

CHAPTER XIV.

DEFENCE.

§ 1. Military Defence.

1. State Systems.—A detailed historical account of the Australian defence forces prior to Federation will be found in Official Year Book No. 2, pp. 1075–1080. See also Official Year Book No. 12, p. 999.

The strength of the military forces of the States on the 31st December, 1900 (the eve of Federation) was :—New South Wales, 9,338 ; Victoria, 6,335 ; Queensland, 4,028 ; South Australia, 2,932 ; Western Australia, 2,696 ; Tasmania, 2,024 ; total for Australia, 27,353. This total was exclusive of cadets, reservists, and rifle club members.

2. Commonwealth System.—(i) *General.* Under the terms of the Constitution Act 1900, the Commonwealth took over control of defence matters in March, 1901. The growth of the Commonwealth Military Forces may be considered to have taken place in three phases, viz. :—

- (a) The first phase, *i.e.*, the welding together of the military forces of the States into one homogeneous army, was entrusted by the Government in 1902 to Major-General Sir Edward Hutton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., and a sound foundation was laid, upon which the subsequent organization and training were based.
- (b) The second phase was the introduction of Universal Training in 1911. During the year 1909 a measure providing for universal training was enacted, and the scheme came into force in 1911 after the advice and recommendations of the late Lord Kitchener had been obtained. By the Defence Acts of 1903 and 1904 all male inhabitants between the ages of 18 and 60 years were made liable to serve in Australia with the defence forces in *time of war*. The more recent Acts make training and service compulsory up to the age of 26 years in *time of peace*. By the Act of 1909 the principle of universal liability to training was made law for the first time in any English-speaking community. More detailed reference to these matters will be found in Official Year Book No. 12, p. 999 *et seq.*
- (c) The third phase, Divisional Organization, came into operation from the 1st May, 1921. Under this system a war organization, evolved from the Australian Imperial Force, is applied to peace conditions, with a minimum of permanent staff and forces. Numbers of units and formations have been altered to correspond with those of the A.I.F. and every effort is being made to maintain the traditions established by those units in the Great War.

(ii) *Military Population.* In connexion with the numbers available, the figures of male population are of interest. The total number at cadet age, *i.e.*, between 12 and 18, at the Census of 1921 (4th April) was about 300,000 ; at citizen soldier age, *i.e.*, between 18 and 26, 354,000 ; these latter, with 409,000 at ages between 26 and 35, give 763,000 as the total males at the best period for military service. It is estimated that 529,000 of those available between the ages of 18 and 35 were not married or widowers without children, and 233,000 were married or widowers with children. In addition, there were about 768,000 between the ages 35 and 60.

(iii) *Allotment of Units.* The organization is territorial, and the divisions based upon infantry units. There are 60 battalions, forming 15 brigades. The areas have approximately equal numbers of males of citizen soldier age, and each furnishes a battalion of infantry, and a proportion of other troops.

ALLOTMENT OF UNITS TO AREAS, 1st AUGUST, 1926.

State.	Brigade Areas.	Battalion Areas.											Training Areas.	
		Providing the undermentioned Units—												
		Number of Areas.	Infantry Battalions.	Light Horse Regiments.	Field Artillery Batteries.	Engineers.		Signallers.		A.A.M.C.				
Companies.	Troops.					Sections.	Troops.	A.A.S.C. Companies.	Field Amb.	Field Hygiene Sections.	A.A.V.C. Sections.			
N.S. Wales ..	5	20	21	7	17	7	3	18	4	10	8	3	4	36
Victoria ..	5	20	21	6	17	7	3	18	4	10	7	2	4	28
Queensland ..	2	8	8	4	7	2	1	9	1	3	3	1	1	10
S. Aust. ..	1	4	4	4	4	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	7
W. Aust. ..	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	4	..	1	1	1	..	6
Tasmania ..	1	3	3	1	2	1	..	3	..	1	1	1	..	4
Total ..	15	58	60	23	50	19	8	54	10	27	22	10	10	89

