

CHAPTER X. 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 six 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 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*. Subsequent legislation made 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, was applied to peace conditions, with a minimum of permanent personnel. Numbers of units and formations were altered to correspond with those of the A.I.F. and every effort was made to maintain the traditions established by those units in the Great War.
- (d) The fourth phase, which was initiated by the Government in 1922, entailed the reduction of the Divisional Organization to a nucleus force.
- (e) The fifth phase, the suspension of all compulsory obligations *in time of peace* (under Part XII. of the Defence Act) and the reconstitution of the forces on a basis of voluntary enlistment, was brought into operation as from 1st November, 1929. The Divisional Organization was retained, but the peace nucleus was reduced from 48,000 Citizen Forces and 16,000

Senior Cadets to 35,000 Militia Forces and 7,000 Senior Cadets, by reductions in the training establishments of units and by ceasing to maintain certain light horse regiments and infantry battalions. The peace nucleus of the Militia Forces was further reduced to 30,000 in 1931.

- (f) The sixth phase was initiated by the Government in July, 1936, whereby authority was given to raise the training strength of the Militia to 35,000, maintaining the Senior Cadets at 7,000. This strength was attained by December, 1936. The Divisional organization was retained.

Certain light horse regiments and infantry battalions which ceased to be maintained in the fifth phase, and were linked with other light horse regiments and battalions, were now resuscitated.

In addition certain new units were organized as a first step towards the modernization of the field army and coast defences. These units included light horse machine gun regiments and anti-aircraft and search-light units.

(ii) *Military Population.* The following particulars showing the numbers of males of military age in the population of Australia, as at the Census of the 30th June, 1933, are of interest. The total number of cadet age, between 12 and 18 years, was 371,000; at citizen soldier age, between 18 and 26 years, 482,000; and between 26 and 35 years, 472,000; making a total of 954,000 between the ages of 18 and 35, which is considered the best period for military service. It is estimated that 620,000 of the males between the ages of 18 and 35 were unmarried or widowers without children, and 334,000 were married or widowers with children. In addition to the abovementioned, there were 972,000 males between the ages of 35 and 60 in Australia at the 1933 Census.

(iii) *Allotment of Units.* The organization is territorial, and the divisions are based upon infantry units. There are 50 battalions, forming 14 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.

ALLOTMENTS OF UNITS TO AREAS, 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

State.	Military District.	Number of Infantry Brigade Areas.	Battalion Areas.										Providing the undermentioned Units—			
			Infantry Battalions.			Armoured Car Regiment.	Royal Australian Artillery (Militia)						Royal Australian Engineers (Militia).			
			Light Horse Regiments.	Light Horse Machine Gun Regiments.	Field Artillery Batteries.		Medium Artillery.		Heavy Artillery.		Artillery Survey.	Anti-aircraft Battery.	Field.		Fortress.	
							Brigade Head-quarters.	Batteries.	Brigade Head-quarters.	Batteries.			Companies.	Troops.		Companies.
New South Wales ..	2nd	5	17	5	2	..	18	1	3	1	4	1	1	5	3	2
Victoria ..	3rd	5	17	4	1	1	17	1	3	1	2	1	1	5	3	1
Queensland ..	1st	2	7	3	..	..	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	2
South Australia ..	4th	1	3	2	1	..	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..
Western Australia ..	5th	1	4	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	..	1
Tasmania ..	6th	..	2	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Total ..	..	14	50	16	4	1	50	2	6	3	13	2	1	15	8	7

ALLOTMENTS OF UNITS TO AREAS, 31st DECEMBER, 1937—continued.

