

CHAPTER XXIX.

REPATRIATION.

§ 1. General.

The Repatriation Commission, established under the Repatriation Act 1920-1960, is a body corporate consisting of three full-time members. The head office is in Melbourne, but there is a branch office in each State under the control of a Deputy Commissioner.

Its principal functions are—

- (i) the payment of war and service pensions to ex-service men and women and their dependants;
- (ii) the provision of medical treatment to ex-service men and women for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their war service;
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) 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 Commission are outlined in a later section of this chapter (*see* § 5, General Benefits and Miscellaneous, page 1115).

The Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956, which provided benefits for members of the defence forces who served with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve in Malaya, came into force on 1st September, 1957. Particulars of pensions under this Act are excluded from the following tables, such information as is available being shown in footnotes.

§ 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 This Act was repealed in 1920 by the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act (amended from 31st December, 1950, to the Repatriation Act). Owing to limitations of space, only some of the main features relating to war pensions under the Repatriation Act 1920-1960 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) 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.

(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 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 1st October, 1959, the 100 per cent. pension rate for an ex-serviceman's incapacity was increased from £5 2s. 6d. to £5 10s. 0d. a week (higher rates were 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 is, because of his war disability, 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 £12 15s. a week, an increase of 10s. from 29th September, 1960.

(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 became or becomes incapacitated, or died 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 on application.

(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 5s. to £12 15s. a week from 29th September, 1960. The rate for tuberculous patients, Class "B" (fit for light employment), was similarly increased from £8 12s. 6d. to £8 17s. 6d. a week. In addition to the special pension, an attendant's allowance of £2 15s. 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 £4 10s. a week in lieu of that referred to above. The wife and any children under 16 years of age receive the same rates as shown in sub-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, or other substances used in the necessary 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 5s. a week in addition to the statutory rate of pension are payable as from 29th September, 1960. In addition, attendants' allowances of either £2 15s. or £4 10s. 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 1st October, 1960, the rates of pension were increased by 5s. a week, the minimum rate being increased from £5 5s. to £5 10s. 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 dependent 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 2nd October, 1958, the rate of pension for the eldest child (under 16 years of age) was increased from £1 6s. 6d. a week to £1 11s. 6d. a week, and that for each younger child from 18s. 6d. a week to £1 2s. 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 £2 8s. a week to £3 3s. 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 a week as from 29th September, 1960) 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, 1959-60.*—The following table provides a summary of war pensions for the 1914-18 War, the 1939-45 War, and the Korea and Malaya operations:—

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1959-60.

Particulars.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total. (a)
New claims granted	2,343	28,397	908	31,648
Restorations	421	1,159	4	1,584
Claims rejected (gross)	2,638	17,852	1,174	21,664
Pensions cancelled or discontinued	1,017	12,605	80	13,702
Deaths of pensioners	4,465	2,681	18	7,164
Number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1960	124,713	523,846	5,712	654,271
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1960	22,428,690	33,056,692	311,195	55,796,577
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1959-60	(b)	(b)	(b)	54,361,865

(a) Excludes 65 Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners with annual liability of £3,733. (b) Not available.

4. *Classes of War Pensions, Australia, 1959-60.*—(a) *New Claims Granted.* The following is an analysis of the total number of new claims granted during 1959-60:—

WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1959-60.

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total. (a)
Ex-servicemen	916	5,922	202	7,040
Wives of ex-servicemen	1,101	6,010	192	7,303
Children	199	15,871	508	16,578
Other dependants	127	594	6	727
Total(a)	2,343	28,397	908	31,648

(a) Excludes 55 Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners.

(b) *Pensions in Force.* The following table shows the number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1960, for each war and for each class of pensioner:—

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1960.

