

CHAPTER XXVII

REPATRIATION

§ 1. General

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act* 1920-1962, and consisting of three full-time members, is responsible for the administration of the *Repatriation Act* and associated legislation, all matters of policy, and the general administration and overall supervision of the Repatriation Department. The central office is in Melbourne and there is a branch office under the control of a Deputy Commissioner in each State.

The principal functions of the Department are:—the payment of war and service pensions to ex-service men and women and their dependants; the provision of medical treatment to ex-service men and women for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their war service; the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances to ex-service men and women who are suffering from injuries and illnesses not caused or aggravated by war service; and the provision of medical treatment to widows and dependants of deceased ex-servicemen whose deaths are due to war service.

Other functions of the Repatriation Department are outlined in a later section of this chapter (see § 5, General Benefits and Miscellaneous, pp.1218-20).

Benefits are provided in respect of service, not only in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 Wars, but also in the Korea and Malaya operations, with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve and the Special Overseas Forces.

§ 2. War Pensions

1. **General.**—The first provision for the payment of war pensions to ex-servicemen 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 This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act* (amended from 31st December, 1950, to the *Repatriation Act*). The main features relating to war pensions under the *Repatriation Act* 1920-1962 are set out in the following paragraphs.

(i) **Eligibility for Pension.** The 1943 amendments to the *Repatriation Act* considerably widened the provisions in this respect, to the benefit, mainly, of members of the Citizen Military Forces who had not served outside Australia. These provisions are summarized as follows.

A member of the forces who served (1) outside Australia, (2) in the Territories of Australia, such as Papua and New Guinea, or (3) within Australia in circumstances which can be regarded as combat against the enemy, is covered for war pension purposes in respect of incapacity or death which may result from any occurrence that happened during the period from the date of his enlistment to the date of the termination of his service in respect of that enlistment.

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

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

(ii) **Pensions for Incapacity.** From 28th September, 1961, the 100 per cent. pension rate for an ex-serviceman's incapacity was increased from £5 10s. to £5 15s. a week (higher rates are payable in respect of certain commissioned ranks). The rates for wives and children of incapacitated ex-servicemen are £1 15s. 6d. and 13s. 9d. a week, respectively.

(iii) **Supplementation of Pensions.** Where an ex-serviceman, because of his war disability, is temporarily (for at least three months) precluded from earning other than a negligible percentage of a living wage, an additional pension may be granted to bring the total pension to the ex-serviceman up to £13 5s. a week, an increase of 10s. from 28th September, 1961.

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

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

(vi) *Special Rates.* Those who have been totally blinded as a result of war service and those who are permanently and totally incapacitated receive a special pension which was increased from £12 15s. to £13 5s. a week from 28th September, 1961. This special pension may also be granted to ex-servicemen who are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, there is an intermediate rate for tuberculosis patients fit for light employment. This intermediate rate was similarly increased from £8 17s. 6d. to £9 7s. 6d. a week. In addition to the special pension, an attendant's allowance of £3 5s. a week is granted to the war-blinded and to certain others who are deemed to be in need of an attendant. A war-blinded ex-serviceman who is also affected with total loss of speech or total deafness is entitled to an attendant's allowance of £5 5s. a week. Wives and any children under 16 years of age receive the rates shown in sub-para. (ii).

(vii) *Clothing Allowance.* As from 1st October, 1959, provision was made for ex-servicemen to receive a clothing allowance ranging from 3s. 9d. to 7s. 6d. weekly for damage to clothing caused by the use of an artificial limb or other appliance, where the incapacity is due to war service, or by the use of oils, ointments, etc., used in the treatment of accepted disabilities, e.g., skin diseases, suppurating wounds, etc.

(viii) *Specified Disabilities.* Where the disability is amputation of a limb or limbs or total loss of vision in one eye, amounts ranging from 13s. 6d. to £7 10s. a week in addition to the statutory rate of pension are payable as from 28th September, 1961. In addition, attendant's allowances of either £3 5s. or £5 5s. a week are payable in certain double amputation cases.

