CHAPTER XXVII.

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) *The Cabinet.* The determination of defence policy is the responsibility of Cabinet.

(ii) *Functions of Department of Defence.* 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 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 require-ments 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 higher defence machinery, and the control of the joint service machinery.

    (5) 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.

    (6) The Commonwealth War Book, which is a summary of national plans for an emergency as developed in Departmental War Books.

    (7) The administration of inter-service organizations, such as the joint intelligence machinery.

    (8) The defence aspect of :—the strength and organization of the Forces, higher appointments in the Services, Honours and Awards.

    (9) Advice on the military aspect of civil defence.

(iii) *Joint Service and Inter-departmental Machinery.* 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 and the Joint War Production Committee. The Defence Committee is a statutory body consisting of the Secretary, Department of Defence, who is Chairman, and the Chiefs of Staff of the three Services. In general, its function is to advise on defence policy as a whole, and on matters of policy or principle and important questions having a joint service or inter-departmental defence aspect. The main responsibility of the Chiefs of Staff Committee in peace is the preparation of strategic appreciations and military plans. The function of the Joint War Production Committee is, briefly, to examine the relation between strategical 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

Materials), 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.

3. **Basis of Current Defence Policy.**—The principal strategic considerations influencing the Government's defence policy were described by the Minister for Defence on 21st February, 1952, and included the following features :—

(i) *Cold War.* That it was essential to check the form of aggression occurring in Korea and Malaya, and that an adequate Australian contribution to the " cold war " was essential both to our relations with our powerful friends and to the Allied strategic starting point should war occur.

(ii) *Global War.* That if there were war on a global scale, it would be won or lost outside Australia, and that, since no one country could win without the co-operation of all the others, Australia must therefore, in its own and the general interest, play a full part in its allotted place in the general Allied strategy, and that the employment of its forces must be planned in advance, in co-operation with these Allies.

(iii) *Local Defence.* That the local security of Australia, at least during the next two decades, was likely to depend on the control of sea and air communications in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and in the seas joining them.

(iv) *Time Factor.* That there were two aspects of the time factor :—firstly, that the time available for preparation might be very short ; and, secondly, that the degree to which the armed forces were prepared in advance of events must be much greater than had been found necessary in the past.

4. **The Defence Programme.**—(i) *Adoption of a Three Years' Defence Programme.* In June, 1947, approval was granted for a Defence Programme over five years from 1947-48 to 1951-52. As from the 1st July, 1950, it was decided to adopt a Three Years' Programme extending to 30th June, 1953, which is one year beyond the period of the Five Years' Programme. The Three Years' Programme provides for the completion of the Five Years' Programme, plus expansion approved in the Three Years' Programme.

(ii) *Objective.* The objective of the Defence Programme is to provide the strengths of the forces required on mobilization, together with their equipment. This objective involves the planned development of the strengths of the forces including National Service Trainees, the provision of accommodation, buildings and other facilities, the procurement of the full range of modern equipment and supplies, and the establishment of a Defence Research organization.

(iii) *Financial.* Funds allocated at 30th June, 1952, were as follows :—

FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR DEFENCE AT 30TH JUNE, 1952.
(£'000.)

| Department. | Main-tenance. | Capital. | | | Total. |
		Material Require-ments.	Buildings, Works and Sites.	Contin-gency Fund.	
Defence	2,615	371	793	166	3,945
Navy	65,962	69,931	7,909	3,686	147,488
Army	120,615	49,314	50,279	..	220,208
Air	58,734	67,196	12,193	..	138,123
Defence Production	7,157	8,230	7,324	..	22,711
Supply	10,813	1,506	1,568	..	13,887
Research and Development	11,977	4,667	14,157	94	30,895
Total	277,873	201,215	94,223	3,946	577,257

Total expenditure incurred against the above allocation to 30th June, 1952 was £239,069,000.

(iv) *Personnel Strengths.* The establishments approved as at 30th June, 1952, for the three Services, including Permanent and Citizen Forces and National Service Trainees, and the corresponding strengths as at that date were :—

Service.	Approved Establishments.	Strengths.
Navy	27,000	21,542
Army	130,500	72,717
Air Force	33,637	21,228
Total	191,137	115,487

(v) *Material Requirements.* Material requirements, which include munitions, ships, aircraft, clothing, motor vehicles and a very wide range of other essential requirements, are being procured from government factories and private industry in Australia and from overseas.

(vi) *Defence Buildings and Works.* The programme includes a substantial amount for aerodromes, accommodation for members of the Forces, buildings and other facilities. Defence works accounted for 35.6 per cent. of total expenditure by the Commonwealth Department of Works in 1950–51, and 42.5 per cent. in 1951–52.

(vii) *Defence Research and Development.* The major Australian contribution to Defence Research and Development has been the building up of the Long Range Weapons Establishment, which includes ranges at Woomera and the base establishment at Salisbury, South Australia. A great deal of preparatory work has been done and important trials of new military devices are now proceeding.

Although the Long Range Weapons Establishment is the major commitment, other important research and development activities, for example, in aeronautics and electronics, are being undertaken, and will make available contributions to defence.

The Defence Research and Development work being done in Australia is complementary to that being done by other Commonwealth countries.

5. Australian Participation in Korea, Malaya and the Middle East.—(i) *Korea.* In accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council calling on members of the United Nations to assist the Republic of Korea in resisting aggression, Australia has furnished forces as follows :—

> *Navy*—Since 29th June, 1950, a Royal Australian Naval Force of two ships has been engaged in operations. This force has consisted from time to time either of two destroyers or a frigate and a destroyer. In addition, H.M.A.S. *Sydney* relieved H.M.S. *Glory* in October, 1951, for a period of three months, and the latter ship has been refitted at Garden Island ·Dockyard.
>
> *Army*—At 30th June, 1952, the Forces in Korea consisted of :—
>
>> (i) 1 and 3 Infantry Battalions, The Royal Australian Regiment.
>> (ii) A proportion of a Brigade Head-quarters and of the Head-quarters 1st Commonwealth Division.
>> (iii) An element of the British Commonwealth Communications Zone.
>>
>> 3 Infantry Battalion, with necessary reinforcements, had been on active service in Korea since September, 1950, and 1 Battalion since March, 1952.
>
> *Air Force*—No. 77 (Fighter) Squadron and No. 30 Transport unit, together with the necessary administrative and maintenance units for their support, are engaged in Korea and Japan as part of the United Nations Forces in the Korean Campaign.

