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Promotion of General Sir Thomas BLAMEY to the rank of Field Marshal [0.5cm]

SECRETARY.

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

Box 1508

File No 8

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Subject..... PROMOTION OF GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY

TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL.

(See separate file for Pension for Lady Blamey)

CRS: A5954

Item: 1508-8

Date	Paper	Subject
7/8/50	Teleprinter CS.1126 from Secretary, Prime Minister's Dept. to Secy. Dept. of the Army.	Forwarding copy of cablegram from Resident Minister in London regarding presentation of baton
17/8/50	Memo from Secy. Dept. of Army	Forwarding copy of reply sent to letter of Official Secretary to Governor-General dated 28th June 1950
30/8/50	Minute by Secy.	Advising that Army proposal to transfer Field Marshal Blamey to Reserve of Officers would be contrary to the basic principles of promotion on the Active List and retention there.
1/9/50	Note by Secy.	Note of telephone conversation with Prime Minister regarding payment to Field Marshal Blamey.
8/9/50	Memo to Secy. Dept. of Army	Acknowledgment of letter of 17th August
8/9/50	Minute to Minister	Submitting draft reply to letter of 21st July from Minister for Army.
8/9/50	Letter to Minister for the Army	Reply to letter of 21st July

Date	Paper	Subject
8/6/50	"Sydney Morning Herald" Cutting	Comment on revival of Honours List.
9/6/50	"Herald" Cutting	Comment on General Blamey's re-appointment to active list.
9/6/50	"Herald" Cutting	"Blamey tribute by Birdwood".
10/6/50	"Argus" Cutting	Comments on Honours List.
13/6/50	Letter from Prime Minister to Minister for the Army	Requesting action be taken to give effect to promotion.
18/6/50	"Sunday Sun" Cutting	Question of pension for Field Marshal Blamey
22/6/50	Extract from Commonwealth Gazette No.35	Cancellation of transfer of General Blamey to Retired List
22/6/50	Extract from Commonwealth Gazette No. 35	Notice of promotion to Field Marshal
16/6/50	Note by Mr. Quealy	Note on United Kingdom and Australian provisions regarding rates of pay
26/6/50	Note by Secy.	Note of discussion with Acting Minister on question of payment for rank of Field Marshal
28/6/50	Letter from Official Secy. to Governor-General to Prime Minister	Date of promotion and question of presentation of baton to Field Marshal Blamey.
30/6/50	Letter to Official Secretary	Interim reply to above letter
4/7/1950	Minute from Prime Minister's Department	Referring above correspondence for advice
12/7/50	Memo 1792 to Secretary, Dept. of the Army	Forwarding above correspondence for reply direct to Prime Minister's Department
12/7/50	Memo 1793 to Prime Minister's Department	Advising Army will advise direct.
21/7/50	Letter from Minister for the Army	Reply to letter from Prime Minister of 13th June suggesting Field Marshal Blamey be transferred to Reserve of Officers General List and that there be no payment to him.

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PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

Page 1.

Date	Paper	Subject
24/1/46	Extract from Commonwealth Gazette No. 14	Relinquishment of appointment of Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces.
21/2/46	Extract from Commonwealth Gazette No. 34	Transfer to Reserve of Officers (General List)
2/2/50	Extract from Commonwealth Gazette No. 7	Transfer to Retired List.
9/3/50	Note by Mr. Quealy	Note on procedure necessary for proposed promotion.
9/3/50	Minute to Actg. Minister	Note on procedure for proposed promotion
10/3/50	Minute to Minister	Submitting copy of above Minute
8/3/50	Note by Secretary	Note of discussion of Birthday Honours List with Minister
15/3/50	Letter to Governor-General	Letter from Prime Minister seeking the King's approval to the promotion.
10/5/50	Letter from Private Secy. to the King	Letter to Governor-General advising difficulty of promoting officer on Retired List and suggesting alternate honour.
23/5/50	Minute to Prime Minister (thro' Actg. Minister)	Suggesting method of overcoming objections to promotion
23/5/50	Letter to Governor-General	Letter from Prime Minister requesting that Private Secretary to King be advised that Government proposes to cancel General Blamey's transfer to the Retired List.
30/5/50	Minute to Prime Minister	Suggesting course which should be followed to promote General Blamey.
8/6/50	Minute to Prime Minister	Submitting draft letter to Minister for the Army requesting him to take necessary further steps to give effect to the promotion.
8/6/50	"Age" Cutting	Birthday Honours List.
8/6/50	"Argus" Cutting	Presentation of Field Marshal's Baton.
8/6/50	"Sun" Cutting	Service chiefs comments on promotion.
8/6/50	"Herald" Cutting	Comments of Chief of the General Staff on promotion.

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17 JAN 1955

Dear Mr. Burton,

I wish to acknowledge your letter of 11th January 1955 to Sir Frederick Shedden, regarding the official launching of an appeal to establish the Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Fund.

Sir Frederick Shedden recently left for London and will be abroad for some time in connection with the Prime Ministers' Conference. It will not be possible therefore to submit to you by 25th January the names of five gentlemen to whom he would like an invitation extended to the official launching of the appeal.

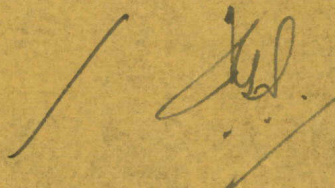
Your letter will be brought to Sir Frederick's notice on his return. He will still be abroad when the appeal is officially launched on 17th February.

Yours faithfully,



F.R. Burton, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
Executive Committee,
Lord Mayor's Room,
Town Hall,
MELBOURNE. C.1.

For Secretary's file





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Town Hall, Melbourne

Lord Mayor's Room

11th January, 1955.

Dear Sir Frederick,

I have the honor to advise that the Appeal to establish the Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Fund will be officially launched at a function in the Reception Room at the Town Hall, on Thursday, 17th February, 1955 at 4 p.m. An official invitation will be received by you in due course.

The Lord Mayor would appreciate your submitting the names of not less than five gentlemen to whom you would like an invitation extended to the official launching.

It would be appreciated if the names could be in my hands not later than the 25th January.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(F. R. Burton)
Hon. Secretary

Sir Frederick Shedden, K.C.M.G., Executive Committee
Department of Defence,
Victoria Barracks,
St. Kilda Road,
MELBOURNE.

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CONFIDENTIAL

23 SEP 1950

Dear Mr. Sinclair,

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO THE RANK OF
FIELD MARSHAL

Thank you for your memorandum SM.2010 of 19th September, forwarding a copy of a memorandum from the Secretary to the Cabinet regarding the Cabinet decision to pay Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey an allowance of £3,000 per annum.

Yours sincerely,

FGS

S e c r e t a r y.

F.R. Sinclair, Esq.,
Secretary,
Department of the Army,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

SM.2010.

19th September 1950.

Dear Sir Frederick,

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

-- Further to my letter of 17th August 1950 regarding the promotion of General Sir Thomas Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal, I am attaching, for your information, copy of a memorandum from the Secretary to Cabinet regarding the Cabinet decision to pay Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey an allowance of £3,000 per annum.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) F.R. Sinclair
S e c r e t a r y.

Sir Frederick Shedden, KCMG. OBE.,
Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

18 SEP 1950

A FIELD MARSHAL'S HEART ...**SIR THOMAS TELLS
'THE PRICE'**

SICK, tired, weakened by long illness, Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey spoke at the greatest moment of his life of the secret things that a commander of armies feels and cannot — at the cost of defeat — show.

He said: "I want the survivors and families of those who fell to know that I have frequently been moved beyond words by what I had to ask of them and the way in which they invariably responded.

"The biggest burden I had to carry was the price that was charged them in deaths and maimings and the sorrows of those they left."

That was what the Field Marshal said when, on Saturday, the Governor-General, Mr. McKell, presented him with Australia's first Field Marshal's baton.

The presentation took place in the sunroom of Ward West 2 at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

Dressed in uniform, with his Field Marshal's insignia of crossed batons on his epaulettes, and with seven rows of ribbons on his chest, Sir Thomas was brought into the sunroom in a wheel chair.

On the wall facing him was a flag-draped picture of the King, who, in ordinary circumstances, would have made the presentation in person.

Beside him were his wife and her sister, Miss Farnsworth; his son, Colonel T. R. Blamey, and his wife, and the Field Marshal's brother, Mr. J. C. Blamey, of Manly (Sydney).

Flanking the Governor-General was the Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks; Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister; Mr. Francis, Army Minister; and Mr. T. White, Air Minister, and the heads of the services.

The remaining seats were occupied by men who had served under the Field Marshal in wartime.

They formed a glittering array of personalities, and included 18 generals, most of whom are now senior-ranking

members of the Army in the various States.

When Mr. McKell handed the 20in. long crimson baton, studded with miniature gold lions and surmounted with a gold figure of St. George slaying the dragon, he said that the King was "deeply interested in this ceremony today."

As Sir Thomas took the baton his hands trembled slightly. He looked at it, at his family, at his distinguished comrades. Then, squaring his shoulders and sitting at attention, he began to speak.

It was the "old Tom Blamey" who said:

"I am deeply sensible of the high honour that His Majesty has extended to me, and I am grateful to you for having conveyed this baton to me. I would be grateful to you, Sir,

if you would convey to His Majesty my grateful thanks."

His glance flickered over the men who

had served under him, and he continued, "I am not forgetful of the men who participated with me in the various wars, and I think of them today perhaps more than I do of myself."

A stronger note came into his voice as he continued: "Maybe it is to them that this baton is due, and it is to them that everything on earth is due."

And then he paid his magnificent tribute to his men who did not come back.

Footnote

Presentation of his Field Marshal's baton to Sir Thomas Blamey had acted as a tonic to him, Lady Blamey said last night.

"The presentation was the crowning point of my husband's career. He has always been a stickler for ceremonial where it was necessary, and he was determined to make a good showing. We are all proud of the way he did it."

By
Barney Porter

MELBOURNE HERALD

King's Thanks To Sir T. Blamey

In presenting the Field Marshal's baton to Sir Thomas Blamey at Heidelberg Hospital today (see Page one) Mr McKell said: "The King is deeply interested in this ceremony today."

"I desire on behalf of The King, to extend to Sir Thomas very, very sincere and very hearty congratulations."

"And on the Sovereign's behalf, I desire to express to him thanks for the loyal, the long, and the devoted service he has rendered to Australia, to Great Britain and to the British Commonwealth of Nations."

"Every Australian breast today swells with pride at the high honor that has been conferred on one of their fellows."

Mr McKell then stepped forward, shook Sir Thomas warmly by the hand, and presented the baton.

"HIGH HONOR"

Sir Thomas replied: "I am deeply sensible of the high honor that His Majesty has extended to me, and I am deeply grateful to you, sir, for having conveyed to me this baton."

"I would be grateful, Sir, if you would extend to His Majesty my grateful thanks."

"It is inevitable that today I should look back to those gallant men with affection and reverence and that, with profound humility, I should proclaim the extent of my debt to them."

"I want the survivors and the families of those who fell to know that I who knew better than most what our soldiers did, have frequently been moved beyond words by what I had to ask of them, and by the manner in which they invariably responded."

"CARRY ON"

"To all my good comrades my grateful thanks. I felt more than I was ever able to say, the price that was charged them in deaths and maimings, and the sorrows of those they left. It was the biggest burden I carried."

"Military service is a very honorable calling, and I commend it to young Australians with high ideals."

"I can no longer lead them, but I commend those familiar army words in which was so often combined all that was

best of exhortation and encouragement: 'Carry On.'"

The baton is studded at three half-inch intervals with a series of miniature gold lions; its base is mounted in gold, and it bears an inscription:

"A gift from His Majesty The King," together with the Field Marshal's rank, name and decorations.

TWO MINISTERS

Those who attended the ceremony included:—The Minister for the Navy and Army, Mr Francis; the Minister for Air, Mr White; the Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear-Admiral J. A. Collins; the Chief of the General Staff, Lieut.-General S. F. Rowell; the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal G. Jones; the General Officer Commanding Southern Command, Major-General A. J. Boase; the secretary of the Department of Defence, Sir Frederick Shedden; the secretary of the Army Department, Mr F. R. Sinclair; Lieut.-Generals Sir Leslie Morshead, Sir F. H. Berryman, Sir Edmund Herring, Sir Stanley Savidge, V. A. H. Sturdee; Major-Generals J. H. Cannan, C. E. M. Lloyd, C. S. Steele, C. H. Simpson, L. E. Beavis, V. P. H. Stantke, W. Bridgeford, S. R. Burston, G. F. Wootten, J. A. Chapman, and A. J. H. Cassels.