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

(x) *Rates of Pension for Death.* (a) *Widows.* From 28th September, 1961, the rates of pension were increased by 5s. a week, the minimum rate being increased from £5 10s. to £5 15s. a week (higher rates are payable in respect of certain commissioned ranks).

In addition to pension, a widow receives an allowance if she has a dependant child or children under the age of 16 years, or if she is over 50 years of age, or is permanently unemployable, or has a child over 16 years who is undertaking education or training and who is, in the opinion of the Commission, not receiving an adequate living wage.

(b) *Children.* From 28th September, 1961, the rate of pension for the eldest child (under 16 years of age) was increased from £1 11s. 6d. a week to £1 19s. a week, and that for each younger child from £1 2s. 6d. a week to £1 7s. 6d. a week. Additional pension of 6s. a week may be paid in certain circumstances. Where both parents are dead, pension payable to each child was increased from £3 3s. a week to £3 11s. 6d. a week.

(xi) *Widowed Mother on Death of Member.* A pension ranging from £2 5s. to £4 3s. a week, according to the rank of the ex-serviceman, may be granted to the 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 (not exceeding £5 5s. a week as from 28th September, 1961) according to the extent of other income of the pensioner. The value of property owned does not affect the pension.

2. Appeals Tribunals.—The principal Act was amended, as from 1st June, 1929, to create tribunals to hear appeals in respect of war pensions. The War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunal is empowered to hear and decide any appeal by or on behalf of ex-servicemen or their dependants against a decision of a Repatriation Board or the Repatriation Commission that the incapacity or death of an ex-serviceman did not arise out of war service. Assessment Appeal Tribunals were created to hear and decide any appeal against a current assessment or a "Nil" assessment of war pension made by the Repatriation Commission in respect of the incapacity of an ex-serviceman 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 whose application for a service pension had been refused on the grounds that they were not suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis or were permanently unemployable.

3. Summary of War Pensions, 1961-62.—The following table provides a summary of war pensions for the 1914-18 War, the 1939-45 War, the Korea and Malaya operations and the Far East Strategic Reserve.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1961-62

Particulars	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Total
New claims granted	2,422	30,794	969	152	34,337
Restorations	359	926	15	..	1,300
Claims rejected(a)	1,872	7,030	383	70	9,355
Pensions cancelled or discontinued ..	829	17,877	106	4	18,816
Deaths of pensioners	4,680	3,246	23	1	7,950
Number of pensioners in force at 30th June, 1962	118,586	543,904	7,412	276	670,178
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1962 £	23,890,878	38,553,597	398,574	15,840	62,858,889
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1961-62 £	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	61,873,988

(a) Number of claimants who had their claims for all their disabilities rejected.

4. **Classes of War Pensions, Australia, 1961-62.**—(a) *New Claims Granted.* The following is an analysis of the total number of new claims granted during 1961-62.

WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1961-62

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Total
Ex-servicemen	1,013	7,204	188	55	8,460
Wives of ex-servicemen	1,159	6,904	187	32	8,282
Children	104	15,756	583	61	16,504
Other dependants	146	930	11	4	1,091
Total	2,422	30,794	969	152	34,337

(b) *Pensions in Force.* The following table shows the number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1962, for each war and for each class of pensioner.

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1962

Class	Number of pensioners at 30th June, 1962				
	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Total
Ex-servicemen	48,670	165,101	2,208	104	216,083
Wives	45,004	139,277	1,615	58	185,954
Children	1,374	210,300	3,301	86	215,061
War widows	22,375	14,722	70	7	37,174
Children of deceased ex-servicemen	191	6,980	120	16	7,307
Orphans	18	143	..	1	162
Parents	677	7,056	95	3	7,831
Brothers and sisters	55	101	3	..	159
Others	222	224	..	1	447
Total	118,586	543,904	7,412	276	670,178

(c) *Special Rate Pensions.* At 30th June, 1962, special rate pensions were being paid to the following classes of ex-servicemen.

