

§ 7. War Gratuity.

In accordance with the War Gratuity Acts 1920 (assented to 30th April, 1920, and 29th May, 1920), a bonus, payable as an overseas war service gratuity, is authorized for sailors and soldiers who served in the Great War. The gratuity is in the nature of a free gift from the Commonwealth, in recognition of honorable services during the War, and is not claimable or recoverable as a matter of right. For members of the Naval Forces who served in a sea-going ship; members of the Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to New Guinea; members of the Australian Imperial Force who embarked from Australia on or before 10th November, 1918 (day preceding the Armistice); and Imperial reservists who served, the rate of gratuity is 1s. 6d. per day for the qualifying period. For members of the Naval Forces who did not serve in a sea-going ship; and members of the Military Forces who did not embark for overseas service the rate is 1s. per day. The qualifying period of service is that between the outbreak of War (4th August, 1914) and the Armistice (11th November, 1918). The period for which payment is made to individuals commenced—for sailors, from the date of taking up duty on a sea-going ship; for soldiers who served overseas, from the date of embarkation (or the first of them, if more than one); the terminating date in all cases being the date of Declaration of Peace (28th June, 1919). For sailors not having had service in a sea-going ship, and for soldiers who did not embark, or who embarked after 10th November, 1918, payment is made from date of taking up duty to date of discharge or Declaration of Peace. Deductions may be made for misconduct on service, and serious crime, military or civil, involves disqualification.

The gratuity was paid in Treasury bonds, maturing not later than 31st May, 1924, and bearing interest at 5½ per cent. In necessitous cases, payment was made in cash, when desired by the person entitled. The first gratuities were made available about the beginning of June, 1920. By the 2nd July, 1921, the sum of £5,157,110 was paid in cash, and bonds to the value of £20,585,746 were issued. The gratuities will total 360,000, the amount being estimated at £30,000,000.

§ 8. Special Defence Legislation.

1. **War Precautions Acts.**—On the outbreak of war in Europe, the Federal Parliament passed an Act to enable the Governor-General to make regulations and orders for the safety of the Commonwealth during the state of war. The provisions of this Act, which was assented to on 29th October, 1914, will be found in Official Year Book No. 8, page 1092. Particulars of the *Enemy Contracts Annulment Act* will be found in the same issue of the Year Book, page 1095.

The War Precautions Act 1918 provided that the War Precautions Act 1914–16 should remain in force only until 31st July, 1919, or for a period of three months after the issue of a proclamation that the state of war has ceased, whichever period is the longer. All regulations made under the Act will lapse with it.

Under the powers conferred by the above Acts, the *War Precautions Regulations* were made. They provided for the appointment of competent naval or military authorities to exercise certain powers under the regulations, and other matters. The principal provisions of the regulations are given in Official Year Book No. 11, pp. 1035–1043.

The War Precautions Act Repeal Act of 1920 repealed the Act 1914–18, but certain of the regulations are still in force.