book No. 38 and earlier issues.

The current plan (1958–59) for the Australian Regular Army is based on an average strength of 22,100 full time duty personnel (excluding civilians) and a Citizen Military Force of 49,500, including National Servicemen.

(b) *The Australian Cadet Corps.* The Australian Cadet Corps is a voluntary organization comprised of School Cadet units. It serves as a training ground to provide, to some extent, the future officers and non-commissioned officers of the Australian Military Forces, and, as such, occupies an important position in the scheme of national defence. School Cadet units are raised at educational establishments in all States of the Commonwealth. The minimum age for enrolment is the year in which the applicant reaches the age of 14 years, and cadets, who in the large majority of schools receive a free issue of A.M.F. pattern uniform, may remain in the Cadet Corps until they cease to be pupils of the educational establishments concerned. A few units retain their own pattern school uniform and are not issued with A.M.F. pattern uniforms. Provision is made for the appointment of officers, cadet under-officers, warrant and non-commissioned officers on an authorized establishment scale from within school units.

The establishment of the whole Corps is 35,000 all ranks, and at 31st December, 1958, comprised 274 School Cadet units with a posted strength of 31,174 all ranks.

(c) *National Service Training Scheme.* Under the National Service Training Scheme (see § 1, para. 6 above) the Army was initially required to train 29,250 trainees a year, effected by three intakes each of 9,750 trainees in January, April and August. The first intake commenced training in August, 1951. As from the second intake of 1957, the annual intake has been reduced to 12,000.

(v) *Women's Services.* In November, 1950, approval was given for the enlistment of women into the Australian Regular Army on a limited scale. Enlistment commenced immediately into the Australian Women's Army Corps. During June, 1951, the Australian Women's Army Corps was re-designated the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (W.R.A.A.C.). Members are employed in establishments in direct substitution for male soldiers. The Women's Services in the Australian Regular Army now comprise two Corps only:—(a) Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps; (b) Women's Royal Australian Army Corps.

Women's Services have been incorporated in the Citizen Military Forces and it is proposed to raise sixteen companies of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps and twelve companies of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, a total of 3,900 all ranks, within the C.M.F.

At December, 1958, six companies of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps and eight companies of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, a total of approximately 1,900 all ranks, had been raised within the C.M.F.

(vi) *Malaya.* On 1st April, 1955, the Commonwealth Government announced its decision to dispatch troops to Malaya as an Australian component of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and 105th Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery and other minor units embarked from Australia on 6th October, 1955, and disembarked at Penang on 20th October, 1955. These units returned to Australia in 1957, disembarking at Sydney on 31st October. They were replaced by 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, (A) Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery and other minor units.

(vii) *The Staff College.* Until 1938, the training of staff officers was carried out in the various Military Districts throughout Australia, except in cases where officers were selected from time to time to attend courses abroad. In 1938, an Australian Command and Staff School, located in the original Officers' Mess at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, was established. Between 1939 and 1945, the training of staff officers was carried out under varying conditions by different schools in accordance with the changing needs of the war.

Early in 1946, the Staff School (Australia) was established at Seymour in Victoria and re-designated the Staff College in conformity with other Empire training establishments for training officers for command and staff appointments. The College was later moved to Queenscliffe, Victoria, where it is at present situated. The courses are of ten months' duration and are held from January to November each year. The normal intake is 40 students and, on successfully completing the course, an officer is awarded the symbol "psc". The course is designed to train selected officers for war, and in so doing to fit them for Command or Grade II. staff appointments. Each course includes, among the students, Army representatives of the United Kingdom and other Dominions and countries. Included in the 1958 course are students from the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States of America, the Philippines and Burma. Vacancies on each course are reserved also for officers who may be nominated by the Royal Australian Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force and the Commonwealth Public Service.

In order to ensure common standards in tactical doctrine and staff and command training throughout the Empire, liaison is maintained with other Staff Colleges; and to this end, there is also a reciprocal exchange of instructors. To this extent, it may be said that the Staff College is imperial in character.