FAMILY THERE

With Lady Blamey were the following members of the family and former personal staff:—Colonel and Mrs T. R. Blamey, Miss R. Farnsworth, Messrs C. Fahle, L. G. Coulter and F. T. Krcrouse; Lieut.-Colonels N. Carlyon, J. Wilmoth, D. H. Dwyer; Majors T. Sheppard and E. P. Porter, Captain I. Layton, Mr J. C. Blamey, Mr Jim Blamey.

With a baton in his knapsack

Blamey is a great Australian

THE place was Canberra; the time, early 1940—the capital was still grey and a little bewildered after the first impact of war—and the speaker was a man who later became Prime Minister.

"If public controversy about a man is a mark of his significance—and I can believe that it may be—then the two most significant men in Australian history are Billy Hughes and Tom Blamey."

"Thousands of people don't like Billy or Tom," he said. "They don't like their views, perhaps, or their personalities; they sneer and they rant at 'em. But, by heaven, they respect them—and that makes them great Australians!"

The statement—frank, sin-

An Appreciation by Gordon Williams

cere, and forceful—came out of a discussion of Sir Thomas Blamey's appointment to command of the 6th Division, the nucleus of the Second Australian Imperial Force.

At that time Tom Blamey had thousands of enemies—I know—I was briefed to take an unofficial, but careful, poll of public opinion about the Blamey appointment—but there was none who challenged his pre-eminent right to the job.

As a fact, they regarded him as a "natural" for it.

They recognised—as did John Monash, Blamey's chief of World War I—the inexhaustible industry, the soldierly competence, the placid readiness, and the illimitable optimism of the man. They wanted him for the job—even when their dislike of him was active.

This condition I found again in the Army. Troops cheered him, and troops cheered him. I've heard both.

They criticised him and condemned him, then boasted about his soldierliness and his unconventionality in a thousand stories.

Won hosts of friends

THE whole point is that no matter where Blamey was in two wars or in between two wars, he could not be ignored. He was a magnetic centre that literally attracted attention, while it radiated energy.

He won hosts of friends whose fidelity could not be shaken; he made hosts of enemies whose disfavour hardly marked a consistently brilliant career.

It is very difficult to be objective when writing about Tom Blamey.

I remember interviewing him when he was Chief Commissioner of Police, and listening to his crisp, firm, but completely unimpassioned directives.

I have spoken to him in the quiet of his Collins st. office about his old chief, Monash, and heard in his voice the vast regret of one who mourns a near friend.

I have spoken to him in the sinister quiet of a New Guinea evening, at a time when the going was bad, and gained confidence from his own belief in his soldiers—and in himself.

He was—and I have no doubt still is—a martinet, ready to flay the unsoldierly soldier, ready to demand near-miracles from his troops. (And the troops usually groused a lot about his demands—but, as the records show, they almost always met them. . . .)

His goal . . .

the Army

NOBODY will ever succeed in writing a strictly formal, strictly objective, strictly conventional appreciation of the man Blamey.

He just won't fit into that relatively narrow patterning.

Such an appreciation would begin with his humble birth in Wagga, where his father was storekeeper; and his adoption of—strange choice it seems now

—school teaching as a life work. (So far the tempo is sedate, decorous.)

Then the young Tom Blamey tired of the relatively unexciting job of imparting knowledge to the not-always-avid pupil, and drove straight toward what must always have been his goal . . . the permanent army; he went to the Staff College at Quetta (1911), fought on the North-West Frontier, and then plunged into the turmoil of 1914 with all the enthusiasm of the keen and ambitious soldier.

["He was a staff college graduate," wrote Monash of the Brigadier-General T. A. Blamey, who was his Chief of Staff, "but he was not on that account a pedant; he was thoroughly versed in the technique of staff work and the minutiae of all procedure . . ."]

Not strictly

"copybook"

"HE was not a pedant. . . ."

That was, in the military sense, true of the General

Blamey would be part of the little that would arrive too late. But when the cards fell against him, he insisted on going with his men to share the risks in that tortured theatre.

When he came back to Australia there were, after a few weeks, mutterings that he would never get along with MacArthur—that the clash of two such personalities could be only pyrotechnic.

Blamey was, by this, Commander of the Allied Land Forces in the South-West Pacific; it was, however, little more than an office-in-name, for no American ever took orders from an Australian.

But there were no notable fireworks between the Australian and American commanders; each seemed, somehow, to respect the other's single-minded devotion to soldiering.

Source of many tales

I DON'T suppose any man in either army—American or Australian—has had more stories told about him than Blamey, although MacArthur was not noticeably neglected by the raconteur.

But, while most of those I heard about MacArthur were frankly critical (I had almost written "malicious") a great



AS COMMANDER OF ALLIED LAND FORCES, General Blamey examining an artillery map late in the war at a forward section on Bougainville.

Blamey of 1939-45. He never became so much the copybook soldier that he drifted away from his men.

Yet, strangely enough, he did not always impress them all happily.

I have seen soldiers come to blows about him—some arguing that "he was the only soldier in blasted islands," others joining vigorous issue and denying him all claim to eminence.

I never discovered what the catalyst was that united these schools of thought, but there certainly was one, for on occasion both pro-Blamey and anti-Blamey schools would join in furious support of the man—particularly if any criticism of him, real or implied, came from army details other than the strictly Australian.

He shared in

the risks

BLAMEY'S stature as a soldier was seen when the Greek campaign was mooted. He objected strongly, knowing that again his Aus-

percentage of those I heard about Blamey were kindly.

Blamey tomorrow will receive his Field Marshal's baton. He has reached the goal toward which he has striven almost all his life. To him the Army was not merely the means of a career or the channel through which a striving personality could be expressed. It was a religion—deep, fervid.

That must always be remembered when any assessment of 61-year-old Field Marshal Blamey is made.

Nor ever should be forgotten the fact that Blamey has always grasped life two-fistedly, living as he has fought—with all the vigour and the directed energy he has.

He has had always a tremendous loyalty for his friends, and this has often brought him into trouble—even during his Commissionership of Police.

Blamey is today Australia's first Field Marshal. Some say he is Australia's greatest soldier. Others advance the claims of Monash. No doubt, the man Blamey will be a subject of controversy until the end—but it will always remain that he is a great Australian.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

19 SEP 1950

Blamey's baton on the way

CANBERRA, Fri.—At the King's request the Governor-General (Mr. McKell) will fly to Melbourne on September 16 to present a Field-Marshal's baton to Sir Thomas Blamey, who is in hospital.

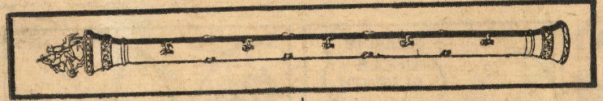
A Field-Marshal's baton is a personal present from the King.

The King customarily makes the presentation personally.

He has asked Mr. McKell to make the presentation on his behalf because Sir Thomas Blamey's illness may prevent him from visiting England for some time.

He is the first Australian to become a Field-Marshal.

The King's Birthday Honors list, published on June 8, announced General Sir Thomas Blamey's new rank of Field-Marshal.



Lady Blamey and other members of the family will be at the presentation ceremony in the Repatriation Hospital.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies), Service Ministers, and Chiefs of Staff will be invited.

A Field-Marshal's baton is about 20 inches long and one inch in diameter.

It is covered with crimson velvet and studded at 3in. in-

tervals with miniature gold lions.

The base of the baton is mounted in gold and inscribed with the holder's rank, name, and decorations.

The head of the baton, also mounted in gold, is surmounted by a golden replica of St. George slaying the dragon.

The baton is contained in a case covered with crimson velvet.

CITY FORECAST (24 hours from 6 a.m.): Fine and cool

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PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

5th September 1950.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

FIELD MARSHAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY -

CABINET - 29TH-31ST AUGUST, 1950

Cabinet decided that Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey be paid an allowance at the rate of £3,000 per annum from the date of his appointment as Field Marshal.

(Sgd.) A.S. Brown

Secretary to Cabinet.

CONFIDENTIAL

28 SEP 1950

My dear Minister,

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO RANK OF
FIELD MARSHAL

With reference to your letter of 21st July relative to the promotion of General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal, it is noted that the Prime Minister, in his letter of 13th June to you, asked that the necessary further steps be taken to give effect to the promotion of General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal in the Active Citizen Military Forces from 8th June 1950, and to place him on the appropriate list with this rank.

2. I note the view expressed by the Chief of the General Staff that it would be inappropriate to carry Sir Thomas Blamey on the Active List of the Citizen Military Forces in view of his age and condition of health, and that it is proposed he should be transferred to the Reserve of Officers General List with the rank of Field Marshal.

3. As the rank of Field Marshal has a special status and I understood that in the United Kingdom an officer of such rank remains on the Active List until his decease, the proposal to transfer Field Marshal Blamey to the Reserve of Officers List would appear to be contrary to the basic principle of promotion on the Active List and retention there. Further, the factors of age and health have not applied in the case of Field Marshal Birdwood who holds honorary rank as such in the Active List of the Australian Military Forces. It is my view, therefore, that the action in Field Marshal Blamey's case should conform with the Prime Minister's request that he be placed on the appropriate list of the Active Citizen Military Forces with this rank.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) P. A. McBRIDE

(P.A. McBride)

The Hon. Jos. Francis, MP,
Minister for the Army

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PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO RANK OF
FIELD MARSHAL

CONFIDENTIAL

THE ACTING MINISTER

The Minister for the Army has forwarded advice in regard to the further action necessary to give effect to the promotion of Field Marshal Blamey from 8th June and to place him on the appropriate list with this rank as requested by the Prime Minister in his letter of 13th June to the Minister.

2. At present Sir Thomas Blamey is borne on the Active List of the Citizen Military Forces with the rank of Field Marshal. It will be recalled that his transfer to the Retired List was cancelled and he was placed on the Active List in June 1950 in order to remove the obstacle to his promotion to the rank of Field Marshal.

3. The Minister has communicated the views of the Chief of the General Staff that it would be inappropriate to carry Sir Thomas Blamey on the Active List of the Citizen Military Forces in view of his age (66 years) and condition of health, and it is proposed therefore that he be transferred from the Active List to the Reserve of Officers General List.

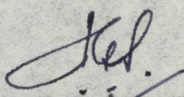
4. As the rank of Field Marshal has a special status and it is understood that in the United Kingdom an officer of such rank remains on the Active List until his decease, the proposal to transfer Field Marshal Blamey to the Reserve of Officers List would appear to be contrary to the basic principle of promotion on the Active List and retention there. Further, the factors of age and health have not applied in the case of Field Marshal Birdwood, who holds honorary rank as such in the Active List of the Australian Military Forces. His age is 84 years. It is recommended that the Minister's attention be invited to the foregoing aspects, with a view to action being taken to give effect to the Prime Minister's request that Field Marshal Blamey be placed on the appropriate list of the Active Citizen Military Forces with this rank.

SUBMISSION

5. Draft letter to the Minister for the Army on the above lines is attached.

--

Approved
P.A.M. Bude
F. 9. 50.


Secretary.

8/9/1950.

C O P Y

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

8th September 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Sinclair,

FIELD MARSHAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY

Thank you for your letter of 17th August, forwarding copy of your letter to the Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General, relative to the date of promotion of Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey, and the presentation of his baton.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) F.G. SHEDDEN

S e c r e t a r y

F.R. Sinclair, Esq.,
Secretary,
Department of the Army,
MELBOURNE SC.1.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

MINUTE PAPER

A.W. 8/49

Subject:

FIELD MARSHAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY

The Prime Minister spoke to me on the telephone and said that he was seeing Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey to-morrow. The Prime Minister understood that the Field Marshal was not well off and that his financial position was causing him worry. Mr. Menzies had mentioned the matter in Cabinet, and it had been agreed that some payment should be made which, the Prime Minister stated, would not likely be for long, in view of Field Marshal Blamey's medical condition. The Prime Minister enquired as to the salary for a Chief of Staff and was informed that it was £3,000. The Prime Minister thought this would be suitable as he did not wish to cause any embarrassment with serving officers.

2. I reminded the Prime Minister that, when the promotion to Field Marshal was under consideration, it had been pointed out that there was provision in the Australian Regulations for any payment as in the case of half-pay for British Field Marshals. In this case it could be done in an ex gratia manner and the Prime Minister thought this should be the way to do it.

Jul.
Secretary

1/9/1950

5-2

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. G.

The Private Secretary to the King informed the Governor-General that no officer on the Retired List had ever been promoted to the rank of Field Marshal, and to do so would create an undesirable precedent. Accordingly, action was taken to cancel the transfer of General Blamey to the Retired List, and to transfer him to the General List of the Active Citizen Military Forces from the Reserve of Officers. He was then promoted to the rank of Field Marshal. The Minister for the Army was asked to give effect to the promotion, and to place him on the appropriate list. (For example, the Active List comprises General and other lists of officers holding appointments, those on the Supernumerary List and the Unattached List.)