Over-all operational control of the United Nations Forces in Korea is the responsibility of the American Unified Command which was established by the Security Council. The Commander-in-Chief, British Commonwealth Forces, Korea, is responsible for the non-operational control and administration of the British Commonwealth Forces in Korea, the land forces of which comprise 1st Commonwealth Division, United Nations Forces.

The number serving in H.M.A. ships in the Korean area, including a port party in Japan as at 30th June, 1952, was 610. Australian Army strength at that date in Korea and Japan was 3,909. Royal Australian Air Force strength at that date in Korea and Japan was 473.

(ii) *Malaya.* Since June, 1950, one Bomber Squadron and one Transport Squadron of the R.A.A.F. have been engaged in anti-bandit operations in Malaya.

(iii) *Middle East.* In June, 1952, No. 78 (Fighter) Wing, totalling 265 personnel, left Australia for service as part of the peace-time Air Force garrison in the Middle East.

For further details *see* sections relating to the respective Services.

6. **National Service Training.**—(i) *Liability.* Compulsory military training under the Defence Act was in operation from January, 1911 to November, 1929, when the Citizen Forces were re-constituted on the basis of voluntary enlistment. In March, 1951, the National Service Act was passed to enable effect to be given to the Government's policy of National Service training.

Under the National Service scheme, all male British subjects ordinarily resident in Australia, of the age of 18 years, are required to register when called upon to do so by notice published in the *Gazette.* The only exceptions are certain officials in the service of international bodies, diplomatic personnel, men already serving in the Permanent Forces and aboriginal natives of Australia. It is the Government's intention that the scheme should apply to migrants coming to Australia with the intention of making it their home, but there are certain difficulties of international law and practice which are being investigated.

Every registrant who complies with the standards of fitness laid down is liable to be called up for service unless he is exempt from service. The exempt classes, apart from persons subject to prescribed physical or mental disabilities, are theological students, ministers of religion, members of religious orders and conscientious objectors. There is provision for deferment of call up, while the ground of deferment continues, for such cases as apprentices, students, persons living in remote areas, and individual cases of exceptional hardship.

(ii) *Conditions of Service.* Service under the National Service Scheme is with the Citizen Naval Forces, the Citizen Military Forces or the Citizen Air Force. In determining in which part of the Citizen Forces a person is to serve, effect is given as far as possible to the preferences indicated. No person is called up for service with the Citizen Naval Forces or the Citizen Air Force unless he has volunteered for service beyond the limits of Australia. The total period of service to be rendered is 176 days. In the case of the Navy there is an initial period of 124 days continuous training, and 13 days continuous training a year for the next four years. In the case of the Army the initial period of continuous training is 98 days, with 14 days full-time camp training and 12 days part-time training in each of the following three years. In the Air Force, the total of 176 days training is completed in one continuous period, except in the case of students who may complete their service in two equal periods of eighty-eight days in the months of December, January and February of following years. (*See also* sections dealing with the respective Services.)

(iii) *Strength.* To 30th June, 1952, 34,500 trainees had been called up for training. A further 12,000 were to be called up by the end of 1952, and more than 36,000 in 1953.

§ 2. Military Defence.

1. **State Systems.**—A detailed historical account of the Australian defence forces prior to Federation will be found in Official Year Book No. 2, pp. 1075-1080. *See also* Official Year Book No. 12, p. 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 head-quarters 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 covers 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 relates 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 ante and sub-para. (iv.) (c) following).

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

(ii) *Estimated Population of Military Age*, 30th June, 1951. The following particulars show the estimated numbers of males of military age in the population of Australia as at 30th June, 1951. The total number of cadet age, 14 and over, and under 18, was 227,627 ; at citizen soldier age, 18 and over, and under 26, 520,102 ; and 26 and over, and under 35, 614,841 ; making a total of 1,134,943, 18 and over, and under 35, which is considered the best period for military service. In addition to the above-mentioned, it was estimated that there were 1,304,207 males 35 and over, and under 60, in Australia at 30th June, 1951.

(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, the organization at 30th June, 1952 being as follows :—

COMMAND ORGANIZATION.

Army Head-quarters.

Northern Command	Eastern Command	Southern Command	Central Command	Western Command	Tasmania Command	Northern Territory Command
All formations and units in 1st Military District and New Guinea.	All formations and units in 2nd Military District.	All formations and units in 3rd Military District.	All formations and units in 4th Military District.	All formations and units in 5th Military District.	All formations and units in 6th Military District.	All formations and units in 7th Military District.

Military Districts conform generally to State or Territory areas, as follows :—1st Military District, Queensland ; 2nd, New South Wales ; 3rd, Victoria ; 4th South Australia ; 5th, Western Australia ; 6th, Tasmania ; 7th, Northern Territory. Third Military District includes a considerable portion of Southern New South Wales, and 4th includes Broken Hill.

(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 present plan for the raising of the Australian Regular Army envisages a total of 33,000 soldiers and 5,000 civilians. The Citizen Military Force will comprise 30,000 voluntarily enlisted personnel and 67,500 National Servicemen.

(b) *The Australian Cadet Corps*. The Australian Cadet Corps is a voluntary organization comprised of School Cadet units and Regimental 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 a foremost 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, warrant and non-commissioned officers on an authorized establishment scale from within school units. School cadet units are not affiliated with Citizen Military Force units.

Regimental Cadet units, however, are raised in close affiliation with Citizen Military Force units. These units are manned by the enrolment of boys who have either left school or are students at schools where no School Cadet unit is raised. Regimental Cadets wear the same uniform as their parent Citizen Military Force unit with the addition of the word " Cadets " directly under the unit title.

The establishment for the whole Corps is 35,000 all ranks, and by June, 1952, comprised 276 School Cadet units with a posted strength of 31,123 all ranks and 3,701 Regimental Cadets posted to Citizen Military Force units.

(c) *National Service Training Scheme*. Under the National Service Scheme (see §1, para. 6 above) the Army is required to train 29,250 trainees per year, effected by three intakes each of 9,750 trainees. The first intake commenced training in August, 1951.

(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, 1950, 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.

(vi) *Korea*. On 2nd August, 1950, the Commonwealth Government announced its decision to raise and despatch to Korea one infantry battalion as part of Australia's contribution of military assistance to the United Nations. 3 Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment stationed in Japan, brought up to strength by special enlistments flown to Japan from Australia, became the Special Korean Force, and on 27th September, 1950, sailed from Japan for Korea where it joined 27 British Brigade, later designated as 27 British Commonwealth Brigade. For its gallantry on 24th and 25th April, 1951, 3 Battalion was awarded the United States Presidential Citation by the United States of America. On 4th October, 1951, the Commonwealth Government announced that a second infantry battalion would be sent to Korea to join 3 Battalion. On 3rd March, 1952, 1 Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, which had been brought up to strength at Ingleburn, New South Wales, embarked for Japan where it was equipped.

