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CHAPTER XXVIII

REPATRIATION

§ 1. General

The Repatriation Commission was established by the *Repatriation Act* 1920–1963, and consists of three full-time members. It 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 eligible 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. 1211–15).

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. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act* 1920 (amended from 31st December, 1950, to the *Repatriation Act*). The main features relating to war pensions under the *Repatriation Act* 1920–1963 are set out in the following paragraphs.

(i) *Eligibility for Pension.* Claims for eligibility for war pensions are determined in the first instance by a Repatriation Board in each State of the Commonwealth, and the *Repatriation Act* provides for a right of appeal from the determination of a Board. 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. Amendments to the Act in 1943 considerably widened the eligibility provisions, 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 members except those with less than 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.

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.

(ii) *Rates.* The main classes of war pensions are the special (T.P.I.) rate, the general rate and the war widows' pension.

The *special rate* of war pension is payable to those who are totally and permanently incapacitated and are unable to earn more than a negligible percentage of a living wage. The weekly rate is £13 15s., plus £1 15s. 6d. wife's allowance and 13s. 9d. for each child under 16 years.

The *general rate* of war pension is the rate payable to those who suffer war-caused disabilities but are not thereby prevented from working, although their earning capacity may be reduced. The actual pension payable is assessed in accordance with the degree of incapacity suffered. The maximum (100 per cent.) rate is now £5 15s. a week. A wife and children under 16 years also receive pensions at rates according to the assessed degree of incapacity of the ex-serviceman, the maximum being £1 15s. 6d. for a wife and 13s. 9d. for each child.

The *war widows' pension* is paid to widows of ex-servicemen who died as a result of war service, and to their children under the age of 16 years. The weekly rates are: widow, £5 15s.; first child, £1 19s.; second and each subsequent child, £1 7s. 6d.

(iii) *Allowances.* The following allowances are provided in addition to pension.

Domestic Allowance (£3 10s. per week). This is paid, in addition to pension, to a widow of an ex-serviceman whose death is due to war service, if she is 50 years of age; or is permanently unemployable; or has a dependent child under the age of 16 years, or a dependent child over 16 years being educated and not in receipt of an adequate living wage.

Attendant's Allowance (maximum rate £5 5s. per week). This allowance is paid, in addition to war pension, to certain classes of seriously disabled ex-servicemen, for example, war blinded, those who are paralysed, and certain double amputees.

Clothing Allowance. A clothing allowance is paid at various rates (3s. 9d. to 7s. 6d. per week) to an ex-serviceman who, as a result of war service, has lost an arm or a leg or, because of an injury to a limb, is required to use a surgical aid or appliance. An amount not exceeding £9 15s. in any one year is also payable to certain other war disabled ex-servicemen.

Sustenance Allowance. This allowance is paid where an ex-serviceman is prevented from following his normal occupation through treatment of a war-caused disability or while undergoing medical investigation. The rate payable is the same as the general (100 per cent.) rate pension.

Where an ex-serviceman is receiving in-patient treatment for a war-caused disability or is undergoing periods of essential convalescence immediately following discharge from hospital, a higher rate to bring the sustenance allowance up to the equivalent of the special (T.P.I.) rate is paid.

A wife and children under 16 years also receive pensions at the current general or special rate.

During 1963, the regulation governing the payment of sustenance allowance was amended to abolish the limited means test hitherto applied to determine eligibility for the higher rate of sustenance allowance.

This amendment removed anomalies which operated prejudicially against certain classes of otherwise eligible ex-servicemen. It also eliminated delays and a considerable amount of administrative effort.

Recreation Transport Allowance. This allowance provides transport for recreation purposes and may be paid to an ex-serviceman who, as a result of war service, suffers certain amputations of the arms or legs or is seriously disabled to the extent that his powers of locomotion are negligible.

