

CHAPTER XXVIII.

REPATRIATION.

§ 1. General.

An outline of the activities leading up to the formation of the Commonwealth Repatriation Commission was given in Official Year Book No. 15, p. 931. Some account was given also in the Official Year Book referred to, and in subsequent issues, of the policy and general activities of the Department, while detailed information was incorporated in regard to such matters as sustenance rates and pensions to soldiers and dependants. (*See Official Year Book No. 17, pp. 598-601.*) In 1943 the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act was amended by the incorporation of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee appointed to inquire into pensions and repatriation benefits. A general increase was made of approximately 20 per cent. in the rates of war pensions and increases were also made in other repatriation benefits.

Under Act No. 34 of 1950, the rates of pension and medical sustenance were increased, and the pensions and benefits under the Act were extended to those members of the Forces (and their dependants) engaged in operations in Korea and Malaya. Provision was also made for payment to a war widow, on re-marriage, of a gratuity equal to one year's war pension.

In addition, an important amendment was a change in the basis of war pensioning. Previously, the basis was the daily rate of service pay, but under the amending legislation the rank, not the pay, of the service man or woman became the basis.

This change was brought about as the result of the increased rates of pay of members of the Forces under the new pay code from 1st July, 1947, and the further increases since then. The constantly rising figure made it evident that the basis of pensioning on the daily rate of pay would be unworkable; for example, the rates of pay of more or less senior officers of the 1914-18 War and of the 1939-45 War, discharged before 1st July, 1947, were less than the new rates of pay for present day lower ranks, with a consequent disparity in the rates of pension.

To avoid this disparity, the daily rate of pay basis—which had been in operation since the original war pension legislation of 1914—was abandoned in favour of the basis of pensioning according to the rank of the member, the basis adopted by other countries.

Under the Statute Law Revision Act of 1950 the title "Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920-1950" was amended to "Repatriation Act 1920-1950".

The main activities of the Repatriation Commission at 30th June, 1951 were confined to the grant, review and assessment of war and service pensions, the provision of medical treatment, payment of re-employment allowances, vocational training of the more seriously disabled members, the renewal and repair of artificial replacements and surgical appliances, the grant and review of sustenance and living allowances and the administration of the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.

§ 2. War Pensions.*

1. **General.**—Provision for the payment of war pensions to soldiers and their dependants was made by the Commonwealth Parliament in the War Pensions Act 1914, which came into operation on 21st December, 1914. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act. Owing to limitations of space, only some of the main features relating to war pensions under the Repatriation Act 1920–1951 are shown in the following paragraphs :—

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

- (a) A member of the Forces who served (1) outside Australia, (2) in the Territories of Australia, such as Papua and New Guinea, or (3) within Australia in circumstances which can be regarded as actual combat against the enemy, is covered for war pension purposes in respect of incapacity or death which may result from any occurrence happening during the whole period of service.
- (b) In other cases where a member served only in Australia, incapacity or death to be pensionable must have been attributable to service.
- (c) There is a third ground applicable to all in (a) and (b) who have had at least six months' camp service. This provides that, where a condition pre-existed enlistment, a pension may accrue if it is considered that such condition was aggravated by service.

(ii) *Pensions for Incapacity.* Under the amending legislation of 1950 the general rate of pension for a totally incapacitated member of the Forces, ranges, according to members' rank, from £7 to £8 16s. per fortnight. From 2nd November, 1950, the wife of such a member receives a pension of £3 1s., and each child under 16 years of age £1 3s. per fortnight.

If the degree of incapacity is less than 100 per cent. the rates of pension are proportionately lower.

(iii) *Supplementation of Pension.* Where a member in receipt of a pension at the maximum rate is, because of his war disability, temporarily (for at least three months) precluded from earning, an additional pension may be granted that would bring the total pension to a member up to £17 10s. per fortnight.

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

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

(vi) *Special Rates.* Those who have been totally blinded as the result of war service and those who are permanently totally incapacitated receive, as from 25th October, 1951, special pensions of £17 10s. per fortnight. In addition to the special pension, an attendant's allowance of £3 per fortnight may be granted to the war-blinded and to certain

* For rates operating since October, 1952, see Appendix to this volume.

others who are deemed to be in need of an attendant. A war-blinded member who is also affected with total loss of speech or total deafness is entitled from 2nd November, 1950 to an attendant's allowance of £6 per fortnight in lieu of that referred to above. The wife and any children under 16 years of age receive the same rates as shown in sub-par. (ii).