2. It is stated that the rank of Field Marshal has a special status in the United Kingdom, and an officer of such rank remains on the Active List until his decease.

3. The proposal of the Army to place Field Marshal Blamey on the Reserve of Officers would appear to be contrary to the basic principle of promotion on the Active List and retention there. The reference to his age and health has not been applied in the case of Field Marshal Birdwood, nor would it appear to obtain in the case of Field Marshals of the British Army for the reason stated in paragraph 2. On the contrary, the state of his health would appear to be a good reason merely for placing him on the appropriate list of the Active List, as requested by the Prime Minister on 13th June.

del
Secretary.

30/8/1950.

C O P Y

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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Department of the Army,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

17th August 1950

Dear Sir Frederick,

FIELD MARSHAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY

With reference to your letter of 12th July 1950, (No. 1792), I am attaching for your information a copy of a letter which I have addressed, by direction of the Minister, to the Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General.

14.8.50 - balance

Since writing to Mr. Tyrrell, I have been advised that the Governor-General has received the baton, and has been asked by His Majesty the King to arrange its presentation as soon as Field Marshal Blamey's health permits.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) F.R. SINCLAIR

S e c r e t a r y

Sir Frederick G. Shedden, KCMG. OBE.,
Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

52

ARMY MELBOURNE

17.1515K.

AUSTARM LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

ML1275.
DA.53.

CONFIDENTIAL. O.T.P. PERSONAL FOR AIR VICE-MARSHAL
HEWITT FROM SIR FREDERICK SHEDDEN. YOUR DUK.118.

1. I UNDERSTAND FROM THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF THAT FOR
SOME REASON WHICH IS NOT APPARENT, THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES
APPROACHED THE ARMY REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON ON THE PRESIDENT'S
DESIRE TO CONFER THIS AWARD ON THE PRIME MINISTER. THE ARMY
REPRESENTATIVE REPEATED THE REQUEST TO THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL
STAFF WHO BROUGHT IT TO THE NOTICE OF THE ARMY MINISTER WHO INFORMED
THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT, IN ORDER TO
LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PERSONS AWARE OF THIS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MATTER,
IT WAS DECIDED TO COMPLETE THE ACTION THROUGH ARMY CHANNELS, AND
THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER AGREED THAT IT BE REPEATED TO THE ARMY
REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON FOR COMMUNICATION TO THE RESIDENT MINISTER.

2. IN REGARD TO THE REQUEST OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER FOR MY
VIEWS, THE INITIAL REQUEST IN WASHINGTON WAS ADDRESSED TO THE WRONG
QUARTER, AND I KNOW THAT THE ARMY FELT EMBARRASSED IN HANDLING IT.
THE REQUEST SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON
FOR COMMUNICATION TO THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, WHO WOULD HAVE ASKED
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO OBTAIN THE KING'S APPROVAL.

/...

Princk

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 2

3. IN THE CASE OF FIELD MARSHAL BLAMEY'S BATON, I THINK, AS
STATED IN YOUR SIGNAL, THAT THIS IS A DOMESTIC CONCERN OF ARMY.

UNPARAPHRASED



CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50

I understand from the Chief of the General Staff that for some reason which is not apparent, the United States Authorities approached the Army representative in Washington on the President's desire to confer this award on the Prime Minister. The Army representative repeated the request to the Chief of the General Staff who brought it to the notice of the Army Minister who informed the Acting Prime Minister. It is understood that, in order to limit the number of persons aware of this highly confidential matter, it was decided to complete the action through Army channels, and the Acting Prime Minister agreed that it be repeated to the Army representative in London for communication to the Resident Minister.

2. In regard to the request of the Resident Minister for my views, the initial request in Washington was addressed to the wrong quarter, and I know that the Army felt embarrassed in handling it. The request should have been made to the Ambassador in Washington for communication to the ^{Acting} Prime Minister, who would have asked the ~~Resident Minister~~ ^{General} to obtain the King's approval.

3. In the case of Field Marshal Blamey's baton, I think, as stated in your signal, that this is a domestic concern of Army.

Attach
copy of
telegram
C.S. 1126 7
7/8 on
Blamey
file.

Jel.

Dear Syd

In my impression in
para. correct please? If not
would you amend it?

Dear Fred, This is correct. SSB
16/8

Jel. 16/8.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

49

Department of the Army,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

14th August 1950

Dear Mr. Tyrrell,

I am directed by the Minister for the Army to refer to your letter of 28th June, 1950, to the Prime Minister, regarding the promotion of General Sir Thomas Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal.

The Minister has discussed the question of the date of Sir Thomas Blamey's promotion with the Chief of the General Staff, who has expressed the view that the date of promotion might remain at 8th June, 1950. Lt.-General Rowell states that the significance of the date, in this regard, is that the promotion to the rank of Field Marshal was made on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, and was contained in the Birthday Honours List, and that the date on which His Majesty's approval was signified is not a material factor.

Unless there are strong views to the contrary, the Minister has directed me to state that he does not propose to take action in regard to the date of Sir Thomas Blamey's promotion to Field Marshal.

In connection with the letter addressed to His Excellency the Governor-General by His Majesty's Private Secretary, expressing the view that the King would wish to give Sir Thomas his baton in due course, the Minister has asked me to advise you, for the information of His Excellency, that at the present time Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey is a patient at the Repatriation Hospital at Heidelberg and it is not thought likely that it would be possible for him to visit England for some considerable time in view of his present state of health.

In the meantime action is being taken, in consultation with the authorities overseas, to have a baton made for presentation to Sir Thomas, His Majesty the King having approved of the baton to be of identical design to that of a British Field Marshal, with similar inscription except that "A.M.F." will be added after recipient's name and decorations.

The Australian Army Representative in London, with whom this Department has been in touch by signal, has advised to the above effect, and has also indicated that approval has been received for the baton, when manufactured, to be sent out to Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey; but evidently this latter portion of the Australian Army Representative's message was sent under a misapprehension in view of the terms of your letter to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) F.R. SINCLAIR

S e c r e t a r y

M. Tyrrell, Esq.,
Official Secretary to
His Excellency the Governor-General,
Government House,
CANBERRA A.C.T.

CONFIDENTIAL

SERIAL No SD 2495.....
48CIPHER MESSAGE

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or retransmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased. It is never to be downgraded below "Restricted".

(Messages marked OTP need not be paraphrased)

AHQ Press—5171—11/49—750 Pads of 100

FROM

AUSTARM LONDON

DATE—Time of Origin

041500A

FOR ACTION

TO

ARMY MELBOURNE

FOR INFORMATION

DUK 118. CONFIDENTIAL. O T P. PERSONAL FOR SIR FREDERICK SHEDDEN FROM HEWITT. RESIDENT MINISTER HAS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT RECENT APPROACH THROUGH AHQ MELBOURNE AND ARMY REPRESENTATIVES LONDON CONCERNING AWARD OF US LEGION OF MERIT TO PRIME MINISTER AND THE REQUEST RESIDENT MINISTER SEEKING HIS MAJESTY'S PERMISSION ACCEPTANCE OF THIS AWARD WAS WRONGLY CHANNELLED AND THAT IF A MILITARY CHANNEL WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THIS MATTER IT SHOULD BE THROUGH DEFENCE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEFENCE REPRESENTATIVE LONDON. RESIDENT MINISTER HAS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN YOUR VIEWS THIS MATTER. HE FEELS THAT ENQUIRIES THROUGH SAME ARMY CHANNEL REGARDING FIELD MARSHAL BLAMEY'S BATON IS A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR CASE ALTHOUGH IT COULD APPEAR THAT IT WAS A DOMESTIC CONCERN OF ARMY. HOWEVER HE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS THIS MATTER. YOUR VIEWS IN LETTER 5 MAR 48 TO MR BEASLEY TOGETHER WITH HIS REPLY REGARDING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WOULD APPEAR TO BE RELEVANT. RESIDENT MINISTER HAS SIGHTED THIS SIGNAL.

DISTRIBUTION

SEC DEFENCE (2)

9 AUG 50

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

MELBOURNE

Copy of INWARDS Teleprinter Message. 47

From: THE SECRETARY, PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT

To: THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Date 7/8/1950 *Time of Receipt* 1014 *Hours.* *No.* CS.1126

The following is a copy of a cablegram received at my office :

"3679. RESTRICTED.

Personal Fadden from Harrison.

Australian Army Representatives received cable from the Chief of the General Staff requesting action to manufacture a Baton for Sir Thomas Blamey. This required approval of His Majesty which I sought on June 27th and which has been accorded. However, His Majesty's Private Secretary has stated that on June 8th on His Majesty's instructions he wrote to the Governor-General to find out what recommendations he had concerning the presentation of the baton to the Field Marshal but has not received any reply. It may be that Army communication should have been channelled through the Governor-General and I think, in view of the terms of the letter from His Majesty's Private Secretary to me, it would be worth making enquiries in Australia, to see what happened to the original communication to the Governor-General."

Message ends.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

26

Minister for the Army.

21st July 1950.

My dear Minister,

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

On 13th June, 1950, I received a letter from Mr. Menzies referring to the announcement of General Blamey's promotion by His Majesty the King to the rank of Field Marshal in the Australian Army.

In his letter, Mr. Menzies asks that arrangements be made for the necessary further steps to be taken to give effect to the promotion of General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal in the Citizen Military Forces from 8th June, 1950, and to place him on the appropriate List with that rank.

I have conferred with the Chief of the General Staff on this matter, and he has advised me that the question of an appropriate List is one in which there is no local precedent. He states that, in the British Army, an officer, whether on the Active or Retired List, may be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal. If promoted when on the Active List, he draws the pay for his appointment and then goes on to half pay of £1,629. If promoted when on the Retired List, he ceases to draw Retired pay and goes on to half pay at the above rate. Such conditions, of course, apply to Regular officers of the British Army who, while serving on the Active List, draw pay of their rank continuously.

The Chief of the General Staff has pointed out that the Defence Act (Section 23) provides for a Half Pay List, but only for officers of the Permanent Military Forces, and that it would be inappropriate to carry Sir Thomas Blamey on the Active List of the Citizen Military Forces in view of his age and condition of health.

In my discussions with the Chief of the General Staff on this subject, it was suggested that a precedent had been established in the promotion by His Majesty the King of Field Marshal Smuts, and at my request the Chief of the General Staff communicated with the War Office in relation to the terms of that appointment. General Rowell has now informed me that his appointment was in the British Army extra to establishment, and that he drew no emoluments from British funds.

At the time of his promotion in 1941, Field Marshal Smuts was in the South African Active Citizen Forces, but as he is now over-age, he has no further liability in the South African Forces.

While this case is therefore not a precedent to guide us in the case of Sir Thomas Blamey, I agree with the views that have been expressed by the Chief of the General Staff

The Hon. P.A. McBride, MP,
Acting Minister for Defence,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE SC.1.

45
2.

that it would be appropriate to carry him on the Reserve of Officers General List and not allot him to any specific appointment, and subject to your approval I will take action to transfer him to the Reserve of Officers General List from the Active List.

As Field Marshal Blamey holds his rank in the Australian Army, he is not entitled to draw any emoluments from British funds, and as the Half Pay List under Section 23 of the Defence Act relates only to officers of the Permanent Military Forces who, in normal circumstances, while in an active appointment draw their pay continuously from Army Votes, Field Marshal Blamey will have no entitlement to any payment from Army Votes.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) JOS. FRANCIS

Seen.

(Intd.) P.A.McB.

25/7/1950

The Secretary,
Department of Defence

Referred by direction.

(SGD.) W.R. FISHER

Private Secretary

25/7/1950

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

1793

12th July 1950

MEMORANDUM for :

The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

With reference to your memorandum of 4th July, relative to the above subject, the correspondence from the Official Secretary to the Governor-General has been forwarded to the Department of the Army for consideration, and early advice to you direct, in view of the Prime Minister's letter of 13th June to the Minister for the Army.

2. A copy of the latter is enclosed for your information, in case a copy was not passed to you by the Personal Assistant at the time of its despatch.

(SGD.) F.G. SHEDDEN

S e c r e t a r y

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

43

Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE. SC.1.

12th July 1950

1792

Dear Mr. Sinclair,

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

With reference to the Prime Minister's letter of 13th June to the Minister for the Army, relative to the above subject, the attached letter to the Prime Minister from the Official Secretary to the Governor-General is forwarded for consideration by the Department of the Army, and early advice to the Secretary, Prime Minister's Department, direct.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) F.G. SHEDDEN

S e c r e t a r y

F.R. Sinclair, Esq.,
Secretary,
Department of the Army,
MELBOURNE SC.1.

