

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, also in the Official Year Book referred to, and in subsequent issues, some account was given 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 members of the Forces 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 the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1950, rates of pension and medical sustenance were increased, and 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 this 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 rates of pay 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.

Amendments to the Act in 1951-52, 1953-54 and 1954-55 made provision for general increases in the rate of certain types of war pension. Other payments were accordingly affected, and additional benefits were provided.

The main activities of the Repatriation Commission at 30th June, 1955 were confined to the grant, review and assessment of war and service pensions, the provision of medical treatment, vocational training, 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.**—The first provision for the payment of war pensions to members of the Forces and their dependants was made by the Commonwealth Parliament in the War Pensions Act 1914, which came into operation on 21st December, 1914. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act (amended from 31st December, 1950 to the Repatriation Act). Owing to limitations of space, only some of the main features relating to war pensions under the Repatriation Act 1920-1955 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 that happened during the period from the date of his enlistment to the date of the termination of his service in respect of that enlistment.
- (b) In other cases where a member served only in Australia, incapacity or death to be pensionable must have been attributable to service.
- (c) There is a third ground applicable to all in (a) and (b) who have had at least six months' camp service. This provides that, where a condition pre-existed enlistment, a pension may accrue if it is considered that such condition was aggravated by service.

(ii) *Pensions for Incapacity.* From 7th October, 1954 the 100 per cent. pension rate for a member's incapacity was increased from £8 5s. to £9 per fortnight (higher rates were payable in respect of certain commissioned ranks). The rates for wives and children of such members are £3 11s. and £1 7s. 6d. per fortnight respectively. From 20th October, 1955, the member's 100 per cent. incapacity rate was increased from £9 to £9 10s. per fortnight.

(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 to bring the total pension to the member up to £19 10s. per fortnight from 20th October, 1955.

(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 5th November, 1953, special pensions of £18 10s. per fortnight. The rate for Tuberculars, Class "B" (fit for light employment) was increased from £12 to £13 per fortnight. The rates were further increased to £19 10s. and to £14 per fortnight respectively, from 20th October, 1955. In addition to the special pension, an attendant's allowance of £3 10s. per fortnight is granted to the war-blinded and to certain others who are deemed to be in need of an attendant.

A war-blinded member who is also affected with total loss of speech or total deafness was entitled from 2nd October, 1952 to an attendant's allowance of £7 per fortnight in lieu of that referred to above. Attendant's allowance rates were further increased from 20th October, 1955 to £5 10s. and to £9 per fortnight respectively. The wife and any children under 16 years of age receive the same rates as shown in sub-para. (ii).

(vii) *Specified Disabilities.* Where the disability is amputation of a limb or limbs or total loss of vision in one eye, amounts ranging from 17s. to £10 per fortnight in addition to the statutory rate of pension are payable as from 20th October, 1955. In addition, allowances of either £5 10s. or £9 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 indicated, rates of pension, which were previously based on the daily rate of pay of the member, are now based on the rank of the member. From 20th October, 1955 the rates were increased by £1 per fortnight, the minimum rate being increased from £8 to £9 per fortnight. In addition to the pension, the widow, if she has dependent children, receives an allowance if she is permanently unemployable, or if she is over 50 years of age; this allowance is £3 9s. per fortnight. The allowance may also be paid to a widow under 50 years of age, in certain cases, so long as the child (or one of the children if more than one child) over the age of sixteen, is undergoing education or training but has not qualified for (or is not receiving) the adult wage in the trade, occupation or calling for which the child is training.

(b) *Children.* From 2nd October, 1952, the rate of pension for the eldest child (under 16 years of age) was increased to £2 13s. per fortnight, and that of each younger child to £1 17s. Additional pension of 12s. per fortnight may be paid in certain circumstances. Where both parents are dead each child is pensioned at the rate of £4 16s. per fortnight.

(c) *Widowed Mother on Death of Member.* 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 to a prescribed person, of an additional amount not exceeding £8 per fortnight according to the extent of other income of the pensioner; this operated from 20th October, 1955. The value of property possessed does not affect the issue.