(iv) *Strength of Military Forces. (a) Districts.* There was little alteration in the numbers serving in the Australian military forces from the institution of the Commonwealth to the year of the introduction of the compulsory training system. From 1913 to 1918, however, the annual increase was considerable. As a result of the International Conference which met at Washington on the 11th November, 1921, it was decided by the Australian Government in 1922 that the universal training law is to be continued, but its operation is to be restricted to the more populous centres and to certain quotas only. From 1st July, 1922, to 30th June, 1925, training in the Senior Cadets was limited to two quotas instead of four, and in the Citizen Forces to two quotas instead of seven. Since 1st July, 1925, Senior Cadet training has been reduced to one quota only, while Citizen Force training has been increased to three quotas. Senior Cadet training now commences on 1st July of the year in which Senior Cadets reach the age of 17 years, and on 1st July of the following year they are allotted to the Citizen Forces, in which training continues until the 30th June of the year in which the trainee attains the age of 21 years. Notwithstanding these reductions in training, the liability to register at the age of 14 years and to serve for the full period prescribed by the Defence Act remains. Junior Cadet training of boys of the age of 12 and 13 years was in abeyance during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24, but has been resumed as an activity of the Defence Department as from 1st July, 1924. The existing Divisional Organization of the Field Force is being retained in skeleton form, units being maintained at considerably below war strength.

TRAINING STRENGTH OF MILITARY FORCES, 1901, 1913, AND 1921 TO 1926.

(a) District.	1901. (b) 1/3/01.	1913. 30/6/13.	1921. 31/12/21.	1922. 31/12/22.	1923. 31/12/23.	1925. 1/2/25.	1926. 1/8/26.
Hd.-Qrs.(c) ..	..	277	458	499	58	130	158
1st (Q'ld.) ..	4,310	4,625	14,752	4,319	4,212	4,263	4,908
2nd (N.S.W.) ..	9,772	12,105	46,924	14,561	15,211	15,420	17,249
3rd (Vict.) ..	7,011	10,840	41,484	11,117	11,825	11,847	14,347
4th (S. Aus.) ..	2,956	3,228	12,495	3,452	3,828	3,772	4,235
5th (W. Aus.) ..	2,283	1,685	6,540	2,018	2,170	2,265	2,399
6th (Tas.) ..	2,554	1,777	5,307	1,190	1,299	1,252	1,338
Total ..	28,886	34,537	127,960	37,156	38,603	38,889	44,634

(a) Approximately coterminous with boundaries of States. (b) Date of taking over the military forces from States by Commonwealth. (c) Including cadets at Royal Military College of Australia, and Staff Corps Officers abroad or training with other Commonwealth Departments.

(b) *Various Arms.* The numbers of the different arms of the service on the 1st August, 1926, were as follows:—

ARMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES, 1st AUGUST, 1926.(a)

Light Horse	3,910	Ordnance (including Armament Artificers)	262
Field Artillery	5,348	Survey Section (Engineers)	14
Garrison Artillery	2,182	R.A.E. (Works Section)	19
Field Engineers	2,392	Royal Military College (Cadets)	60
Signallers	1,738	Provost Staff	13
Fortress Engineers	402	Legal Department	35
Infantry	24,014	Intelligence Section G.S.	12
Army Service Corps	1,658	Engineer and Railway Staff Corps	56
Army Medical Corps	1,484		
Army Veterinary Corps	204		
Australian Instructional Corps	597		
Staff Corps	234	Grand Total	44,634

(a) Excluding civilian staff.

(c) *Classification of Land Forces.* The following table shows the strength of the land forces in each State, classified according to nature of service, on the 1st August, 1926:—

CLASSIFICATION OF LAND FORCES,(a) 1st AUGUST, 1926.

Branch of Service.	Army Head-quarters.	1st Military District. (Qld.)	2nd Military District. (N.S.W.)	3rd Military District. (Vic.)	4th Military District. (S. Aus.)	5th Military District. (W. Aus.)	6th Military District. (Tas.)	Total.
Permanently employed	(b)148	144	657	515	88	130	68	1,750
Citizen soldiers	10	4,764	16,592	13,832	4,147	2,269	1,270	42,884
Unattached list of officers .. .. .	..	55	150	139	52	7	25	428
Reserve of officers .. .. .	..	986	2,633	3,001	848	621	268	8,357
Chaplains	6	58	68	138	40	32	20	362
Total	164	6,007	20,100	17,625	5,175	3,059	1,651	53,781

(a) Excluding civilian staff. (b) Including cadets at Royal Military College of Australia and Staff Corps Officers stationed abroad and training with other Commonwealth Departments.

(d) *Numbers Serving under Compulsory Provisions. (1) General.* The following tables show the numbers registered and training under the compulsory system, distinguishing Citizen Forces and Senior Cadets.

(2) *Citizen Forces 1905, 1906, and 1907 Quotas.* Registrations under these quotas as at the 30th June, 1926, are given hereunder.