(vii) *Specified Disabilities.* Where the disability is amputation of a limb or limbs or total loss of vision in one eye, amounts ranging from 15s. to £7 per fortnight are payable as from 2nd November, 1950, in addition to the statutory rate of pension. In addition, allowances of either £3 or £6 per fortnight are payable in certain double amputation cases.

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

(ix) *Rates of Pensions for Death.* (a) *Widows.* As already stated, rates of pension were previously based on the daily rate of pay of the member. From 2nd November, 1950, the rate ranges from £7 to £8 16s. according to the rank of the member. In addition to the pension, the widow received an allowance of £1 per fortnight if she had dependent children or if she was over 50 years of age; as from 25th October, 1951, this allowance was increased to £3 4s. per fortnight, and eligibility extended to include a widow who, although under 50 years of age, is permanently unemployable.

(b) *Children.* From 2nd November, 1950, the rate of pension for the eldest child (under 16 years of age) was increased to £2 4s. per fortnight, and that of each younger child to £1 11s. In addition to the pension, an amount of 12s. per fortnight may be paid in certain circumstances. Where both parents are dead each child is pensioned at the rate of £4 per fortnight.

(x) *Widowed Mother on Death of Member.* From 2nd November, 1950, a pension ranging from £4 10s. to £8 6s. per fortnight, according to the rank of the member, may be granted to a widowed mother of a deceased unmarried son, provided widowhood occurred either prior to or within three years after the death of the member. The pension may be supplemented by payment of an additional amount constituting the difference between the statutory pension and £8 per fortnight or part thereof, according to the extent of other income of the pensioner. The value of property possessed by the widowed mother does not affect the issue.

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

3. *Summary of War Pensions, 1950-51.*—At 30th June, 1951 the number of war pensions for the 1914-18 War was 148,516 and for the 1939-45 War 354,111, and the amounts paid £12,997,634 and £13,192,829, respectively. The outstanding features for 1950-51 for each war were as follows.

WAR PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1950-51.

Particulars.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Both Wars.
New claims granted	8,567	39,866	48,433
Restorations	627	1,215	1,842
Claims rejected (gross)	1,480	8,387	9,867
Pensions reviewed	18,519	75,550	94,069
Pensions cancelled or discontinued	3,168	10,515	13,683
Deaths of pensioners	3,782	1,439	5,221
Number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1951 ..	148,516	354,111	502,627
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1951 £	13,271,144	14,483,436	27,754,580
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1950-51 £	12,997,634	13,192,829	26,190,463

(a) Includes £1,255 in respect of the Korean and Malayan operations.

4. Classes of War Pensions, 1950-51.—At 30th June, 1951 special rate pensions of £14 per fortnight were being paid to the following classes of members of the Forces :—

WAR PENSIONS : MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES, 30th JUNE, 1951.

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Both Wars.
Blinded members	192	172	364
Tubercular members	889	1,290	2,179
Totally and permanently incapacitated members	6,857	1,857	8,714

The following is an analysis of the total number of new claims granted during 1950-51 :—

WAR PENSIONS : NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, 1950-51.

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Both Wars.
Members	1,001	8,883	9,884
Wives of members (or husbands of members) ..	3,258	9,652	12,910
Children	3,962	20,760	24,722
Other dependants	346	571	917
Total	8,567	39,866	48,433

In the following table the number receiving pensions at 30th June, 1951 is shown for each war for each class of pensioner :—

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE, 30th JUNE, 1951.

Class.	Number of Pensioners.		
	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Both Wars.
Orphan children	1,207	11,328	12,535
War widows	15,670	8,839	24,509
Members	64,889	115,942	180,831
Children	9,002	123,501	132,503
Wives (or husbands)	53,115	87,619	140,734
Parents	4,332	6,681	11,013
Brothers and sisters	115	132	247
Others	186	69	255
Total	148,516	354,111	502,627

5. Number of War Pensioners and Expenditure, 1950-51.—The following table shows the number of pensions in force for each war at 30th June, 1951, and the places where payments were made during 1950-51 :—

WAR PENSIONS : NUMBER OF PENSIONERS AND EXPENDITURE, 1950-51.