C O P Y

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

42

Prime Minister,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

30th June 1950

Dear Mr. Tyrrell,

The Prime Minister has asked me to acknowledge your letter of the 28th June, relating to the recent promotion of General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal.

Mr. Menzies will advise the Governor-General in this matter at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) J. R. WILLOUGHBY

Personal Assistant

Mr. M. Tyrrell,
Official Secretary to
His Excellency the Governor-General,
Government House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

The Secretary,
Department of Defence

Referred for favour of early advice.

(SGD.) F.J. McKENNA

for A.S. Brown
Secretary

4/7/1950

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

11

Governor-General,
Government House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

28th June 1950

Dear Mr. Menzies,

Permit me to refer to my confidential letter of the 29th May regarding the promotion of General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal. In that letter I stated it was assumed the promotion would date as from the date of the telegram from the Private Secretary to The King conveying His Majesty's approval, i.e. the 25th May. Attention has now been drawn to fact that General Blamey was not transferred from the Reserve of Officers until the 7th June, 1950, consequently his promotion to the rank of Field Marshal was not effective until the 8th June, under which date the promotion was gazetted in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. 35.

I now quote from a letter addressed to the Governor-General on the 8th June by His Majesty's Private Secretary :

"The King will certainly wish to give Sir Thomas his baton in due course; perhaps you would kindly let me know if there is any likelihood of the latter being in this country at any time in the future.

Meanwhile, I assume that the Australian Government will take steps to have the baton made. If there is any difficulty about this, I am sure that the Military Secretary at the War Office will be glad to give your Resident Minister any advice on the subject that he may require."

Would you be good enough to advise the Governor-General in order that he might answer the Private Secretary's queries.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) M.L.TYRRELL.

The Rt. Honourable R.G. Menzies, KC. MP.,
Prime Minister

40

PAY FOR RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

I informed the Acting Minister on 22nd June that the Secretary, Department of the Army, had been informed by the Minister for the Army that the latter was of the opinion that Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey should receive half pay at the rate of £1,800 as in the case of Field Marshals in the British Army.

2. I reminded the Minister of paragraph 4 of my minute of 9th March as to whether this rank for Field Marshal Blamey involved any payment, and the verbal reply that the Prime Minister had said the rank was "purely honorific".

3. On 26th June, the Acting Minister stated on the telephone that he had spoken to the Prime Minister who had replied that no payment had been intended, and the Acting Minister would verbally advise the Minister for the Army accordingly.

F.G.S. (initialed)
S e c r e t a r y.

26/6/1950.

39

FIELD MARSHAL

A. EXTRACTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM DOCUMENTS

1. PROMOTION TO RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL (UNITED KINGDOM
ROYAL WARRANT ON PAY ETC. 1940 (REPRINT 1945))

124. An officer, whether on the active or retired list may be promoted to the rank of field-marshal at Our Pleasure without reference to seniority. The number of field marshals on pay as such shall not exceed eight, including two promoted from general officers of Our Indian Army.

2. HALF PAY OF FIELD MARSHALS

(a) ROYAL WARRANT ON RETIRED PAY ETC. (ARMY ORDER
NO. 18 - 14TH FEBRUARY 1949)

A field-marshal will be eligible during periods subsequent to 18th December 1945, for which he does not receive full pay, for half-pay at the rate of £1,800 a year.

(b) UNITED KINGDOM ARMY ESTIMATES 1950/51 -
EXPLANATORY NOTES

Half Pay: Field Marshals, when unemployed are placed on the half pay list. Other officers may, in certain circumstances, be placed on the half pay list on account of medical unfitness.

(c) UNITED KINGDOM WHITE PAPER COMMAND 6750 - MARCH 1946
POST WAR CODE OF PAY ETC.

Half Pay: Admiral of the Fleet, Field Marshal, or Marshal of the Royal Air Force £1,800 a year.

B. - EXTRACTS FROM AUSTRALIAN ACTS AND REGULATIONS

3. KING'S REGULATIONS AND PAY WARRANT NOT TO APPLY TO
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

reads : Australian Military Regulations and Orders 13 (R.9)(3)

"(3) Except to the extent to which they are expressly applied by regulations made under the D.A., no provision of the King's Regulations or of the Pay Warrant, now or hereafter in force, shall apply to the Military Forces, whether on war service or not."

2.

4. POWER TO MAKE REGULATIONS UNDER DEFENCE ACT

Section 124(1.)(d) of the Defence Act reads :

"(1) The Governor-General may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters which by this Act are required or permitted to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for securing the discipline and good government of the Defence Force, or for carrying out or giving effect to this Act, and in particular prescribing matters providing for and in relation to -

.

(d) The fixing of the rates of pay of members of the Defence Force who are paid for their services;

. "

C. REFERENCE TO AUTHORITIES FOR THE PAY OF MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

5. RATES OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT MILITARY FORCES

The rates of pay of members of the Permanent Military Forces are prescribed in the Financial (Military) Regulations (Statutory Rules No. 110 of 1947 as amended).

Pending incorporation of variations, in the above Regulations, they are authorised by Military Board Instruction No. 64 of 8th April, 1949, and subsequent amending Instructions. The highest rank provided for is Lieutenant-General who receives 131/- per day.

6. RATES OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES

Pending incorporation in Regulations, the rates of pay of members of the Citizen Military Forces are prescribed in Financial Instructions relating to the Citizen Military Forces issued by the Military Board and dated 1st May 1948.

The highest rank provided for is Major-General commanding a Division or equivalent formation who received £400 per annum.

It is provided by paragraph 76(2.) of these instructions that :

"Pay will be issued subject to -

(a) For a Major-General commanding a Division or equivalent formation, the issue of a certificate by the General Officer Commanding that the duties of the appointment have been efficiently performed for the period claimed for."

Ar

16th June 1950

REMINDER FOR NEXT DEFENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

To speak to Chief of the General Staff regarding his statement that there was no need to return General Blamey to the Active List before promoting him to Field Marshal.

(Note: Mr. Quealy states he heard this view expressed also in Army, but cannot substantiate it. It is apparently based on British usage, but Australian law is quite specific that an officer on the retired list cannot be promoted. General Blamey was to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal in the Australian Army, and not the British Army.)

82.

Chf. said that his view was based on the Pay Statute which I pointed out did not apply to the Am. 7.

Chf.

36

EXTRACT FROM COMMONWEALTH GAZETTE NO. 35

CANBERRA, THURSDAY, 22ND JUNE 1950

Government House,
Canberra.

8th June 1950.

The King has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the Celebration of His Majesty's Birthday, to approve of the following promotion :-

To be Field Marshal in the Australian Military Forces
with effect from 8th June 1950

General Sir Thomas Albert Blamey,
G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., E.D.

EXTRACT FROM COMMONWEALTH GAZETTE NO. 35CANBERRA, THURSDAY, 22ND JUNE 1950AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has approved of the following changes being made in connexion with the Australian Military Forces :-

Reserve Citizen Military ForcesGeneral List

The approval in the Executive Council Minute No. 6 of 24th January 1950, to place upon the Retired List General Sir Thomas A. Blamey, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., E.D., is cancelled and the notification promulgated in Commonwealth Gazette, No. 7, of 2nd February 1950, is withdrawn.

Active Citizen Military ForcesGeneral List

General Sir Thomas A. Blamey, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., E.D., is transferred from the Reserve of Officers (General List). - (Ex. Min. No. 117 - Approved 7th June 1950).

Jos. Francis,

Minister for the Army.

Sunday "Sun".

34

18. 6. 50

BIG PENSION FOR BLAMEY

CANBERRA, Saturday.

THE Federal Government may grant a life pension of £1200 a year to Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey.

A British Field Marshal is entitled to £1800 yearly, but Sir Thomas is the first Australian to hold this rank.

Army Minister Francis and departmental heads are preparing a recommendation for Cabinet.

PRIME MINISTER.

13/6/1950

My dear Minister,

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

I refer to the announcement in the Birthday Honours List on 8th June 1950 of the approval of His Majesty the King to the promotion of General Sir Thomas A. Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal in the Australian Army.

2. In connection with this promotion, the Executive Council on 7th June :-

- (1) Cancelled its approval of 24th January 1950, notified in Commonwealth Gazette of 2nd February 1950 to place General Blamey on the Retired List.
- (11) Transferred General Blamey from the Reserve of Officers (General List) to the Active Citizen Military Forces (General List).

-- Copy of the Order-in-Council is attached.

3. I shall be glad if you will now arrange for the necessary further steps to be taken to give effect to the promotion of General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal in the Active Citizen Military Forces from 8th June 1950, and to place him on the appropriate list with this rank.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) R. G. M.

The Hon. Jos. Francis, M.P.,
Minister for the Army.

10 JUN 1950

ARGUS

32

CLIVE TURNBULL DISCUSSES

Some new knights and a new field-marshal

THIS year's birthday knights seem to be an unexceptionable crop, which ought to please all who believe that Governments should recommend to the King for honours only such people as His Majesty might take pleasure in honouring.

We cannot delude ourselves that some of the recommendations of the past have been received with jubilation in the market-place or with other than an astonished putting down of morning papers in the club armchairs.

The honour of knighthood has gone far too cheaply in Australia in the past. Certainly things have never been as bad as they were in England when titles were openly sold for contributions to party funds (the practice was stopped by special legislation).

But there have been recommendations not approved by the public—one of the reasons, perhaps, why some of Australia's leading citizens steered clear of the dignity when they could have had it.

This year's list, so far as it goes, is a model one. If all recipients were so obviously worthy there could be no criticism.

Blamey's clock-work brain

ALL the principals in the honours list with the exception of three I have known for a long time. They form as interesting a cross-section of the community as you could find.

Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey, of course, is so celebrated a figure that there is hardly anything new that can be said about him.

Sir Thomas has a reputation of being a pretty tough man, as no doubt a field-marshal ought to be. The most impressive things about him to a civilian, I think, are his brilliantly logical mind and his complete self-possession.

Early in the war when General Blamey was appointed to the command of the 6th Division, I went to see him in one of the old houses on St. Kilda rd. to ask him for a description of the constitution and functions of a division.

General Blamey promptly dictated about 1,500 words of comprehensive and impeccable prose which I was able to render without the change of so much as a word.

Only a newspaper man can say how rare a quality this is. The Australians I have met who could make a sustained effort

of which I have long since forgotten, in the old University building in Hobart 25 years or more ago, and finding him as kindly and helpful as I have found him on innumerable occasions since.

He did two admirable jobs of public service as Prices Commissioner and as Minister for China, as even those who don't share his economic viewpoint will readily grant.

No doubt he will do an equally good job for the National University.

A man of munitions

J. K. JENSEN, former secretary of the Ministry of Munitions, is another man who has reached the top of the tree in his own line.

I don't suppose there is in Australia a more perfect civil servant—using the term in its most flattering and rightly honourable sense—than the now Sir John Jensen, who can recite to you the detailed history of munitions in this country with as much ease as he could recite parts of the Bible which he has read from cover to cover again and again.

His job during the war, when his department was invaded by industrialists, many of strong personality and accustomed to dictatorial rights in their own concerns, was one which called for all those virtues of knowledge, tact, and sympathy which a great public servant should

possess, and J. K. Jensen had all of them.

It is on such men that the proper working of our national machinery depends.

The perfect diplomat

KEITH OFFICER is the Australian diplomat who looks like a diplomat. Precise, knowledgeable, unbending, he embodies the Downing Street tradition in the Australian service—with a little Official dignity added.

If all the copies of Satow's "Diplomatic Practice" in the world were lost, one would have only to examine Sir Keith Officer to know what the perfect career diplomat should be like.

After meeting him off and on over a period of years, from Canberra to Tokyo, Sir Keith Officer still frightens me slightly because of his impeccability.

It is unthinkable to me that there is anything which diplomacy requires him to know which he does not know. Or that he is ever wrong.

The antithesis of the back-slapping type, he is as unlike the popular concept of an Australian as Dean Acheson is unlike the popular concept of an American.

Up-and-coming business

JOHN STOREY, former associate of Sir Harold Clapp in the days of the Commonwealth's wartime aircraft production, belongs to the up-and-coming generation of in-

dustrialists and production engineers.

Curiously enough there are few obvious successors to the elder statesmen of industry.

One of the shortages in "the city," for instance, is in eligible company directors—not mere guinea-pig jobholders, who need to be reminded what meeting they are attending, but real shapers of Australia's industrial future.

