

CHAPTER XXVIII.

REPATRIATION.

§ 1. General.

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

Under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1950, rates of pension and medical sustenance were increased, and pensions and benefits under the Act were extended to those members of the Forces (and their dependants) engaged in operations in Korea and Malaya. Provision was also made for payment to a war widow, on re-marriage, of a gratuity equal to one year's war pension. In addition, an important amendment was a change in the basis of war pensioning. Previously, the basis was the daily rate of service pay, but under this legislation the rank, not the pay, of the service man or woman became the basis. This change was brought about as the result of the increased rates of pay of members of the Forces under the new pay code from 1st July, 1947, and the further increases since then. The constantly rising rates of pay made it evident that the basis of pensioning on the daily rate of pay would be unworkable; for example, the rates of pay of more or less senior officers of the 1914-18 War, and of the 1939-45 War discharged before 1st July, 1947, were less than the new rates of pay for present day lower ranks, with a consequent disparity in the rates of pension. To avoid this disparity, the daily rate of pay basis—which had been in operation since the original war pension legislation of 1914—was abandoned in favour of the basis of pensioning according to the rank of the member, the basis adopted by other countries.

The main activities of the Repatriation Commission at 30th June, 1954 were confined to the grant, review and assessment of war and service pensions, the provision of medical treatment, vocational training, the renewal and repair of artificial replacements and surgical appliances, the grant and review of sustenance and living allowances and the administration of the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.

§ 2. War Pensions.

1. **General.**—The first provision for the payment of war pensions to members of the Forces and their dependants was made by the Commonwealth Parliament in the War Pensions Act 1914, which came into operation on 21st December, 1914. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act (amended from 31st December, 1950 to the Repatriation Act). Owing to limitations of space, only some of the main features relating to war pensions under the Repatriation Act 1920–1954 are shown in the following paragraphs:—

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

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

(ii) *Pensions for Incapacity.* From 2nd October, 1952 the 100 per cent. pension rate for a member's incapacity was increased from £7 to £8 per fortnight (higher rates were payable in respect of certain commissioned ranks) and the rates for wives and children of such members were increased to £3 11s. and £1 7s. 6d. per fortnight respectively. From 5th November, 1953 an increase of 5s. and from 7th October, 1954 a further increase of 15s. was made in the member's 100 per cent. incapacity rate to £9 per fortnight (or higher according to rank). The rates for wives and children were unchanged.

(iii) *Supplementation of Pension.* Where a member in receipt of a pension at the maximum rate is, because of his war disability, temporarily (for at least three months) precluded from earning, an additional pension may be granted to bring the total pension to the member up to £18 10s. per fortnight.

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

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

(vi) *Special Rates.* Those who have been totally blinded as the result of war service and those who are permanently totally incapacitated receive as from 5th November, 1953, special pensions of £18 10s. per fortnight. The rates for Tuberculars, Class "B" (fit for light employment) were increased from £12 to £13 per fortnight. In addition to the special pension, an attendant's allowance of £3 10s. per fortnight may be granted to the war-blinded and to certain others who are deemed to be in need of an attendant.

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

(vii) *Specified Disabilities.* Where the disability is amputation of a limb or limbs or total loss of vision in one eye, amounts ranging from 17s. to £9 10s. per fortnight in addition to the statutory rate of pension are payable as from 7th October, 1954. In addition, allowances of either £3 10s. or £7 per fortnight are payable in certain double amputation cases.

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

(ix) *Rates of Pensions for Death.* (a) *Widows.* As already indicated, rates of pension, which were previously based on the daily rate of pay of the member, are now based on the rank of the member. From 7th October, 1954 the rates were increased by 15s. per fortnight, the minimum rate being increased from £7 5s. to £8 per fortnight. In addition to the pension, the widow receives an allowance if she has dependent children, if she is permanently unemployable, or if she is over 50 years of age; this allowance is £3 9s. per fortnight.

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

(x) *Widowed Mother on Death of Member.* A pension ranging from £4 10s. to £8 6s. per fortnight, according to the rank of the member, may be granted to a widowed mother of a deceased unmarried son, provided widowhood occurred either prior to or within three years after the death of the member. The pension may be supplemented by payment of an additional amount constituting the difference between the statutory pension and £11 5s. per fortnight or part thereof, according to the extent of other income of the pensioner. The value of property possessed by the widowed mother does not affect the issue. This rate, which took effect from 7th October, 1954, represents an increase of £1 10s. per fortnight on the previous rate of £9 15s. which operated from 5th November, 1953.