Class.	Number of Pensioners at 30th June, 1960.			
	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total. (a)
Ex-servicemen	52,324	155,534	1,864	209,722
Wives	47,221	130,350	1,279	178,850
Children	2,251	211,039	2,311	215,601
War widows	21,319	12,899	66	34,284
Children of deceased ex-servicemen	290	6,673	106	7,069
Orphans	26	114	..	140
Parents	1,004	6,991	83	8,078
Brothers and sisters	60	100	3	163
Others	218	146	..	364
Total(a)	124,713	523,846	5,712	654,271

(a) Excludes 65 Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners.

(c) *Special Rate Pensions.* At 30th June, 1960, special rate pensions were being paid to the following classes of ex-servicemen:—

WAR PENSIONS: MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1960.

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
Blinded ex-servicemen	254	219	3	476
Tuberculous ex-servicemen	521	459	6	986
Totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen	12,048	5,892	19	17,959
Tuberculous, Class " B "	129	247	1	377

5. *Number of War Pensioners and Annual Liability, States, etc., 30th June, 1960.*—The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war at 30th June, 1960, according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on p. 1112.)

WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONERS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30th JUNE, 1960.

Where Paid.	Number of War Pensions in Force at 30th June, 1960.				Annual Pension Liability (£.) (a)	
	Incapacitated Ex-service-men.	Dependants of Incapacitated Ex-service-men.	Dependants of Deceased Ex-service-men.	Total. (a)		
1914-18 WAR.						
New South Wales(b)	..	16,713	15,860	7,611	40,184	7,287,835
Victoria	17,530	16,278	7,618	41,426	7,468,450
Queensland	6,535	6,118	2,127	14,780	2,889,782
South Australia(c)	..	4,046	3,984	1,806	9,836	1,804,326
Western Australia	4,173	4,249	1,586	10,008	1,498,680
Tasmania	2,250	2,191	930	5,371	1,038,373
Australia	51,247	48,680	21,678	121,605	21,987,446
Overseas	1,077	1,181	850	3,108	441,244
Total	52,324	49,861	22,528	124,713	22,428,690

1939-45 WAR.

New South Wales(b)	54,075	111,394	10,020	175,489	11,303,224
Victoria	43,088	95,681	7,003	145,772	9,021,281
Queensland	21,442	50,076	3,281	74,799	5,043,602
South Australia(c)	16,233	38,489	2,710	57,432	3,371,860
Western Australia ..	14,031	29,916	2,211	46,158	2,811,951
Tasmania	6,108	15,536	777	22,421	1,338,060
<i>Australia</i>	<i>154,977</i>	<i>341,092</i>	<i>26,002</i>	<i>522,071</i>	<i>32,889,978</i>
Overseas	557	893	325	1,775	166,714
Total	155,534	341,985	26,327	523,846	33,056,692

KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.

New South Wales(b)	730	1,343	95	2,168	113,647
Victoria	434	801	67	1,302	71,282
Queensland	318	641	38	997	58,478
South Australia(c)	134	286	9	429	23,025
Western Australia ..	145	311	18	474	25,642
Tasmania	72	174	9	255	11,480
<i>Australia</i>	<i>1,833</i>	<i>3,556</i>	<i>236</i>	<i>5,625</i>	<i>303,554</i>
Overseas	31	37	19	87	7,641
Total	1,864	3,593	255	5,712	311,195

(a) Excludes 65 Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners with annual liability of £3,733.
the Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes the Northern Territory.

(b) Includes

6. **Summary of War Pensions.**—(i) *Number.* The following table shows, for each war and in total, the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30th June, 1956 to 1960.

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.							
1956	2,337	1,488	58,984	55,720	21,409	136,113	18,939,411
1957	2,276	2,442	57,380	54,183	21,677	133,240	19,074,146
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
1939-45 WAR.							
1956	30,098	13,756	139,249	296,214	25,391	460,854	24,548,421
1957	28,634	19,682	143,055	308,333	25,287	476,675	25,609,726
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
KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.							
1956	676	305	1,057	1,382	208	2,647	157,155
1957	782	616	1,279	1,881	215	3,375	188,864
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
TOTAL.							
1956	33,111	15,549	199,290	353,316	47,008	599,614	43,644,987
1957	31,692	22,740	201,714	364,397	47,179	613,290	44,872,736
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

(a) Excludes Far Eastern 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 1955-56 to 1959-60 the amounts paid in pensions and the place where they were paid:—

WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID. (£.)