WAR PENSIONS: MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1962

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Total
Totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen	12,683	7,706	25	..	20,414
Blinded ex-servicemen	221	235	1	..	457
Tuberculous ex-servicemen	401	377	14	..	792
Tuberculous ex-servicemen (intermediate rate)	102	228	1	..	331

5. Number of War Pensions and Annual Liability, States, etc., 30th June, 1962.—The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war at 30th June, 1962, according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on p. 1216.)

**WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY,
30th JUNE, 1962**

Where paid	Number of war pensions in force at 30th June, 1962				Annual pension liability (£)
	Incapacitated ex-service-men	Dependants of incapacitated ex-service-men	Dependants of deceased ex-service-men	Total	
1914-18 WAR					
New South Wales(a)	15,541	14,865	7,836	38,242	7,842,736
Victoria	16,173	15,127	7,814	39,114	7,946,552
Queensland	6,244	5,852	2,270	14,366	3,138,443
South Australia(b)	3,828	3,811	1,854	9,493	1,901,703
Western Australia	3,838	3,989	1,624	9,451	1,542,973
Tasmania	2,080	2,036	945	5,061	1,077,207
<i>Australia</i>	<i>47,704</i>	<i>45,680</i>	<i>22,343</i>	<i>115,727</i>	<i>23,449,614</i>
Abroad	966	1,092	801	2,859	441,264
Total	48,670	46,772	23,144	118,586	23,890,878

1939-45 WAR					
New South Wales(a)	57,643	114,129	10,793	182,565	13,395,957
Victoria	45,586	98,548	7,498	151,632	10,466,322
Queensland	23,159	52,144	3,688	78,991	6,051,798
South Australia(b)	16,969	38,238	2,957	58,164	3,760,102
Western Australia	14,788	30,541	2,466	47,795	3,198,616
Tasmania	6,377	15,840	812	23,029	1,499,273
<i>Australia</i>	<i>164,522</i>	<i>349,440</i>	<i>28,214</i>	<i>542,176</i>	<i>38,372,068</i>
Abroad	579	857	292	1,728	181,529
Total	165,101	350,297	28,506	543,904	38,553,597

KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS

New South Wales(a)	855	1,805	119	2,779	147,302
Victoria	507	1,081	58	1,646	84,639
Queensland	392	913	49	1,354	79,434
South Australia(b)	158	404	10	572	29,071
Western Australia	175	439	23	637	32,500
Tasmania	79	219	9	307	15,330
<i>Australia</i>	<i>2,166</i>	<i>4,861</i>	<i>268</i>	<i>7,295</i>	<i>388,276</i>
Abroad	42	58	17	117	10,278
Total	2,208	4,919	285	7,412	398,574

FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE

New South Wales(a)	40	76	12	128	5,748
Victoria	19	25	4	48	3,264
Queensland	25	31	8	64	4,951
South Australia(b)	6	6	..	12	487
Western Australia	13	8	..	21	960
Tasmania	1	..	..	1	30
<i>Australia</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>274</i>	<i>15,440</i>
Abroad .. ..	..	..	2	2	400
Total	104	146	26	276	15,840

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

6. **Summary of War Pensions.**—(i) *Number.* The following table shows, for each war and in total, the number of pensions granted, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30th June, 1958 to 1962.

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 ex-service- men	Depend- ants of incapaci- tated ex-service- men	Depend- ants of deceased ex-service- men	Total	
1914-18 WAR							
1958	2,353	2,368	55,814	52,806	21,985	130,605	20,739,134
1959	2,098	2,767	54,005	51,215	22,240	127,460	21,032,135
1960	2,343	2,638	52,324	49,861	22,528	124,713	22,428,690
1961	2,094	(b) 2,085	50,338	48,205	22,743	121,286	23,017,259
1962	2,422	(b) 1,872	48,670	46,772	23,144	118,586	23,890,878

1939-45 War

1958	29,007	18,165	147,147	321,215	25,269	493,631	28,339,013
1959	27,829	18,954	151,249	332,691	25,758	509,698	29,904,732
1960	28,397	17,852	155,534	341,985	26,327	523,846	33,056,692
1961	27,202	(b) 14,718	159,727	346,391	27,205	533,323	35,147,236
1962	30,794	(b) 7,030	165,101	350,297	28,506	543,904	38,553,597

KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS

1958	820	989	1,478	2,408	240	4,126	235,300
1959	834	1,193	1,670	2,970	249	4,889	269,208
1960	908	1,174	1,864	3,593	255	5,712	311,195
1961	913	(b) 848	2,043	4,247	261	6,551	351,539
1962	969	(b) 383	2,208	4,919	285	7,412	398,574

FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE

1961	61	(b) 118	53	62	15	130	7,339
1962	152	(b) 70	104	146	26	276	15,840

TOTAL

1958	32,180	21,522	204,439	376,429	47,494	628,362	49,313,447
1959(a) ..	30,761	22,914	206,924	386,876	48,247	642,047	51,206,075
1960(a) ..	31,648	21,664	209,722	395,439	49,110	654,271	55,796,577
1961	30,270	(b) 17,769	212,161	398,905	50,224	661,290	58,523,373
1962	34,337	(b) 9,355	216,083	402,134	51,961	670,178	62,858,889

(a) Excludes Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners:—1959—16, 1960—65, with annual liability 1959—£1,410, 1960—£3,733. (b) For the years 1957-58, 1958-59, and 1959-60, the figures for claims rejected refer to individual claims for each disability. The basis of showing rejected claims was changed during 1960-61 to show the number of claimants who had the claims for all their disabilities rejected.

(ii) *Amount Paid and Place of Payment.* The following table shows, for the years 1957-58 to 1961-62, the amounts paid in pensions and the place where they were paid.

WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID

(£)

Place of payment	1957-58	1958-59 (a)	1959-60 (a)	1960-61	1961-62
New South Wales(b)	16,824,229	16,813,419	18,167,146	20,266,212	21,009,992
Victoria	14,871,179	15,201,405	16,100,551	18,321,955	18,419,806
Queensland	6,919,363	7,215,834	7,741,918	8,916,007	9,039,080
South Australia(c)	4,812,417	4,846,030	5,052,143	5,686,305	5,579,118
Western Australia	4,008,412	3,946,502	4,235,747	4,654,877	4,663,499
Tasmania	2,211,862	2,229,229	2,416,016	2,582,985	2,493,889
Abroad	630,735	605,004	648,344	622,560	666,604
Total	50,278,197	50,857,423	54,361,865	61,050,901	61,873,988

(a) Excludes payments to Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners.
(c) Includes the Northern Territory.

(b) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

§ 3. Service Pensions

1. *General.*—The *Repatriation Act* 1920-1962, administered by the Repatriation Department, provides for a service pension to be paid, subject to a means test of income and property, to the following persons.

A male ex-serviceman aged 60 years or over who served in a theatre of war, or an ex-servicewoman aged 55 years or over who served abroad. No pension is payable to the wife or children under 16 years of age of an ex-serviceman granted a service pension on account of age.

An ex-serviceman who is permanently unemployable and who served in a theatre of war (or in the case of an ex-servicewoman, who served abroad). Service pensions are also payable to a pensioner's wife and up to four children under 16 years of age.

An ex-serviceman suffering incapacity from pulmonary tuberculosis whether or not the person served in a theatre of war. (Only those persons who qualify in this group are entitled to receive both service and invalid pensions at the same time, subject to the maximum permissible income.) Service pensions are also payable to a pensioner's wife and up to four children under 16 years of age.

2. *Rate of Pension.*—The maximum rate of service pension is the same as that for age and invalid pensions paid by the Department of Social Services, namely, £5 5s. a week. A service pensioner with two or more children under 16 years of age in his care, custody and control, is eligible for a further 10s. a week for each child except the first, if he receives a service pension on the ground of being permanently unemployable, or is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, a service pensioner in receipt of service pension at the maximum rate may also receive supplementary assistance of 10s. a week if he pays rent and is entirely dependent upon his service pension.

The maximum rate for a wife is £2 17s. 6d. a week; the rate for the first child under sixteen years of age is 15s. a week and for each other child (not exceeding three) 2s. 6d. a week.