(viii) *The Royal Military College.* The Royal Military College was established in 1911 at Duntroon in the Australian Capital Territory for the purpose of providing trained officers for the Army. The conditions of entry are laid down in the Royal Military College Regulations and provide for admission by "normal", "service", and "special" entries. The length of the "normal" course is four years; "service" entry cadets attend for three years; and "special" entries for one year.

While at the College, cadets receive pay and allowance of 16s. 2d. a day in their first year, rising to 26s. a day in their fourth. Uniform maintenance allowance of 2s. 6d. a day is additional, and a further 6d. a day is paid to cadets on attaining the age of 18 years. The course of instruction is organized into military and civil departments and the instructional staff comprises officers of the Army and civilian professors. On graduation, cadets are appointed lieutenants in the Australian Regular Army. The College also trains New Zealand cadets for commissions in the New Zealand Permanent Forces under an agreement made with the Government of that Dominion.

(ix) *The Officer Cadet School.* The Officer Cadet School was established in 1951 at Portsea, Victoria, for the purpose of speeding up the supply of junior regimental officers for the Australian Regular Army. Serving members of the Australian Regular Army, the Citizen Military Forces, National Servicemen, and civilians between the ages of 18 and 23 years, are eligible to apply for entrance. The course is of eleven months' duration and on graduation cadets are appointed second-lieutenants in the Australian Regular Army. They then normally proceed to further training at the Army School of the Arm or Service to which they have been allotted before being posted to regimental duties.

(x) *The Women's Royal Australian Army Corps School.* The W.R.A.A.C. School, established in 1952 at Mildura, Victoria, moved to Mosman, New South Wales in 1958. It has two wings, one whose primary task is the training of officer cadets for the W.R.A.A.C., the other being for the training of non-commissioned officers at all levels and for other special courses. The officer cadets are selected from eligible applicants, who may be serving members between 21 and 32 years of age, or civilians between 21 and 30 years of age. The course is of six months' duration and, on graduation, cadets are appointed lieutenants in the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps.

(xi) *The Army Apprentices' School.* The Army Apprentices' School was opened in 1948 at Balcombe, Victoria, with the aim of training youths as skilled tradesmen for the Australian Regular Army, and to form a background for an Army career with prospects of promotion. The course is open to boys between the ages of 15 and 17 years and provides training in a number of highly skilled trades. A three-year course of intensive theoretical and practical work at the Apprentices' School is followed by one year in an appropriate Army workshop or technical unit. At the end of their third year, boys are given their Army trade test and also take the Victorian Apprenticeship Commission final grade public examinations, which ensures that they will be accepted as qualified tradesmen.

in civil life when they eventually leave the Army. In addition to trade training, the Apprentices' School provides general educational facilities up to the school leaving standard.

(xii) *Army Schools.* Schools have been established for the major Arms and Services for the purpose of training officers and other ranks in the up-to-date techniques of their own Arm or Service, to qualify them for promotion requirements, and to produce trained instructors. In addition, a School of Tactics and Administration which has been established at Seymour, Victoria, provides qualifying and instructional courses in current tactical and administrative doctrine for members of all Arms and Services. Courses at Army Schools are conducted for members of both the Australian Regular Army and the Citizen Military Forces.

The following Schools have been established:—School of Tactics and Administration; Jungle Training Centre; Armoured School; School of Artillery; School of Military Engineering; School of Survey; School of Signals; School of Military Intelligence; School of Infantry; Royal Australian Army Medical Corps School of Army Health; Royal Australian Army Service Corps School; Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps School; Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Training Centre; Transportation Training Centre; School of Music; Women's Royal Australian Army Corps School; Air Support Unit (Joint Services) and School of Physical and Recreational Training.