Place of Payment.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59. (a)	1959-60. (a)
New South Wales(b)	14,501,426	15,297,734	16,824,229	16,813,419	18,167,146
Victoria	12,718,047	13,372,248	14,871,179	15,201,405	16,100,551
Queensland	5,763,319	6,106,669	6,919,363	7,215,834	7,741,918
South Australia(c)	4,135,874	4,309,036	4,812,417	4,846,030	5,052,143
Western Australia	3,450,830	3,584,495	4,008,412	3,946,502	4,235,747
Tasmania	2,017,289	2,026,868	2,211,862	2,229,229	2,416,016
Overseas	578,892	506,737	630,735	605,004	648,344
Total	43,165,677	45,203,787	50,278,197	50,857,423	54,361,865

(a) Excludes payments to Far Eastern Strategic Reserve pensioners.
Capital Territory.

(c) Includes the Northern Territory.

(b) Includes the Australian

§ 3. Service Pensions.

1. **General.**—The Repatriation Act 1920–1960, 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:—

- (i) A male ex-serviceman who is sixty years of age and who served in a theatre of war, or to an ex-servicewoman who is 55 years of age and 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.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) An ex-serviceman suffering incapacity from pulmonary tuberculosis whether or not the person served in a theatre of war. Service pensions are also payable to a pensioner's wife and up to four children under 16 years of age.

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

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 a week. A member 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 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 member's wife is £1 15s. a week; the rate for the first child under sixteen years of age is 11s. 6d. 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 will depend upon the claimant's "means as assessed", which consists of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to 9d. per 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 component, or of both income and property components. If his "means as assessed" do not exceed £182 a year (£3 10s. a week), the claimant will receive the full pension of £5 a week. If his "means as assessed" exceed £182 (£3 10s. a week) and are less than £442 a year (£8 10s. a week), a reduced pension will be payable. The rate payable will be the maximum rate of £5 a week less the amount by which "means as assessed" exceed £182 a year (£3 10s. a week). If his "means as assessed" are £442 a year (£8 10s. a week), or in the case of a married couple £884 a year (£17 a week), no service pension is payable.

A pensioner with no income may receive a full pension if the value of his property (apart from his home and personal effects) does not exceed £2,060. His pension will be reduced by 9d. per fortnight for each complete £10 of property over £2,060, but he will be eligible for some pension unless he has property (apart from his home and personal effects) worth more than £4,709, or in the case of a married couple £9,419.

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 assurance policies (up to £750), value of any reversionary interest, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, 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 who served in Korea, and those who served in Malaya prior to the commencement of the Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956, 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, 1959–60.—The following table gives a summary of service pensions during 1959–60:—

Claims granted during year—

Ex-servicemen	4,395
Wives	1,531
Children	872
<i>Total</i>	<u>6,798</u>

Claims rejected during year—

Ex-servicemen	1,040
Wives	552
Children	483
<i>Total</i>	<u>2,075</u>

Service pensions cancelled or discontinued during year ..	3,890
Deaths of pensioners during year	2,161
Pensions in force at 30th June, 1960	45,818
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1960	£6,924,312

4. Number of Service Pensioners and Amount Paid.—(i) *Summary, Australia.* The following table shows the number of service pensions in force and the amount paid in pensions for the five years 1955–56 to 1959–60.