2. *Appeals 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, 1954-55.*—At 30th June, 1955, the number of war pensions for the 1914-18 War was 138,641, for the 1939-45 War, 442,862, and for the Korea and Malaya Operations 2,034, making a total of 583,537 with a liability of £40,223,720 per annum. The amount paid in war and service pensions during the year 1954-55 was £44,516,287. The outstanding features for 1954-55 for each war were as follows.

WAR PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1954-55.

| Particulars. | 1914-18 War. | 1939-45 War. | Korea and Malaya Operations. | Total. |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| New claims granted | 2,758 | 33,748 | 642 | 37,148 |
| Restorations | 541 | 1,495 | 17 | 2,053 |
| Claims rejected (gross) | 2,031 | 18,380 | 507 | 20,918 |
| Pensions reviewed | 14,326 | 62,119 | 246 | 76,691 |
| Pensions cancelled or discontinued .. | 1,590 | 11,745 | 28 | 13,363 |
| Deaths of pensioners | 4,072 | 1,887 | 8 | 5,967 |
| Number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1955 | 138,641 | 442,862 | 2,034 | 583,537 |
| Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1955 £ | 17,673,142 | 22,424,840 | 125,738 | 40,223,720 |
| Amount paid in pensions during the year 1954-55 £ | (a) | (a) | (a) | 644,516,287 |

(a) Not available.

(b) Includes payments in respect of service pensions.

4. Classes of War Pensions, Australia, 1954-55.—(a) *New Claims Granted.* The following is an analysis of the total number of new claims granted during 1954-55 :—

WAR PENSIONS : NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1954-55.

| Class. | 1914-18 War. | 1939-45 War. | Korea and Malaya Operations. | Total. |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Members | 926 | 6,718 | 237 | 7,881 |
| Wives of members | 1,287 | 7,204 | 169 | 8,660 |
| Children | 466 | 19,435 | 221 | 20,122 |
| Other dependants | 79 | 391 | 15 | 485 |
| Total | 2,758 | 33,748 | 642 | 37,148 |

(b) *Pensions in Force.* The following table shows the number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1955 for each war and for each class of pensioner :—

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1955.

| Class. | Number of Pensioners at 30th June, 1955. | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|------------------------------|---------|
| | 1914-18 War. | 1939-45 War. | Korea and Malaya Operations. | Total. |
| Orphan children— | | | | |
| Children of deceased members .. | 671 | 9,219 | 79 | 9,969 |
| Double orphans | 44 | 161 | .. | 205 |
| War widows | 18,294 | 9,942 | 56 | 28,292 |
| Members | 60,398 | 134,979 | 878 | 196,255 |
| Children | 4,992 | 172,177 | 524 | 177,693 |
| Wives | 51,566 | 109,553 | 424 | 161,543 |
| Parents | 2,390 | 6,636 | 66 | 9,092 |
| Brothers and sisters | 81 | 107 | 7 | 195 |
| Others | 205 | 88 | .. | 293 |
| Total | 138,641 | 442,862 | 2,034 | 583,537 |

(c) *Special Rate Pensions.* At 30th June, 1955 special rate pensions of £18 10s. per fortnight were being paid to the following classes of members of the Forces :—

WAR PENSIONS : MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1955.

| Class. | 1914-18 War. | 1939-45 War. | Korea and Malaya Operations. | Total. |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Blinded members | 208 | 192 | 2 | 402 |
| Tubercular members | 760 | 1,050 | 5 | 1,815 |
| Totally and permanently incapacitated members | 9,730 | 3,194 | 4 | 12,928 |
| Tuberculars, Class "B" (a) | 176 | 342 | .. | 518 |

(a) Rate £13 per fortnight.

5. Number of War Pensioners and Annual Liability, States, etc., 30th June, 1955.—The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war at 30th June, 1955 according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on page 1055).