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before moving to Korea. 1 Battalion joined 3 Battalion, now under operational control of 28 British Brigade, 1st Commonwealth Division, on 1st June, 1952. Both battalions are still serving in Korea.

(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 Queenscliff, Victoria, where it is at present situated. The courses are of one year's duration and are held from February to December each year. The normal intake is 30 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, other Dominions and countries. Included in the 1951 course were students from the United Kingdom, Canada, India, Pakistan and the United States of America. 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) *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.

While at the College, cadets receive pay and allowance of 13s. 7d. per day in their first year, rising to 18s. 4d. per day in their fourth. Uniform maintenance allowance of 1s. 9d. per day is additional, and a further 6d. per 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 production 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 six 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 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.

(xi) *Army Schools.* Army 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 Army Schools have been established :—School of Tactics and Administration ; Armoured School ; School of Artillery ; School of Military Engineering ; School of Survey ; School of Signals ; 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.

(xii) *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 inter-empire and interstate rifle competitions), State Rifle Associations, District Rifle Club Unions and Rifle Clubs. When placed in recess, 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 recent war. Rifle shooting activities were resumed in 1946 and the strength position of the movement as at 30th June, 1952 was 1,098 clubs and 51,622 members.

(xiii) *The Australian Battles Nomenclature Committee.* The Minister for the Army gave approval on the 25th July, 1947 for the formation of the Australian Battles Nomenclature Committee to tabulate and classify the operations fought in the Pacific Zones in the 1939-45 War which involved the Australian Military Forces, to define their geographical and chronological limits and to advise the United Kingdom Battles Nomenclature Committee regarding operations in zones other than the Pacific Zone in which the Australian Military Forces participated. Sub-committees were later appointed to study the various campaigns in order to classify the operations into battles, actions and engagements.

3. **Strength of Australian Military Forces.**—The strength of the Australian Military Forces at 31st August, 1952 was as follows :—Australian Regular Army, 20,322 ; Regular Army Special Reserve, 8,747 ; Citizen Military Forces (including National Service Trainees)—effective strength, 50,731 ; Australian Cadet Corps*, 34,873 ; Civilians employed by the Department of the Army,* 5,477.

§ 3. Naval Defence.

1. **State Systems.**—Information regarding naval defence systems prior to 1901 will be found in Official Year Book No. 2, p. 1084.

2. **The Present System.**—(i) *General.* (a) *Royal Australian Navy up to end of 1939-45 War.* An outline of the development of Australian Naval policy was given in Official Year Book No. 3, p. 1060 and No. 12, p. 1012. Some account of the building of the Australian Navy, the proposed and modified cost thereof, the compact with the Imperial Government, etc., appears in Official Year Book No. 15, pp. 921 et seq. An account of the growth and activities of the Royal Australian Navy during the 1939-45 War is given in Official Year Book No. 36, pp. 1023 et seq.

(b) *Post-war Programme.* Under the post-war defence policy as extended in July, 1950, the Commonwealth Government had allocated, at 30th June, 1952, more than £147,000,000 for Naval Defence for the period June, 1950 to June, 1953. (*See also* § 1, paras. 4 (i) and (iii) *ante*).

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* At 30th June, 1952.

The following is a summary of the Naval Programme :—
(1) Ships in Commission—
   Fleet : It is intended that by the end of the 1950–53 programme, the
      Fleet should consist of :—
         Carrier Force : 2 Light Fleet Carriers, 1 Cruiser, 4 Destroyers.
         Escort Forces : 4 Frigates, 1 " Q " Class Destroyer.
         Surveying Duties : 2 Survey ships and their tenders.
         Training Ships : 2 Frigates, 8 Fleet Minesweepers.
         Auxiliary Vessels : 3 Air/Sea Rescue Vessels, 1 Ocean-going Tug,
            1 Ammunition Carrier, 3 Boom Defence Vessels, 2 Patrol
            Vessels, 2 General Purpose Vessels.
(2) In addition to the ships in Commission, a substantial reserve fleet will be
   maintained in good condition against any future emergency.
(3) Change in Status—On 1st January, 1949 the Royal Australian Navy ceased
   to be a squadron and assumed the status of a fleet, a fleet being an
   organization consisting of various types of ships and naval aircraft, capable
   of undertaking major operations.
(4) Personnel—The strength of the Royal Australian Navy has been pegged at
   14,550, comprising 1,400 Officers and 13,150 ratings.
(5) Reserve and National Service Training—Reserve training was resumed as
   from 1st January, 1950, for members of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve.
   Training consists of 45 two-hourly drill attendances at night or on Saturdays
   in naval training establishments in each of the capital cities, plus 13 days'
   continuous training each year in H.M.A. ships or training establishments,
   including special schools. In addition, payment is made for further
   voluntary home training up to a maximum of 12 days. Selected members
   may undergo special courses up to a limit of six months during the whole
   of their service in the Reserve, whilst up to 12 months' training or service
   may be performed in H.M.A. ships or establishments with similar quali-
   fications. Engagements are for three years. Rates of pay have been
   aligned (with minor modifications) with those applicable to the Permanent
   Naval Forces. The training for members of the Royal Australian Naval
   Reserve (Sea-going) is normally 28 days every two years whilst the Royal
   Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve are under no training obligations.
      Naval National Service personnel commenced training on 30th July,
   1951. On completion of their 124 days' initial training in naval establish-
   ments and H.M.A. ships, personnel will be attached to the Naval Reserve
   Training Establishment in their State and will carry out 13 days' annual
   continuous training for the next four years in a manner similar to the
   members of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, in order to comply with
   their National Service liability of five years. The present annual intake
   of National Servicemen is 1,000.
      Revised post-war conditions of service in the Royal Australian Fleet
   Reserve were introduced as from 13th December, 1950. This Reserve is
   comprised of two classes, viz. :—
         (a) former ratings who receive full benefits under the Defence Forces
            Benefits Act and are required to serve five years in the Royal
            Australian Fleet Reserve as a consideration for receival of
            these benefits, and (b) former ratings who have previously
            served in the Permanent Naval Forces of the Royal Australian
            Navy, Royal Navy or a Dominion Navy subject to a minimum
            period of three years' service and an absence of not more than
            five years. No retainer is payable to members under (a)
            and no training is carried out. Members under (b) receive
            an annual retainer of £24 subject to completing 14 days'
            annual training. Ratings receive pay applicable to Royal
            Australian Navy personnel whilst under training. No
            Royal Australian Fleet Reserve training has been carried
            out since pre-war but will be resumed shortly.