Where Paid.	War Pensions in Force.				Expenditure. (£.)
	Incapacitated Members of the Forces.	Dependants of Incapacitated Members.	Dependants of Deceased Members.	Total.	

1914-18 WAR.

New South Wales	21,694	20,726	7,063	49,483	4,641,168
Victoria	21,576	20,389	6,541	48,506	4,004,016
Queensland	7,385	7,005	1,871	16,261	1,368,969
South Australia	4,369	4,371	1,685	10,425	978,795
Western Australia	5,551	5,732	1,602	12,885	993,515
Tasmania	2,861	3,180	852	6,893	673,413
Total, Australia	63,436	61,403	19,614	144,453	12,659,876
London Office	1,203	1,342	999	3,544	315,592
Other Oversea Countries	250	173	96	519	22,166
Total	64,889	62,918	20,709	148,516	12,997,634

1939-45 WAR.

New South Wales	44,520	77,161	10,049	131,730	4,805,028
Victoria	27,539	48,665	7,189	83,393	3,299,140
Queensland	14,534	27,750	3,328	45,612	1,647,149
South Australia	12,511	24,829	2,182	39,522	1,473,397
Western Australia	12,114	23,540	2,488	38,142	1,278,860
Tasmania	4,374	9,316	824	14,514	624,077
Total, Australia	115,592	211,261	26,060	352,913	13,127,651
London Office	220	309	328	857	51,494
Other Oversea Countries	130	165	46	341	13,684
Total	115,942	211,735	26,434	354,111	13,192,829

6. Summary of War Pensions, 1930-31, 1938-39 and 1941-42 to 1950-51.—
 (i) *Australia*. The following table shows, for each war, the numbers of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the amount paid in pensions in each of the years ended 30th June, 1943 to 1951, and the total war pensions for each of the years ended 30th June, 1931, 1939 and 1942 to 1951 :—

WAR PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Pensions Granted.	Claims Rejected.	War Pensions in Force.				Amount paid in Pensions. (£.)
			Incapaci- tated Members of the Forces.	Depend- ants of Incapaci- tated Members.	Depend- ants of Deceased Members.	Total.	

1914-18 WAR.

1943 ..	1,419	1,056	73,387	103,801	22,988	200,176	7,707,612
1944 ..	1,201	1,111	72,232	95,108	22,114	189,454	8,618,138
1945 ..	681	954	70,980	87,048	21,175	179,203	8,633,589
1946 ..	650	552	69,640	79,964	20,381	169,985	8,354,808
1947 ..	811	572	68,375	73,825	19,759	161,959	8,309,448
1948 ..	1,378	717	67,116	68,323	19,863	155,302	8,684,261
1949 ..	1,902	768	66,264	63,937	20,137	150,338	9,761,608
1950 ..	2,547	1,201	65,622	60,141	20,509	146,272	10,429,029
1951 ..	8,567	1,480	64,889	62,918	20,709	148,516	12,997,634

1939-45 WAR.

1943 ..	18,352	16,281	7,853	10,479	8,345	26,677	659,384
1944 ..	30,318	34,505	18,126	23,839	13,043	55,008	1,730,471
1945 ..	50,649	41,619	35,766	49,460	16,650	101,876	2,763,796
1946 ..	92,986	66,766	68,097	95,829	25,479	189,405	4,963,409
1947 ..	51,019	31,266	83,995	122,205	26,478	232,678	6,746,192
1948 ..	39,188	13,614	91,657	142,112	26,530	260,299	7,578,512
1949 ..	39,016	8,192	99,852	163,504	26,421	289,777	8,992,884
1950 ..	44,392	7,312	108,922	189,413	26,649	324,984	10,435,150
1951 ..	39,866	8,387	115,942	211,735	26,434	354,111	13,192,829

BOTH WARS.