State.	Military District.	Battalion Areas.																	
		Providing the undermentioned Units—																	
		Anti-aircraft Searchlight Company.		Signals.		Tank Corps.	A.A.S.C.				A.A.M.C.								
		Sections.	Troops.	Tank Section.	Supply Companies.	Mechanical Transport Companies.	Supply Sections.	Mechanical Transport Sections.	Field Ambulance.	Field Hygiene Sections.	Casualty Clearing Stations.	Garrison Companies.	A.A.O.C. Units.	A.A.V.C. Sections.	Army Pay Corps.				
New South Wales	2nd	..	26	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Victoria	3rd	..	23	5	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	7	3	..	1	1	8	4	1
Queensland	1st	..	7	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	3	..	1	1	7	4	1
South Australia	4th	..	3	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	1	5	1	1
Western Australia	5th	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	3	..	1
Tasmania	6th	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	3	..	1
Total		..	1	66	12		1	8	8	2	2	21	10	2	7	29	10		6

(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 to continue the universal training law, but its operation was 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. On 1st July, 1925, Senior Cadet training was reduced to one quota only, while Citizen Force training was increased to three quotas. These conditions remained in force until 1st November, 1929, when the constitution of the forces on a voluntary basis was adopted. During the period last mentioned, Senior Cadet training commenced on 1st July of the year in which Senior Cadets reached the age of 17 years, and on 1st July of the following year they were allotted to the Citizen Forces, in which training continued until the 30th June of the year in which they attained the age of 21 years. Notwithstanding the reduction in training, all males residing within 5 miles of a training centre were required to register during the months of January or February of the year in which they reached the age of 14 years. Junior Cadet training of boys of the ages of 12 and 13 years, which was in abeyance during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24, was also supervised by the Defence Department during the period 1st July, 1925, to 31st October, 1929.

Under the voluntary enlistment system now in force men from 18 to 40 years of age may be enlisted. The first period of enlistment is for three years, and on its completion, the member concerned may be re-engaged for successive periods of two or three years until he reaches the age for retirement (48 years). The normal period of training is 12 days per annum (including 6 days in camp of continuous training).

The Senior Cadet Corps, in which enrolment is voluntary, is organized on the following basis :—(a) Detachments affiliated with Militia Units :—Light Horse, Nil; Infantry, Signals and A.S.C., 25 per cent. of the establishment of the Militia Unit; Other Arms, 20 per cent. of the establishment of the Militia Unit; and (b) Detachments consisting of pupils attending approved educational establishments. The ages for enrolment in the regimental detachments are 16 and 17 years, and in the school detachments over 14 years.

TRAINING STRENGTH OF MILITARY FORCES.

(a) District.	1901. (b) 1/3/01.	1913. 30/6/13.	1922. 31/12/22.	1934. 31/3/34.	1935. 31/12/35.	1936. 31/12/36.	1937. 31/12/37.
Army Head-Qrs. (Melbourne)		(c) 277	(c) 499	(d) 71	(d) 86	(d) 105	(d) 143
1st (Q'ld.)	4,310	4,625	4,319	3,506	3,178	4,281	4,527
2nd (N.S.W.)	9,772	12,105	14,561	10,881	10,297	13,018	13,474
3rd (Vict.)	7,011	10,840	11,117	9,911	9,641	11,748	11,755
4th (S. Aus.)	2,956	3,228	3,452	2,261	2,202	2,720	2,796
5th (W. Aus.)	2,283	1,685	2,018	1,739	1,400	2,612	2,637
6th (Tas.)	2,554	1,777	1,190	1,305	1,276	1,579	1,611
Total	28,886	34,537	37,156	29,674	28,080	36,063	36,943

(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, unallotted, or training with other Commonwealth Departments. (d) Including cadets at Royal Military College of Australia.