(6) Naval Aviation—The development of the Royal Australian Naval Air Station at Nowra (H.M.A.S. *Albatross*) continues along with plans to develop a naval aerodrome at Schofields, Sydney. The latter will be taken over from the Royal Australian Air Force and commissioned as H.M.A.S. *Nirimbi* on 1st April, 1953. In September, 1951, H.M.A.S. *Sydney* arrived in Japanese waters, relieving H.M.S. *Glory* in the Korean theatre. H.M.A.S. *Sydney* returned to Australia in February, 1952.

(7) Ship Construction and Repair—Provision is made for the maintenance in Australia of a nucleus ship construction and repair industry capable of rapid expansion in time of war. An average sum of £2,500,000 is provided for the completion of the present destroyer programme of six vessels. Two (H.M.A.S. *Anzac* and H.M.A.S. *Tobruk*) are in commission and four are under construction. A programme of six anti-submarine frigates, the conversion of five " Q " Class destroyers to fast anti-submarine frigates and the modernization of H.M.A.S. *Hobart* and three Tribal Class destroyers, have been authorized. Work is in progress on H.M.A.S. *Hobart*, one Tribal and four " Q " Class destroyers.

(8) Shore Establishments—A new base was established at Manus Island (Admiralties) on 1st April, 1950, replacing the New Guinea Base at Dreger Harbour. This new base is now the head-quarters of the Naval Officer-in-Charge, North-East Australian Area.

(c) *The Relation of New Weapons.* Careful consideration has been given to the implications of new weapons, and the decisions in regard to the Navy are based on the broad conclusions of great naval powers that these weapons should be introduced by the normal process of evolution, first into existing ships, and later perhaps into an entirely new form of fighting ship. The same authoritative opinion is of the view that there will be no rapid development which will render vessels such as carriers, cruisers and destroyers obsolete within the near future.

(ii) *Naval Board.* The Australian Navy is administered by a Board consisting of the Minister for the Navy with four Naval Members, including a member for Naval Aviation, one Finance Member and the Secretary, Department of the Navy (ex-officio); the seat of administration is at Melbourne.

(iii) *Naval College.* Fifty Cadet Midshipmen (including one from the Royal New Zealand Navy) entered the Naval College for training in the year commenced January, 1952.

(iv) *Training Establishments.* Flinders Naval Depot, Victoria remains the principal training establishment for ratings in the permanent forces, while several advanced training schools are established in Port Jackson, New South Wales. Air training has begun at Nowra, New South Wales.

(v) *The Australia Naval Station.* Defined limits of the Australian Station will be found in Official Year Book No. 37, page 1152.

(vi) *Foreign Service.* The R.A.N. is represented in Japan by H.M.A.S. *Commonwealth* base establishment in Kure. During the three years commenced 1st July, 1949, H.M.A. Ships *Sydney, Anzac, Bataan, Tobruk, Warramunga, Shoalhaven, Murchison* and *Condamine* have served in the Korean theatre of war.

(vii) *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 waters adjacent thereto.

(viii) *Transfer of H.M.A.Ships to Royal New Zealand Navy.* During 1951–52, the Australian minesweepers (650 tons displacement),[1] *Echuca, Inverell, Kiama* and *Stawell* were presented, as free gifts to the New Zealand Government, as a token of the close liaison existing between the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal New Zealand Navy.

3. **Ships of the Royal Australian Navy.**—The following ships were in commission or in reserve in June, 1952 :—

SHIPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, JUNE, 1952.

Vessel.	Description.	Displace-ment.
In Commission—		Tons.
Sydney	Aircraft Carrier	14,000
Australia	Cruiser	10,000
Anzac	Destroyer	2,325
Tobruk	,,	2,436
Bataan	,,	1,870
Warramunga	,,	1,870
Shoalhaven	Frigate	1,544
Culgoa	,,	1,420
Murchison	,,	1,544
Macquarie	,,	1,420
Condamine	,,	1,420
Barcoo (Surveying Ship)	,,	1,544
Hawkesbury	,,	1,420
Warrego (Surveying Ship)	,,	1,060
Latrobe	Ocean Minesweeper	650
Gladstone	,, ,,	650
Colac	,, ,,	650
Cowra	,, ,,	650
Wagga	,, ,,	650
Cootamundra	,, ,,	650
Mildura	,, ,,	650
Lachlan (Surveying Ship), frigate, 1,420 tons, on loan to the New Zealand Navy		
In Reserve—		Tons.
Shropshire	Cruiser	9,870
Quality	Destroyer	1,760
Barwon	Frigate	1,420
Burdekin	,,	1,420
Diamantina	,,	1,420
Gascoyne	,,	1,420
Swan	,,	1,060
Ararat	Ocean Minesweeper	650
Bunbury	,, ,,	650
Bowen	,, ,,	650
Bundaberg	,, ,,	650
Benalla	,, ,,	650
Castlemaine	,, ,,	650
Deloraine	,, ,,	650
Dubbo	,, ,,	650
Glenelg	,, ,,	650
Gympie	,, ,,	650
Horsham	,, ,,	650
Katoomba	,, ,,	650
Kapunda	,, ,,	650
Lithgow	,, ,,	650

SHIPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, JUNE, 1952—*continued.*

Vessel.	Description.	Displace-ment.
In Reserve—*continued*—		
Parkes	Ocean Minesweeper	650
Rockhampton	,, ,,	650
Strahan	,, ,,	650
Shepparton	,, ,,	650
Townsville	,, ,,	650
Platypus	Depot Ship	3,455
Under Dockyard Control—		
Hobart	Cruiser	7,100
Arunta	Destroyer	1,870
Quiberon	,,	1,760
Quickmatch	,,	1,760
Quadrant	,,	1,760
Queenborough	,,	1,760
Fremantle	Ocean Minesweeper	650
Junee	,, ,,	650
Miscellaneous vessels in commission and reserve—fifty seven		

4. **Strength of Royal Australian Navy.**—The serving strength of the Royal Australian Naval Forces, both permanent and reserves, at 30th June, 1952, was 1,086 officers and 12,677 ratings including 44 native ratings of the Papua and New Guinea Division of the Royal Australian Navy. In addition, eight officers and 205 ratings of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service were serving and 168 Cadet Midshipmen were undergoing training at the Naval College. Reserve strength (August, 1952) comprised 1,279 officers and 6,253 ratings.

§ 4. Air Defence.