1931 ..	11,555	920	75,316	172,389	35,617	283,322	7,996,180
1939 ..	6,794	7,541	77,151	144,571	27,571	249,293	7,819,289
1942 ..	8,907	9,448	76,641	116,019	27,679	220,339	7,501,911
1943 ..	19,771	17,337	81,240	114,280	31,333	226,853	8,366,996
1944 ..	31,549	35,516	90,358	118,947	35,157	244,462	10,348,609
1945 ..	51,330	42,573	106,746	136,508	37,825	281,079	11,397,385
1946 ..	93,636	67,318	137,737	175,793	45,860	359,390	13,258,217
1947 ..	51,830	31,838	152,370	196,030	46,237	394,637	15,055,640
1948 ..	40,566	14,331	153,773	210,435	46,393	415,601	16,262,773
1949 ..	40,918	8,960	166,116	227,441	46,558	440,115	18,754,492
1950 ..	46,939	8,513	174,544	249,554	47,158	471,256	20,864,179
1951 ..	48,433	9,867	180,831	274,653	47,143	502,627	26,190,463

(ii) *Expenditure and Place of Payment.* The following table shows the amounts paid and place where paid for the years 1945-46 to 1950-51 :—

WAR PENSIONS : EXPENDITURE.

(£.)

Place of Payment.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
New South Wales(a)	4,874,706	5,663,529	5,984,610	6,713,900	7,392,793	9,446,734
Victoria	3,640,063	4,081,324	4,436,021	5,249,295	5,857,536	7,303,282
Queensland	1,466,574	1,616,412	1,793,996	2,074,951	2,381,093	3,016,499
South Australia(b)	1,049,768	1,243,066	1,402,474	1,717,225	1,947,536	2,452,245
Western Australia	1,264,951	1,427,953	1,499,821	1,758,028	1,887,885	2,272,533
Tasmania	624,354	726,216	782,474	908,734	1,017,889	1,297,490
Overseas	337,801	297,140	363,377	332,359	379,447	402,935
Total	13,258,217	15,055,640	16,262,773	18,754,492	20,864,179	26,191,718 (c)

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Includes £1,255 in respect of the Korean and Malayan operations.

§ 3. Service Pensions.*

1. **General.**—The payment of service pensions is provided for in the Repatriation Act 1920-1951 and has operated since 1st January, 1936.

Originally fixed on a lower scale, the rate of service pension for a member of the Forces now conforms to the rate of the age or invalid pension, which from 1st November, 1951 was £6 per fortnight. The maximum rate for the wife of a member is £3 per fortnight; the rate for the first child under 16 years of age was increased to 23s. per fortnight and 5s. per fortnight is payable for each of the younger children up to three in number. The actual rate payable in any case is determined after taking into consideration all other income received and property (apart from the home and certain other exempted items) owned by the pensioner, and no service pension can be paid where such other income and/or property exceeds certain specified limits. From 1st November, 1951 the "allowed income" was £234 per annum for a single man and £468 per annum in the case of a member and eligible wife. If a member has property exceeding in value £1,000 (£2,000 for a member and eligible wife), that alone precludes payment of a pension. Pension is assessed according to the amount of income; if the income from all sources is less than the amount shown above, service pension is assessed at such rate as will, with that other income, bring the total income of the pensioner (including service pension) up to the "allowed income", provided that the pension cannot exceed the maximum rate specified for the particular class of case. If assessable property is held, then a deduction is made from the pension assessed according to income only, the deductions being made at so much for each complete £10 of property in excess of £100 (or £200 in the case of member and eligible wife). The deductions are as follows:—for each £10 from £100 to £450, 9d. per fortnight; for each £10 of the portion from £450 to £1,000, 1s. 6d. per fortnight.

* For rates operating since October, 1952, see Appendix to this volume.

Female members of the forces were made eligible in 1936 for consideration of service pensions if they embarked for service abroad; previously they must have served in a theatre of war. In the same year an institutional rate of service pension not exceeding 12s. per fortnight was made available. This pension rate from 1st November, 1951 was £2 2s. per fortnight, and benefits particularly inmates of mental asylums, who were previously excluded from the scheme.