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

3. *Summary of War Pensions, 1953-54.*—At 30th June, 1954, the number of war pensions for the 1914-18 War was 141,004, for the 1939-45 War, 421,251, and for the Korea and Malaya Operations 1,411, making a total of 563,666 with a liability of £36,878,337 per annum. The amount paid in pensions during the year 1953-54 was £36,797,044. The outstanding features for 1953-54 for each war were as follows.

WAR PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1953-54.

Particulars.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
New claims granted	3,063	33,370	698	37,131
Restorations	564	1,787	6	2,357
Claims rejected (gross)	1,559	13,733	450	15,742
Pensions reviewed	16,640	83,169	204	100,013
Pensions cancelled or discontinued	2,258	11,820	31	14,109
Deaths of pensioners	3,861	1,796	6	5,663
Number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1954	141,004	421,251	1,411	563,666
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1954 £	16,574,412	20,211,273	92,652	36,878,337
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1953-54 £	(a)	(a)	(a)	36,797,044

(a) Not available.

4. Classes of War Pensions, Australia, 1953-54.—(a) *New Claims Granted.* The following is an analysis of the total number of new claims granted during 1953-54 :—

WAR PENSIONS : NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1953-54.

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
Members	889	6,313	327	7,529
Wives of members	1,244	6,911	138	8,293
Children	758	19,603	191	20,552
Other dependants	172	543	42	757
Total	3,063	33,370	698	37,131

(b) *Pensions in Force.* The following table shows the number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1954 for each war and for each class of pensioner :—

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1954.

Class.	Number of Pensioners at 30th June, 1954.			
	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
Orphan children—				
Children of deceased members	808	9,788	72	10,668
Double orphans	47	185	..	232
War widows	17,700	9,540	55	27,295
Members	61,634	129,926	643	192,203
Children	5,583	160,700	315	166,598
Wives	52,184	104,224	256	156,664
Parents	2,757	6,683	62	9,502
Brothers and sisters	99	113	8	220
Others	192	92	..	284
Total	141,004	421,251	1,411	563,666

(c) *Special Rate Pensions.* At 30th June, 1954 special rate pensions of £18 10s. per fortnight were being paid to the following classes of members of the Forces :—

WAR PENSIONS : MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1954.

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Total.
Blinded members	208	191	2	401
Tubercular members	793	1,120	4	1,917
Totally and permanently incapacitated members	9,065	2,800	5	11,870
Tuberculars, Class "B" (a)	177	360	..	537

(a) Rate £13 per fortnight.

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5. Number of War Pensioners and Annual Liability, States, etc., 30th June, 1954.—
The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war at 30th June, 1954 according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on page 1015).

WAR PENSIONS : NUMBER OF PENSIONERS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30th JUNE, 1954.

Where Paid.	Number of War Pensions in Force at 30th June, 1954.				Annual Pension Liability (£.)
	Incapacitated Members of the Forces.	Dependants of Incapacitated Members.	Dependants of Deceased Members.	Total.	
1914-18 WAR.					
New South Wales	20,208	18,931	7,114	46,253	5,522,302
Victoria	20,598	18,993	6,893	46,484	5,308,447
Queensland	7,193	6,672	1,867	15,732	1,890,190
South Australia	4,450	4,386	1,712	10,548	1,354,580
Western Australia	5,107	5,135	1,557	11,799	1,238,911
Tasmania	2,746	2,877	837	6,460	861,061
Total, Australia	60,302	56,994	19,980	137,276	16,175,491
London Office	1,113	1,235	918	3,266	351,623
Other Oversea Countries	219	161	82	462	47,298
Total	61,634	58,390	20,980	141,004	16,574,412
1939-45 WAR.					
New South Wales	46,923	90,616	9,705	147,244	7,135,966
Victoria	33,445	67,318	7,007	107,770	5,209,881
Queensland	16,907	36,265	3,282	56,454	2,725,037
South Australia	14,280	31,875	2,237	48,392	2,265,831
Western Australia	12,708	26,392	2,324	41,424	1,831,187
Tasmania	5,196	12,385	823	18,404	927,856
Total, Australia	129,459	264,851	25,378	419,688	20,095,758
London Office	309	483	345	1,137	90,097
Other Oversea Countries	158	218	50	426	25,418
Total	129,926	265,552	25,773	421,251	20,211,273
KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.					
New South Wales	235	210	81	526	34,377
Victoria	170	145	41	356	20,148
Queensland	84	81	28	193	13,293
South Australia	45	54	4	103	7,265
Western Australia	63	52	14	129	8,910
Tasmania	34	28	9	71	4,153
Total, Australia	631	570	177	1,378	88,146
London Office	4	..	16	20	3,088
Other Oversea Countries	8	2	3	13	1,418
Total	643	572	196	1,411	92,652