WAR PENSIONS : NUMBER OF PENSIONERS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30th JUNE, 1955.

| Number of War Pensions in Force at 30th June, 1955. | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Where Paid. | Incapacitated Members of the Forces. | Dependants of Incapacitated Members. | Dependants of Deceased Members. | Total. | Annual Pension Liability (£.) |
| 1914-18 WAR. | | | | | |
| New South Wales(a) | 19,635 | 18,386 | 7,196 | 45,217 | 5,821,492 |
| Victoria.. | 20,275 | 18,587 | 7,043 | 45,905 | 5,737,635 |
| Queensland | 7,134 | 6,637 | 1,876 | 15,647 | 2,062,808 |
| South Australia(b) | 4,444 | 4,353 | 1,722 | 10,519 | 1,456,587 |
| Western Australia | 4,926 | 4,962 | 1,545 | 11,433 | 1,281,942 |
| Tasmania | 2,685 | 2,768 | 841 | 6,294 | 894,462 |
| Total, Australia | 59,099 | 55,693 | 20,223 | 135,015 | 17,254,926 |
| London Office | 1,086 | 1,185 | 883 | 3,154 | 366,110 |
| Other Oversea Countries | 213 | 167 | 92 | 472 | 52,106 |
| Total | 60,398 | 57,045 | 21,198 | 138,641 | 17,673,142 |
| 1939-45 WAR. | | | | | |
| New South Wales(a) | 48,011 | 94,546 | 9,619 | 152,176 | 7,788,272 |
| Victoria.. | 35,501 | 73,507 | 6,914 | 115,922 | 5,914,971 |
| Queensland | 17,806 | 39,294 | 3,293 | 60,393 | 3,132,308 |
| South Australia(b) | 14,823 | 33,854 | 2,267 | 50,944 | 2,470,732 |
| Western Australia | 12,965 | 27,272 | 2,261 | 42,498 | 1,993,988 |
| Tasmania | 5,393 | 13,164 | 793 | 19,350 | 1,001,833 |
| Total, Australia | 134,499 | 281,637 | 25,147 | 441,283 | 22,302,104 |
| London Office | 318 | 498 | 317 | 1,133 | 93,392 |
| Other Oversea Countries | 162 | 232 | 52 | 446 | 29,344 |
| Total | 134,979 | 282,367 | 25,516 | 442,862 | 22,424,840 |
| KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS. | | | | | |
| New South Wales(a) | 329 | 350 | 87 | 766 | 48,030 |
| Victoria.. | 235 | 250 | 41 | 526 | 27,985 |
| Queensland | 123 | 132 | 28 | 283 | 17,917 |
| South Australia(b) | 58 | 81 | 4 | 143 | 9,760 |
| Western Australia | 82 | 88 | 16 | 186 | 11,832 |
| Tasmania | 34 | 42 | 11 | 87 | 4,930 |
| Total, Australia | 861 | 943 | 187 | 1,991 | 120,454 |
| London Office | 11 | 2 | 16 | 29 | 3,852 |
| Other Oversea Countries | 6 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 1,432 |
| Total | 878 | 949 | 207 | 2,034 | 125,738 |

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

6. Summary of War Pensions, 1930-31, 1938-39 and 1946-47 to 1954-55.—
 (i) *Australia*. The following table shows, for each war, the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30th June, 1947 to 1955, and the total annual liability for war pensions for each of the years ended 30th June, 1931, 1939 and 1947 to 1955 :—

WAR PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

| Year ended 30th June— | Pensions Granted. | Claims Rejected. | Number of War Pensions in Force at 30th June. | | | | Annual Pension Liability at 30th June (£.) |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--------|---|
| | | | Incapaci- tated Members of the Forces. | Depend- ants of Incapaci- tated Members. | Depend- ants of Deceased Members. | Total. | |

1914-18 WAR.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|------------|
| 1947 .. | 811 | 572 | 63,375 | 73,825 | 19,759 | 161,959 | 8,163,025 |
| 1948 .. | 1,378 | 717 | 67,116 | 68,323 | 19,863 | 155,302 | 8,475,915 |
| 1949 .. | 1,902 | 768 | 66,264 | 63,937 | 20,137 | 150,338 | 9,656,071 |
| 1950 .. | 2,547 | 1,201 | 65,622 | 60,141 | 20,509 | 146,272 | 10,103,752 |
| 1951 .. | 5,567 | 1,480 | 64,889 | 62,918 | 20,709 | 148,516 | 13,271,144 |
| 1952 .. | 4,090 | 1,386 | 63,800 | 61,775 | 20,684 | 146,259 | 14,447,983 |
| 1953 .. | 3,090 | 1,136 | 62,703 | 60,000 | 20,793 | 143,496 | 15,674,373 |
| 1954 .. | 3,063 | 1,559 | 61,634 | 58,390 | 20,980 | 141,004 | 16,574,442 |
| 1955 .. | 2,758 | 2,031 | 60,398 | 57,045 | 21,198 | 138,641 | 17,673,142 |