UNIVERSAL TRAINING.—CITIZEN FORCES REGISTRATIONS, QUOTAS IN TRAINING (1905, 1906 AND 1907 QUOTAS), AS AT 30th JUNE, 1926.

Military Formations and Districts.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	1905 Quota.	Total.
1st Division (2nd M.D.)	4,330	4,899	4,550	13,779
2nd Division (2nd M.D.)	7,753	7,607	7,412	22,772
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	5,624	5,555	5,603	16,782
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	3,465	3,672	3,751	10,888
4th Division (4th M.D.)	2,732	2,914	2,868	8,514
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	3,854	4,034	4,163	12,051
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	1,099	1,165	1,294	3,558
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	2,073	1,978	2,026	6,077
Total	30,930	31,824	31,667	94,421

(3) *Registrations, 1900 to 1904 Quotas.* Figures relating to these quotas have been included in the next table :—

CITIZEN FORCES.—REGISTRATIONS, QUOTAS NOT IN TRAINING (1900 TO 1904 QUOTAS), AS AT 30th JUNE, 1926.(a)

Military Districts.	Total Registrations in Training Areas.					Total.
	Quota, 1900.	Quota, 1901.	Quota, 1902.	Quota, 1903.	Quota, 1904.	
1st	4,865	4,453	4,260	3,673	4,154	21,405
2nd	10,058	9,970	10,451	10,968	12,052	53,499
3rd	7,325	7,390	7,248	8,359	9,340	39,662
4th	3,226	2,878	2,805	2,874	3,261	15,044
5th	1,178	1,244	1,347	1,989	2,095	7,853
6th	1,381	1,222	1,181	1,204	1,300	6,288
Total	28,033	27,157	27,292	29,067	32,202	143,751

(a) Latest particulars available, as no training is required of these quotas.

(4) *Exemptions and Missing Trainees.* Particulars for the 1905, 1906, and 1907 quotas are given hereunder :—

CITIZEN FORCES.—EXEMPTIONS AND MISSING TRAINEES, QUOTAS IN TRAINING (1905, 1906, AND 1907 QUOTAS), 30th JUNE, 1926.

Military Formations and Districts.	Exemptions.				Missing Trainees. 1907, 1906, and 1905 Quotas.
	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	1905 Quota.	Total.	
1st Division (2nd M.D.)	2,559	2,648	2,589	7,796	248
2nd Division (2nd M.D.)	4,752	4,575	4,643	13,970	598
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	2,840	2,642	2,867	8,349	799
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	2,058	2,178	2,337	6,573	347
4th Division (4th M.D.)	1,522	1,673	1,675	4,870	84
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	2,996	2,845	3,034	8,875	90
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	779	825	958	2,562	20
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	1,281	1,259	1,397	3,937	32
Total	18,787	18,645	19,500	56,932	2,218

(5) *Trainees Serving with Senior Cadets as Officers.* The number of Citizen Force trainees serving as officers of Senior Cadets is given in the next table :—

TRAINEES OF CITIZEN FORCE AGE SERVING AS OFFICERS OF SENIOR CADETS, 30th JUNE, 1926.

Military Formations and Districts.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	1905 Quota.	Total.
1st Division (2nd M.D.)	1	1	..	2
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) .. .. .	..	7	1	8
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	3	11	..	14
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	1	3	..	4
4th Division (4th M.D.)	1	2	1	4
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) .. .. .	..	8	1	9
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	2	1	..	3
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) .. .. .	..	3	..	3
Total	8	36	3	47

(6) *Senior Cadets—Registrations, etc.* Registrations and numbers in training from the 1908 to 1911 quotas at 30th June, 1926, are shown in the next table:—

**SENIOR CADETS.—REGISTRATIONS AND NUMBER ACTUALLY IN TRAINING,
30th JUNE, 1926 (1908 TO 1911 QUOTAS).**

Military Formations and Districts.	Total Registrations—Senior Cadets.					Number actually Training—Senior Cadets.
	1911 Quota.	1910 Quota.	1909 Quota.	1908 Quota.	Total.	1908 Quota.
1st Division (2nd M.D.) ..	3,123	3,287	3,229	3,910	13,549	2,361
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	5,674	5,944	5,703	7,302	24,623	3,835
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	4,051	4,466	4,568	5,578	18,663	3,379
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	2,461	2,652	2,342	3,116	10,571	1,553
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	2,179	2,255	2,092	2,893	9,419	1,552
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	2,576	3,100	2,960	3,974	12,610	1,490
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	834	962	589	1,050	3,435	375
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	1,519	1,746	1,612	1,900	6,777	972
5th District Base (5th M.D.)	36	39	29	45	149	..
Total	22,453	24,451	23,124	29,768	99,796	15,517

(7) *Senior Cadets—Exemptions and Missing Trainees.* Figures regarding these at 30th June, 1926, are shown below:—

SENIOR CADETS.—EXEMPTIONS AND MISSING TRAINEES, 30th JUNE, 1926.