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

2. **Operations in Korea and Malaya.**—At the conclusion of the 1939-45 War, the R.A.A.F. provided part of the Air Component of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan. Soon after the 38th parallel was violated by the North Koreans on 25th June, 1950, No. 77 Squadron in Japan was made available as part of the United Nations Forces opposing this aggression. Within one week from the commencement of hostilities, No. 77 Squadron R.A.A.F., already operationally trained and equipped, had completed its first mission. From that date until June, 1952, the Squadron, operating continuously from different bases in Korea, carried out 3,542 missions, comprising 11,388 individual sorties.

The Squadron is equipped with Meteor aircraft and is employed, as required, on Armed Reconnaissance and Ground Support missions

Australian assistance has been provided, in the form of two R.A.A.F. Squadrons (one transport and one bomber), to the Malayan authorities against Communist bandit action. The first Australian aircraft, a Dakota of No. 38 Squadron, left Darwin on 18th June, 1950. The Lincolns of No. 1 Squadron arrived in July, 1950, and both Squadrons

were soon in action. Up till June, 1952, the transport squadron had flown 13,344 hours and the bomber squadron had dropped more than 12,500,000 lb. of bombs during these operations. Working in close co-operation with the ground forces, this bombing is mainly on jungle hideouts frequented by the insurgents. Such bombing and strafing of bandit hideouts calls for extreme accuracy.

3. **Administration and Organization.**—The Department of Air is responsible for policy for 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 Personnel, Air Member for Technical Services, Air Member for Supply and Equipment, Citizen Air Force Member and the Secretary, Department of Air.

Head-quarters of the Royal Australian Air Force is located at Melbourne. An Overseas Head-quarters is located at London and an Air Attaché at Washington, U.S.A.

With the exception of certain technical units which form a Maintenance Group, the units of the Royal Australian Air Force are organized in five geographical areas throughout Australia.

The geographical areas of command are :—

   Southern Area—Head-quarters Southern Area controls Air Force units in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, with certain units in New South Wales.

   Eastern Area—Head-quarters Eastern Area controls Air Force units in New South Wales and Southern Queensland.

   North-Eastern Area—Head-quarters North-Eastern Area controls Air Force units in northern Queensland, New Guinea and adjacent islands.

   North-Western Area—Head-quarters North-Western Area controls Air Force units in Northern Territory.

   Western Area—Head-quarters Western Area controls Air Force units in Western Australia.

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

   (a) Formations, comprising a head-quarters 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, photographic reconnaissance, transport, target towing and general reconnaissance squadrons undertake the operational and operational training flying commitments of the R.A.A.F.

   (c) Aircraft Depots. These units specialize in major overhauls, etc., of aircraft, and relieve flying unit ground staff of these commitments.

   (d) Stores Depots. Stores and equipment ordered by the R.A.A.F. are delivered to these centrally located depots for delivery to units.

   (e) Flying Training, Ground Training, Navigation, Radio and Air Armament Training Units specialize in the aircrew and ground staff training required by the R.A.A.F.

   (f) Royal Australian Air Force College. This unit is the training college for officer cadet entrants to the R.A.A.F.

   (g) Telecommunications Units. These units are responsible for the communications services of the R.A.A.F.

   (h) R.A.A.F. Staff College. This College trains specially selected R.A.A.F. officers for higher staff and command posts.

4. **Aircraft.**—Some of the aircraft which are at present being used in the Royal Australian Air Force are : Bomber Squadrons—Lincoln and Canberra ; Fighter Squadrons—Mustang, Vampire and Meteor ; Transport Squadrons—Dakota ; General Reconnaissance Squadrons—Lincoln and Neptune ; Tactical Reconnaissance—Mustang and Auster ; Training—Tiger Moth, Wirraway, Mustang, Dakota, Lincoln and Beaufighter.

5. **Establishment.**—The Royal Australian Air Force establishment, as proposed, comprises—(a) a Home Defence Organization, (b) Task Force elements and (c) a Training Organization consisting in all of approximately 16,450 personnel.

6. **Strength of Royal Australian Air Force.**—At 31st August, 1952, the strength of the Royal Australian Air Force was as follows :—Permanent Air Force, 16,202 ; Citizen Air Force, 2,264 ; National Service Trainees (in training), 2,946.

§ 5. War Gratuities.

1. **1914-18 War.**—Reference is made in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 15, p. 930) to the bonus payable in accordance with the War Gratuity Acts of 1920 as a war service gratuity to soldiers and sailors who served in the 1914–18 War. Owing to limitations of space this information cannot be repeated, but it may be noted that the gratuity was paid in Treasury Bonds, maturing not later than 31st May, 1924, and bearing interest at 5¼ per cent. In necessitous cases payment was made in cash when desired by the person entitled. The first gratuities were made available about the beginning of June, 1920. The total amount paid to 30th June, 1951 was £27,515,036 and bonds amounting to £11,780 had not been redeemed at that date.

2. **1939-45 War.**—Briefly, the War Gratuity Act 1945-1947 provided for payment to members of the Forces of war gratuity (a) at the rate of £3 15s. per month of oversea service, subject to a qualifying period of 90 days continuous or 180 days in the aggregate in twelve months, and of certain subsequent periods in Australia, and (b) at the rate of 15s. per month of Australian service after 6th December, 1941, subject to a qualifying period of six months' service, other than that for which payment at the oversea rate is made. All members who performed oversea qualifying service were paid a minimum of twelve months' gratuity at the oversea rate, irrespective of whether the full twelve months' period had been completed or not.

In cases of death due to war service either overseas or in Australia, where members of the family were totally dependent on the deceased member, a minimum payment equivalent to three years' gratuity calculated at the oversea gratuity rate could be made. In respect of all other cases of death, overseas and in Australia, due to war service, gratuity at the rate accruing to the member at the date of notification of his death was continued for a further seven months.

The period of entitlement to gratuity terminated at the date of discharge or on 30th June, 1947, whichever was the earlier. The bulk of the payments were made on 3rd March, 1951, but in certain circumstances payments were made at earlier dates. Compound interest was allowed at the rate of 3.25 per cent. per annum on the yearly credit balances. For greater detail on the provisions of the Act see Official Year Book No. 36, pp. 1073-4.

A Registrar of War Gratuities controls the register in which are kept the accounts of all persons entitled to war gratuity. Provision was made for financing the Act by appropriation from Consolidated Revenue Fund and by borrowing. The War Gratuity

Appropriation Act 1948 created a trust account for the payment of gratuities. Particulars of the operations of this fund during the years 1948–49 to 1950–51 were as follows :—

WAR (1939-45) GRATUITY TRUST FUND.
(£'000.)