Other Allowances and General Assistance. These include re-establishment loans and allowances, funeral benefits, vocational training allowances for education and training of children, fares and allowances for loss of remunerative time in connexion with medical or pension purposes, and motor vehicle allowances for seriously disabled ex-servicemen.

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 applications 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, 1962-63.—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, 1962-63

Particulars	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Total
New claims granted	2,394	32,496	1,035	193	36,118
Restorations	239	784	12	..	1,035
Claims rejected(a)	1,854	6,125	342	48	8,369
Pensions cancelled or discontinued ..	670	27,234	112	4	28,020
Deaths of pensioners	5,113	3,735	18	1	8,867
Number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1963	115,384	546,231	8,320	466	670,401
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1963 £'000	23,705	40,546	438	24	64,713
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1962-63 £'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	70,365

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

4. Classes of War Pensions, Australia, 1962-63.—(a) *New Claims Granted.* The following is an analysis of the total number of new claims granted during 1962-63.

WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1962-63

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Total
Ex-servicemen	1,045	7,731	209	63	9,048
Wives of ex-servicemen	1,138	7,536	200	43	8,917
Children	77	16,257	610	85	17,029
Other dependants	134	972	16	2	1,124
Total	2,394	32,496	1,035	193	36,118

(b) *Pensions in Force.* The following table shows the number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1963, for each war and for each class of pensioner.

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1963

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Total
Ex-servicemen	46,606	170,594	2,412	166	219,778
Wives	43,735	144,505	1,798	100	190,138
Children	1,110	200,838	3,817	163	205,928
War widows	22,940	15,894	74	9	38,917
Children of deceased ex-servicemen	159	6,705	115	23	7,002
Orphans	15	140	..	1	156
Parents	546	7,239	101	3	7,889
Brothers and sisters	49	101	3	..	153
Others	224	215	..	1	440
Total	115,384	546,231	8,320	466	670,401

(c) *Special Rate Pensions.* At 30th June, 1963, special rate pensions were being paid to the following classes of ex-servicemen.

WAR PENSIONS: MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1963

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Total
Totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen	12,722	8,724	30	..	21,476
Blinded ex-servicemen	208	232	1	..	441
Tuberculous ex-servicemen	393	338	12	..	743
Tuberculous ex-servicemen (intermediate rate)	95	227	3	..	325

5. Number of War Pensions and Annual Liability, States, 30th June, 1963.—The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war at 30th June, 1963, according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on p. 1208.)

**WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY,
30th JUNE, 1963**

Where paid	Number of war pensions in force at 30th June, 1963				Annual pension liability (£'000)
	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
1914-18 WAR					
New South Wales(a)	14,939	14,379	8,072	37,390	7,833
Victoria	15,446	14,599	7,936	37,981	7,891
Queensland	6,026	5,718	2,334	14,078	3,150
South Australia(b)	3,674	3,685	1,855	9,214	1,847
Western Australia	3,661	3,864	1,623	9,148	1,516
Tasmania	1,971	1,937	962	4,870	1,057
<i>Australia</i>	45,717	44,182	22,782	112,681	23,294
Abroad	889	1,030	784	2,703	411
Total	46,606	45,212	23,566	115,384	23,705

1939-45 WAR					
New South Wales(a)	59,579	113,923	11,227	184,729	14,126
Victoria	46,985	96,344	7,758	151,087	10,958
Queensland	24,486	52,779	4,124	81,389	6,543
South Australia(b)	17,188	36,533	3,006	56,727	3,850
Western Australia	15,205	29,934	2,468	47,607	3,325
Tasmania	6,558	15,573	861	22,992	1,567
<i>Australia</i>	170,001	345,086	29,444	544,531	40,369
Abroad	593	828	279	1,700	177
Total	170,594	345,914	29,723	546,231	40,546

KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS

New South Wales(a)	942	2,111	120	3,173	165
Victoria	545	1,201	57	1,803	95
Queensland	420	1,040	54	1,514	87
South Australia(b)	169	435	10	614	28
Western Australia	203	516	20	739	36
Tasmania	90	253	8	351	17
<i>Australia</i>	2,369	5,556	269	8,194	428
Abroad	43	62	21	126	10
Total	2,412	5,618	290	8,320	438

FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE

New South Wales(a)	66	125	17	208	9
Victoria	29	43	6	78	4
Queensland	43	66	8	117	7
South Australia(b)	6	4	..	10	1
Western Australia	20	26	3	49	2
Tasmania	1	..	..	1	..
<i>Australia</i>	165	264	34	463	23
Abroad	1	..	2	3	1
Total	166	264	36	466	24

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

6. Summary of War Pensions.—(i) Number. The following table shows, for each year 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, 1959 to 1963.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

Year	Pensions granted	Claims rejected	Number of war pensions in force at 30th June				Annual pension liability at 30th June (£'000)
			Incapacitated ex-service-men	Dependants of incapacitated ex-service-men	Dependants of deceased ex-service-men	Total	
1914-18 WAR							
1958-59	2,098	2,767	54,005	51,215	22,240	127,460	21,032
1959-60	2,343	2,638	52,324	49,861	22,528	124,713	22,429
1960-61	2,094	(a) 2,085	50,338	48,205	22,743	121,286	23,017
1961-62	2,422	(a) 1,872	48,670	46,772	23,144	118,586	23,891
1962-63	2,394	1,854	46,606	45,212	23,566	115,384	23,705

1939-45 WAR

1958-59	27,829	18,954	151,249	332,691	25,758	509,698	29,905
1959-60	28,397	17,852	155,534	341,985	26,327	523,846	33,057
1960-61	27,202	(a) 14,718	159,727	346,391	27,205	533,323	35,147
1961-62	30,794	(a) 7,030	165,101	350,297	28,506	543,904	38,553
1962-63	32,496	6,125	170,594	345,914	29,723	546,231	40,546

KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS

1958-59	834	1,193	1,670	2,970	249	4,889	269
1959-60	908	1,174	1,864	3,593	255	5,712	311
1960-61	913	(a) 848	2,043	4,247	261	6,551	392
1961-62	969	(a) 383	2,208	4,919	285	7,412	399
1962-63	1,035	342	2,412	5,618	290	8,320	438

FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE

1960-61	61	(a) 118	53	62	15	130	7
1961-62	152	(a) 70	104	146	26	276	16
1962-63	193	48	166	264	36	466	24

TOTAL

1958-59(b)	30,761	22,914	206,924	386,876	48,247	642,047	51,206
1959-60(b)	31,648	21,664	209,722	395,439	49,110	654,271	55,797
1960-61	30,270	(a) 17,769	212,161	398,905	50,224	661,290	58,523
1961-62	34,337	(a) 9,355	216,083	402,134	51,961	670,178	62,859
1962-63	36,118	8,369	219,778	397,008	53,615	670,401	64,713

(a) For the years 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.
(b) Excludes Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners:—1959-16, 1960-65, with annual liability 1959—£1,410, 1960—£3,733.

(ii) *Amount Paid and Place of Payment.* The following table shows, for the years 1958-59 to 1962-63, the amounts paid in pensions and the place where they were paid.

WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID
(£'000)

Place of payment	1958-59 (a)	1959-60 (a)	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63 (b)
New South Wales(c)	16,813	18,167	20,266	21,010	24,053
Victoria	15,201	16,101	18,322	18,420	20,908
Queensland	7,216	7,742	8,916	9,039	10,375
South Australia(d)	4,846	5,052	5,686	5,579	6,174
Western Australia	3,947	4,236	4,655	4,665	5,255
Tasmania	2,229	2,416	2,583	2,494	2,831
Abroad	605	648	623	667	769
Total	50,857	54,362	61,051	61,874	70,365

(a) Excludes payments to Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners. (b) Includes £5,976,090 domestic allowances paid to widows. (c) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes the Northern Territory.