(xiii) *Rifle Clubs.* The Australian Rifle Club movement, which had its origin in 1888, is provided for in the Defence Act and comprises an Australian Council of State Rifle Associations (which functions in an advisory capacity to the Minister and in the promotion of oversea and interstate rifle competitions), State Rifle Associations, District Rifle Club Unions and Rifle Clubs. When placed in recess in 1941, the efficient strength of the rifle club movement was 1,018 clubs and 36,478 members. Approximately 20 per cent. of this number served overseas and a further 60 per cent. performed home service duties during the 1939–45 War. Rifle shooting activities were resumed in 1946 and the strength of the movement as at 31st December, 1958, was 996 clubs and 43,751 members.

(xiv) *The Australian Battles Nomenclature Committee.* Reference is made to the formation of the Australian Battles Nomenclature Committee on 25th July, 1957, together with a broad outline of its functions and activities, in Official Year Book No. 43, page 1024. The Committee advised the United Kingdom Battles Nomenclature Committee regarding all operations of the 1939–45 War and the Korean Campaign in which Australian Military Forces participated. The final report of the United Kingdom Battles Nomenclature Committee was published in November, 1957.

(xv) *The Army Battle Honours Committee.* Following the publication of the final report of the United Kingdom Battles Nomenclature Committee, the Military Board, on 5th September, 1958, authorized the formation of an Army Head-quarters Battle Honours Committee with the following terms of reference:—

- (a) To examine and make recommendations to the Military Board on the following matters relating to the award of Battle Honours to A.M.F. units;
 - (i) The rules which should govern the award of Battle Honours to linked units.
 - (ii) Which units, if any, at present on the Order of Battle, may inherit (because of numerical or geographical associations) the Honours of A.M.F. units no longer on the Order of Battle.
 - (iii) Any other matters peculiar to the A.M.F. which the Committee considers should be decided.

- (b) To examine claims of A.M.F. units for Battle Honours for service in the 1939–45 War and Korean Operations and make recommendations to the Military Board.

Major-General Sir George F. Wootten, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., E.D., a distinguished soldier of both World Wars was appointed by the Military Board to be Chairman of the Committee.

3. Strength of Australian Military Forces.—The effective strength of the Australian Military Forces at 31st December, 1958, was as follows:—Australian Regular Army, 17,561; Regular Army Special Reserve, 3,778; Citizen Military Force (including National Service Trainees), 52,772; Australian Cadet Corps, 31,174.

4. Design and Inspection Branch.—The control of this Branch reverted to the Department of the Army from the Department of Supply as from 12th March, 1959.

§ 4. Air Defence.

1. General.—A statement regarding the preliminary steps taken in connexion with the development of air defence appears in Official Year Book No. 18, page 610, and one on the expansion and development and zones and operations of the Royal Australian Air Force during the 1939–45 War in Official Year Book No. 36, page 1027.

2. Administration and Organization.—The Department of Air is responsible for policy for the organization and control of the Royal Australian Air Force. The Air Board is responsible, subject to approved policy, for the control and administration of the Royal Australian Air Force, and is constituted as follows:—Chief of the Air Staff, Air Member for Technical Services, Air Member for Personnel, Air Member for Supply and Equipment, Citizen Air Force Member and the Secretary, Department of Air.

Headquarters of the Royal Australian Air Force is in the process of moving from Melbourne to Canberra. An Oversea Headquarters is located at London and an Air Attaché at Washington.

The units of the Royal Australian Air Force are organized in three functional Commands throughout Australia and its Territories.

The Commands are:—

Home Command.—Home Command is responsible for the command of operational units and the conduct of their operations within Australia and its Territories.

Training Command.—Training Command is responsible for the command of training units, recruitment and individual training in the R.A.A.F.

Maintenance Command.—Maintenance Command is responsible for the command of supply and servicing units, and supply and servicing, including technical services, of the R.A.A.F. in Australia.