John Storey is one of the few younger men whose name at once comes to mind when you are casting around for men who seem to have something of the calibre of the veterans.

The informed patron

RUSSELL GRIMWADE, engineer and industrialist, is one of the few people who in their own cases justify inherited wealth.

His interests in science, in the University, in the arts, and in innumerable other things give him a peculiar place in our society—that of the informed patron who is also an active participant.

As well as being an authority on industrial chemistry, eucalypts, and a lot of other things—he once, at my request at a social gathering gave me a complete summary of the history of plywood in Australia—he is a writer, the author of an excellent book on Alfred Felton, of Felton Bequest fame, and co-founder of the fortunes of the family firm of Felton, Grimwade.

I am sorry that this survey leaves three other knights with whom I have no personal acquaintance. But after all, one can't know everyone.

community as you could find.

Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey, of course, is so celebrated a figure that there is hardly anything new that can be said about him.

Sir Thomas has a reputation of being a pretty tough man, as no doubt a field-marshal ought to be. The most impressive things about him to a civilian, I think, are his brilliantly logical mind and his complete self-possession.

Early in the war when General Blamey was appointed to the command of the 6th Division, I went to see him in one of the old houses on St. Kilda rd. to ask him for a description of the constitution and functions of a division.

General Blamey promptly dictated about 1,500 words of comprehensive and impeccable prose which I was able to render without the change of so much as a word.

Only a newspaper man can say how rare a quality this is. The Australians I have met who could make a sustained extemporary statement on a complex subject with no loose ends, no superfluous words, and a complete mastery of the subject-matter, have been exceedingly few. They include a few churchmen with especial training, and Mr. R. G. Menzies.

General Blamey has a mind which works like clockwork. It is not surprising that he was the perfect Chief of Staff in the First World War or that he has become Australia's first field-marshal after the second.

Three kinds of soldier

THE three soldiers honoured with knighthood, Lieut.-General Northcott, Lieut.-General Savage, and Lieut.-General Robertson have all markedly different personalities.

General Northcott, one of the most kindly of men, has that gentleness of manner so often found in the successful professional soldier. General Robertson, as befits a lean redhead, is an outwardly more alarming personality.

I have pleasant memories of a long conversation with him in the charming old station homestead which serves as a mess at Duntroon, when he was Director of Military Art at our Royal Military College.

Lieut.-General Savage is the perfect Australian citizen soldier, a man profoundly influenced by his old leader, the late Major-General Sir John Gellibrand, who was one of those men of such rare goodness and integrity that they seem to stand apart from the rest of mankind.

The Gellibrand-Savage tradition is perhaps one of the most remarkable stories of the A.I.F.

The Copland achievement

PROFESSOR COPLAND is the man who created the academic tradition of economics in Australia—with the help of the University of Tasmania, which has housed many economists afterwards eminent. I remember going to see him some matter the nature

industrialists, many of strong personality and accustomed to dictatorial rights in their own concerns, was one which called for all those virtues of knowledge, tact, and sympathy which a great public servant should

JOHN STOREY, former associate of Sir Harold Clapp in the days of the Commonwealth's wartime aircraft production, belongs to the up-and-coming generation of in-

founder of the fortunes of the family firm of Felton, Grimwade.

I am sorry that this survey leaves three other knights with whom I have no personal acquaintance. But after all, one can't know everyone.

9 JUN 1950

MELBOURNE HERALD

Blamey Tribute By Birdwood

Herald Special Service

LONDON, Thursday. — Congratulations for the newest Field Marshal, Sir Thomas Blamey, came today from the oldest Field Marshal, Lord Birdwood, who commanded the Anzacs in the First World War.

Lord Birdwood said: "When I took command of the Anzac forces at the end of 1914, I met Col. Blamey, as he then was—one of the many very capable Australian officers selected by that great soldier, Sir William Bridges.

"I am sure the new Field Marshal will feel, as I do, the greatest regret that General Bridges was killed at Gallipoli and deprived of the opportunity of rising to the rank of field-marshal, for which he was so eminently fitted.

"I trust we may see Field-Marshal Blamey in England before long."

Handled.
THE AGE
9 6 50

30

WHEN deferred justice is to be discharged a good deal of supplementary work must often be done.

In the ordinary course of events Sir Thomas Blamey, as Supreme Commander of the Australian forces in the war, would have received some such recognition as that conferred in the Birthday honors list this week as soon as the war ended.

The recognition of his services

was withheld because it had by that time become the policy of the Chifley Government to allow Dr. Evatt, alone among the citizens of Australia, to accept honors.

When the Menzies Government decided to recommend the promotion of Sir Thomas to the rank of Field Marshal, the difficulty

was encountered that he had been removed from the active list of the Australian Army—and the King cannot bestow field marshal's batons on persons who are not active service list soldiers.

So it became necessary to recall Sir Thomas Blamey from retirement and reappoint him to the active list.

CAPITAL TALK from E. H. COX

Disciplinary consti-

Sydney Morning Herald
8.6.50

The Commonwealth Honours List

The King's Birthday Honours made some exceptions. He List published to-day has a recommended knighthoods for quite unusual interest for Australians. A notable feature is the promotion of General Sir Thomas Blamey to the rank of Field-Marshal of the British Army, an unprecedented tribute to the status of military leadership in this country. In addition the list includes, for the first time in eight years, a number of knighthoods that have been conferred on the recommendation of the Federal Government. This resumption of a traditional method of recognising services to the nation will be widely welcomed. That it has been abused on occasions, none would deny. But the Chifley Government's narrow-minded rejection of the custom itself, while it may have accorded with Labour doctrine, certainly ran counter to the generous instincts of the average Australian.

Labour Governments have recommended honours other than knighthoods for members of the Services, but they are opposed to any recognition of civilians. Mr. Curtin, however,

made some exceptions. He recommended knighthoods for Sir Frederick Shedden and for several Australian generals. Mr. Chifley, on the other hand, turned a consistently stony eye on "baubles" when he came to power. His Government did not class Privy Counsellorships, which carry the prefix "Right Honourable," surely a close relation of "Sir," among the despised Honours. It handed out seven of them to party stalwarts in about the same number of years.

The Australian awards in the latest Birthday List cover a wide range of public activity. Special gratification will be felt in New South Wales at the K.C.M.G. conferred upon Lieutenant-General John Northcott, the State Governor, who was Chief of the Australian General Staff from 1942 to 1945. There remain, however, other famous war leaders whom the churlish attitude of the Chifley regime deprived of due recognition. It may be hoped that this injustice will not be allowed to go unremedied much longer.

The Chief of the Australian General Staff, LIEUT.-GEN. S. F. ROWELL, sees the Birthday Honors appointment of Sir Thomas Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal as:—

8 JUN 1950

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MELBOURNE HERALD

"Tribute To Our Part In Two Wars"

ALL ranks of the Australian Military Forces will welcome this high honor for Sir Thomas Blamey," General Rowell said today.

Laboratory War Idea "Childish"

By JOHN HETHERINGTON

AUSTRALIA'S first Field Marshal, Sir Thomas Blamey, is not among the futurists who believe the next war—or any war, within measurable time—will be won by one side or the other pushing a button.

"While sea, earth and air continue, the Navy, Army and Air Force will continue," he said today at his South Yarra home, to which he has just returned from six weeks in Queensland.

"Atomic weapons will, of course, bring vast changes in the methods used by the fighting services, but not in their basic function and roles. The conceptions of a war fought from laboratories by scientists are childish."

Sir Thomas Blamey, the only Dominions soldier except South Africa's Jan Smuts ever raised to the rank of Field Marshal, has borne heavy responsibilities in two world wars, but his mind, at 66, remains sharp, active, alert.

Nor have the years done much to reduce his physical vigor. His shortish, thickset figure, familiar to Australians whom he led in the Western Desert, Greece and the islands, still moves with all its old muscular liveliness.

Many Calls

His telephone was ringing constantly while we talked, with calls of congratulation from friends. It began ringing early this morning, and Sir Thomas was so busy answering it that by 10 a.m. he had still not breakfasted.

"Naturally, I am deeply gratified by this honor," he said.

"This is the first appointment of its kind in the history of the Australian Army and it is a tribute to the part Australia's land forces have played in two world wars."

"It is fitting that the award should have been made to one who rendered distinguished service in the First World War, and who led the Australian Army throughout practically the whole of the Second World War."

Mrs DOWNING SAYS "HONOR MOTHERS"

MRS JOHN DOWNING who received the MBE, is past 80, and is Federal president of the Housewives' Association. She has her own ideas about the distribution of honors.

"Every woman likes to have recognition of her social work—but I think that the honors of the future should go to the mothers of large families who bring them up well," she said today.

"They haven't time for social work, but their service to the nation is just as worthy of recognition as that of the most active social worker."

Mrs Downing has three sons and three daughters.

Fought Malaria

THE knighthood awarded to Australian physician SIR NEIL HAMILTON FAIRLIE, KBE, was described by medical men today as one of the most deserved of all, because of his great contributions to research on tropical diseases.

"It was primarily due to his work that malaria casualties could be controlled in the Pacific war, and malaria mortality reduced to a negligible figure," the former Director-General of Army Medical Services, Major-General S. R. Burston, said today.

It was on Brigadier Fairlie's suggestion, he said, that a drug of the type of paludrine was first synthesised.

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Many Calls

His telephone was ringing constantly while we talked, with calls of congratulation from friends. It began ringing early this morning, and Sir Thomas was so busy answering it that by 10 a.m. he had still not breakfasted.

"Naturally, I am deeply gratified by this honor," he said, "but I am not vain enough to regard it as a personal tribute so much as a tribute to the Australian Army."

"We were in some hard spots together, but the army always did everything I asked of it — which at times was a very great deal, indeed. This honor is clearly an honor to the troops I was proud to command."

Sir Thomas omitted to mention one fact: He was the single British top-ranking soldier who began the Second World War as a commander-in-chief and ended it as a commander-in-chief. None of the others saw it through from start to finish.

Active List

Today, he was unwilling to talk about Australia's military policy. He could doubtless—as he has in the past—make many important observations; but since he is now restored to the active list he is no longer free to discuss such matters.

So we talked of the past. First, his greatest anxiety in his experience as a high commander.

"Getting the troops out of Greece," he said without hesitation. "First, when the German attack came in on the flank, creating a grave danger that a considerable part of our forces would be cut off."

"Second, when I met Wavell at Thermopylae, and he told me there could be no ships for a fortnight for the main evacuation. This meant we were left facing the whole German army, with little chance of getting the troops off at all."

Jungle Ordeal

Second, the toughest operation the Australians did in the Second World War.

"Undoubtedly the Kokoda trail," he said. "I would not say the fighting was the hardest, but it was still the toughest operation because we were unprepared for it."

"We had no food system to speak of, no relief system, the whole of the organisation was sketchy. It had to be done, and it was done, but it was a triumph of the human spirit over physical difficulties."

Third, was the fighting of the first or second wars harder on the soldier?

"Nothing was as hard as the jungle fighting of the last war in its earliest days," he said. "True, France in 1914-18 was hard, especially in winter, but there were reliefs in France every now and then."

Knighthoods For Three Mayors

AAP-Reuters

WELLINGTON, Thursday.—The only three knighthoods in the New Zealand honors list are conferred on the Mayors of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, all of whom have been created Knights Bachelor.

They are John Andrew Charles Allum, CBE, of Auckland; Ernest Herbert Andrews, CBE, of Christchurch; Will Appleton, of Wellington.

NEIL HAMILTON FAIRLIE, KBE, was described by medical men today as one of the most deserved of all, because of his great contributions to research on tropical diseases.

"It was primarily due to his work—that malaria casualties could be controlled in the Pacific war, and malaria mortality reduced to a negligible figure," the former Director-General of Army Medical Services, Major-General S. R. Burston, said today.

It was on Brigadier Fairlie's suggestion, he said, that a drug of the type of paludrine was first synthesised.

"This drug proved to be the most outstanding advance in the prevention and treatment of malaria that had been discovered to that date."

Sir Neil Fairlie is now living in London and is recognised as a world authority on tropical medicine.

Career Diplomat

SIR KEITH OFFICER, KBE, Australian Ambassador in Paris, is Australia's most experienced and most travelled career diplomat. His work has taken him to Nigeria, London, Moscow, Chungking, Bangkok, Batavia and The Hague.

In the First World War he served with the Light Horse, won the MC, and was awarded an OBE.

Noted Economist

WHEN SIR DOUGLAS COPLAND, KBE, then Professor of Economics, was appointed Australian Minister to China, he said that he was "going to the oldest and wisest country in the world to represent the youngest and crudest."

Australian associates praised him today as one who has contributed greatly in fashioning the Australia that now finds an honored place in world councils.