The means test sets limits to the amount of income or property which a pensioner may have for the purpose of service pension. The amount of service pension payable depends upon the claimant's "means as assessed", which consists of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to 9d. a fortnight for each complete unit of £10 of net value of property above £200. For married couples, except where they are separated or in other special circumstances, the income and property of each for purposes of applying the means test is taken to be half the total income and property of both, even if only one is a pensioner or claimant. A person's "means as assessed" may consist entirely of income, entirely of property, or of both income and property components. If his "means as assessed" do not exceed £3 10s. a week, the claimant receives the full pension of £5 5s. a week. If his "means as assessed" exceed £3 10s. a week and are less than £8 15s. a week, a reduced

pension is payable. The rate payable is the maximum rate of £5 5s. a week less the amount by which "means as assessed" exceed £3 10s. a week. If his "means as assessed" are £8 15s. a week or more, or in the case of a married couple £17 10s. a week or more, no service pension is payable.

Income means earnings and other forms of income derived from any source, with certain exceptions, of which the principal are—certain income derived from property, gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters, benefits from friendly societies, child endowment, Commonwealth health benefits. The value of board and lodgings received by a pensioner is assessed as income at 12s. 6d. a week. Property includes all real and personal property, such as houses, land, money in hand, in a bank or on loan, shares, investments or legacies, vehicles used for business purposes, livestock. Property does not include an applicant's home, furniture or personal effects, the surrender value of life insurance policies (up to £750), the value of any reversionary interest, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, or vehicles maintained only for personal use.

Eligibility for service pensions was extended on 1st November, 1941, to veterans of the South African War 1899–1902, and in 1943 to members of the Forces of the 1939–45 War. Members of the Forces who served in Korea, and those who served in Malaya prior to the commencement of the *Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act* 1956–1962, are also eligible.

An ex-serviceman or ex-servicewoman in receipt of a service pension is entitled, with certain exceptions, to free medical benefits for disabilities not caused by war. These benefits include general practitioner service, specialist service where necessary, full pharmaceutical benefits, surgical aids and appliances (including spectacles), dental treatment and treatment in Repatriation General Hospitals.

3. **Operations, 1961–62.**—The following table gives a summary of service pensions during 1961–62.

Claims granted during year—					
Ex-servicemen	..	..	..	..	9,590
Wives	..	..	..	..	2,176
Children	..	..	..	..	1,241
<i>Total</i>	..	..	..	..	<u>13,007</u>
Claims rejected during year (i.e. number of claimants who had their claims for all their disabilities rejected)					
	..	..	..	..	1,936
Service pensions cancelled or discontinued during year	..	..	..	..	3,925
Deaths of pensioners during year	..	..	..	..	2,736
Pensions in force at 30th June, 1962	..	..	..	..	57,588
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1962	..	..	..	..	£10,430,223

4. **Number of Service Pensions and Amount Paid.**—(i) *Summary, Australia.* The following table shows the number of service pensions in force and the annual liability for pensions for the five years 1957–58 to 1961–62.

SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

Year	Number of service pensions at 30th June payable to—						Annual pension liability at 30th June
	Aged ex-service-men	Ex-servicemen who are—		Dependants of ex-servicemen where the ex-serviceman is—		Total	
		Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis		
1957-58	15,365	11,472	1,477	11,667	2,222	42,203	£ 5,998,648
1958-59	16,973	11,898	1,433	11,956	2,112	44,372	6,244,617
1959-60	18,193	12,140	1,379	12,080	2,026	45,818	6,924,312
1960-61	22,125	12,645	1,273	12,520	1,739	50,302	8,343,831
1961-62	27,479	13,603	1,246	13,597	1,663	57,588	10,430,223

(ii) *Amount Paid and State where Paid.* The following table shows for the years 1957–58 to 1961–62 the amount paid in pensions and the State where paid.