The organization of the Royal Australian Air Force includes the following types of formations and units:—

- (a) *Formations*, comprising a headquarters unit to control the activities of a number of units at one location. Each formation has a base squadron which provides common services to all units at the location.
- (b) *Flying Squadrons*. These bomber, fighter, transport and maritime reconnaissance squadrons undertake the operational and, in conjunction with operational conversion units, the operational training flying commitments of the R.A.A.F.
- (c) *Operational Conversion Units*. These units specialize in operational conversion training of aircrew for the bomber and fighter squadrons.
- (d) *Aircraft Depots*. These units specialize in major overhauls, etc., of aircraft and equipment and relieve flying unit ground staff of these commitments.
- (e) *Stores Depots*. Stores and equipment ordered by the R.A.A.F. are delivered to these centrally located depots for distribution to units.
- (f) *Flying Training, Ground Training, Navigation, Radio and Air Armament Training Units*, which specialize in the aircrew and ground staff training required by the R.A.A.F.
- (g) *Airfield Construction Squadrons*. These units specialize in the construction of R.A.A.F. aerodromes and associated buildings and works services.
- (h) *Royal Australian Air Force College*. This unit is the training college for officer cadet entrants to the R.A.A.F.
- (i) *Telecommunications Units*. These units are responsible for the communications services of the R.A.A.F.
- (j) *R.A.A.F. Staff College*. This college trains specially selected R.A.A.F. officers for higher staff and command posts.

3. Aircraft.—Some of the aircraft which are at present being used in the Royal Australian Air Force are: bomber squadrons—Canberra; fighter squadrons—Mustang, Vampire, Meteor and Avon Sabre; transport squadrons—Metropolitan Hercules and Dakota; maritime reconnaissance squadrons—Lincoln and Neptune; air observation post—Auster and Cessna; training—Dakota, Canberra, Winjeel, Vampire, Meteor and Avon Sabre.

4. Establishment.—The Royal Australian Air Force establishment, as proposed, comprises an operational element and a support element consisting in all of approximately 17,000 personnel. The operational element consists of (a) Field Operational Force, (b) Operational Force, (c) Home Defence Force; the support element comprises the remainder of the R.A.A.F., and includes headquarters and administrative staffs and the organization for training, supply and maintenance.

5. Strength of Royal Australian Air Force.—At 1st March, 1959, the strength of the Royal Australian Air Force was as follows:—Permanent Air Force, 15,460; Active Citizen Air Force, 527; Active Reserve, 337 and General Reserve, 13,227.

6. Women's Royal Australian Air Force.—At 1st March, 1959, the Women's Royal Australian Air Force had an establishment of 836, with an enlisted strength of 778. There are 26 musterings, excluding members of the W.R.A.A.F. in training. Details of enlistment and service in the W.R.A.A.F. are given in Official Year Book No. 44, page 1058.

7. Operations in Korea and Malaya.—Reference to R.A.A.F. participation in operations in Korea is contained in Official Year Book No. 40, pages 1112–13.

Australian assistance in the form of one transport squadron provided to the Malayan authorities is detailed in Official Year Book No. 40, page 1113.

One bomber squadron was provided for operations in Malaya. No. 1 (Bomber) Squadron, equipped with Lincolns and operating from a Royal Air Force base on Singapore Island, served in this capacity from July, 1950, until withdrawn in July, 1958. During this period, the squadron dropped approximately 35 million lb. of bombs during operations against communist bandits.

Subsequent to the withdrawal of No. 1 (Bomber) Squadron, the R.A.A.F. component of the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve was deployed to the R.A.A.F. base at Butterworth, Malaya. The force includes No. 2 (Bomber) Squadron, No. 3 (Fighter) Squadron and No. 77 (Fighter) Squadron. Deployment was completed in March, 1959.

§ 5. War Gratuities.

Reference is made in earlier issues of the Official Year Book to the payments made under the provisions of the War Gratuity Acts 1920 (*see* No. 15, p. 930) and the War Gratuity Act 1945–1947 (*see* No. 41, p. 999).

§ 6. Department of Supply.