He was born and educated in New Zealand and came to Australia in 1917 as lecturer in history and economics at the University of Tasmania.

Apart from his university appointments and economic writings, he has been economic adviser to several Australian Governments, and was chairman of the committee which initiated the Premiers' Plan in 1931.

Early in the war he was appointed Commonwealth Prices Commissioner and established a system of controls that was regarded abroad as one of the outstanding features of Australia's war economy.

After his term in China he returned in 1948 to his academic work and is now Vice-Chancellor of the National University, Canberra.

8 JUN 1941

THE SUN

BLAMEY: Service chiefs and generals "delighted"

SERVICE heads and generals last night were "delighted" at Sir Thomas Blamey's promotion. This is what they said:—

Vice-Admiral Collins, First Naval Member, said last night that he was delighted to hear of the promotion.

The Chief of the Air Staff (Air Marshal George Jones) said he felt sure that the services would be delighted to hear of Sir Thomas Blamey's well-deserved promotion.

The Chief Justice (Lieut.-Gen. Sir Edmund Herring):—"No one could have wished to serve under a better man. Australia does not know yet just how much she owes to Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey."

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Stanley Savage:—"No man contributed more to Australia's defence during the war than Sir Thomas Blamey. His loyalty was unbounded, and he won the devotion, not only of his subordinate officers, but of his troops."

Maj.-Gen. A. H. Ramsay: "I'm glad that someone has seen fit to confer this honor on Sir Thomas Blamey. Everybody must be glad that his outstand-

ing services to Australia have been recognised."

Maj.-Gen. C. H. Simpson: "I feel very proud to have served under such a great man. This is a great honor, not only for

Sir Thomas Blamey, but for the Australian army. He was one of the outstanding generals of the war, and it is about time that his services were fully recognised."



Field - Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey, Australia's most distinguished soldier, will receive his own special marshal's baton, Bruce Kneale cables from London.

The War Office will forward the baton to him when notice of his appointment is gazetted.

A War Office spokesman said yesterday that field-marshals' batons were not passed on from one to another.

Each time a new appointment was made a new baton was issued as a part of the field-marshal's insignia, and he retained it until his death.

The last baton issued was to Field-Marshal Slim.

Whether Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey will receive any financial gain from his promotion is not yet clear.

In the British Army a field-marshal is placed upon a half-pay arrangement.

Honored



FIELD MARSHAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY.

KNIGHTHOODS TO 11 AUSTRALIANS King's Birthday Honors List

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At the same time the promotion of Australia's war-time leader, General Sir Thomas Blamey, to the rank of field marshal was announced. He is the first Australian to attain this rank.

The Commander of the British Occupation Forces in Japan, Lieutenant-General H. C. H. Robertson, becomes a knight on the recommendation of the United Kingdom Government.

Knighthoods

K.C.M.G. (CIVIL).
Lieut.-General John Northcott, Chief of the General Staff, A.M.F., 1942-45, now Governor of N.S.W.

K.B.E. (MILITARY).
Lieut.-General Stanley George Savage.
Lieut.-General Horace Clement Hugh Robertson.

K.B.E. (CIVIL).
Professor Douglas Berry Copland, Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University, Canberra, Prices Commissioner for Australia 1939-45.
Dr. Neil Hamilton Fairley, for services to tropical medicine.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR (CIVIL).

John Klunder Jensen: Services in munitions production in Australia.
Frank Keith Officer: Australian Ambassador in Paris.
John Stanley Storey: Australian engineering manufacturer, for public services.
Wilfred Russell Grimwade: For public and philanthropic services in Victoria.
Dr. Wilberforce Stephen Newton: For public services in Victoria.

C.B.E. (CIVIL).
Giles Tallock Chippindall.—Director-General of Postal Services and formerly Director-General of the Department of War Organisation of Industry.
Gilbert Dowling Henderson.—For services to the plastic surgery unit, Heidelberg Military Hospital.

William Hewson Anderson.—For public services in Victoria.

James Sykes Battye.—Principal librarian and secretary for the W.A. Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery since 1912.

Hugh McIntyre Birch.—Superintendent of Mental Institutions in S.A.

C.B.E. (MILITARY).
Major-General Robert Harold Nimmo, G.O.C., Northern Command.

Air-Commodore Frederick Rudolph Scherger. Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

Engineer Rear-Admiral John Webster Wishart. Third Naval Member of the Naval Board and Chief of Construction.

O.B.E. (MILITARY).
Lt.-Col. John Edward Barrett, in charge administration Western Command.

tary services to the community.

Mrs. Mary Tenison Woods.—For services in child welfare.
George William Cant, of Cortlyne, S.A.—Chairman of the board of management, District Hospital.

Henry Thomas Chapman.—South Melbourne city councillor and chairman of the Honorary Justices' Association of Victoria.

Richard Willmore Chenoweth.—Commissioner of Taxes in Victoria.

James Henry Davey.—For voluntary services to charitable movements at Ballarat.

Albert Edwin Hamilton.—For services to the Stock Owners' Association and the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society in S.A.

Martin Alfred Whitford.—Warden of Burnie municipal council, Tasmania.

M.B.E. (MILITARY).
Rev. Thomas David Beyer (R.A.A.F.).

Flight-Lieut. Charles William Butcher.

Lieut. (E.) William Arthur Cook.

Captain Henry George Frith (A.M.F.).

Captain (Temp. Major) Rodney Charles Gabriel.

Lieut. Douglas Albert Holmes (R.A.N.).

Mr. Alexander Edward Leo MacLeod, senior commissioned instructor, R.A.N.

Lieut. Alan King Martin (Citizen Air Force).

Major John Martin Mills.

Captain (Temp. Major) Clyde Hedley Powditch.

Flight-Lieut. Keith Manson Rundle.

Lieut.-Comander (S.) Charles Wilson.

M.B.E. (Civil)
Mrs. Frances Derham.—For social welfare services.

John Finlay, general manager of the Lithgow Small Arms factory.

Miss Ida Grace Francis.—For services to nursing.

Miss Gwendoline Hesketh.—For social welfare services.

Miss Hilda Blanche Jackson, clerical assistant on the staff of the official secretary of the Governor-General.

Miss Dorothy Mary Maye, a civilian nurse, for services rendered at Kavieng European Hospital, New Guinea.

George Paterson, honorary pensions officer, Australian Legion of ex-service clubs.

Miss Evelyn Tildesley.—For devoted service to soldiers' orphans and the Red Cross.

Frederick Westbrooke Bateson.—For voluntary services to returned soldiers and their organisation in W.A.

Miss Jessie Clifton.—President of the Returned Nurses' Memorial Fund, W.A.

Mrs. Cecilia Downing.—For social welfare services in Victoria.

Frederick Francis Dunn.—For voluntary services to ex-servicemen and their organisation in Victoria.

Mrs. Susie May MacGillcuddy.—Matron, Church of England Boys' Home, Walkerville, S.A.

Mrs. Iris Victoria Morrow.—President Y.W.C.A. in S.A.

IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER
Cyril Frank Knight.—Secretary of the Crown Law department of Victoria.

Heinrich Carl Meyer.—Chief engineer and general manager of the Harbors Board department, S.A.

(Other References, Page 2.)

Knights in Birthday Honor



TOP FROM LEFT.—Lieut-General Sir John Northcott; Lieut-General Savage; Lieut-General Sir H. C. H. Robertson. Centre (from left): Sir Berry Copland; Sir Neil Hamilton Fairley; Sir Wilfred Russell Lower: Sir Wilberforce Stephen Newton; Sir John Klunder Jensen Stanley Storey.



FROM LEFT: Mr. Chippindall, C.B.E.; Mr. Chenoweth, O.B.E.; Rabbi Danglow, O.B.E.; Mrs. Vasey, O.B.E.

Robert Ross McDonald.—Formerly Minister for Housing and Forests (W.A.).

Other Honors C.B. (MILITARY).

Air Vice-Marshal Francis Mason Bladin. Member for Personnel on the Air Board.

C.M.G.
Robert Hall Chapman.—S.A. Railway Commissioner.

Walter James Garnett.—Deputy High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Australia.

William Keverall McIntyre, of Launceston.—For voluntary services at Queen Victoria Hospital and Launceston General Hospital.

Daniel McVey.—Formerly director-general of postal services.

Lt.-Col. Thomas Alexander Coyne.

Squadron-Leader Cyril Arthur Greenwood, commanded R.A. A.F. in Berlin air lift.

Miss Margaret Irene Lang. Matron in Chief, R.A.A.F. Nursing Service from 1944-46.

Surgeon Commander (D.) John Ellis Richards, dental officer.

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Mrs. Florence Violet McKenzie.—For voluntary services to the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps.

Alfred Roy Nankervis.—Lately secretary to the Department of the Navy.

William Andrews Perrin.—A blinded ex-serviceman, for public services, especially to the Red Cross.

Miss Edna Mary Shaw.—Matron at Crown-street Women's Hospital, Sydney, for services to the Commonwealth.

Mrs. Jessie Mary Vasey.—For social welfare services, especially to war widows.

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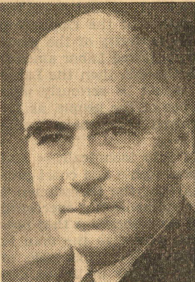
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24

PROMOTION OF GENERAL BLAMEY TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL

THE PRIME MINISTER

-- With reference to my minute of 30th May, attached is a draft letter to the Minister for the Army requesting him to arrange for the necessary further steps to be taken to give effect to the promotion of General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal as announced in the Birthday Honours List on 8th June 1950.

F. G. S

S e c r e t a r y

8/6/1950

PROMOTION OF GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY
TO FIELD MARSHAL

SECRET

THE PRIME MINISTER

The following is an extract from my minute of
10th March :

"The following is the legal point that will need to be clarified in making the promotion. General Blamey relinquished the appointment of Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, on 30th November 1945, and was placed on a Supernumerary List. He was removed from the Supernumerary List and transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 1st February 1946. He was placed on the Retired List with permission to retain his rank and wear uniform on 2nd February 1950. Under A.M.R. & O. 157, the Governor-General may, on the retirement of an officer, grant the military title equivalent to the rank held by him immediately prior to his retirement, but there is no authority to promote to higher rank an officer on the Retired List."

2. It was contemplated that, when the announcement of the promotion is made by the King, it would be a matter for the Department of the Army to take all necessary steps to give effect to it. For example, the Active Force comprises General and other lists of officers holding appointments, those on the Supernumerary List, and the Unattached List. As Field Marshal is a new rank for an Australian Officer, it is not clear as to which list it would be desirable to restore General Blamey for promotion.

3. As action to cancel the transfer of General Blamey to the Retired List is to be taken immediately in accordance with your letter to the Governor-General, a draft Order-in-Council is submitted herewith, but General Blamey's status prior to this, as indicated above, is an officer of the Reserve of Officers which, under Section 32A of the Defence Act, is not part of the Active Citizen Military Forces. The Order-in-Council therefore includes the further action to transfer him to the General List of the Active Citizen Military Forces, so as to conform fully to the conditions for promotion to Field Marshal.

4. It is suggested that the following course be followed:

- (1) As the Order-in-Council will have to be signed by the Minister for the Army and subsequent action arranged by him, you will doubtless wish to inform him of the proposal for his personal and confidential information, when he is asked to sign the Order.

SECRET

2.

- (ii) It is essential that the Order-in-Council be approved by the Executive Council prior to the announcement on 12th June. To avoid speculation as to the reason for this action and anticipation of the King's intention, however, it is suggested that Mr. Willoughby might arrange for its submission to a meeting of the Executive Council as late as possible prior to 12th June, and that its publication in the Commonwealth Gazette be delayed until after the announcement is made.
- (iii) As stated above, when the announcement of the King's approval to the promotion to Field Marshal is made, it will be a matter for the Department of the Army to take the further steps to give effect to it.

(Sgd.) F. G. SHEDDEN
Secretary

30/5/1950

THE ARMY***********AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES**

the following changes
be made in connexion with the Australian Military
Forces :

RESERVE CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES**GENERAL LIST**

The approval in the Executive Council
Minute No. 6 of 24th January 1950 to place
upon the Retired List General Sir Thomas A.
Blamey, GBE, KCB, CMG, DSO, ED., is cancelled
and the notification promulgated in Commonwealth
Gazette No. 7 of 2nd February 1950 is withdrawn.

Approved in Council

ACTIVE CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES**GENERAL LIST**

General Sir Thomas A. Blamey, GBE, KCB,
CMG, DSO, ED., is transferred from the Reserve
of Officers (General List).

7th June 1950

(Sgd) Jos. Frennis.

Minister for the Army.