Military Formations and Districts.	Exemptions.					Missing Trainees.
	1911 Quota.	1910 Quota.	1909 Quota.	1908 Quota.	Total.	
1st Division (2nd M.D.) ..	25	38	556	1,504	2,123	49
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	80	137	1,504	3,371	5,092	198
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	11	27	759	2,041	2,838	236
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	26	67	482	1,481	2,056	93
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	18	36	640	1,314	2,008	43
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	33	86	1,301	2,449	3,869	83
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	8	27	210	669	914	14
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	9	17	295	925	1,246	3
5th District Base (5th M.D.)	..	..	6	18	24	..
Total	210	435	5,753	13,772	20,170	719

(8) *Citizen Forces—Medical Examinations.* The following table shows the results of examinations of the 1907 quota as at 30th June, 1926:—

**CITIZEN FORCES.—MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1926 QUOTA, HALF-YEAR
ENDED 30th JUNE, 1926.**

Military Formations and Districts.	Number of Examinations carried out.	Fit.		Permanently Unfit (A.M.R. 369).		Unfit (other than those under A.M.R. 369).	
		Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
1st Division (2nd M.D.)	2,695	1,969	73.1	..	..	726	26.9
2nd Division (2nd M.D.)	4,373	2,974	68.0	..	..	1,399	32.0
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	3,998	2,773	69.4	34	.8	1,191	29.8
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	1,722	1,215	70.6	6	.3	501	29.1
4th Division (4th M.D.)	1,901	1,240	65.2	6	.3	655	34.5
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	2,225	1,281	57.6	12	.5	932	41.9
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	493	324	65.7	..	..	169	34.3
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	1,023	728	71.2	3	.3	292	28.5
5th District Base (5th M.D.)	33	27	81.8	..	..	6	18.2
Total	18,463	12,531	67.9	61	.3	5,871	31.8

(v) *Administration and Instruction.* The staff provided for the administration and training of the various arms consists of 250 officers (Staff Corps), 56 quartermasters, and 544 warrant and non-commissioned officers (Australian Instructional Corps).

(vi) *Royal Military College, Duntroon.* This College was established at Duntroon in the Federal Capital Territory for the purpose of providing trained officers for the permanent forces. Admission is by open competitive examination, a definite number of vacancies being allotted to each State on a population basis. Further particulars respecting the College are given on page 915 of Official Year Book No. 15. On 1st February, 1927, the staff numbered—military, 19; civil, 11. The cadets in training at the same date numbered 75.

(vii) *Railways and Defence.* A War Railway Council, consisting of military and railway officers, was instituted in 1911. Its chief duties are to furnish advice and information regarding railway transport for military purposes, and to secure co-operation between the Defence Department and the Railway Departments in regard to concentration and mobilization of troops. To prevent delay in the transport of troops, particularly that caused by the transshipment of baggage and implements of war, the Council has recommended the adoption of a uniform railway gauge on lines linking up the States' capitals. An Engineer and Railway Staff Corps has been instituted, and numbered 74 officers on 1st August, 1926. Fuller details will be found in Official Year Book No. 6, pp. 1070-1.

(viii) *Rifle Clubs.* On the 30th June, 1926, there were 1,109 rifle clubs with a membership of 38,735, and 82 miniature rifle clubs having a membership of 2,718. Members of rifle clubs must fire an annual course of musketry, but do not undergo any systematic drill.

The administration of rifle clubs is under the control of the Secretary for Defence, and rifle clubs do not form part of the military organization. Government grants however are made for the construction and maintenance of rifle ranges, etc., and 200 rounds of ammunition are issued free annually to each efficient member.

§ 2. Naval Defence.

1. **State Systems.**—Information regarding naval defence systems prior to 1901 will be found in Official Year Book No. 12, p. 1011, but considerations of space preclude its insertion in the present volume.

2. **The Present System.**—(i) *General.* An outline of the development of Australian naval policy was given in Official Year Book No. 3, pp. 1060–61, and No. 12, p. 1012. Some account of the building of the Australian Fleet, the proposed and modified cost thereof, the compact with the Imperial Government, etc., appears in Official Year Book No. 15, pp. 921 *et seq.* Up to the 30th June, 1926, the expenditure on construction amounted to £7,840,344.