6. Summary of War Pensions, 1930-31, 1938-39 and 1945-46 to 1953-54.—
 (i) *Australia*. The following table shows, for each war, the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30th June, 1946 to 1954, and the total annual liability for war pensions for each of the years ended 30th June, 1931, 1939 and 1946 to 1954 :—

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. (£.)
			Incapacitated Members of the Forces.	Dependants of Incapacitated Members.	Dependants of Deceased Members.	Total.	
1914-18 WAR.							
1946 ..	650	552	69,640	79,964	20,381	169,985	8,168,492
1947 ..	811	572	68,375	73,825	19,759	161,959	8,163,025
1948 ..	1,378	717	67,116	68,323	19,863	155,302	8,475,915
1949 ..	1,902	768	66,264	63,937	20,137	150,338	9,654,011
1950 ..	2,547	1,201	65,622	60,141	20,509	146,272	10,103,752
1951 ..	8,567	1,480	64,889	62,918	20,709	148,516	13,271,144
1952 ..	4,090	1,386	63,800	61,775	20,684	146,259	14,447,983
1953 ..	3,090	1,136	62,703	60,000	20,793	143,496	15,674,373
1954 ..	3,063	1,559	61,634	58,390	20,980	141,004	16,574,412
1939-45 WAR.							
1946 ..	92,986	66,766	68,097	95,829	25,479	189,405	5,604,964
1947 ..	51,019	31,266	83,995	122,205	26,478	232,678	6,841,567
1948 ..	39,188	13,614	91,657	142,112	26,530	260,299	7,759,793
1949 ..	39,016	8,192	99,852	163,504	26,421	289,777	9,522,250
1950 ..	44,392	7,312	108,922	189,413	26,649	324,984	10,638,011
1951 ..	39,866	8,387	115,942	211,735	26,434	354,111	14,483,436
1952 ..	36,259	8,864	120,889	231,068	26,232	378,189	15,862,473
1953 ..	33,944	8,034	125,366	248,483	25,885	399,734	18,502,675
1954 ..	33,370	13,733	129,926	265,552	25,773	421,251	20,211,273
KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.							
1951 ..	48	..	5	1	42	48	6,265
1952 ..	312	153	159	109	99	367	30,873
1953 ..	399	241	326	274	144	744	53,519
1954 ..	698	450	643	572	196	1,411	92,652
TOTAL.							
1931 ..	11,555	920	75,316	172,389	35,617	283,322	7,774,806
1939 ..	6,794	7,541	77,151	144,571	27,571	249,293	7,681,095
1946 ..	93,636	67,318	137,737	175,793	45,860	359,390	13,773,456
1947 ..	51,830	31,838	152,370	196,030	46,237	394,637	15,004,592
1948 ..	40,566	14,331	158,773	210,435	46,393	415,601	16,235,708
1949 ..	40,918	8,960	166,116	227,441	46,558	440,115	19,176,261
1950 ..	46,939	8,513	174,544	249,554	47,158	471,256	20,741,763
1951 ..	48,481	9,867	180,836	274,654	47,185	502,675	27,760,845
1952 ..	40,661	10,403	184,848	292,952	47,015	524,815	30,341,329
1953 ..	37,433	9,411	188,395	308,757	46,822	543,974	34,230,567
1954 ..	37,131	15,742	192,203	324,514	46,949	563,666	36,878,337

(ii) *Amount Paid and Place of Payment.* The following table shows for the years 1948-49 to 1953-54 the amounts paid in pensions and place where paid :—

WAR PENSIONS : AMOUNT PAID.

(£.)

Place of Payment.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
New South Wales(a) ..	6,713,900	7,392,793	9,446,734	11,046,938	11,769,571	12,578,067
Victoria ..	5,249,295	5,857,536	7,303,282	9,184,196	9,918,742	10,600,721
Queensland ..	2,074,951	2,381,093	3,016,499	3,777,019	4,109,763	4,591,219
South Australia(b) ..	1,717,225	1,947,536	2,452,245	3,046,575	3,349,407	3,583,510
Western Australia ..	1,758,028	1,887,885	2,272,533	2,714,606	2,921,367	3,086,783
Tasmania ..	908,734	1,017,889	1,297,490	1,560,560	1,714,606	1,820,440
Overseas ..	332,359	379,447	402,935	515,119	572,276	536,304
Total ..	18,754,492	20,864,179	26,191,718	31,845,013	34,355,795	36,797,044

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

§ 3. Service Pensions.