SERVICE PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number of Service Pensions at 30th June payable to—						Amount Paid in Pensions during year ended 30th June.
	Aged Ex-servicemen.	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.		
1955–56	11,881	9,733	1,266	10,001	1,894	34,775	£ 4,140,488
1956–57	13,547	10,794	1,449	11,074	2,213	39,077	4,907,362
1957–58	15,365	11,472	1,477	11,667	2,222	42,203	5,629,748
1958–59	16,973	11,898	1,433	11,956	2,112	44,372	6,220,300
1959–60	18,193	12,140	1,379	12,080	2,026	45,818	6,748,223

(ii) *Amount Paid and State where Paid.* The following table shows for the years 1955–56 to 1959–60 the amount paid in pensions and the State where paid:—

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID.

(£.)

State where Paid.	1955–56.	1956–57.	1957–58.	1958–59.	1959–60.
New South Wales(a) ..	1,472,949	1,727,099	1,899,624	2,233,721	2,359,860
Victoria	958,825	1,089,529	1,319,599	1,387,328	1,518,196
Queensland	679,181	845,828	945,654	995,258	1,079,810
South Australia(b) ..	401,159	477,229	520,481	583,826	643,906
Western Australia ..	482,021	547,473	697,531	775,769	875,706
Tasmania	146,353	220,204	246,859	244,398	270,745
Australia	4,140,488	4,907,362	5,629,748	6,220,300	6,748,223

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes the Northern Territory.

§ 4. Medical Treatment of Ex-Servicemen Suffering from War Service Disabilities.

At 30th June, 1960, there were 4,437 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 419,618 out-patient attendances for treatment during the year, excluding approximately 1,580,140 treatments by local medical officers resident in metropolitan and country areas and in New Guinea. The expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1960, was £13,609,746.

§ 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 ex-servicemen 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 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 such 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 of 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 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 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 Commission took over the functions of the Re-establishment Division of the former Department of Post-War Reconstruction, and was responsible for the co-ordination of all matters relating to training under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. This scheme is now virtually concluded, because the prescribed time limits for eligibility have expired. 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) *General Repatriation Benefits.* The following table gives a summary of expenditure during the five years 1955–56 to 1959–60 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.
1956..	9,559,880	221,711	145,453	348,282	2,357,660	206,615	12,839,601
1957..	10,288,344	253,665	91,380	427,546	2,447,443	234,797	13,743,175
1958..	10,979,925	340,004	56,492	593,097	2,906,870	228,136	15,104,524
1959..	12,173,009	368,441	36,799	608,442	3,531,840	239,167	16,957,698
1960..	13,609,746	294,967	23,516	646,224	4,210,731	268,129	19,053,313

Included in the expenditure on medical treatment for the year 1959–60 were the following items:—*Ex-servicemen*—Operation of Institutions, £7,182,318; dispensing prescriptions, £2,119,351; fees to consultants, etc., £1,283,549; maintenance of patients in other than Repatriation Institutions, £936,001; sustenance allowance, £737,501; other, £547,193. *Dependants*—£803,833.

2. *Expenditure by the Repatriation Commission, 1959–60.*—The gross expenditure by the Repatriation Commission for the year ended 30th June, 1960, was £85,078,813, distributed as follows:—

<i>Repatriation Benefits—</i>	£	£
War and Service Pensions and Widows' Allowances ..	65,680,359	
Operation of Medical Institutions, Medical Treatment, etc.	13,906,708	
Soldiers' Children Education Scheme	646,224	
		80,233,291
<i>Other Benefits—Seamen's War Pensions, etc.</i>		141,303
<i>Administration</i>		3,659,075
<i>Capital Works and Services</i>		1,045,144
Total..		85,078,813

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 102–8, of this Year Book.

4. *The Services Canteens Trust Fund.*—(i) *Introduction.* The Services Canteens Trust Fund was established under the Services Trust Funds Act 1947. This Act transferred to the Fund the profits and assets of the Army, Navy and Air Force canteens, the mess and regimental funds of disbanded wartime units, money derived from the sale of amenities supplied to the defence forces between 3rd September, 1939, and 30th June, 1947, and funds held by the A.M.F. Special Benefits Committee, the trustees of the R.A.N. Relief Fund and the trustees of the R.A.A.F. Welfare Fund.