1. General.—Reference to the creation of the Department of Supply is made in Official Year Book No. 39, page 1257. On 24th April, 1958, the Department of Defence Production was abolished and the functions previously undertaken by that Department were transferred to the Department of Supply. References to those functions and to the activities of the various branches and establishments of the former Department of Defence Production are made in Official Year Book No. 44, pages 1059–1061.

2. Functions of the Department.—The functions of the Department of Supply include:—

- (i) Defence research and development, including the operation of the Joint United Kingdom-Australia Long Range Weapons Project, and Australian research and development through the Weapons Research Establishment, the Aeronautical Research Laboratories, the Defence Standards Laboratories and associated establishments;
- (ii) Manufacture, acquisition, provision and supply of munitions (including aircraft) and miscellaneous goods and services required by the defence forces;
- (iii) Arrangement of contracts for the supply of goods and the performance of services;
- (iv) Operation and management of factories, workshops and undertakings concerned in the production of munitions (including aircraft), clothing, canvasware and other defence goods;
- (v) Acquisition, maintenance and disposal of strategic materials;
- (vi) Planning and establishment of manufacturing facilities for the production of munitions and other defence goods;
- (vii) Investigation and development of Australian sources of supply in connexion with defence;
- (viii) Sale or disposal of surplus Commonwealth property other than land or buildings;
- (ix) Provision of Commonwealth transport facilities outside the Australian Capital Territory;
- (x) Provision and control of stores required for or in connexion with matters administered by the Department of Supply, and general storage for other Departments as required;
- (xi) Provision of security services within the Department;
- (xii) Arrangements for ascertaining costs and the control and limitation of profits in connexion with the production of munitions and other defence goods.

3. Act Administered.—The Minister for Supply administers the Supply and Development Act 1939–1948, except insofar as it concerns the building, repair and maintenance of merchant ships and the building, extension, operation, repair and maintenance of ship-yards, drydocking and repair facilities for merchant ships.

4. Research and Development Branch.—(i) *General.* The Research and Development Branch, which is under the control of the Chief Scientist, is responsible for research and

scientific development in relation to war *matériel* including the operation of the joint United Kingdom-Australia Long Range Weapons Organization. The Chief Scientist is also the Chairman of the Board of Management for Research and Development, which is responsible for the efficient and economical conduct of research and development undertakings. The headquarters of the Branch is situated at 339 Swanston Street, Melbourne, and the following establishments are included in the Branch:—Weapons Research Establishment, Salisbury, South Australia; Defence Standards Laboratories, Maribyrnong, Victoria; Aeronautical Research Laboratories, Fishermen's Bend, Victoria.

(ii) *Weapons Research Establishment, Salisbury, South Australia.* This Establishment has two main sections, namely, the Trials and Instrumentation Wing and the Weapons Research and Development Wing.

The Trials and Instrumentation Wing is concerned with the Joint United Kingdom-Australia Long Range Weapons Project and is responsible for the testing of guided missiles developed in the United Kingdom. The Weapons Research and Development Wing is engaged chiefly on Australian-initiated research but also provides a supporting research service for the Joint Project.

The headquarters of Weapons Research Establishment consisting of the main laboratory, workshop and administrative services, is located at Salisbury.

Accommodation has been provided in the area for a number of United Kingdom firms which are developing guided weapons under contract to the British Ministry of Supply.

A modern airfield (Edinburgh Field) has been established adjacent to the Headquarters at Salisbury to meet the flying requirements of the establishment, the flying being carried out by the R.A.A.F.

Testing ranges have been provided at Woomera which is approximately 280 miles north-west of Salisbury and 9 miles north of Pimba, which is on the trans-continental railway line. A number of these testing ranges are now in operation. A modern township of 500 houses and extensive barracks accommodation has been built, complete with community store, hospital, school and all amenities usually found in an Australian country town.

(iii) *Defence Standards Laboratories.* The Defence Standards Laboratories at Maribyrnong continue to give comprehensive service to industry, the armed services, and other Commonwealth and State Departments.