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID
(£)

State where paid	1957–58	1958–59	1959–60	1960–61	1961–62
New South Wales(a) ..	1,899,624	2,233,721	2,359,860	2,734,907	3,156,415
Victoria	1,319,599	1,387,328	1,518,196	1,730,645	2,121,884
Queensland	945,654	995,258	1,079,810	1,213,000	1,625,003
South Australia(b) ..	520,481	583,826	643,906	762,677	1,096,731
Western Australia ..	697,531	775,769	875,706	1,051,198	1,343,470
Tasmania	246,859	244,398	270,745	290,311	368,139
Australia	5,629,748	6,220,300	6,748,223	7,782,738	9,711,642

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

§ 4. Medical Treatment for Ex-Servicemen and Dependants of Ex-Servicemen

In-patient treatment for eligible patients is provided at the Repatriation General Hospitals in each State, at the auxiliary hospitals in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, and at the sanatoria in Queensland and South Australia. For long-term patients, Anzac Hostels are maintained in Queensland and Victoria.

The numbers of medical officers and nursing staff, respectively, at departmental institutions at 30th June, 1962, were as follows—Repatriation General Hospitals, 167, 1,490; Auxiliary Hospitals, 6, 68; Sanatoria, 2, 20; Anzac Hostels, nil, 11.

At 30th June, 1962, 5,212 in-patients were in Repatriation medical institutions or treated in State mental hospitals on behalf of the Department, including a number whose care was undertaken by the Department on behalf of other countries or the armed forces. There were 487,978 out-patient attendances for treatment during the year 1961–62, and 2,279,167 treatments by local medical officers in metropolitan and country areas. The expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1962, on medical treatment was £16,962,767.

§ 5. General Benefits and Miscellaneous

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

By legislation passed in June, 1940, these benefits were extended to servicemen 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 servicemen after discharge from the Forces were made available. The re-establishment benefits administered by the Repatriation Commission are:—payment of re-employment allowance while awaiting employment; provision of tools of trade and equipment where they are necessary to employment; transportation expenses to meet the cost of fares and removal of household belongings where an ex-serviceman takes up training, employment, or a business, or settles on the land; supplementing wages of apprentices whose apprenticeships were interrupted by war service; re-establishment loans to enable ex-servicemen and widows to establish themselves in business, practices or 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 ex-servicemen who are blind or totally and permanently incapacitated, also to widows with children under 16 years of age; and free passages to Australia for wives, widows and children of ex-servicemen who married abroad (and passages outward from Australia in certain cases of ex-servicemen and dependants).

In 1949, the Department took over the functions of the Re-establishment Division of the former Department of Post-War Reconstruction, and became responsible for the co-ordination of all matters relating to training under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. This scheme is now concluded, the prescribed time limits for eligibility having expired. Re-establishment of the more seriously disabled, where ordinary training is not sufficient, continues to be a function of the Department, and special means have to be found to overcome each problem.

(ii) *General Repatriation Benefits.* The following table gives a summary of expenditure during the five years 1957–58 to 1961–62 on the more important general repatriation benefits for all wars.

EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL REPATRIATION BENEFITS: SUMMARY

(£)

Year ended 30th June—	Medical treatment	Employment and vocational training	Business loans and furniture	Soldiers' Children Education Scheme	Living allowances	Other benefits	Total
1958..	10,179,683	340,004	56,492	593,097	2,906,870	228,136	14,304,282
1959..	11,230,541	368,441	36,799	608,442	3,531,840	239,167	16,015,230
1960..	12,729,687	294,967	23,516	646,224	4,210,731	268,129	18,173,254
1961..	14,643,130	215,279	6,874	730,170	5,069,563	276,137	20,941,153
1962..	16,962,767	155,825	4,452	824,043	5,528,322	313,116	23,788,525

2. *Expenditure by the Repatriation Department, 1961–62.*—The net expenditure by the Department for the year ended 30th June, 1962, was £100,976,111 distributed as follows.

	£
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	78,665,412
Treatment	16,962,767
Administration	3,962,568
Works, rent and maintenance	1,385,364
	100,976,111

3. *Settlement of Returned Service Personnel on the Land.*—Reference to the settlement of returned service personnel on the land will be found in Chapter IV. Land Tenure and Settlement, pages 103–5 of this Year Book.