Eligibility for service pensions may be established on the following grounds:—

- (a) Sixty years of age or more, provided the member served in a theatre of war, but eligibility on this ground applies only to the member and not to his wife or children. In the case of a female member of the forces, the qualifying age is 55 years, and service abroad, not necessarily in a theatre of war, is sufficient.
- (b) Permanently unemployable, provided the member served in a theatre of war (or, in the case of a female member, served abroad). Under this class pensions may be paid to the member, his wife and children—up to four in number.
- (c) Pulmonary tuberculosis, whether the member served in a theatre of war or not. Under this class, also, pensions are payable to the wife and children—up to four in number.

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

The eligibility of wives and children for service pension is as follows:—

- 1914–18 War: wife married, or child born, before 2nd October, 1931.
 1939–45 War: wife married within 15 years after discharge of member; any child born of such a marriage.

During the year 1941–42 the scheme was extended to veterans of the South African War 1899–1902, and by amending legislation in 1943 was further extended to members of the Forces of the 1939–45 War.

2. Operations, 1950–51.—The following are the important details of the service pension scheme during 1950–51:—

Claims granted during year—					
Members of the Forces	..	..	..	..	2,185
Wives	..	..	..	..	210
Children	..	..	..	..	33
					33
Total	..	..	..	..	2,428
Claims rejected during year—					
Members of the Forces	..	..	..	..	582
Wives	..	..	..	..	212
Children	..	..	..	..	4
					4
Total	..	..	..	..	798
Service pensions cancelled or discontinued during year	..	..	..	..	1,780
Deaths of pensioners during year	..	..	..	..	870
Pensions in force at 30th June, 1951	..	..	..	..	16,512
Annual pension liability on 30th June, 1951	..	..	..	..	£1,586,039
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1950–51	..	..	..	..	£1,507,258

3. Number of Service Pensioners and Expenditure, 1941-42 to 1950-51.—(i) *Australia*. The following table shows the number of service pensions in force and the expenditure for the ten years 1941-42 to 1950-51 :—

SERVICE PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Service Pensions in Force—						Amount Paid in Pensions. (a)
	Age-Members of Forces.	Permanently Unemployable.		Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Total.	
		Members of Forces.	Dependants.	Members of Forces.	Dependants.		
1942 ..	4,294	3,772	4,591	650	939	14,246	£ 579,656
1943 ..	4,270	3,695	4,221	452	646	13,284	660,109
1944 ..	4,235	3,628	4,025	290	406	12,584	652,534
1945 ..	4,437	3,702	3,807	258	362	12,566	648,996
1946 ..	4,971	3,896	3,633	244	345	13,089	804,880
1947 ..	5,894	4,312	3,657	254	358	14,475	904,120
1948 ..	6,610	4,660	3,791	271	358	15,690	1,238,112
1949 ..	7,070	4,613	3,699	271	365	16,018	1,328,955
1950 ..	7,448	4,608	3,598	299	385	16,338	1,431,687
1951 ..	7,456	4,492	3,911	279	374	16,512	1,507,258

(a) Includes amounts in respect of 1939-45 War as follows:—1942-43, £2,314; 1943-44, £6,403; 1944-45, £7,528; 1945-46, £11,372; 1946-47, £15,786; 1947-48, £25,315; 1948-49, £30,830; 1949-50, £39,757; and 1950-51, £53,113.

(ii) *Expenditure and State of Payment*. The following table shows the amounts paid and the State where paid for the years 1945-46 to 1950-51 :—

SERVICE PENSIONS : EXPENDITURE.

(£.)

State of Payment.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
New South Wales(a) ..	253,274	275,948	446,404	441,541	477,845	515,730
Victoria	206,276	239,650	288,084	322,659	347,274	332,924
Queensland	141,965	155,988	198,257	226,079	247,842	265,754
South Australia(b) ..	85,803	102,937	121,638	142,015	142,339	155,384
Western Australia ..	86,339	95,786	144,936	150,375	165,639	184,744
Tasmania	31,223	33,811	38,793	46,286	50,748	52,722
Total	804,880	904,120	1,238,112	1,328,955	1,431,687	1,507,258
Includes War (1939-45)	11,372	15,786	25,315	30,830	39,757	53,113

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

§ 4. Medical Treatment of Returned Soldiers Suffering from War Service Disabilities.