(b) Various Arms. The numbers of the different arms of the service on the 31st December, 1937, were as follows:—

**ARMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES, ACTIVE LIST,
31st DECEMBER, 1937.(a)**

Head-quarters Staffs	159	Survey Corps	25
Staff Corps	252	Field Engineers	1,290
Corps of Staff Cadets	67	Fortress Engineers	396
Instructional Corps	614	Anti-aircraft Searchlight Com- pany	19
Light Horse	4,412	Signals	1,321
Light Horse (Machine Gun) Regiments	1,076	Infantry	16,213
Armoured Car Regiment	150	Tank Corps	49
Royal Australian Artillery	699	Army Service Corps	1,719
Field Artillery	4,424	Army Medical Corps	1,400
Medium Artillery	413	Army Ordnance Corps (b)	344
Heavy Artillery	941	Army Veterinary Corps	195
Anti-Aircraft Artillery	282	Army Pay Corps	33
Artillery Survey	166	Provost Staff	12
Royal Australian Engineers	272		
		Total	36,943

(a) Excluding civilian staff.

(b) Includes Ordnance Officers and Artificers.

(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 31st December, 1937.

**DISTRIBUTION OF LAND FORCES,(a) ACTIVE AND RESERVE LISTS,
31st DECEMBER, 1937.**

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.
Permanent Forces	(b) 137	269	945	567	101	220	80	2,319
Militia Forces	6	4,258	12,529	11,188	2,695	2,417	1,531	34,624
Engineer and Railway staff Corps	9	9	11	12	11	9	4	58
Unattached List of Officers	4	21	55	57	10	6	9	162
Reserve of Officers	4	799	1,862	1,705	453	349	166	5,334
Chaplains	4	36	56	59	26	20	15	216
Total	153	5,392	15,458	13,588	3,296	3,021	1,805	42,713

(a) Excluding civilian staff.

(b) Including cadets at Royal Military College of Australia.

(d) *Militia Forces and Senior Cadets, by Formations.* The following table shows the strength of Militia Forces and Senior Cadets, by formations, at the 31st December, 1937:—

**STRENGTH OF MILITIA FORCES AND SENIOR CADETS, BY FORMATIONS,
31st DECEMBER, 1937.**

State.	Military Formation.	Militia Forces.	Senior Cadets.	
			Regimental Detachments.	Educational Establishments.
Victoria ..	Army Head-quarters	6	..	..
Queensland ..	Field Troops, 1st Military District ..	4,004	422	657
Queensland ..	1st District Base	254	23	..
New South Wales ..	1st Cavalry Division	2,557	55	57
New South Wales ..	1st Division	4,259	434	549
New South Wales ..	2nd Division	4,750	739	899
New South Wales ..	2nd District Base	963	125	..
Victoria ..	2nd Cavalry Division	2,030	73	..
Victoria ..	3rd Division	4,551	680	927
Victoria ..	4th Division	4,069	516	428
Victoria ..	3rd District Base	538	68	..
South Australia ..	Field Troops, 4th Military District	2,598	270	403
South Australia ..	4th District Base	97	9	..
Western Australia ..	Field Troops, 5th Military District	2,155	276	252
Western Australia ..	5th District Base	262	36	..
Tasmania ..	Field Troops, 6th Military District	1,403	212	132
Tasmania ..	6th District Base	128	19	..
	Total	34,624	3,957	4,304

(e) *Numbers who served under Compulsory Provisions.* In earlier issues of the Year Book (see No. 22, pp. 578–579) tables were published showing the numbers registered and training under the compulsory system, distinguishing Citizen Forces and Senior Cadets.

(v) *Administration and Instruction.* The staff provided for the administration and training of the various arms consists of 252 officers (Staff Corps), 80 quartermasters, and 511 warrant and non-commissioned officers (Australian Instructional Corps).

(vi) *Royal Military College.* This College was established in 1911 at Duntroon in the Australian Capital Territory for the purpose of providing trained officers for the permanent forces. In January, 1931, the College was transferred to Victoria Barracks, Sydney, but it returned to Duntroon early in 1937. Admission is by open competitive examination. On the 31st December, 1937, the Australian cadets in training numbered 55, 20 of whom were admitted in 1937. In addition, 20 are being trained for the New Zealand Permanent Forces under an arrangement made in 1933 with the Government of that Dominion. Further particulars respecting the College are given on page 915 of Official Year Book No. 15.