Particulars.	1948–49.	1949–50.	1950–51.
Balance brought forward	..	30,051	36,751
Receipts	33,249	9,943	30,630
Expenditure	3,198	3,243	61,447
Balance carried forward	30,051	36,751	5,934

§ 6. The Department of Defence Production.

1. **General.**—The Department of Defence Production was created on 11th May, 1951, when many of the establishments previously administered by the Department of Supply were transferred to the control of the new Department. The basic principle in the re-adjustment was that the Commonwealth Government Factories (including munitions and aircraft establishments, but excluding the Commonwealth Clothing Factory) with the Defence Production Planning Branch, were taken over by the new Department. References to previous operations of the various sections and establishments are given in Official Year Book No. 38, pp. 1,200–9.

2. **Functions of the Department and Acts Administered.**—The functions of the Department of Defence Production, as defined in the administrative arrangements approved by the Governor-General, are :—

> (i) The manufacture, acquisition, provision and supply of munitions for the defence forces, that is to say, armaments, aircraft, arms, ammunition, weapons, machine tools, war chemicals, radar (and such other items as may be mutually agreed with the Department of Supply as falling within the definition of munitions), including the materials and plant necessary for the production of those things and all matters incidental thereto, including :—

>> The receipt from the Service Departments, and other authorities or Departments, of orders and forecasts of requirements of munitions ; appropriate liaison with the Higher Defence Machinery Service Departments and the Department of Supply to deal with Service munitions programmes ; operation and management of factories, workshops, and undertakings concerned in the production of munitions ; arrangements and all action necessary to secure the manufacture, processing and delivery of munitions ; investigations and development of Australian sources of munitions production, including the establishment of annexes or special capacity in industry for that purpose ; acquisition by the Commonwealth and the establishment of factories and workshops for the purpose of producing munitions ; provision and maintenance of stocks of materials and goods for the purpose of producing munitions.

> (ii) The employment and training of technicians, workmen and others for the purpose of producing munitions.

(iii) The formation of Industry Advisory Committees to advise the Minister of Defence Production regarding :—

The allocation to industry of production programmes of munitions ; the establishing of additional munitions production facilities, including annexes and undertakings ; the obtaining of appropriate details of Australian industrial capacity required by the Department of Defence Production in allocating munitions production to industry ; any other matters associated with munitions production as specified by the Minister ; the provision and control of stores, magazine and similar undertakings required in connexion with production of munitions and for other purposes as required ; arrangements for ascertaining costs and the control and limitation of profits in connexion with the production of munitions ; the development of inventions originating in Government factories in the interests of defence production.

The Act administered by the Department is the Supply and Development Act 1939–1948.

3. **Defence Production Planning.**—A Defence Supply Planning Branch was established in July, 1950, within the (then) Department of Supply to co-ordinate the planning of expansion of production capacity in the Government-owned factories and in industry. When the Department of Defence Production was created, the Branch was transferred to that Department as the Defence Production Planning Branch.

Broadly, the functions of the Branch are :—(i) to arrange production of requirements for the Defence Services on mobilization ; (ii) to plan the expansion of production capacity to meet such requirements in war.

The following production and related sections exist within the Branch :—(a) Ammunition ; (b) Radar and Telecommunications ; (c) Materials ; (d) Chemicals and Chemical Engineering ; (e) Weapons and their Equipment including equipment involving optics ; (f) Engineer Stores including Mobile Equipment and Small Craft ; (g) Production Plant and Equipment ; (h) Instruments ; (i) Electrical. The production sections have a particular reference to the manufacture of defence stores and components by industry.

The Defence Production Planning Branch is the executive instrument of a Committee of the same name. The three Defence Services, the Departments of Defence, Defence Production, Supply and National Development are represented on the Committee. This enables a close liaison to be maintained with the Departments concerned directly and indirectly with defence in the formation of defence production planning policy.

4. **Munitions Factories.**—Munitions factories now in operation are :—Ammunition— Footscray, Victoria ; Explosives—Maribyrnong, Victoria, Mulwala and St. Mary's, New South Wales ; Ordnance—Maribyrnong, Bendigo, Echuca, Port Melbourne Marine Engine Works, all located in Victoria ; Small Arms—Lithgow, New South Wales.

5. **Aircraft Production.** (i) *General.* All matters relating to 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 are administered by the Division of Aircraft Production of the Department of Defence Production. Aircraft repair and overhaul activities carried out for those Services in civilian establishments, as distinct from Service workshops, are also the function of the Division, together with the responsibility of supplying aircraft spare parts and airborne equipment generally.

(ii) *Aircraft, Engine and Other Production.* As at 1st July, 1952, the approved production programme for the major aircraft manufacturing organizations in Australia comprised Canberra jet-engined light bombers, Lincoln heavy bombers and small radio-controlled jet-propelled target aircraft at the Government Aircraft Factories, Vampire jet fighters and Drover feeder-line transport aircraft at De Havilland Aircraft Pty. Ltd. and Sabre jet-engined fighters and Rolls Royce Nene and Avon turbo-jet engines at Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd.

Associated concurrent activities include the production of retractable under-carriages at the Aircraft Engine Factory, propellers for Lincoln aircraft at the Propeller annexe and of heavy forgings in light alloy metals at the Heavy Forge annexe.

(iii) *Design and Development Projects.* Concurrently with the aircraft and aero engine manufacturing programmes, projects involving original design studies in the air-craft and aero engine fields were advanced at the Government Aircraft Factories and at the works of Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd. during the year.

At the former, the radio-controlled target aircraft project, covering both piloted and unmanned versions of the aircraft, had been developed to the stage where arrange-ments were being made for production of the aircraft in quantity while developmental activity was continuing regarding certain features of the design. Further work was done during the year, also on the development of a rotary valve engine.

Work continued during portion of the year on the design and development by Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd. of a twin-engined all-weather jet fighter aircraft but this had to be suspended because of the demands made on the Company's staff for the engineering of the modifications to be incorporated in the Australian version of the North American Sabre aircraft, including the installation of the Rolls Royce Avon engine as a replacement for the lower-powered engine in the American Sabre.

Developmental work continued on the light radial type aero engine designed by Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd. for use as the power unit for a trainer air-craft and, at 1st July, 1952, the two prototype engines were under test.

(iv) *New Aircraft Projects.*—Approval was given by the Government during 1951–52 for the production by De Havilland Aircraft Pty. Ltd. of a trainer version of the Vampire jet-propelled fighter and by Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd. of an elementary trainer aircraft of the Company's own design. Both projects were being pushed ahead rapidly.

(v) *Repair and Overhaul.* 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 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.