1939-45 WAR.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|------------|
| 1947 .. | 51,019 | 31,266 | 83,995 | 122,205 | 26,478 | 232,678 | 6,841,567 |
| 1948 .. | 39,188 | 13,614 | 91,657 | 142,112 | 26,530 | 260,299 | 7,759,793 |
| 1949 .. | 39,016 | 8,192 | 99,852 | 163,504 | 26,421 | 289,777 | 9,522,250 |
| 1950 .. | 44,392 | 7,312 | 108,922 | 189,413 | 26,649 | 324,984 | 10,638,011 |
| 1951 .. | 39,866 | 8,387 | 115,942 | 211,735 | 26,434 | 354,111 | 14,483,436 |
| 1952 .. | 36,259 | 8,864 | 120,889 | 231,068 | 26,232 | 378,189 | 15,862,473 |
| 1953 .. | 33,944 | 8,034 | 125,366 | 243,483 | 25,885 | 399,734 | 18,502,675 |
| 1954 .. | 33,370 | 13,733 | 129,926 | 265,552 | 25,773 | 421,251 | 20,211,273 |
| 1955 .. | 33,748 | 18,380 | 134,979 | 282,367 | 25,516 | 442,862 | 22,424,840 |

KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| 1951 .. | 48 | .. | 5 | 1 | 42 | 48 | 6,265 |
| 1952 .. | 312 | 153 | 159 | 109 | 99 | 367 | 30,873 |
| 1953 .. | 399 | 241 | 326 | 274 | 144 | 744 | 53,519 |
| 1954 .. | 608 | 450 | 611 | 572 | 196 | 1,411 | 92,652 |
| 1955 .. | 642 | 507 | 878 | 949 | 207 | 2,034 | 125,738 |

TOTAL.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|------------|
| 1931 .. | 11,555 | 920 | 75,316 | 172,389 | 35,617 | 283,322 | 7,774,806 |
| 1939 .. | 6,794 | 7,541 | 77,151 | 144,571 | 27,571 | 249,293 | 7,681,095 |
| 1947 .. | 51,830 | 31,838 | 152,370 | 196,030 | 46,237 | 394,637 | 15,004,592 |
| 1948 .. | 40,566 | 11,331 | 158,773 | 210,435 | 46,393 | 415,601 | 16,235,708 |
| 1949 .. | 40,918 | 8,960 | 166,116 | 227,441 | 46,558 | 440,115 | 19,176,261 |
| 1950 .. | 46,939 | 8,513 | 174,544 | 249,554 | 47,158 | 471,256 | 20,741,763 |
| 1951 .. | 48,481 | 9,867 | 180,836 | 274,654 | 47,185 | 502,675 | 27,760,845 |
| 1952 .. | 40,661 | 13,403 | 184,848 | 292,952 | 47,015 | 524,815 | 30,341,329 |
| 1953 .. | 37,433 | 9,411 | 188,395 | 308,757 | 46,822 | 543,974 | 34,230,567 |
| 1954 .. | 37,131 | 15,742 | 192,203 | 324,514 | 46,949 | 563,666 | 36,878,337 |
| 1955 .. | 37,148 | 20,918 | 196,255 | 340,361 | 46,921 | 583,537 | 40,223,720 |

(ii) *Amount Paid and Place of Payment.* The following table shows for the years 1949-50 to 1954-55 the amounts paid in pensions and place where paid :—

WAR PENSIONS : AMOUNT PAID.

(£.)

| Place of Payment. | 1949-50. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| New South Wales(a) .. | 7,392,793 | 9,446,734 | 11,046,938 | 11,769,571 | 12,578,067 | 15,150,898 |
| Victoria .. | 5,857,536 | 7,303,282 | 9,184,196 | 9,918,742 | 10,600,721 | 12,059,661 |
| Queensland .. | 2,381,093 | 3,016,499 | 3,777,019 | 4,109,763 | 4,591,219 | 5,913,787 |
| South Australia(b) .. | 1,947,536 | 2,452,245 | 3,046,575 | 3,349,467 | 3,583,510 | 4,389,248 |
| Western Australia .. | 1,887,885 | 2,272,533 | 2,714,606 | 2,921,367 | 3,086,783 | 3,799,811 |
| Tasmania .. | 1,017,889 | 1,297,490 | 1,560,560 | 1,714,600 | 1,820,440 | 2,032,492 |
| Overseas .. | 379,447 | 402,935 | 515,119 | 572,276 | 536,304 | 570,390 |
| Total .. | 20,864,179 | 26,191,718 | 31,845,013 | 34,355,795 | 36,797,044 | 44,516,287 |

(c)

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
amount paid in respect of Service pensions.