At 30th June, 1951 there were 5,531 in-patients, including a number whose care was undertaken by the Repatriation Commission on behalf of other countries or Commonwealth Departments. There were 412,235 out-patient attendances for treatment during the year, excluding 397,248 treatments by the 2,779 local medical officers resident in metropolitan and country areas and New Guinea. The expenditure to 30th June, 1951 was £37,921,150.

§ 5. General Benefits and Miscellaneous.

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

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

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

(ii) *Review of General Benefits.* The following paragraph gives particulars (number of cases and expenditure) of the more important general benefits over the period from 8th April, 1918 to 30th June, 1951.

(a) *Employment*—

1914-18 War : Number of applications, 251,200 ; Expenditure—sustenance while awaiting employment, £1,768,000 ; tools of trade and fares, etc. (gift), £554,000 ; tools of trade (loan), £21,800.

1939-45 War : The placing of members in employment was carried out by the Commission for only a short period prior to the inauguration of the Department of Labour and National Service, but the Commission has the responsibility of payment of re-employment allowance, provision of tools of trade and payment of fares and removal expenses. Number of cases and expenditure to 30th June, 1951 are as follows :—Re-employment allowances—66,620, £1,026,750 ; tools of trade (gift)—259,594, £1,876,050 ; (loan)—19,196, £282,997 ; fares and removal expenses, —15,638, £225,196.

(b) *Vocational Training*—

1914-18 War : Number of members completed training in full-time courses, 27,696 ; expenditure, £4,849,600.

1939-45 War : Members completing apprenticeships—12,611, £3,856,008.

(c) *Business Loans*—

1914-18 War : 6,130, £421,800.

1939-45 War : 26,626, £6,682,467. Allowances pending productivity of business—1,266, £76,727. Fares and removal expenses to member proceeding to a business, £495.

(d) Furniture Grants—

1914-18 War: Expenditure—gift (to members blinded or totally and permanently incapacitated and to widows), £75,190; loan (to other classes of members), £1,031,570; total number of cases, 35,400.

1939-45 War: Gift (no loan cases)—widows, 5,577, £382,322; members, 350, £22,706.

(e) Free Passages—

1914-18 War: £509,120.

1939-45 War: To Australia—4,762, £309,965; from Australia—67, £9,995.

(f) Soldiers' Children Education Scheme—

Main Scheme: Full-time training as from 13 years of age.

Particulars.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.
Applications	31,497	8,682
Approved	29,833	8,513
Completed training	23,582	3,170
Withdrawn during training	4,021	323
Awaiting next stage of training	42	123
In training	2,188	4,897
Expenditure	£ 3,032,471	519,533

Minor benefits prior to entrance to main scheme: 1914-18 War, £39,317; 1939-45 War, £26,098.

(iii) *Total Expenditure on General Benefits.* The total expenditure on general benefits, apart from war and service pensions, from 8th April, 1918 to 30th June, 1951, was as follows:—1914-18 War, £33,850,529 (including loan, £1,676,014); 1939-45 War, £34,242,187 (including loan, £6,974,570). Of the grand total of £68,092,716, the largest amounts were absorbed by medical treatment with £37,921,149, vocational training with £8,779,256, and expenses of providing employment, £5,827,775.

2. *Expenditure of Repatriation Commission, 1950-51.*—The expenditure of the Commission for the year ended 30th June, 1951 was £38,096,193, distributed as follows:—

Repatriation benefits—	£
Loans to members	591,498
Grants to members and general expenditure (including main-tenance of training schools, medical institutions, etc.) ..	7,239,427
Assistance to members in necessitous circumstances	2,580
Allowances to dependants of members not provided for under the Act	301
Total	7,833,806
Soldiers' Children Education Scheme	184,226
War and Service Pensions	27,532,254
Administrative costs—	£
Salaries	2,202,923
Contingencies	342,984
Grand total	2,545,907
Grand total	38,096,193

3. *Settlement on the Land of Returned Service Personnel.*—Reference to the settlement on the land of returned service personnel of both the 1914-18 and 1939-45 Wars will be found in Chapter IV.—Land Tenure and Settlement.