The Washington Conference of 1921 has had a marked effect on Naval Defence schemes, and all warship building and naval base construction were for a time suspended. The Fleet personnel was reduced from 4,843 in 1921 to 3,500 in 1923, and the ships in commission were reduced from 25 to 13. H.M.A.S. *Australia* was sunk in accordance with the provisions of the Washington Treaty on 12th April, 1924.

In 1925 the Commonwealth Government, however, decided to build two 10,000 tons cruisers (the maximum size at present allowed for new construction under the Washington Conference), two ocean-going submarines, and a seaplane-carrier. The order for the two cruisers was placed in Scotland, and they are expected to be in commission in 1928. The two submarines, which will be built in England, are to be delivered in 1927. The seaplane-carrier (approx. 6,000 tons) is being built at Cockatoo Island Dockyard, Sydney, by the Commonwealth Shipping Board.

To ensure closer co-operation with the Royal Navy, arrangements have been concluded with the Admiralty for the annual exchange of a cruiser, thus giving an opportunity for Australian sailors to gain experience in fleet exercises on a large scale.

The British Admiralty have, in addition, lent to the Royal Australian Navy the sloop *Silvio*, which has been refitted in England as a surveying ship, and renamed H.M.A.S. *Moresby*. This vessel will be principally employed with H.M.A.S. *Geranium* in surveying the Great Barrier Reef. The Commonwealth Government is, moreover, negotiating with the New South Wales Government for the building of a floating dock, which will be available for naval use in times of war or emergency.

(ii) *Naval College.* A naval college was established at Geelong in 1913, and was transferred in 1915 to Captain's Point, Jervis Bay, New South Wales. The course is similar to that carried out in naval colleges in England. In March, 1927, there were 52 cadet midshipmen under training. A boy who reaches the age of thirteen years during the calendar year in which the entrance examination is held is eligible to compete, provided he is the son of natural-born British subjects. From amongst those qualified the selection committee chooses the number required. The Commonwealth Government bears the whole expense of uniforms, victualling, travelling, as well as that of the educational course. Altogether 145 officers who have passed through the College are now serving with the Fleet.

(iii) *Training Establishments.* Owing to the heavy cost of maintenance the H.M.A.S. *Tingra*, which was commissioned as a training ship, was paid off on 30th June, 1927. For the time being seamen recruits from 17 to 21 years of age will receive their preliminary training at the Naval Depot, Westernport, where, in addition to the new entry school, instruction is given in Gunnery and Torpedo, Signals and Wireless Telegraphy, Engineering, etc. It is intended to establish a Naval Training School at Geelong.

(iv) *The Naval Station.* A description of the limits of the Australian Naval Station is contained in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 18, pp. 608–9), but lack of space precludes its repetition in the present issue. The limits have recently been altered slightly.

(v) *Vessels.* A list of the vessels of the Royal Australian Navy is given hereunder.

SHIPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, JANUARY, 1927.

Vessel.	Description.	Displacement.	Power.
		Tons.	H.P.
<i>Adelaide</i>	Cruiser	5,500	25,000
<i>Albatross</i>	Seaplane Carrier	6,000	12,000
<i>Anzac</i>	Flotilla Leader	1,660	36,000
<i>Australia</i> (building)	Cruiser	10,000	80,000
<i>Brisbane</i>	"	5,400	25,000
<i>Canberra</i> (building)	"	10,000	80,000
<i>Cerberus</i>	Motor-boat	61	220
<i>Penguin</i>	Depot Ship	5,880	12,500
<i>Geranium</i>	Sloop	1,250	2,000
<i>Huon</i>	Destroyer	700	11,300
<i>Mallow</i>	Sloop	1,200	1,800
<i>Marguerite</i>	"	1,250	2,200
<i>Melbourne</i>	Cruiser	5,400	25,000
<i>Moresby</i>	Sloop	1,320	2,500
<i>Oxley</i> (building)	Submarine .. ..	..	..
<i>Otway</i> .. ..	" .. ..	..	..
<i>Parramatta</i>	Destroyer	700	9,000
<i>Platypus</i>	Depot Ship	3,460	3,060
<i>Stalwart</i>	Destroyer	1,075	27,000
<i>Success</i>	"	1,075	27,000
<i>Swan</i>	"	700	10,000
<i>Swordsman</i>	"	1,075	27,000
<i>Sydney</i>	Cruiser	5,400	25,000
<i>Tasmania</i>	Destroyer	1,075	27,000
<i>Tattoo</i>	"	1,075	27,000
<i>Tingira</i>	Boys' Training Ship	1,800	..
<i>Torrens</i>	Destroyer	700	10,000
<i>Warrego</i>	"	700	9,000
<i>Yarra</i>	"	700	9,000
FLEET AUXILIARIES—			
<i>Biloela</i>	Fleet Collier and Oiler	5,700	2,300
<i>Kurumba</i>	Fleet Oiler	3,970	..