(b) Includes Northern Territory

(c) Includes

§ 3. Service Pensions.

1. **General.** The payment of service pensions is provided for in the Repatriation Act 1920-1955 and has operated since 1st January, 1936.

Originally fixed on a lower scale, the maximum rate of service pension for a member of the Forces now conforms to the rate of the age or invalid pension, which was increased from £7 to £8 per fortnight from 20th October, 1955. The maximum rate for the wife of a member is £3 10s. per fortnight; the rate for the first child under 16 years of age is 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, "except income derived from property" and property (apart from the home and certain other exemptions) owned by the pensioner, and no service pension can be paid where the other income and/or property exceeds certain specified limits. From 7th October, 1954 the "allowed income" was £364 per annum for a single man and £728 per annum in the case of a member and wife. The amounts were raised to £390 and £780 operative from 20th October, 1955 in conformity with the member's rate increase. If a member has property (apart from the home and certain other exemptions) exceeding in value £1,750 (£3,500 for a member and wife), that alone precludes payment of a pension. Pension is assessed according to the amount of income; if the income is less than the amount shown above, service pension is assessed at such rate as will, with that other income, bring the total income (including service pension) of the pensioner 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 9d. per fortnight for each complete £10 of property in excess of £200 (or £400 in the case of member and wife). Half the combined income received and property possessed by man and wife is deemed to be income received and property possessed by each for Service pension purposes.

In 1936 female members of the forces were made eligible for consideration for 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, which benefits particularly inmates of mental hospitals, was £2 9s. per fortnight from 5th November, 1953, but was increased to £2 16s. per fortnight from 20th October, 1955.

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

From 1st November, 1941, service pensions were extended to veterans of the South African War 1899–1902, and in 1943 to members of the Forces of the 1939–45 War, and now also apply to members who served in the Korea and Malaya operations.

2. Operations, 1954–55.—The following table gives a summary relating to service pensions during 1954–55 :—

Claims granted during year—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Members of the Forces | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,891 |
| Wives | .. | .. | .. | .. | 845 |
| Children | .. | .. | .. | .. | 326 |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,062 |

Claims rejected during year—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Members of the Forces | .. | .. | .. | .. | 737 |
| Wives | .. | .. | .. | .. | 415 |
| Children | .. | .. | .. | .. | 240 |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,392 |

| | | |
|--|----|------------|
| Service pensions cancelled or discontinued during year | .. | 1,892 |
| Deaths of pensioners during year | .. | 1,187 |
| Pensions in force at 30th June, 1955 | .. | 22,316 |
| Annual pension liability on 30th June, 1955 | .. | £3,126,321 |

3. Number of Service Pensioners and Amount Paid.—(i) *Summary, Australia, 1945-46 to 1954-55.* The following table shows the number of service pensions in force and the amount paid in pensions for the ten years 1945-46 to 1954-55 :—

SERVICE PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

| Year ended 30th June— | Number of Service Pensions in Force at 30th June— | | | | | | Amount Paid in Pensions. |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| | Age. | Permanently Unemployable. | | Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | Total. | |
| | | Members of Forces. | Members of Forces. | Depen- dants. | Members of Forces. | | |
| 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 |
| 1952 .. | 7,587 | 4,561 | 4,270 | 269 | 389 | 17,076 | 1,778,380 |
| 1953 .. | 8,703 | 4,971 | 4,780 | 291 | 432 | 19,177 | 2,225,044 |
| 1954 .. | 9,648 | 5,294 | 5,092 | 321 | 451 | 20,806 | 2,694,522 |
| 1955 .. | 10,566 | 5,555 | 5,286 | 379 | 530 | 22,316 | (a) |

(a) Included with War pensions—see page 1055.

