

NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FUND.

The donations received by the National Patriotic Fund Board as at 27th May are as follows :

	£	s.	d.
Common Fund of the Board	121,851	10	7
Sick and Wounded Fund	103,472	15	2
A total of	£225,324	5	9

In addition to this, contributions amounting to £1,953 5s. have been made by various Provincial Patriotic Councils to the Board, and the sum of £1,382 1s. 5d. is held in trust for special relief organizations.

The payments to date are

Grants to approved funds and organizations for contributions of comforts to troops (other than sick and wounded) (details on attached statement)	£	s.	d.
Expenditure on comforts for troops in camps, on troopships, and to the personnel of His Majesty's Navy on escort vessels ..	39,740	10	6
Contingency Fund overseas, for comforts	5,407	15	10
Provision of military bands	6,735	0	0
Wool for distribution	1,114	13	7
Grants for the Red Cross overseas --	738	16	4
Belgian Red Cross	2,500	0	0
Norwegian Red Cross	500	0	0
Advance to the Order of St. John and New Zealand Red Cross Society	2,500	0	0
Direct expenditure by the Board for comforts for sick and wounded ..	696	16	11
	£59,933	13	2

The Board's expenses to date are --

	£	s.	d.
Salary and allowances	25	0	0
Office expenses (printing, stationery, postages, and office equipment) ..	387	9	1
Travelling-expenses	32	17	5
Freight and cartage on goods	105	17	2
Expenses in connection with the Stores Depot	73	11	4

Thus the total administration expenses to date are .. £621 15 0

The funds in hand are as follows--

	£	s.	d.
On fixed deposit	25,000	0	0
Cash in hand	13	11	4
Cash at bank	62,680	14	1
Cash in transit from Order of St. John and New Zealand Red Cross ..	80,000	0	0
	£167,694	5	5

In addition to the above-mentioned expenditure, it is estimated that the Board's liabilities for comforts provided but not paid for are approximately £1,500.

Negotiations are in hand at the present moment with the Treasury for the investment at short call of further funds of the Board. It will be appreciated that at this stage it would be unwise to invest the moneys for any lengthy period.

It is extremely hard to estimate the future expenditure of the National Board, so much depends on the length of the war, the number of troops sent overseas, and, in so far as the Sick and Wounded Fund is concerned, the number of casualties that will occur. I think it is safe to say that the present Common Fund of the Board will carry all expenditure for from twelve to eighteen months, and that the Sick and Wounded Fund will last for the same period. It must be borne in mind that in addition to the Board's main duties--*i.e.*, the provision of comforts for our fighting Forces, the care of the sick and wounded, and relief of distress, for which it is essential that a considerable reserve be held--the National Board has the duty of building up a reserve fund so that when our men return the Board's funds will be a reservoir from which provincial funds may be augmented.