(vi) *Naval Forces.* Besides the sea-going forces, there is a R.A.N. Reserve, which is composed of Citizen Naval Trainees. The personnel of the sea-going forces, which was originally largely composed of Imperial officers and men, is now more than 90 per cent. Australian. To facilitate the training of the Naval Reserve, destroyers (River Class) which are held in reserve have been stationed in various training districts throughout Australia. The strength of the naval forces is given hereunder.

STRENGTH OF NAVAL FORCES (PERMANENT AND RESERVES),
15th JANUARY, 1927.

Description of Force.	Numbers Borne.		
	In Training.	Officers.	Men.
Royal Australian Navy (Sea-going) .. ..	..	435	4,375
Royal Australian Naval Auxiliary Services .. ..	..	34	131
Cadet Midshipmen undergoing training at R.A.N. College	54	..	..
Boys undergoing training on H.M.A.S. <i>Tingira</i>	192	..	..
Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Sea-going) .. ..	..	58	..
Royal Australian Fleet Reserve .. ..	..	..	88
Royal Australian Naval Reserve .. ..	..	239	5,609
Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve .. ..	..	8	47

§ 3. Air Defence.

1. **General.**—A statement in regard to the preliminary steps taken in connexion with the development of air defence will be found in Official Year Book No. 18, p. 610.

Under the Air Board Regulations issued in October, 1922, the Royal Australian Air Force is administered by a Board consisting of two Air Force members and a Finance member. To this Force is entrusted the air defence of Australia, the training of personnel for co-operation with the naval and military forces, and the refresher training of pilots engaging in civil aviation. The present establishment of the Force includes the following units:—(a) Head-Quarters, Royal Australian Air Force, with representation at the Air Ministry in London; (b) A Flying Training School; (c) A Stores Depot; (d) Two composite squadrons and one flight; and (e) an Experimental Section.

2. **Establishment.**—The present approved establishment of the Permanent Air Force is 95 officers and 765 airmen, and of the Citizen Air Force, 54 officers and 285 airmen.

3. **Aerial Routes.**—Aerodromes and Alighting Sites have been prepared between the capital cities and on certain parts of the coast for service and civil purposes. The total number prepared to date is 164.

4. **Civil Aviation.**—Details regarding the formation and activities of the Civil Aviation Department will be found in Chapter VII., Section D. Aircraft.

§ 4. Expenditure on Defence.

1. **Expenditure, 1901-2 to 1926-27.**—The following table shows Defence expenditure in 1901-2 and during each of the last five years. Details of the expenditure of the Defence Department and the cost of the war and repatriation are given in Chapter VIII.—Finance.

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE.—AUSTRALIA, 1901-2 AND 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Naval.		Military.		Air.		Special Defence Provision.	Total Defence Expenditure. (a) (b)
	Under Ordinary Votes and Appropriations.	Total Naval. (a)	Under Ordinary Votes and Appropriations.	Total Military. (a)	Under Ordinary Votes and Appropriations.	Total. Air. (a)		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1901-2 ..	178,819	178,819	777,620	780,260	..	..	..	959,079
1922-23(b) ..	2,124,491	2,575,131	1,481,754	33,351,848	179,337	273,032	..	36,200,011
1923-24(b) ..	2,084,420	2,279,310	1,545,455	32,922,571	222,657	306,418	2,500,000	38,008,299
1924-25(b) ..	2,016,404	2,219,566	1,551,524	31,324,012	216,544	284,623	988,140	34,816,341
1925-26(b) ..	2,136,065	2,390,452	1,587,551	31,214,010	281,164	425,535	3,742,745	37,772,742
1926-27(b) (Estimated)	2,223,023	2,715,203	1,598,823	31,859,540	433,847	595,027	1,000,000	36,189,770

(a) During the war years and subsequently, war expenditure and war expenditure on works included in total. (b) Not including War Gratuity (see p. 567).

NOTE.—In the year 1900-1 the approximate Defence Expenditure by the States was—

Ordinary Services	£800,000
Works, Arms, Equipment, etc. .. .	200,000
Total	£1,000,000

§ 5. Munitions Supply.