(ii) *Amount Paid and State where Paid.* Details of the amounts paid in each State in respect of service pensions are no longer available. Particulars for the years 1949-50 to 1953-54 may be found on page 1017 of Official Year Book No. 41.

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

At 30th June, 1955 there were 4,663 in-patients in Repatriation medical institutions and State mental hospitals, including a number whose care was undertaken by the Repatriation Commission on behalf of other countries or Commonwealth Departments. There were 380,624 out-patient attendances for treatment during the year, excluding approximately 850,000 treatments by the 3,545 local medical officers resident in metropolitan and country areas and New Guinea. The expenditure to 30th June, 1955 was £72,091,315.

§ 5. General Benefits and Miscellaneous.

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

By legislation passed in June, 1940, these benefits were extended to members engaged in the 1939-45 War and in November, 1950 to those engaged in the Korea and Malaya Operations and new benefits designed for the re-establishment of members after discharge from the Forces were made available. The re-establishment benefits administered by the Repatriation Commission are :—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, takes up training, employment, or a business, or settles 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 Division of War Service Land Settlement began operations early in 1946) agricultural occupations ; payment of re-establishment allowance during the early stages of establishment in business ; gifts up to £75 for furniture to members who are 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).

In 1949 the Commission took 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 a function of the Commission, and special means have to be found to overcome each problem.

(ii) *Review of General Benefits.* The following paragraph gives particulars of the more important general benefits for each war (those for Korea and Malaya Operations are included under the 1939-45 War) for the period from 8th April, 1918 to 30th June, 1955.

(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, 1955 were as follows :—Re-employment allowances—67,275, £1,027,488 ; tools of trade (gift)—261,836, £1,896,987 ; (loan)—19,485, £293,406 ; fares and removal expenses, 16,741, £244,495.

(b) *Vocational Training*—

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

1939-45 *War* : Number of members completed training in full-time re-establishment courses 57,239 ; number still in training, 806 ; expenditure, £50,257,064. An additional sum of £3,874,927 was expended on supplementation of apprentices wages.

(c) *Business Loans*—

1914-18 *War* : 6,130, £421,800.

1939-45 *War* : 28,213, £7,626,067. Allowances pending productivity of business—1,451, £90,033. 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, 5,718, £397,586 ; members, 378, £23,405.

(e) *Free Passages*—

1914-18 *War* : £509,120.

1939-45 *War* : To Australia—4,750, £310,893 ; from Australia—70, £10,466.

(f) *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme*—

Main Scheme : Full-time training as from 12 years of age.

| Particulars. | | | | | 1914-18 War. | 1939-45 War. |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| Applications | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33,109 | 16,409 |
| Approved | .. | .. | .. | .. | 31,441 | 16,231 |
| Completed training | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25,784 | 8,155 |
| Withdrawn during training | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,101 | 691 |
| Awaiting next stage of training | .. | .. | .. | .. | 48 | 200 |
| In training | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,509 | 7,184 |
| Expenditure | .. | .. | .. | .. | £4,757,448 | |

Minor benefits prior to entrance to main scheme : For all Wars, £98,345.

(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, 1955, for all wars since 1914 was £111,891,074 (including loan £9,605,692). Of this total the largest amounts were absorbed by medical treatment with £72,091,315, vocational training with £8,800,780, and expenses in providing employment, £5,878,683.

2. **Expenditure of Repatriation Commission, 1954-55.**—The expenditure of the Commission for the year ended 30th June, 1955 was £59,625,416, distributed as follows :—

| Repatriation benefits— | | | | | | £ |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| Loans to members | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 178,181 |
| Grants to members and general expenditure (including main- tenance of training schools, medical institutions, etc.) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11,539,931 |
| Assistance to members in necessitous circumstances | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 805 |
| Total | | | | | | 11,718,917 |
| Soldiers' Children Education Scheme | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 368,876 |
| War and Service Pensions | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 444,548,113 |
| Administrative costs— | | | | | | £ |
| Salaries | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,480,984 |
| Contingencies | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 508,526 |
| | | | | | | 2,989,510 |
| Grand total | | | | | | 59,625,416 |

(a) Includes Trust Fund adjustments.

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