The broad function of these laboratories is the application of scientific knowledge and research to the problems arising in design, development, manufacture, inspection, storage, and use of war *matériel*. Research is also carried out in connexion with the development of new and improved materials, methods and equipment of known or potential interest.

(iv) *Aeronautical Research Laboratories.*—The broad function of the Aeronautical Research Laboratories is the application of scientific knowledge in the field of aeronautics to the operational and technical problems of the armed services and industry, and to the development of new weapons and military equipment. More specifically, the Laboratories conduct investigations in aerodynamics, structures, materials, and power plants with particular attention to aeronautical defence problems, especially those of missile design and operational effectiveness. These Laboratories also collaborate with the United Kingdom on aeronautical research matters of mutual interest.

5. *Production.*—(i) *Munitions.* The Department is responsible for the production in Australia of the munitions (other than specialized Navy requirements) for the Armed Services. The production is undertaken both in government-operated factories and in industry. Broadly this production is allocated as follows:—

- (a) Some processes are undertaken entirely by the government factories in peace and war because of special requirements.
- (b) Some classes of equipment and components are produced entirely by industry in peace and war.
- (c) Production techniques of advanced equipment and components of which industry may undertake mass production in war, are developed in the government factories in peace.
- (d) Requirements of standard equipment and components produced by the government factories in limited quantities in peace are in war produced on a mass production basis in industry.

The following factories are currently in operation:—Ammunition—Footscray, Victoria; Explosives and Filling—Albion and Maribyrnong, Victoria; Mulwala and St. Mary's, New South Wales; Ordnance—Maribyrnong, Bendigo, Echuca, Port Melbourne, all in Victoria; Small Arms—Lithgow, New South Wales; Clothing, Victoria; and certain annexes established in industry. Other government-owned factories and annexes are held on a care and maintenance basis against an emergency.

These factories are complementary to each other in the manufacture of a range of basic munitions. The Ammunition Factory makes the brass and non-ferrous components of gun ammunition, including melting and rolling, and these components are then passed

to the Filling Factories for filling with explosives. In the case of small arms ammunition, however, the factory makes the complete round, receiving the propellant from the Explosives Factories. The Ordnance Factories principally make guns, but in addition make the steel shell bodies which are passed to the Filling Factories to be filled with explosives and assembled with the brass and other components received from the Ammunition Factory. The Bendigo factory is specially equipped to produce also main propulsion gearing for Naval destroyers and frigates; at Echuca ball-bearings are currently manufactured; and the Port Melbourne works is devoted to the production of marine engines. The Explosives Factories make the propellant and high explosives for the brass components made at the Ammunition Factory and the steel components made at the Ordnance Factory. The Explosives Factories also assemble the gun ammunition. The Small Arms Factory is equipped to make the rifles and other small arms for which the Ammunition Factory makes the ammunition. The factory is currently establishing production of the F.N. 7.62 m.m. automatic rifle for the Australian Army to replace the .303 Lee Enfield rifle.

Production of munitions is also a joint effort between the Government factories and private contractors in industry. In peace, industry produces many components for ammunition and other stores plus complete units such as electronic equipment and motor vehicles for the Services. In war, industry would provide the major capacity for mass production not only of these and many other new items, but also of equipment and components using engineering techniques developed in peacetime in the Government factories.

(ii) *Aircraft.* (a) *General.* The production in Australia of military types of aircraft and aero engines and of other aircraft components required by the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal Australian Navy is also administered by the Department of Supply. Aircraft repair and overhaul activities carried out for those Services in civilian establishments, as distinct from Service workshops, are also the function of the Department, together with the responsibility of supplying aircraft and engine spare parts and airborne equipment generally.

(b) *Aircraft, Engine and Other Production.* The approved production programmes for the major aircraft manufacturing organizations in Australia comprised Canberra jet-engined bombers, Jindivik radio-controlled jet-propelled target aircraft and the Malkara guided missile at the Government Aircraft Factory, Melbourne; Avon Sabre jet-engined fighters, Winjeel basic trainers and Rolls-Royce Avon turbo-jet engines at Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd., Melbourne; and Vampire jet-trainers at De Havilland Aircraft Pty. Ltd., Sydney.