1. **General.**—A statement dealing with the powers and functions of the Munitions Supply Board is given on p. 612 of Official Year Book No. 18, but limits of space preclude its repetition in the present volume.

2. **Factories.**—(1) *General.* The Explosives Factories at Maribyrnong, Victoria, which manufacture explosives for cartridges and artillery ammunition, were established in 1911. The staff at 30th June, 1926, numbered 130.

The Acetate of Lime Factory, established at Bulimba, Brisbane, in September 1918, provides acetate of lime (a raw material used in the manufacture of acetone) and is now being held in reserve. Employees at 30th June, 1926, numbered 4.

The Clothing Factory at Melbourne, Victoria, which had a staff of 243 employees on 30th June, 1926, commenced output in July, 1912, and since that date has been able to supply the whole of the uniform clothing required for the Defence forces, and the Postmaster-General's Department. It also supplies clothing required by State Departments and local public bodies.

The Small Arms Factory at Lithgow, New South Wales, which was opened on 1st June, 1912, and delivered the first instalment of Australian arms in May, 1913, had on its pay roll on 30th June, 1926, 362 employees. Rifles are being produced, and the manufacture of pistols and machine guns has been undertaken.

On 1st January, 1921, by virtue of an agreement with the Colonial Ammunition Company Limited, the Defence Department entered into possession on lease of the Company's works at Footscray, Victoria, and had at 30th June, 1926, 190 persons employed there. At the works, which are known as the Defence Small Arms Ammunition Factory, rifle and pistol ammunition are manufactured.

(ii) *Expenditure on Factories.* The expenditure up to 30th June, 1926, on land, buildings, machinery and plant, factory fittings and furniture in connexion with the factories now in operation was approximately as follows:—Small Arms Factory, £584,440; Explosives Factories, £514,286; Clothing Factory, £40,399; Acetate of Lime Factory, £158,223.

§ 6. Remount Depot.

Information in regard to the establishment of this branch of activity is contained in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 18, p. 613). When war was declared in 1914 little difficulty was experienced by the Remount Service in coping with the enormous task of obtaining and training horses for the mounted units of the A.I.F. and in providing for the shipment of horses to Egypt and India as required.

§ 7. Australian Contingents.

1. **General.**—In previous issues of the Year Book an account was given of the composition, etc., of the Australian contingents despatched for service in the New Zealand and Sudan Campaigns, in South Africa, China, and the Great War of 1914–18 (see Official Year Book No. 12, pp. 1019 *et seq.*).

2. **Australian Troops (Great War).**—Particulars of the enlistments, casualties, honours and decorations won, and engagements of the Australian Imperial Force during the Great War were given in Official Year Book No. 16, pp. 628 *et seq.* Limits of space, however, preclude the repetition of this information in the present volume.

§ 8. War Gratuity.

Reference was made in preceding Year Books (see No. 15, p. 930) to the bonus payable in accordance with the War Gratuity Acts of 1920 as a war service gratuity to soldiers and sailors who served in the Great War. Owing to limitations of space this information cannot be repeated, but it may be noted that the gratuity was paid in Treasury bonds, maturing not later than 31st May, 1924, and bearing interest at 5½ per cent. In necessitous cases payment was made in cash when desired by the person entitled. The first gratuities were made available about the beginning of June, 1920. The gratuities numbered 360,000, and the total amount paid was £27,424,317.

§ 9. Special Defence Legislation.

Information regarding special defence legislation enacted by the Commonwealth Government during the War was given in Official Year Book No. 15, p. 930. It may be pointed out here that the War Precautions Act Repeal Act of 1920 repealed the Act 1914-18, but a limited number of matters dealt with under the original Act are now provided for under the War Precautions Act Repeal Act of 1920 or by regulations made thereunder.

§ 10. Repatriation.

1. **General.**—An outline of the activities leading up to the formation of the Commonwealth Department of Repatriation was given in Official Year Book No. 15, p. 931, but limits of space preclude its repetition in the present volume. Some account was given also in the Year Book referred to, and in subsequent issues, of the policy and activities of the Department generally, while detailed information was incorporated in regard to such matters as sustenance rates and pensions to soldiers and dependents. (See Official Year Book 17, pp. 598 to 601.)

The main activities of the Repatriation Commission at 31st December, 1926, were confined to the grant, review and assessment of war pensions, medical treatment, the provision and renewal of artificial limbs and surgical aids, the grant and review of living allowances, and the administration of the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.