1. **General.** The payment of service pensions is provided for in the Repatriation Act 1920-1954 and has operated since 1st January, 1936.

Originally fixed on a lower scale, the rate of service pension for a member of the Forces now conforms to the rate of the age or invalid pension, which from 5th November, 1953 was £7 per fortnight. The maximum rate for the wife of a member is £3 10s. per fortnight; the rate for the first child under 16 years of age is 23s. per fortnight and 5s. per fortnight is payable for each of the younger children up to three in number. The actual rate payable in any case is determined after taking into consideration all other income, "except income derived from property" and property (apart from the home and certain other exemptions) owned by the pensioner, and no service pension can be paid where the other income and/or property exceeds certain specified limits. From 7th October, 1954 the "allowed income" was £364 per annum for a single man and £728 per annum in the case of a member and wife. If a member has property (apart from the home and certain other exemptions) exceeding in value £1,750 (£3,500 for a member and wife), that alone precludes payment of a pension. Pension is assessed according to the amount of income; if the income is less than the amount shown above, service pension is assessed at such rate as will, with that other income, bring the total income (including service pension) of the pensioner up to the "allowed income" provided that the pension cannot exceed the maximum rate specified for the particular class of case. If assessable property is held, then a deduction is made from the pension assessed according to income only, the deductions being made at 9d. per fortnight for each complete £10 of property in excess of £200 (or £400 in the case of member and wife).

Female members of the forces were made eligible in 1936 for consideration of service pensions if they embarked for service abroad; previously they must have served in a theatre of war. In the same year an institutional rate of service pension not exceeding 12s. per fortnight was made available. This pension rate from 5th November, 1953 was £2 9s. per fortnight, and benefits particularly inmates of mental hospitals.

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

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

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

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

2. Operations, 1953–54.—The following table gives a summary relating to service pensions during 1953–54 :—

Claims granted during year—

Members of the Forces	..	..	..	..	2,948
Wives	..	..	..	..	841
Children	..	..	..	..	291
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>4,080</u>

Claims rejected during year—

Members of the Forces	..	..	..	..	886
Wives	..	..	..	..	248
Children	..	..	..	..	85
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>1,219</u>

Service pensions cancelled or discontinued during year	..	1,853
Deaths of pensioners during year	..	1,011
Pensions in force at 30th June, 1954	..	20,806
Annual pension liability on 30th June, 1954	..	£2,816,763
Amount paid in pensions during the year	..	£2,694,522

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3. Number of Service Pensioners and Amount Paid.—(i) *Summary, Australia, 1944-45 to 1953-54.* The following table shows the number of service pensions in force and the amount paid in pensions for the ten years 1944-45 to 1953-54 :—

SERVICE PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Service Pensions in Force at 30th June—						Amount Paid in Pensions.
	Permanently Unemployable.			Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Total.	
	Age-Members of Forces.	Members of Forces.	Dependants.	Members of Forces.	Dependants.		
1945 ..	4,437	3,702	3,807	258	362	12,566	£ 648,996
1946 ..	4,971	3,896	3,633	244	345	13,089	804,880
1947 ..	5,894	4,312	3,657	254	358	14,475	904,120
1948 ..	6,610	4,660	3,791	271	358	15,690	1,238,112
1949 ..	7,070	4,613	3,699	271	365	16,018	1,328,955
1950 ..	7,448	4,608	3,598	299	385	16,338	1,431,687
1951 ..	7,456	4,492	3,911	279	374	16,512	1,507,258
1952 ..	7,587	4,561	4,270	269	389	17,076	1,778,380
1953 ..	8,703	4,971	4,780	291	432	19,177	2,225,044
1954 ..	9,648	5,294	5,092	321	451	20,806	2,694,522

(ii) *Amount Paid and State where Paid.* The following table shows for the years 1949-50 to 1953-54 the amounts paid in pensions and the State where paid :—

SERVICE PENSIONS : AMOUNT PAID.

(£.)

State Where Paid.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
New South Wales(a) ..	477,845	515,730	609,432	764,803	977,815
Victoria	347,274	332,924	382,584	503,946	601,579
Queensland	247,842	265,754	325,546	396,090	467,038
South Australia (b) ..	142,339	155,384	174,303	215,626	259,438
Western Australia ..	165,639	184,744	224,558	278,115	302,617
Tasmania	50,748	52,722	61,957	66,464	86,035
Total	1,431,687	1,507,258	1,778,380	2,225,044	2,694,522

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

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

At 30th June, 1954 there were 5,477 in-patients, including a number whose care was undertaken by the Repatriation Commission on behalf of other countries or Commonwealth Departments. There were 383,160 out-patient attendances for treatment during the year, excluding 767,497 treatments by the 3,415 local medical officers resident in metropolitan and country areas and New Guinea. The expenditure to 30th June, 1954 was £63,122,099.