§ 3. Service Pensions

1. **General.**—The *Repatriation Act* 1920-1963 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, single ex-serviceman, £5 15s.; married ex-serviceman, £5 5s.; wife, £3. The rate for eligible children is 15s. a week for the first child and 2s. 6d. for each other child up to and including the fourth child. Eligible child means a child under 16 years of age, or a child under the age of 18 years who is not receiving an invalid pension and is undergoing full-time education, in which case pension may continue up to the end of the calendar year in which the child reaches 18 years of age.

If an ex-serviceman is receiving a service pension on the ground of being permanently unemployable, his service pension may be increased by 15s. a week in respect of each child other than the first, whether or not such children are eligible for pension in their own right.

An allowance of 10s. a week may be paid as supplementary assistance under certain conditions, if an unmarried pensioner pays board or rent.

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 consist 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 maximum rate of pension. If his "means as assessed" exceed £3 10s. a week, the rate payable is the maximum rate less the amount by which "means as assessed" exceed £3 10s. a week. If his "means as assessed" are £9 5s. a week or more, or in the case of a married couple £18 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 1956–1963* 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, 1962–63.**—The following table gives a summary of service pensions during 1962–63.

Claims granted during year—						
Ex-servicemen .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	8,058
Wives .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,978
Children .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,449
<i>Total</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	<u>11,485</u>
Claims rejected during year (i.e. number of claimants who had their claims for all their disabilities rejected)						
Service pensions cancelled or discontinued during year .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,739
Deaths of pensioners during year .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4,595
Pensions in force at 30th June, 1963 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,274
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1963 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	62,161
						£11,379,285

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 1958–59 to 1962–63.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA

Year	Number of service pensions at 30th June payable to—						Annual pension liability at 30th June
	Aged ex-servicemen	Ex-servicemen who are—		Dependants ^(a) of ex-servicemen where the ex-serviceman is—		Total	
		Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis		
1958–59	16,973	11,898	1,433	11,956	2,112	44,372	£'000
1959–60	18,193	12,140	1,379	12,080	2,026	45,818	6,245
1960–61	22,125	12,645	1,273	12,520	1,739	50,302	8,344
1961–62	27,479	13,603	1,246	13,597	1,663	57,588	10,430
1962–63	30,818	14,278	1,160	14,368	1,537	62,161	11,379

(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners.

(ii) *Amount Paid and State where Paid.* The following table shows for the years 1958-59 to 1962-63 the amount paid in pensions and the State where paid.

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID
(£'000)

State where paid	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63
New South Wales(a) ..	2,234	2,360	2,735	3,156	3,547
Victoria	1,387	1,518	1,731	2,122	2,475
Queensland	995	1,080	1,213	1,625	1,681
South Australia(b)	584	644	763	1,097	1,243
Western Australia	776	875	1,051	1,344	1,464
Tasmania	244	271	290	368	419
Australia	6,220	6,748	7,783	9,712	10,829

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

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

1. **General.**—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.

2. **Staff.**—Details regarding the number of full-time staff in Repatriation General Hospitals and other Repatriation institutions are given in the following table.

REPATRIATION HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: FULL-TIME STAFF,
30th JUNE, 1963

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
General Hospitals—							
Medical staff	72	50	23	20	20	6	191
Nursing staff	573	347	222	144	185	45	1,516
Other staff	1,033	818	484	287	401	98	3,121
Total	1,678	1,215	729	451	606	149	4,828
Other in-patient institutions(a)	190	98	79	38	29	..	434
Out-patient clinics(a)	158	101	24	34	23	..	340
Limb and appliance centres(a)	59	68	28	17	16	12	200
Grand Total	2,085	1,482	860	540	674	161	5,802

(a) Total staff.