(ii) *Establishment and Administration of the Fund.* The total amount transferred to the Fund to 31st December, 1960 was £5,526,750. 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-servicemen and women, and that the balance of the fund should be used to provide relief for ex-servicemen 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.

Regional committees have been established in all Australian States, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory (Darwin and Alice Springs), New Zealand and London. All Australian diplomatic and consular posts also act as local representatives of the trustees. They have delegated to them by the trustees specific powers to deal with applications for assistance from the Fund.

Members of regional committees are all persons who served in the 1939-45 War or are widows of men who served during the war, and, with the exception of regional chairmen and deputy chairmen, have been selected by the trustees from nominees of the major ex-service organizations. They also serve in an honorary capacity.

(iii) *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 are charged under the Services Trust Funds Act with providing educational assistance, including professional and trade training, for the children of deceased or incapacitated eligible servicemen or of eligible servicemen who are in needy circumstances, and for the children of other eligible servicemen in exceptional circumstances, and with providing benefits or other relief for eligible servicemen and their dependants in necessitous or deserving circumstances.

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.* More than one million men and women and all their dependants are eligible for benefits, and the trustees have therefore 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.

Applications are carefully investigated to determine the bona fides of the applicant and of the case presented, and to help regional committees in deciding the kind of assistance if any, to be given. Where possible, investigations are made by trained social workers on the staff either of the Fund or of recognized agencies.

To 31st December, 1960, £1,146,824 had been granted as welfare relief from the fund, £804,763 to ex-servicemen and their dependants, and £342,061 to widows and orphans. The amount granted during 1960 was £51,882. A total of 26,478 ex-service men and women, and 10,341 widows and orphans were granted welfare assistance from the Fund to 31st December, 1960.

Of all persons eligible for assistance from the Fund, widows and orphans are considered likely to be in greatest need, especially in the period immediately following the death of an ex-serviceman. Consequently, every effort is made to locate these widows and orphans and their degree of need is interpreted more liberally than is that of ex-servicemen.

(c) *Assistance under Afflicted Children's Scheme.* Also considered particularly deserving of assistance are dependent children suffering from afflictions which permanently disable or seriously retard their progress, or prevent the enjoyment of normal health and strength, who face a prospect of complete or partial dependence on others for all or part of their

lives. The trustees introduced a plan to ensure that any eligible child suffering from a serious affliction may be assisted as necessary to have access to whatever treatment or facilities are available to help the child to lead as normal a life as possible, despite his or her handicap. 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, 1960, 2,136 afflicted children had been assisted under the Afflicted Children's Scheme, involving an expenditure of £102,630.

(d) *Educational Assistance Scheme.* Educational assistance is restricted to children who are 15 years of age and over, except in exceptional circumstances, when it may be granted from the age of 13, and, in the case of orphans, when assistance may commence from the age of 12 years. The object of the trustees is to assist eligible children to obtain the highest education within their capacity. Educational assistance from the Fund 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 years, and a maintenance allowance for the child while at school. Provision exists for one post-graduate scholarship each year for study overseas, valued at £1,000 per annum for three years. Higher training education awards are also provided for selected students for post-graduate study in such fields as physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, orthoptic therapy, laboratory technique, etc.

The number of children assisted under the educational scheme to 31st December, 1960, was 33,156, and the expenditure on educational awards, post-graduate scholarships and higher training education awards to 31st December, 1960, was £1,587,678.

§ 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 for 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, 1960, numbered 246, comprising 56 to incapacitated mariners, 100 to their dependants, and 90 to the dependants of deceased mariners, and the total expenditure during the year 1959-60 was £38,677, compared with amounts ranging between £30,000 and £35,000 in the previous four years.