Active Forces. D.A. 4. 32 A(2)

1. Gen + promotions. D.A. 8(c)

19

PRIME MINISTER,

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

23rd May 1950.

CONFIDENTIAL

MOST CONFIDENTIAL.

Your Excellency,

I have for acknowledgment your Official Secretary's letter of May 20th 1950, enclosing a copy of the communication from Buckingham Palace having reference to my letter to you recommending the promotion of General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal.

Careful consideration has been given to the contents of Sir Alan Lascelles' letter, and I have to say that, in view of the really outstanding services of General Blamey, the Australian Government desires that the promotion recommended should be made.

The promotion is, of course, a promotion in the Australian Army that could be made by Your Excellency, but in view of the high rank and the fact that His Majesty holds it, the approval of His Majesty would add to its confirmation.

To remove the obstacle mentioned in the second paragraph of Sir Alan Lascelles' letter, the Government proposes to cancel the transfer to the retired list of General Blamey. Steps to this end will be taken immediately, and I would be glad if you could inform His Majesty the King accordingly.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) R.G. Menzies

His Excellency the Rt. Hon. W.J. McKell,
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia,
Government House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Prime Minister,
23rd May 1950.

The Secretary,
DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

For preparation necessary Order in Council.

(Sgd.) J.R. Willoughby.
Personal Assistant to
the Prime Minister

----- 18

PROMOTION OF GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY TO FIELD MARSHAL

SECRET

THE PRIME MINISTER

(THROUGH THE ACTING MINISTER FOR DEFENCE)

Mr. Willoughby has informed me that objections have been raised to your recommendation for the promotion of General Sir Thomas Blamey to Field Marshal because it is not the custom to promote officers on the Retired List and to do so would create an undesirable precedent.

2. Unfortunately my papers in which I examined the provisions of the Defence Act and Australian Military Regulations in relation to this proposal are in my personal safe in Melbourne, but broadly the conclusions were :

- (i) It is a promotion in the Australian Army that could be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Government.
- (ii) In view of the high rank and the fact that the King holds it, the approval of His Majesty would add to its confirmation.
- (iii) There were difficulties under the Australian Military Regulations because of the fact that General Blamey had been placed on the Retired List, but ways could be devised for overcoming them.

3. Without knowledge of the precise language of the objections, I would suggest the following points in your reply :

- (i) It is proposed to cancel the transfer of General Blamey from the Retired List to the Active List in order to promote him to Field Marshal.
- (ii) As it is a promotion in the Australian Army, this fact enables a distinction to be drawn in regard to the creation of a precedent for the Forces of other parts of the Empire.
- (iii) If there are still objections to the King approving of it from the aspect of procedure or precedent, the Australian Government would not wish to embarrass His Majesty by pressing for his approval though it would greatly appreciate it. Alternatively, it could make the promotion in the usual manner through the Governor-General in Council.

4. In regard to points 2(iii) and 3(1), the retiring age for a General under Australian Military Regulation 124 is 62 years, but General Blamey, who was 66 years on 24th January last, was only recently transferred to the Retired List. Apparently he remained on the Active List beyond 62 under the provisions of Australian Military Regulation 124(2) which reads :

"In time (2) An officer, who, during time of war, or of war. three months immediately after the time of war has ceased, reaches the age for his retirement shown in sub-regulation (1) of this regulation, shall be retired on the expiration of those three months: Provided that any officer may sooner be retired at any time after he has reached that age."

This would presumably permit an officer to be kept on the Active List until three months after "the time of war" has ceased. It would appear to be quite competent for an Order in Council to be passed cancelling the transfer of General Blamey to the Retired List.

5. Alternatively, Australian Military Regulation 124(4) reads as follows :

"(4) This regulation shall not apply to an officer of the Engineer and Railway Staff Corps, or to a chaplain-general, the Senior Jewish Chaplain, or a senior chaplain in a Military District."

It would be possible to pass a new regulation ante-dated prior to General Blamey's retirement reading :

(5) This regulation shall not apply to General Sir Thomas Blamey, formerly General Officer Commanding the Second Australian Imperial Force and Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces.

6. Action in paragraph 4 would be preferable, but in view of the confidential nature of the proposal, it is not possible at this stage to consult the Army Authorities.

(Sgd.) F. G. SHEDDEN

Secretary

23 /5/1950

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

CONFIDENTIAL.

10th May, 1950.

My Dear Governor-General,

I laid before The King your letter of March 22nd, covering the Prime Minister's letter to you of March 15th.

His Majesty has given careful consideration to this matter. He would, I need not say, be very glad that General Blamey's long and distinguished service should be recognized; I am, however, to point out that no officer on the retired list has ever yet been promoted to the rank of Field Marshal and if such promotion were to become the accepted practice it might lead to difficulty in the future both in the Australian Army and in His Majesty's Forces elsewhere.

If Mr. Menzies agrees that this might be a not altogether desirable innovation, would he consider recommending the award of the G.C.B. (Military) to General Blamey? The necessary formal submission for such an award could be made here, in the usual way, and the King, I know, would be ready to approve it.

Such an award could, of course, be published in the Birthday Honours list. Incidentally, promotions (as distinct from awards) are not usually included in the Honours List, though, if General Blamey were to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal, this could I suppose be announced in the separate supplement to the London Gazette which will contain the Honours conferred by The King on the advice of his Australian Ministers.

As time is getting short perhaps you could kindly telegraph your reply to me in the Household Cypher?

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. LASCELLES.

His Excellency
The Governor-General of Australia.

MOST CONFIDENTIAL.

15th March, 1950.

Your Excellency,

The Australian Government desires to promote General Sir Thomas Albert Blamey, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., E.D., to the rank of Field Marshal in the Australian Military Forces.

General Blamey was a distinguished Staff Officer in the First World War and was one of the great figures of the Australian Imperial Force in its campaigns in that war.

When in 1939, the Second A.I.F. was established, he was appointed to the command of the first division raised - the Sixth Division - and he had what was possibly the unique distinction, in consequence, of being the principal Commanding Officer from the beginning to the end of the War.

During World War II he rendered distinguished service in the Middle East as General Officer Commanding Australian Imperial Forces, and Deputy Commander-in-Chief British Forces, and subsequently, in the Southwest Pacific Area, as Commander-in-Chief Australian Military Forces, and Commander Allied Land Forces.

I shall be glad if you could inform His Majesty the King of the wishes of the Government, and, in view of the high rank and its conferment for special services, submit the recommendation for His gracious approval and inclusion in the Birthday Honours List.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(R.G. MENZIES)

His Excellency,
The Right Honourable W.J. McKell,
Governor-General,
Government House,
CANBERRA.

Mr. Wallingford Sand
3.13 was Mr. Tyrrell (!)
O.S. & Mr. Sen. would have
be disappointed in doing this.

*Secretary
Defence Dept.
Melbourne*

Referred!
3/13/50
15/3

12

DRAFT LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER
TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The Australian Government desires to promote General Sir Thomas Albert Blamey, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., E.D., to the rank of Field Marshal in the Australian Military Forces, in recognition of his distinguished war service in the Middle East, as General Officer Commanding, Australian Imperial Force, and Deputy Commander-in-Chief, British Forces, and subsequently in the Southwest Pacific Area as Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, and Commander, Allied Land Forces.

2. I shall be glad if you could inform His Majesty the King of the wishes of the Government, and, in view of the high rank and its conferment for special services, submit the recommendation for his gracious approval and inclusion in the Birthday Honours List.

*Given to Mr. Willoughby
on the telephone.
2.45 pm. 14/3/50
N*

HONOURS - GENERAL BLAMEY'S LIST OF
RECOMMENDATIONS

SECRET

During a discussion of the Birthday Honours List with the Minister, he said that the Prime Minister and General Blamey had had a talk about the latter's list of recommendations for Knighthoods which had not been approved by the Labour Government.

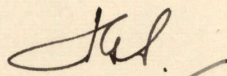
The Minister said that the Prime Minister had been staggered by the size of General Blamey's list "and in language which General Blamey would understand had said 'pull your head in, mug'." The Minister said that the Prime Minister did not agree that all of General Blamey's recommendations should be approved.

The Minister stated that the Prime Minister and he were agreed that priority should be given to the "fighting commanders" in the periodical awards, and the Prime Minister proposed to recommend Lieut.-General Savige for the K.B.E. in the Birthday List. The Minister added that he had urged the Prime Minister to divert the civil Knighthoods to the "fighting commanders", but the Prime Minister had stated, after enquiry, that this could not be done.

The Minister said that both the Prime Minister and himself had been amazed with the lobbying that was occurring, the Prime Minister having stated that two likely recipients had been discarded by him for this reason.

-- Also see the attached minute on the reply to Senator Rankin, which, the Minister states, he submitted to the Prime Minister for his approval, and in which it is indicated that war-time arrears will be dealt with in the periodical Birthday and New Year Lists, according to their merits.

-- Also see the attached minute on the promotion of General Blamey to Field Marshal.



8/3/1950.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCERECOGNITION OF WARTIME SERVICE - PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONTHE MINISTER

The Prime Minister's Department has communicated to this Department for urgent advice the following question by Senator G.J. Rankin addressed to the Minister representing the Prime Minister :

- (1) Has the Government given consideration to the recommendations of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces that certain awards should be made to many officers and other ranks.
- (2) Has consideration been given to the acceptance of decorations which the United States of America wishes to confer on certain members of the Australian Armed Forces.
- (3) If the answers to (1) and (2) are in the negative, will the Government give early consideration to these matters so that these officers and other ranks may receive the rewards their conduct and gallantry entitled them to.

2. The Labour Party's policy relating to Honours for the Services was submitted to Cabinet by the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) in Cabinet Agendum No. 1002 of 17th November 1945. The decision of Cabinet was :

- (a) Only operational awards be recommended for bestowal.
- (b) The highest operational award will be C.B.

3. The final recommendations for British awards in the periodical operational lists were made to the King in the Army list for the period 1st April 1945 to 15th August 1945, and in the R.A.A.F. list for the period 1st July 1945 to 30th September 1945. Awards to R.A.N. personnel were completed in conjunction with Admiralty lists, in accordance with the Naval practice adopted during the war. Special lists of awards for ex-Australian prisoners of war were subsequently submitted to and approved by the King.

4. In the case of American awards, a note of 13th November, 1947, from the United States Embassy, Canberra, stated :

"Public Law 239, 80th Congress, approved on July 25, 1947, will terminate authority under the Act of December 17, 1942, for the award of all United States decorations to foreign individuals or units as of midnight January 24, 1948.

The General Headquarters of the Far East Command has indicated that the effect of this Act will be to automatically cancel all recommendations for awards which have not been granted by January 24, 1948.

The General Headquarters, Far East Command, has expressed the hope that, in view of the above provisions of the law in question, the Commonwealth Government may early approve acceptance of the awards or definitely indicate its non-concurrence, in order that the recommendations which have so long been pending may be definitely closed."

The final lists of proposals by the United States Government for the bestowal of United States awards on Australian Service personnel for war-time service were dealt with by the former Government and finalised at the end of 1947.

5. In the absence of information as to the Prime Minister's view on this matter of Policy on which, by custom, he exercises a personal prerogative, I would mention the following points :

- (i) There is a regular allotment for the Services in periodical award of Honours in the Birthday and New Year Lists.
- (ii) It was not the pre-war custom to confine the allotment of honours in the New Year and Birthday Lists to officers of the Permanent Forces, though it was necessary to establish this principle by Ministerial direction.
- (iii) It is therefore possible to include in these periodical awards non-Permanent Officers who have rendered distinguished war service. In doing so, the operational Commanders of course have the strongest claims to consideration.

6. As stated in paragraph 4, the American Act for awards to foreign individuals lapsed on 24th January, 1948, when all outstanding recommendations were automatically cancelled. Under the Labour Government's Policy, all awards for operational service were approved.

7. On the basis of the foregoing, the following is a draft reply to Senator Rankin :

Question (1) - Full consideration will be given to the recognition of war-time service in the recommendations for the periodical award of Honours in the Birthday and New Year Lists.

Question (2) - In November 1947, the United States authorities stated that legislative authority for the award of United States decorations under war-time arrangements would terminate on 24th January 1948, and decisions on the proposals in the final war-time lists were made by the previous Government at the end of 1947. It is understood that all awards for operational service were approved.

Question (3) - See replies to Questions (1) and (2).

(Intd.) F.G.S.

S e c r e t a r y

9/3/1950

Approved.

(Intd.) E.J.H.
9/3/1950

10

PROMOTION OF GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY
TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL.