This policy, together with the production of maintenance spare parts, assisted the factory managements to retain a reasonably balanced nucleus of experienced aircraft tradesmen by supplementing the limited programmes of new aircraft and engine manu-facture with repair and overhaul projects.

Lincoln aircraft were being repaired and modified at the Government Aircraft Factories throughout the year. Mustang and Wirraway aircraft and single and twin-row Wasp radial engines and Rolls Royce Nene turbo-jet engines were overhauled by Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty. Ltd. in Melbourne, while Rolls Royce Merlin and Griffon engines and Bristol Centaurus engines from R.A.A.F. and naval aircraft were overhauled by the Company at the Aircraft Engine Factory in Sydney.

De Havilland Aircraft Pty. Ltd. repaired and overhauled Vampire, Mustang and Tiger Moth aircraft and Gipsy Major engines. At the Aircraft Maintenance work-shops at Parafield, South Australia, Dakota transports and Wirraway trainer aircraft were being repaired and overhauled during the year.

(vi) *Naval Aircraft.* The repair and overhaul of carrier-based Fairey " Firefly " and Hawker " Sea Fury " aircraft operated by the R.A.N. continued to be handled by the Fairey Aviation Company of Australia Ltd., in Sydney.

6. **Liquidations.**—Over-all realizations on surplus property for the five years ended 30th June, 1951, totalled £20,785,022. For 1949–50 the total was £615,340 and for 1950–51, £299,786.

7. **Finance and Accounts.**—(i) *General.* The expenditure on munitions, munitions factories, aircraft production, etc., during the years 1946–47 to 1950–51 is shown in the tables which follow. The first table shows the total expenditure while the second shows details of expenditure under the various trust funds.

(ii) *Total Expenditure.* The table following shows the total expenditure incurred on account of the departments concerned during the years 1946–47 to 1950–51 inclusive.

MUNITIONS, ETC. : TOTAL EXPENDITURE.
(£'000.)

Particulars.	1946–47.(a)	1947–48.(b)	1948–49.(c)	1949–50.(b)	1950–51.(d)
Parliamentary Appropriations ..	7,120	7,890	10,031	14,279	(e)72,264
Trust Fund Accounts ..	20,266	19,132	17,159	14,567	30,314
Other	4,549	910	897	Cr. 1,001	70

(a) Department of Munitions.　　(b) Former Departments of Munitions and Aircraft Production.
(c) Former Departments of Munitions, Aircraft Production and Supply and Shipping.　　(d) Includes
Departments of Defence Production and Supply.　　(e) Includes amount appropriated for Strategic
Stores and Equipment Reserve Trust Account.

(iii) *Trust Fund Expenditure.* The table hereunder shows the comparison between expenditure from the various Trust Accounts during the years 1946–47 to 1950–51.

MUNITIONS, ETC. : TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE.
(£'000.)

Fund.	1946–47.	1947–48.	1948–49.	1949–50.	1950–51.(a)
Government Munitions Factories and Establishments	9,431	8,709	11,311	7,019	10,148
Manufacture of Munitions	8,730	5,396	1,581	2,965	4,711
Machine Tools	308	181	16	5	..
Materials	1,737	411	155	455	163
Aluminium Production	60	49	152	349	573
Beaufort Homes	(b)	300	1	7	..
Aircraft	(b)	4,086	3,862	3,688	5,621
Minerals Production	(c)	(c)	81	79	60
Strategic Stores and Equipment Reserve	..	..	..	..	9,038
Total	20,266	19,132	17,159	14,567	30,314

(a) Includes Departments of Defence Production and Supply.　　(b) Department of Aircraft Production.　　(c) Department of Supply and Shipping.

§ 7. The Department of Supply.

1. **General.**—The Department of Supply was formed on 17th March, 1950, when the operations of the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics were transferred from the Department of Supply and Development to the Department of National Development, which was created on the same day. On the 11th May, 1951, a large part of the functions of the Department of Supply was transferred to the Department of Defence Production. References to the operations of the Department of Supply and Development are contained in Official Year Book No. 38, pp. 1200–10.

2. **Functions of the Department and Acts administered.**—The functions of the Department and Acts administered by it before the 11th May, 1951, were given in Official Year Book No. 38, pp. 1200–10. Since that date its functions include (a) the manufacture, acquisition, provision and supply of services and goods other than " munitions " (that is to say foodstuffs, textiles, clothing, hardware, boots and other like supplies) required by Service and other authorities; (b) research and scientific development in relation to war *matériel*, including the operation of the Long Range

Weapons and other defence science establishments ; (c) design and associated technical development and inspection of war *matériel* ; (d) planning for and procurement of strategic materials ; (e) planning and establishment of manufacturing facilities for production of goods other than munitions ; (f) formation of industry advisory committees in respect of production and procurement matters ; (g) arranging contracts for supply of goods and performance of services ; (h) acquisition, maintenance and disposal of stocks ; (i) sale or disposal of surplus or unserviceable property (except buildings or land) ; (j) production of ingot aluminium by the Australian Aluminium Production Commission ; (k) provision of Commonwealth transport facilities ; (l) control of atomic energy materials ; (m) security service for Supply and Defence Production Departments ; (n) arrangements for ascertaining costs and control and limitation of profits on production contracts ; (o) co-ordinating estimates, allocation and committment of resources for Defence Supply needs (including munitions) and liaison with the National Security Resources Board ; (p) provision and control of stores required for or in connexion with matters administered by the Department of Supply ; general storage for other Departments as required and to the extent facilities are available.

Acts administered by the Department are the Aluminium Industry Act 1944 ; Atomic Energy (Control of Materials) Act 1946–1952 ; Supply and Development Act 1939–1948.

3. **Research and Development Branch.**—(i) *General.* Functions and details of the organization of the Research and Development Branch are contained in Official Year Book No. 38, pp. 1203–6.

(ii) *Long Range Weapons Establishment, South Australia.* At Salisbury, steady progress is being maintained in recruitment of scientific and technical staff. Modifications to existing buildings have progressed and construction is proceeding on the Salisbury airfield. At Woomera, the provision of houses is nearing completion, and technical facilities are well advanced. Trials are proceeding in accordance with the programme agreed with the United Kingdom.

(iii) *Defence Research Laboratories and Aeronautical Research Laboratories.* There has been very little departure from the programme as set out, but there has been a greater concentration on work of a defence nature. A number of new research projects are being undertaken.

(iv) *New Establishments.* Recruitment for new laboratories, namely (a) the Electronics Research Laboratory, (b) the Propulsion Research Laboratory, and (c) the High Speed Aerodynamics Research Laboratory, is proceeding within the limits laid down by Cabinet, and in accordance with funds provided for the year 1952–53. Progress has also been made in connexion with Australian initiated and designed prototypes.