3. **In-patients Treated.**—The following table gives details of in-patients treated at Repatriation General Hospitals and other Repatriation institutions in each State. The figures shown refer to cases, e.g., a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: IN-PATIENTS TREATED, 1962-63

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS							
In-patients at beginning of year	1,284	803	555	293	437	92	3,464
Admissions and re-admissions during year	19,751	11,302	8,482	4,185	6,143	1,194	51,057
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>21,035</i>	<i>12,105</i>	<i>9,037</i>	<i>4,478</i>	<i>6,580</i>	<i>1,286</i>	<i>54,521</i>
Discharges	18,742	10,612	8,162	3,884	5,863	1,106	48,369
Deaths	891	679	361	283	274	77	2,565
In-patients at end of year .. .	1,402	814	514	311	443	103	3,587
Average daily number resident	1,248	768	519	285	415	99	3,334
OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS							
In-patients at beginning of year	127	137	80	36	34	..	414
Admissions and re-admissions during year	961	633	314	98	127	..	2,133
<i>Total number of in-patients treated</i>	<i>1,088</i>	<i>770</i>	<i>394</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>2,547</i>
Average daily number resident	163	136	79	33	29	..	440

In addition, during 1962-63, 12,101 repatriation in-patients were treated at other metropolitan and country hospitals, and there were 489,707 attendances for treatment as out-patients.

§ 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 (see 3, p. 1212), 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.

These and new benefits designed for the re-establishment of servicemen and servicewomen after discharge were extended and made available by legislation passed in June, 1940, to servicemen and servicewomen engaged in the 1939-45 War, in November, 1950, to those engaged in the Korea and Malaya operations, and in May, 1963, to those serving in such other areas as may be prescribed under the "Special Overseas Service" amendment to the *Repatriation Act 1920-1963*. 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 1958-59 to 1962-63 on the more important general repatriation benefits for all wars.

EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL REPATRIATION BENEFITS: SUMMARY
(£'000)

Year ended 30th June—	Medical treatment	Employment and vocational training	Business loans and furniture	Soldiers' Children Education Scheme	Domestic allowances	Other benefits	Total
1959..	11,231	368	37	608	3,532	239	16,015
1960..	12,730	295	23	646	4,230	268	18,192
1961..	14,643	215	7	730	5,070	276	20,941
1962..	16,963	156	5	824	5,528	313	23,789
1963..	19,696	85	3	959	(a)	176	20,919

(a) Included in War Pensions.

2. *Expenditure by the Repatriation Department, 1962-63.*—The net expenditure by the Department for the year ended 30th June, 1963, was £107,748,227 distributed as follows.

	£'000
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	82,484
Treatment	19,696
Administration	4,097
Works, rent and maintenance	1,471
	107,748

3. *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.*—(i) *General.* The Soldiers' Children Education Scheme was established in 1921 and operates with the assistance of voluntary Education Boards in each State. These Boards consist of representatives of government and non-government education authorities and of ex-service and other organizations which have a general interest in the welfare of the children of ex-servicemen. The objects of the scheme are to assist and encourage eligible children in acquiring a standard of education compatible with their aptitude and ability, and to prepare them to enter an agricultural, commercial, professional or industrial calling of their own choice.

(ii) *Eligible Children.* Eligible children are children of ex-servicemen whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service; or of ex-servicemen who died from causes not due to war service but who were receiving at the date of death a war pension at a special rate for blindness, total and permanent incapacity, or for pulmonary tuberculosis, or for amputation of two or more limbs; or of ex-servicemen who, as the result of war service, are blinded, totally and permanently incapacitated or receiving the special rate pension for pulmonary tuberculosis and are likely to receive such pension for a period of three years.

(iii) *General Benefits.* From the commencement of primary education up to twelve years, school requisites and fares are provided. From the age of 12 years, while the child continues with primary or secondary education, an education allowance is payable.

Further assistance beyond, or parallel with the later years of, secondary education is provided where an approved beneficiary continues with a course of specialized education or training necessary to fit the child for a career.