4. *The Services Canteens Trust Fund.*—(i) *General.* The Services Canteens Trust Fund was established under the *Services Trust Funds Act 1947*. Its funds are derived from the assets of wartime Services canteens, mess and regimental funds of disbanded units, the sale of amenities to the Forces from 1939 to 1943, and several other sources.

The total amount transferred to the Fund to 31st December, 1962, was £5,526,953. The Act prescribed that, of this, £2,500,000 and such further amounts as the trustees of the Fund might from time to time decide, should be devoted to the provision of education facilities for the children of eligible ex-service men and women, and that the balance of the Fund should be used to provide relief for ex-service men and women and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by ten honorary trustees, appointed by the Governor-General. The trustees have power to determine the persons or groups of persons to benefit from the Fund and the extent of benefits to be granted within the provisions of the Act, and to appoint regional committees to assist with the administration. Members of regional committees are all persons who served in the 1939–45 War or are widows of men who served during the war. They serve in an honorary capacity.

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

The trustees have introduced schemes for providing welfare relief for ex-service men and women who are eligible for benefits, and for their dependants; benefits for children of eligible ex-service men and women who are suffering from serious and incapacitating afflictions; and education benefits for the children of eligible ex-service men and women. From its inauguration in 1947, the Fund is to be available for 40 years for welfare relief and for 30 years for educational benefits.

(b) *Welfare Relief.* The trustees have prescribed a policy for welfare relief which makes assistance available only to those who are in genuine distress from which they cannot extricate themselves by their own efforts.

To 31st December, 1962, £1,302,960 had been granted as welfare relief from the Fund, £904,891 to ex-servicemen and their dependants, and £398,069 to widows and orphans. The amount granted during 1962 was £75,543. A total of 29,136 ex-service men and women and 11,915 widows and orphans were granted welfare assistance from the Fund to 31st December, 1962.

(c) *Assistance under Afflicted Children's Scheme.* The Fund assists dependent children suffering from afflictions which permanently disable or seriously retard their progress, or prevent the enjoyment of normal health and strength, and who face a prospect of dependence on others for all or part of their lives. The extent to which assistance will be granted in a particular case depends largely on the nature of the child's affliction, the facilities available, the family circumstances, and the funds that can be made available. Up to 31st December, 1962, 2,322 afflicted children had been assisted under the Afflicted Children's Scheme, involving an expenditure of £117,309.

(d) *Educational Assistance Scheme.* Educational assistance is restricted to children who are 15 years of age and over, except in exceptional circumstances. In the case of orphans, assistance may commence from the age of 12 years. The object is to assist eligible children to obtain the highest education within their capacity. Assistance is in the form of awards ranging from £5 to £200 a year depending on the cost of the course undertaken and the family circumstances. These awards are granted for practically every type of course of education, whether secondary, tertiary or commercial. They are designed to cover, or contribute towards, the cost of essential books, fees in cases where government school courses are not available, fares between the child's home and school, essential equipment and material, a uniform allowance in certain cases, and a maintenance allowance for the child while at school. Higher training education awards are provided for selected students for post-graduate study. Provision also exists for one post-graduate scholarship each year for study overseas, valued at £1,000 per annum for three years.

The number of children assisted under the educational scheme to 31st December, 1962, was 38,203, and the expenditure on educational awards, post-graduate scholarships and higher training education awards to 31st December, 1962, was £1,984,180.

§ 6. Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances

The *Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act* 1940 provided for the grant of pensions to Australian mariners (defined in the Act to cover *inter alia* persons employed in sea-going service on ships registered in Australia and engaged in trading, or on certain other ships owned in Australia and operating from Australian ports) who sustained injury through enemy action, and their dependants, and to the dependants of those who were killed by enemy action. Detention allowances were provided for Australian mariners who were captured, and their dependants, during the period of detention. Compensation to Australian mariners was provided in respect of personal effects lost or damaged through enemy action. Regulations passed in 1942 provided also for the continuance of wages for those captured by the enemy.

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

Pensions payable at 30th June, 1962, numbered 246, comprising 60 to incapacitated mariners, 101 to their dependants, and 85 to the dependants of deceased mariners, and total expenditure during the year 1961-62 was £40,369, compared with £43,570 in 1960-61.