Production activities included the manufacture of parts of aero engines and of under-carriages at the Aircraft Engine Factory, Sydney, production of heavy forgings in light alloy materials at the Heavy Forge Annex, Sydney, the manufacture of aircraft pressed metal parts at Chrysler Australia Ltd., Adelaide, and turbine and compressor blade production for jet engines by National Forge Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.

(c) *Repair and Overhaul.* During the year, the broad policy was continued by the R.A.A.F. of returning to the factories in which they were produced all Australian-made aircraft and aero engines requiring major overhaul and the incorporation of modifications. Repair and overhaul of R.A.A.F. aircraft of certain other types and of carrier-based aircraft operated by the R.A.N. were undertaken by civilian personnel in the aircraft factories or in the works of contractors specially equipped to handle this type of work.

Canberra bomber aircraft were repaired and modified at the Government Aircraft Factory, together with Jindivik target aircraft. Avon Sabre fighter aircraft were repaired and modified and Rolls-Royce Nene and Avon turbo-jet engines were overhauled by Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd., Melbourne. Rolls-Royce Merlin and Pratt and Whitney Twin Row Wasp engines from the R.A.A.F., Rolls-Royce Griffon, Bristol Centaurus and Armstrong-Siddeley Double Mamba turbo-propeller engines from the R.A.N., and Rover Meteor engines from the Department of the Army for Centurion tanks were overhauled at the Aircraft Engine Factory, Sydney. Wright turbo-compound engines from R.A.A.F. Neptune aircraft were overhauled by Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., Sydney.

Carrier-based Sea Venom aircraft, Vampire fighters and trainers, together with Ghost turbo-jet engines from Sea Venoms, Goblin turbo-jet engines from Vampire trainers and Gipsy Major piston engines were repaired and overhauled at De Havilland Aircraft Pty. Ltd. Dakota transport and other miscellaneous aircraft were reconditioned and serviced at the Government workshops at Parafield, South Australia.

The repair and overhaul of carrier-based Fairey "Firefly", Hawker "Sea Fury" and Fairey "Gannet" aircraft were handled by the Fairey Aviation Company of Australasia Ltd., Sydney.

Sycamore helicopter aircraft built by the Bristol Aeroplane Company, Bristol freighter aircraft, Alvis Leonides and Bristol Hercules engines from those aircraft were repaired and overhauled by Bristol Aviation Services, also in Sydney.

Repair and overhaul work on propellers was undertaken at the Propellor Annexe, Sydney, managed for the Commonwealth by De Havilland Aircraft Pty. Ltd., Sydney.

The reconditioning and servicing of aircraft instruments, electrical, electronic and other ancillary equipment and airframe components were carried out by various contractors.

(d) *Avalon Test Field.* During the year, the aircraft flight test field at Avalon, near Geelong (Victoria), was further developed for the final assembly, fitting out and testing in flight of the Canberra bomber, Avon Sabre fighter and Winjeel trainer aircraft, built, overhauled or modified at the aircraft factories near Melbourne.

6. **Contract Board.**—(i) *General.* Under the Supply and Development Act 1939–1948, the Contract Board is the authority responsible for purchasing supplies and arranging services for the Military, Naval and Air Forces of the Commonwealth, as well as for the Department of Supply. It is also responsible for the sale or disposal of all surplus or unserviceable war *matériel* and other goods approved for disposal. In addition the Board purchases and arranges disposals on behalf of other Commonwealth Government departments and authorities which have no public contract organization of their own, e.g., Immigration, National Development and External Affairs (Colombo Plan supplies).

(ii) *The Board and its Administrative Organization.* The Contract Board meets in Melbourne, and comprises representatives of the Departments of Supply, Navy, Army and Air. The Board's administrative organization is the Directorate of Contracts. In each State other than Victoria, there is a District Contract Board with an administrative organization similar to the Directorate of Contracts. The table following shows, in respect of the Contract Board Organization, the purchases and realizations from disposals for the years 1956–57 and 1957–58.