SECRET

THE MINISTER:

--- I am forwarding herewith a copy of
the minute submitted to the Acting Minister before
the Cabinet meeting this morning, in response to
your request for advice on the procedure for the
promotion of General Sir Thomas Blamey to the rank
of Field Marshal.

SL

S e c r e t a r y.

10/3/1950.

PROMOTION OF GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY
TO THE RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL.

SECRET

THE ACTING MINISTER:

The Minister asked for advice on the procedure for the promotion of General Sir Thomas Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal.

2. Under Section 8(e) of the Defence Act, the Governor-General may promote officers of the Defence Forces, and A.M.R. & O. 87 provides that they shall be made or approved by the Governor-General. Subject to clarification of a legal point in General Blamey's case referred to later, the Australian Government could therefore make the promotion, but, in view of the high rank and its conferment for special services, the Prime Minister may wish to add to its significance by obtaining the prior approval of the King, and issue the notification in conjunction with the Birthday Honours List.

3. There are two Field Marshals in the Australian Military Forces, namely, the King, who accepted the rank in 1938, and Field Marshal Birdwood, the Commander of the A.I.F. during the First World War, who was appointed an honorary Field Marshal of the Australian Military Forces in 1925 following his appointment to the rank of Field Marshal in the British Army at that time. Following their service in the First World War, Lieutenant-Generals Monash and Chauvel were promoted to the rank of General.

4. The rank of Field Marshal has a special status in the United Kingdom, and an officer of such rank remains on the Active List until his decease. A Field Marshal of the British Army, when no longer employed in the Service, is placed on half pay. No similar provision exists under the Australian Regulations, which provide for superannuation for officers of the Permanent Forces only, on retirement. It would therefore appear that the grant of the rank of Field Marshal to General Blamey would not necessarily involve any financial commitment such as half pay.

5. The following is the legal point that will need to be clarified in making the promotion. General Blamey relinquished the appointment of Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, on 30th November, 1945, and was placed on a Supernumerary List. He was removed from the Supernumerary List and transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 1st February, 1946. He was placed on the Retired List with permission to retain his rank and wear uniform on 2nd February, 1950. Under A.M.R. & O. 157, the Governor-General may, on the retirement of an officer, grant the military title equivalent to the rank held by him immediately prior to his retirement, but there is no authority to promote to higher rank an officer on the Retired List.

6. In 1941, General Smuts, who was a General in the South African Defence Forces, was granted the rank of Field Marshal in the British Regular Army supernumerary to establishment. It was noted recently that the present South African Government retired him from the position of Commander-in-Chief of the South African Defence Forces, so that apparently he was still on the Active List.

7. In the case of General Blamey, it would appear necessary at the appropriate time to transfer him back from the Retired List to the Active List and then promote him to Field Marshal. He would then remain on the Active List in accordance with the United Kingdom practice referred to in paragraph 4.

8. It is therefore suggested that the King be informed that the Australian Government desires to promote General Blamey to the rank of Field Marshal in the Australian Military Forces in recognition of his distinguished war service. In view of the high rank and its conferment for special services, the promotion is submitted for the gracious approval of His Majesty and announcement in conjunction with the Birthday Honours List.

9. Owing to the confidential nature of this proposal, it has not been possible to discuss with the Army authorities the clarification of the legal point on the procedure to be followed in transferring General Blamey from the Retired List and promoting him, but this can be dealt with when the action is necessary. It is certainly no obstacle to doing what is proposed.

F. G. S.

Secretary.

9/3/1950.

Mr Welloughly telephoned me 13/3/50 to advise that original of above minute had been endorsed by PM: "Letter to G.G. to be prepared accordingly". Mr Welloughly asked for a draft letter.

14/3.

Letter to Governor-General to be prepared accordingly.

R.G.M. (initd)

SECRET

APPOINTMENT TO RANK OF FIELD MARSHAL.

Provision is made in Australian Military Regulations for a rank of Field Marshal (Regulation 84). Appointments to this rank would appear to be within the normal powers provided for in the Regulations (87) for promotions of officers to be made by the Governor-General.

2. There are two Field Marshals in the Australian Military Forces, namely, The King, who accepted the rank in 1938, and Field Marshal Birdwood, the Commander of the A.I.F. during the First World War, who was appointed an honorary Field Marshal of the Australian Military Forces in 1925 following his appointment to the rank of Field Marshal in the British Army at that time.

3. The rank of Field Marshal has a special status and an officer of such rank nominally remains on the Active List until his decease.

4. A Field Marshal of the British Army, when no longer employed in the Service, is placed on half pay. (Note: No similar provision exists under the Australian Regulations, which provide for superannuation for officers of the Permanent Forces only on retirement.) It would therefore appear that the grant of the rank of Field Marshal to General Blamey would not necessarily involve any financial commitment such as half pay. In this connection it is noted that Field Marshal Smuts is not shown in the British Army List as being in receipt of half pay.)

5. General Blamey relinquished the appointment of Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, on 30th November, 1945, and was placed on a Supernumerary List. He was removed from the Supernumerary List and transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 1st February, 1946. He was placed on the Retired List with permission to retain his rank and wear uniform on 2nd February, 1950.

6. There is no authority in Australian Army Regulations for the promotion to a higher rank of an officer who has been placed on the Retired List. He is allowed to retain the Military title he held on retirement and may be given permission to wear the uniform of that rank. This would also appear to preclude the possibility of promotion to an honorary rank whilst still on the Retired List.

7. In order to give effect to the proposal under examination, it would appear to be necessary to remove General Blamey from the Retired List and place him on the Active List. It would not appear feasible to transfer him to the Unattached List, which is an Active List and exists

for special temporary purposes. In addition, the Regulations provide that an officer who has been five years on the Unattached List shall, unless re-appointed to a regiment or corps, be transferred to the Reserve of Officers or retired.

8. The foregoing advice is provisional and discussion with and confirmation by the Army authorities would be desirable. It would appear, however, that it would first be necessary to transfer General Blamey from the Retired List to the Active List before he could be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal, but the Army administrative and legal aspects should be ascertained.

*Telephoned
from the Queen's
9/3/50*

*Note: - As the rank is a very great distinction
conferred for exceptional services, it may be
deemed to warrant the King's assent, although
executive authority appears to exist for the
assent to be made by the Govt.*

- 6 DEC 1945

5

DAILY TELEGRAPH

THURSDAY, DAILY TELEGRAPH DECEMBER 6, 1945

HONOR FOR BLAMEY SUPPORTERS

Promotion To Field-Marshal "Just Reward"

Conferring of the rank of Field-Marshal on General Sir Thomas Blamey would be a timely tribute to a great soldier, the Director-General of Demobilisation (Lieut.-General Savage) said yesterday.

General Savage said he would be surprised if the Federal Government did not seriously consider making such a recommendation to the British Government.

An Imperial appointment of this type would be a gesture of Australia's part in the war, and the service rendered by General Blamey, as Australian Commander-in-Chief, he added.

General Blamey retired from his command last week.

The Daily Telegraph, in an editorial yesterday, suggested that General Blamey should be raised to the rank of Field-Marshal.

General Savage said appointment of General Blamey as a field-marshal would not represent any technical difficulty, although it would be a precedent.

Automatic Head

In peacetime, retiring soldiers who had rendered exemplary service to the Empire were raised to the rank of field-marshal.

Such an appointment would make General Blamey automatic head of the Australian Armed Forces on the active list, but this position would probably be more nominal than real.

General Savage said General Blamey had proved himself an exceptional leader and tactician.

"He had one principle which he instilled into his troops—that a soldier's duty was to fulfil the requirements of his Government, no matter what brand of politics that Government might represent," General Savage said.

"In the critical days of the war no better principle could have been enunciated."

State president of the Returned Soldiers' League (Mr. J. C. Neagle) said last night that Australia should not be behind other nations in recognising her greatest war leader.

"Not only would it be conferring a personal honor on an outstanding soldier, but it would be a mark of gratitude to all the men in the Australian fighting services," Mr. Neagle said.

"Just as often one man receives a decoration for his whole unit in a battle campaign, General Blamey would be carrying the medal for the mob."

"Promotion of General Blamey to Field-Marshal would be approved by R.S.L. members."

Handwritten signature

4

EXTRACT FROM
COMMONWEALTH GAZETTE NO. 7
DATED 2ND FEBRUARY, 1950

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has approved of the following changes being made in connexion with the Australian Military Forces :

X RESERVE CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES

The following officers are placed upon the Retired List with permission to retain their ranks and wear the prescribed uniform :

GENERAL LIST

- 2nd Military District: Lieutenant-Generals H.G. Bennett, CB. CMG. DSO. VD., and Sir Leslie J. Morshead, KCB. KBE. CMG. DSO. ED., Major-General J.J. Murray, DSO. MC. VD., Colonels (Honorary Brigadiers) J.R. Broadbent, CBE., M.B.B. Keatinge, MC. VD., H.C. deLow, DSO. VD., F.P.H. Fewtrell, VD., C.E. Cameron, MC. ED., and V.T. England, DSO. ED., and Colonels E.O. Milne, DSO. OBE. VD., and N.B. Loveridge, OBE. ED.
- 3rd Military District: General Sir Thomas A. Blamey, GBE. KCB. CMG. DSO. ED., Major-Generals F.P. Derham, CB. DSO. VD., and C.S. Steele, DSO. MC. VD., Colonels (Honorary Brigadiers) D.A. Luxton, CMG. DSO. VD., W.H. St.Clair, DSO. VD., D.D. Paine, CBE. DSO. VD., R.W. Tovell, CBE. DSO. ED., J.A. Clarebrough, ED., R.H. Norman, DSO. MC. VD., E. Gorman, MC., C. Lawrence, MC. ED., and L.H. Lemaire, ED., and Colonel T.P. Cook, CBE. ED.
- 4th Military District: Colonels (Honorary Brigadiers) W.E.H. Pascoe, ED., and A.S. Blackburn, VC. CBE. ED.
- 7th Military District: Colonel (Honorary Brigadier) L.C. Lucas, DSO. MC. VD.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

Transportation

- 4th Military District: Colonel (Honorary Brigadier) N.M. Loutit, DSO. ED.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY CORPS

- 2nd Military District: Colonel (Honorary Brigadier) A.C.S. Holland, CBE. VD.
- 3rd Military District: Colonel (Honorary Brigadier) N.M. Freeman, DSO. ED.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPSMedical

2nd Military District: Colonels J.C. Storey, OBE. VD.,
K.S. Parker, MC. ED., and A.H. Tebbutt, DSO. VD.

3rd Military District: Colonels (Honorary Brigadiers)
H.C. Disher, CBE. ED., and N.H. Fairley, CBE., and
Colonels A.P. Derham, CBE. MC. ED., and W.J. Newing, ED.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

3rd Military District: Colonel E.T. Bazeley, MC.

ROYAL CORPS OF AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

3rd Military District: Colonel (Honorary Brigadier) W.D.
Chapman.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY LEGAL CORPS

2nd Military District: Colonel (Honorary Brigadier) A.S.
Lloyd, ED.

- Ex. Min. No. 6 - Approved 24th January 1950)

JOS. FRANCIS

Minister for the Army

EXTRACT FROM

COMMONWEALTH GAZETTE NO. 34

2

DATED 21ST FEBRUARY, 1946

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

His Royal Highness the Governor-General in Council has approved the following change being made in connexion with the Australian Military Forces :

GENERAL LIST

VX1 General Sir T.A. Blamey, GBE. KCB. CMG. DSO. ED., is removed from the Supernumerary List, 31st January 1946, and is transferred to the Reserve of Officers (General List), 1st February 1946.- (Ex. Min. No.48 - Approved 20th February 1946).

F.M. FORDE

Minister for the Army

EXTRACT FROM

COMMONWEALTH GAZETTE NO. 14

DATED 24TH JANUARY 1946

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

His Royal Highness the Governor-General in Council has approved of the following changes being made in connexion with the Australian Military Forces :

GENERAL LIST

VX1 General Sir T.A. Blamey, GBE. KCB. CMG. DSO. ED., General List, relinquishes the appointment of Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, 30th November, 1945, and is placed upon a Supernumerary List, 1st December 1945.

NX35000 Lieutenant-General V.A.H. Sturdee, CB. CBE. DSO., General List, relinquishes the appointment of General Officer Commanding, First Australian Army, 30th November, 1945, and is appointed Acting Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, 1st December 1945.

VX20321 Colonel (Temporary Major-General) H.C.H. Robertson, CBE. DSO., General List, relinquishes the appointment of Commander, 6th Australian Division, 30th November, 1945, and is appointed to administer Command, First Australian Army, and retains the rank of Temporary Major-General, 1st December 1945.-(Approved 11th January, 1946).

F.M. FORDE

Minister for the Army

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