2. **Pensions.**—The pensions in force on the 31st December, 1926, numbered 256,882, and the amount expended thereon during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1926, was £7,413,603.

3. **Summary of Activities.**—The following is a summary of the work of the Department from 8th April, 1918, to 31st December, 1926 :—

(i) *Employment.* Number of applications, 249,005; number of positions filled, 131,152.

(ii) *Vocational Training.* Number of men completed training, 26,451; number in training, 588.

(iii) *Assistance other than Vocational Training and Employment.* Applications received, 659,187; applications approved, 574,949.

(iv) *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.* From the inauguration of the scheme in February, 1921, up to 31st December, 1926, 8,447 applications for assistance had been received. Of these 7,341 had been approved, of which 1,781 recipients of the benefits had completed their training, 4,517 were undergoing training, 58 applications were pending, and the remainder had been refused or withdrawn.

It is estimated that the scheme will involve an outlay of £1,250,000, of which the Commonwealth has undertaken to provide £800,000, while it is hoped that the balance will be forthcoming from private and public funds and benefactions. Up to 31st December, 1926, the expenditure was £518,763.

(v) *Assistance Granted.* The total expenditure incurred during the period 8th April, 1918, to 31st December, 1926, was £15,127,735, of which £8,828,000 represented gifts, £1,626,290 loan, and £4,673,360 general expenditure. Of the total the largest amounts were absorbed by vocational training, with £5 millions, and expenses of providing employment, £2½ millions.

(vi) *Medical Treatment.* At 31st December, 1926, there were 1,367 in-patients and 4,627 out-patients receiving medical treatment. The expenditure up to this date was £3,550,818.

4. *Settlement of Soldiers on the Land.*—At the Premiers' Conference in Melbourne in 1917 it was agreed that the States should undertake the work of settling on the land returned soldiers and munition and war workers, but that the Commonwealth should finance them for this purpose.

The original arrangement provided that the Commonwealth should take the responsibility of finding up to £500 per settler as working capital for improvements, implements, seed, etc., an amount which was subsequently increased to £625 per settler, together with £375 per settler for resumptions and works incidental to land settlement approved by the Commonwealth. Particulars of the advances to the States are shown in the following table :—

ADVANCES TO STATES FOR SOLDIER SETTLEMENT, AT 30th JUNE, 1926.

State.	No. of Settlers.	Advances agreed upon.	Advanced during 1925-26.	Advanced to 30th June, 1926.	Advances outstanding 30.6.26.
	No.	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	8,405	12,254,191	..	9,826,203	9,805,984
Victoria	11,000	15,708,514	..	11,968,176	11,794,075
Queensland	3,898	3,290,789	..	2,717,697	2,700,583
South Australia	5,000	6,265,471	..	2,857,780	2,833,005
Western Australia	5,186	6,278,750	..	5,463,782	5,431,202
Tasmania	2,821	3,521,234	..	2,168,303	2,129,563
Total	36,310	47,318,949	..	35,001,941	34,694,412

Prior to the occupancy of the land, the Repatriation Department was empowered to pay sustenance for a limited period, subject to certain conditions, also for 6 months during the first 2 years of occupancy while awaiting production.

5. *Conspectus of State Laws affecting Settlement of Returned Soldiers on the Land.*—In Official Year Book No. 13, pp. 1018 *et seq.*, will be found a table giving particulars of the laws of the various States relating to returned soldiers' land settlement.

Later modifications have been made with a view to simplifying procedure and liberalizing the conditions under which holdings may be acquired.

§ 11. War Service Homes.

The operations of the War Service Homes Commission at 31st December, 1926, may be briefly set out as follows :—31,156 applications involving advances amounting to approximately £20,759,518 had been approved; 15,745 houses had been completed; 129 applicants had been assisted to complete or enlarge dwelling-houses partly owned; 691 houses were in course of construction; and 556 building applications had been approved in respect of which building operations had not been commenced.

In addition, the Commission had purchased on behalf of eligible applicants 12,140 already-existing properties, and had taken over mortgages existing on 1,943 dwelling-houses, but in a number of cases actual settlement and transfer have not taken place. Applications in respect of 48 completed houses had not, however, been definitely approved, but pending this action the majority of the houses are occupied by the applicants under a weekly tenancy agreement.

The foregoing figures include the operations of the State Bank of South Australia, which is now carrying out the provisions of the War Service Homes Act in South Australia, the Commonwealth's obligations being to make available to the Government as a loan the funds required for the purpose.