CONTRACT BOARD ORGANIZATION : PURCHASES AND REALIZATIONS FROM DISPOSALS.

(£.)

State.	Purchases.		Realizations from Disposals.	
	1956–57.	1957–58.	1956–57.	1957–58.
Contract Board, Victoria	31,853,447	18,358,263	1,242,289	1,619,495
District Contract Board—				
New South Wales	5,848,752	5,315,790	1,024,453	1,472,657
Queensland	1,206,103	1,006,079	480,722	420,508
South Australia	992,868	845,181	330,824	376,970
Western Australia	449,608	370,607	134,092	159,503
Tasmania	167,205	81,288	23,526	34,749
Total	40,517,983	25,977,208	3,235,906	4,083,882

7. **Defence Supply Planning.**—The central planning authority of the Department is the Planning Branch, the principal functions of which are:—

- (i) to plan for, and to assist in, the development of additional production capacity to meet the Services' munitions requirements for mobilisation and war;
- (ii) to provide and administer stockpiles of relevant materials and reserve pools of plant and equipment considered essential for expansion of production in the event of war;
- (iii) to prepare and progress co-ordinated production programmes against service orders and to analyse and interpret achievement against these programmes for the information of the Department and the Services.

The Production Planning Branch is the executive instrument of the Defence Supply Planning Committee which operates both as an advisory body and as a reviewing Committee on defence production matters for submission to the Higher Defence Machinery. Its

membership includes representatives of the three Services and the Departments of Defence, Supply and Trade, thereby ensuring a close liaison between the Departments most concerned with defence, both directly and indirectly, in the formation of defence supply planning policy.

A series of Industry Advisory Committees has been established to advise the Minister and the Department in the development of industrial mobilization plans to meet the Services *matériel* requirements for mobilization and war. The Committees are:—Ammunition; Electrical; Explosives and Chemicals; Machine Tools and Gauges and Munitions Factory Equipment; Materials; Military Vehicles; Radar and Telecommunications; Weapons and their Equipment; Hard Fibres; Raw Cotton; and Rubber and Allied Materials.

Members of the Committees include industrialists of wide experience and the highest ability in their chosen fields.

8. **Stores and Transport Branch.**—This Branch, administered by a Board of Management and working under the direction of a General Manager, functions as the central authority for meeting the storage and transport requirements of all Commonwealth departments. It is the authority for the arrangement of furniture removals, at departmental expense, in all States but not in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory. It has agents in Canberra and Darwin. It also operates a shipping and customs section and is responsible for the England-Australia Bulk Air Freight Scheme for Commonwealth Departments.

At 30th June, 1958, the Branch had under its control land, buildings, plant and machinery valued at £8,194,905 and 3,425,389 square feet of storage space, as well as storage facilities for large quantities of chemicals, bulk liquids and explosives.

9. **Finance Branch.**—The expenditure on Department of Supply activities during the year 1957–58 is shown in the following table.

SUPPLY: TOTAL EXPENDITURE, 1957-58.
(£'000.)

Particulars.	Expenditure 1957-58.
<i>Supply</i> (Includes Department of Defence Production)	
Parliamentary Appropriations	(a) 27,868
Trust Fund Accounts—	
Dorset Tin Dredge	(b)
Mica	(b)
Stores and Transport	4,628
Government Factories and Establishments	(c) 14,721
Munitions Production	(d) 10,302
Munitions Materials	(e)
Defence Production Materials	43
Aircraft Production	11,526
Strategic Stores and Equipment	(e)
 <i>Total Trust Accounts</i>	 41,220
 <i>Total Expenditure</i>	 69,088

(a) Excludes audit charges and contributions under Superannuation Act.
Department of National Development. (c) Includes Government
(d) Previously designated Manufacture of Munitions. (e) Account closed.

(b) Transferred to
Clothing Factories.