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FURTHER PAYMENT OF £16.10.0 TO FORMER PRISONERS
OF WAR OF THE JAPANESE

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt.Hon. Sir Robert Menzies

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, today announced that a final payment of £16.10.0 each would be paid to former Australian prisoners of war of the Japanese from the proceeds of realisation of Japanese assets in accordance with the Peace Treaty with Japan.

In 1952, the Government decided that the proceeds of realisation of Japanese assets in Australia should be distributed equally among former prisoners of war of the Japanese, and a distribution of £32 was made. During 1955, the Japanese Government, in settlement of its obligations under Article 16 of the Peace Treaty, paid the sum of £4¹/₂M sterling to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. Australia's share of these moneys together with the proceeds of the sale of the Burma-Siam railway and minor amounts from other sources enabled a second distribution of £54 to each ex-prisoner of war to be made in 1956-7.

A further and final payment has now been received from the International Committee of the Red Cross and we have decided that this together with the remainder of the moneys expected to become available from the realisation of Japanese assets in Australia, should also be distributed equally between former prisoners of war. The amount of this distribution will be £16.10.0 per person.

As in the case of former distributions, where a prisoner of war has died, either during captivity or since his release, payment will be made to a dependant or where there is no dependant, to such other person as is entitled to it because of a particular relationship with the deceased.

A letter containing particulars regarding payment and a form for completion and return will be sent to the last recorded address of persons who shared in the previous distributions or to any new address as may be notified to the appropriate service Department. Those who have not participated in previous distributions but consider themselves eligible to share in the current distribution should contact the relevant service Department.

It is hoped that most of the payments will be made before Christmas, 1963, but this will be possible only if forms are completed and returned promptly.

CANBERRA,

5th November, 1963.