4. **Army Branch.**—The functions of the Army Branch are design and development, and inspection and proof. These functions were transferred to the Department of Supply from the Department of the Army in February, 1950. Since the transfer, Army Branch has been re-organizing to cater for the expansion of the Defence Programme and to supply the technical services required to allow the Army to be equipped with the latest designs of stores and equipment. Consequently the recruiting of personnel and the provision of plant, equipment, and buildings for the Technical Services Establishment of Army Branch has been the main initial objective.

Although deficient in resources, the output of design and development work has been noticeably increased by the introduction of improved methods of management. The following are examples of work undertaken during this period :—Preparations for tropic testing the Centurion Tank on behalf of the Ministry of Supply in the United Kingdom ; design modifications to a large quantity of telecommunications equipment in aid of the Army's repair programme ; investigatory work in conjunction with industry to enable the maximum use to be made in war of commercial type vehicles ; and the use of industry to design important telecommunications equipment.

During the year the Army Branch has provided technical data and information regarding the Army's requirements for equipment.

Inspection and proof activities have increased owing to large Army orders for equipment. Orders for stores to the approximate value of £2,250,000 were received for the attention of the Inspection Service during September, 1951. This increase in activities has made it necessary to increase the examination staff from 400 to 462 during the year. An expansion of the Inspection Service will be necessary to cope with the increasing flow of production orders resulting from the expanded Defence Programme.

5. **Directorate of Contracts.**—(i) *General.* The Directorate of Contracts and its State Organization under the Supply and Development Act 1939–1948 and Regulations is the authority responsible for purchasing supplies or arranging services for the Military, Naval and Air Forces of the Commonwealth. Under this Act and Regulations it is also charged with the responsibility of arranging for the sale or disposal on behalf of the Department of Supply, Defence Production, Navy, Army and Air of all surplus or unserviceable war material, goods and services approved for disposal.

(ii) *Disposals.* The Directorate continues, broadly, the policy developed by the Commonwealth Disposals Commission, which was designed mainly to ensure an orderly disposal of surplus goods at fair market prices.

(iii) *Purchases.* The Directorate purchases supplies and foodstuffs for the Naval, Military and Air Forces as far as possible by public tender, as provided by Treasury Regulations.

(iv) *Administrative Organization.* The Directorate is situated in Melbourne, and the approving authority for the arranging of contracts is the Contract Board, comprising representatives of the Department of Supply, the Department of Defence Production, the Department of the Navy, the Department of the Army and the Department of Air. The Directorate is represented in States other than Victoria by a district organization which also operates in conjunction with a District Contract Board as the approving authority. The table following shows, in respect of the Contract Organization, the purchases and the realizations from disposals for the years 1949–50 and 1950–51.

CONTRACTS ORGANIZATION : PURCHASES AND REALIZATIONS FROM DISPOSALS.

(£.)

State.			Purchases.		Realizations from Disposals.	
			1949–50.	1950–51.	1949–50.	1950–51.
Contract Board, Victoria	..	..	12,207,620	40,514,989	1,805,172	1,106,299
District Contract Board—						
New South Wales	..	..	4,000,544	5,546,928	572,794	467,496
Queensland	..	..	339,148	751,613	228,688	169,118
South Australia	..	..	704,107	1,303,990	205,989	99,082
Western Australia	..	..	637,735	671,855	125,815	81,695
Tasmania	..	..	60,911	86,473	20,359	23,262
Total	..	..	17,950,065	48,875,848	2,958,817	1,946,952

6. **Tinplate.**—Throughout the 1939–45 War assured supplies of tinplate were essential to the packaging of foods for Australian and Allied troops. With this objective the Commonwealth Government established a Commonwealth Tinplate Board, comprising representatives of the industrial and departmental interests concerned in the availability of adequate supplies, not only for the canning of foodstuffs, but also for more direct war purposes. This Board was replaced on 31st December, 1946 by the Commonwealth Tinplate Advisory Committee and at the same time a Controller of Tinplate was appointed.

Over the ten years ended 30th June, 1951 Australian consumption of tinplate averaged 110,000 tons per annum. Upwards of 85 per cent. is used for the canning of foodstuffs. Most canning factories run at peak capacity in the fruit-picking season, and keep their key personnel in employment during other months of the year in handling such packs as jam from fruit pulp, soup, vegetables, meat and spaghetti.

Australia's tinplate supplies are drawn from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Recently small tonnages have been ordered from Japan, but during 1949 plans for the establishment of a tinplate mill at Port Kembla were further advanced. Tinplate is rolled to rigid specifications many months in advance of its permanent use in the form of cans.

Control over the use of tinplate in Australia was abolished on 12th October, 1949, but the services of the Committee are being retained by the Commonwealth for advice in the matter of oversea supplies and distribution in Australia.

7. **Stores and Transport Branch.**—This Branch now functions as the central authority which is responsible for providing all storage and transport facilities necessary to meet the official requirements of Commonwealth Departments and authorities. It has branches in all States and agents in Canberra and Townsville, Queensland.

At the 30th June, 1951, it had under its control land, buildings, plant and machinery valued at over £5,000,000, and 4,000,000 square feet of storage space, of which 3,600,000 was Government-owned and the balance held under tenancy.

8. **Australian Aluminium Production Commission.**—Basic plans for the manufacture of aluminium ingot in Australia were approved by the Commonwealth Government in April, 1941 as a defence measure designed to make this country independent of oversea supplies. In April, 1944 an agreement was made between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments for the establishment of the industry in Tasmania. The Australian Aluminium Production Commission, consisting of two representatives and two deputies acting for the Commonwealth and an equal number of representatives and deputies for Tasmania, was constituted on 1st May, 1945. By legislation passed in 1952, the original fund of £3,000,000 to finance the undertaking was increased to £7,250,000, of which the Commonwealth Government will contribute £5,750,000 and the Tasmanian Government £1,500,000.

Workable deposits of bauxite (aluminium ore) have been proved in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, the largest deposits being located in the Inverell district of northern New South Wales, where reserves exceeding 8 million tons have been brought under Commission control. Reported extensive deposits in the Wessel Islands, off the coast of Arnhem Land, are being investigated. A combined alumina and reduction plant is being erected at Bell Bay, northern Tasmania, to which power will be transmitted from a generating station at Trevallyn, near Launceston. Large quantities of plant and equipment have been purchased, and considerable progress in construction work has been made with the object of completing the project in 1953. The works will have an output of 13,000 tons of ingot annually.