Specialized education covers a wide range and may include: professional degree or diploma courses at universities and technical colleges; theological training; cadet and pupilage training, i.e. training combined with employment, such as nursing, pharmacy and journalism; industrial, including apprenticeship, training, and other courses of trade and business training approved by an Education Board; and agricultural training at an agricultural college.

At this stage of training, in addition to the education allowance, fees are paid and text books, essential equipment, and other minor benefit provided.

The scale of allowances payable to eligible children at various stages of education is as follows.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: WEEKLY RATES OF ALLOWANCES, OCTOBER, 1963

Type of training	Living at home			Living away from home		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
At school—						
Aged 12–14 years	0	19	0	3	3	3
Aged 14–16 years	1	8	9	3	3	3
Aged 16–18 years	3	3	3	4	17	9
Professional (university, etc.)	4	15	0	7	7	6
Agricultural				1	11	9
Industrial (apprenticeship, etc.)	1	3	0	2	6	0

(iv) *Expenditure.* The following table shows the costs of education under the scheme for the year ended 30th June, 1963.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1962-63

(£)

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age	3,007	3,641	2,959	1,750	1,035	460	12,852
Over 12 years of age	281,481	246,159	135,712	84,708	56,240	23,779	828,079
Total Expenditure	284,488	249,800	138,671	86,458	57,275	24,239	840,931

(v) *Number Receiving Benefit.* The next table shows the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30th June, 1963.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFIT AT 30th JUNE, 1963

Type of training	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
At school—							
Aged 12–14 years	928	628	491	249	207	144	2,647
Aged 14–16 years	1,090	772	496	288	226	125	2,997
Aged 16–18 years	418	401	244	152	93	37	1,345
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,436</i>	<i>1,801</i>	<i>1,231</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>526</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>6,989</i>
Professional	320	240	143	114	75	8	900
Agricultural	20	13	5	1	7	..	46
Industrial	880	13	98	92	95	3	1,181
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>3,656</i>	<i>2,067</i>	<i>1,477</i>	<i>896</i>	<i>703</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>9,116</i>

4. **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 87–9 of this Year Book.

5. **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 and profits of wartime Services canteens, mess and regimental funds of disbanded units, and several other sources.

The total amount transferred to the Fund to 31st December, 1963, was £5,526,974. 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, 1963, £1,401,473 had been granted as welfare relief from the Fund, £965,093 to ex-servicemen and their dependants, and £436,380 to widows and orphans. The amount granted during 1963 was £98,503. A total of 30,550 ex-service men and women and 12,950 widows and orphans were granted welfare assistance from the Fund to 31st December, 1963.

(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, 1963, 2,411 afflicted children had been assisted under the Afflicted Children's Scheme, involving an expenditure of £125,058. The number of new children granted assistance in 1963 was 89.

(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 in Australia or overseas in the ancillary services to medicine, welfare and science. Provision also exists for one post-graduate scholarship each year for study overseas, valued at £1,000 per annum for up to three years.

The number of children assisted under the educational scheme to 31st December, 1963, was 41,063, and the expenditure on educational awards, post-graduate scholarships and higher training education awards to 31st December, 1963, was £2,234,290. The number granted in 1963 was 6,570 at a value of £246,917.

§ 6. Miscellaneous War Pensions

The Commission is responsible for the payment of pensions and allowances to beneficiaries under the Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act, the Interim Forces Benefits Act, the Native Members of the Forces Benefits Act, and Cabinet decisions granting eligibility to persons who were attached to the armed forces during war time.

Details of the pensions paid under the various Acts are shown in the following table.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1963

Particulars	Number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1963				Annual pension liability (£)
	Members	Dependants of members	Dependants of deceased members	Total	
Act of grace	135	172	57	364	50,154
Seamen's war pension	65	110	77	252	28,333
New Guinea civilians	1	..	92	93	27,773
Interim forces	11	26	..	37	1,052
Native members of the forces	16	50	5	71	4,630
Total	228	358	231	817	111,942