§ 5. General Benefits and Miscellaneous.

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

By legislation passed in June, 1940, these benefits were extended to members engaged in the 1939-45 War and in November, 1950 to those engaged in the Korea and Malaya Operations and new benefits designed for the re-establishment of members after discharge from the Forces were made available. The re-establishment benefits administered by the Repatriation Commission are:—payments of re-employment allowance while awaiting employment; provision of tools of trade and equipment where such are necessary to the member's employment; transportation expenses to meet the cost of fares and removal of household belongings, where a member, or member and family, take up training, employment, a business, or settle on the land; supplementation of wages of apprentices whose apprenticeships were interrupted by war service; re-establishment loans to enable members and widows to establish themselves in businesses, practices or other occupations, including (until the Division of War Service Land Settlement began operations early in 1946) agricultural occupations; payment of re-establishment allowance during the early stages of establishment in business; gifts up to £75 for furniture to members who are blinded or totally and permanently incapacitated, also to widows with children under 16 years of age; and free passages to Australia for wives, widows and children of members who married abroad (and passages outward from Australia in certain cases of members and dependants).

In 1949 the Commission took over the functions of the Re-establishment Division of the former Department of Post-war Reconstruction, and is responsible for the co-ordination of all matters relating to training under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. Re-establishment of the more seriously disabled where ordinary training is not sufficient continues to be a function of the Commission, and special means have to be found to overcome each problem.

(ii) *Review of General Benefits.* The following paragraph gives particulars of the more important general benefits for each war (those for Korea and Malaya Operations are included under the 1939-45 War) for the period from 8th April, 1918 to 30th June, 1954.

(a) Employment—

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

1939-45 *War* : The placing of members in employment was carried out by the Commission for only a short period prior to the inauguration of the Department of Labour and National Service, but the Commission has the responsibility of payment of re-employment allowance, provision of tools of trade and payment of fares and removal expenses. Number of cases and expenditure to 30th June, 1954 were as follows :—Re-employment allowances—66,653, £1,027,402 ; tools of trade (gift)—261,259, £1,893,701 ; (loan)—19,449, £292,051 ; fares and removal expenses, 16,562, £241,402.

(b) Vocational Training—

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

1939-45 *War* : Number of members completed training in full-time re-establishment courses 56,756 ; number still in training, 1,082 ; expenditure, £49,974,850. An additional sum of £3,874,152 was expended on supplementation of apprentices wages.

(c) Business Loans—

1914-18 *War* : 6,130, £421,800.

1939-45 *War* : 27,897, £7,449,255. Allowances pending productivity of business—1,425, £88,024. Fares and removal expenses to member proceeding to a business, £495.

(d) Furniture Grants—

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

1939-45 *War* : Gift (no loan cases)—widows, 5,694, £396,556 ; members, 375, £23,157.

(e) Free Passages—

1914-18 *War* : £509,120.

1939-45 *War* : To Australia—4,749, £310,698 ; from Australia—67, £10,363.

(f) Soldiers' Children Education Scheme—

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

Particulars.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.
Applications	32,804	14,995
Approved	31,123	14,780
Completed training	25,303	6,687
Withdrawn during training	4,088	552
Awaiting next stage of training	27	144
In training	1,705	7,397
Expenditure	£4,388,572	

Minor benefits prior to entrance to main scheme : For all Wars, £88,094.

(iii) *Total Expenditure on General Benefits.* The total expenditure on general benefits, apart from war and service pensions, from 8th April, 1918 to 30th June, 1954, for all wars since 1914 was £100,172,157 (including loan £9,427,511). Of this total the largest amounts were absorbed by medical treatment with £63,122,099, vocational training with £8,799,652, and expenses in providing employment, £5,871,708.

2. *Expenditure of Repatriation Commission, 1953-54.*—The expenditure of the Commission for the year ended 30th June, 1954 was £54,161,936, distributed as follows :—

Repatriation benefits—	£
Loans to members	227,176
Grants to members and general expenditure (including maintenance of training schools, medical institutions, etc.) ..	11,271,624
Assistance to members in necessitous circumstances	1,035
Total	<u>11,499,835</u>
Soldiers' Children Education Scheme	340,496
War and Service Pensions	39,425,344
Administrative costs—	£
Salaries	2,411,182
Contingencies	485,079
	<u>2,896,261</u>
Grand total	<u>54,161,936</u>

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