(vii) *Railways and Defence.* A War Railway Council, consisting of military and railways 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 State capitals. An Engineer and Railway Staff Corps has been instituted, and numbered 55 officers on 31st December, 1937. Further details will be found in Official Year Book No. 6, p. 1070.

(viii) *Rifle Clubs*. On the 30th June, 1937, there were in the Commonwealth 1,173 rifle clubs with a membership of 50,241, and 91 miniature rifle clubs having a membership of 2,763. Members of rifle clubs must fire an annual course of musketry, but do not undergo any systematic drill.

For the purposes of administration rifle club activities were placed under the control of the Military Board on the 1st March, 1931. Government Grants are made for the construction and maintenance of rifle ranges, etc., and 200 rounds of ammunition are issued free to each efficient member annually.

§ 2. Naval Defence.

1. *State Systems*.—Information regarding naval defence systems prior to 1901 will be found in Official Year Book No. 2, p. 1084.

2. *The Present System*.—(i) *General*. An outline of the development of Australian naval policy was given in Official Year Book No. 3, p. 1060, 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.* At the end of 1933, arrangements were made between His Majesty's Governments in Great Britain and Australia for a Flotilla Leader (*Stuart*), and 4 Destroyers (*Vampire*, *Vendetta*, *Voyager* and *Waterhen*) to be lent from the Royal Navy to the Royal Australian Navy. These vessels arrived at Sydney in December, 1933.

H.M.A.S. *Brisbane*, which became over-age in 1932, has been replaced by a ship of the *Leander* type. The new vessel—H.M.A.S. *Sydney*—7,000 tons and eight 6-in. guns, was commissioned in England on 24th September, 1935, and has now joined the Australian Squadron.

The mine sweepers H.M.A.S. *Yarra* and H.M.A.S. *Swan*, built at Cockatoo Island, were commissioned on 21st January, 1936, and 21st January, 1937, respectively.

The five "S" Class destroyers which were over-age have been disposed of.

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

(ii) *Naval College*. A naval college was established at Geelong in 1913, and was transferred in 1915 to Captain's Point, Jervis Bay, Australian Capital Territory, and thence in 1930 to the Flinders Naval Depot, Victoria. The course is similar to that carried out in naval colleges in England. In February, 1938, there were 55 cadet midshipmen under training. A boy is eligible to sit for examination in the calendar year in which he attains the age of thirteen years, provided he is the son of natural-born or naturalized 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 184 officers who have passed through the college are now serving with the Fleet.

(iii) *Training Establishments*. Recruits from 16½ to 21 years of age receive their preliminary training at Flinders Naval Depot, Victoria, where, in addition to the entry school, instruction is given in Gunnery and Torpedo, Signals and Wireless Telegraphy, Engineering, etc.

(iv) *The Naval Station.* A description of the limits of the Australia Naval Station is contained in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 18, pp. 608-9).

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

SHIPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, MARCH, 1938.

Vessel.	Description.	Displacement.	Power.
		Tons.	H.P.
IN COMMISSION—			
<i>Australia</i>	Cruiser	9,870	80,000
<i>Canberra</i> .. ..	.. ..	9,850	80,000
<i>Sydney</i> .. ..	.. ..	7,000	72,000
<i>Stuart</i>	Flotilla Leader	1,530	40,000
<i>Vendetta</i>	Destroyer	1,090	27,000
<i>Waterhen</i> .. ..	.. ..	1,100	27,000
<i>Cerberus</i>	Motor Boat (Flinders Naval Depot)	61	220
<i>Moresby</i>	Sloop	1,650	2,500
<i>Penguin</i> (late <i>Platypus</i>)	Depot Ship, Sydney	3,455	3,500
<i>Swan</i>	Minesweeper	1,060	2,000
<i>Yarra</i> .. ..	.. ..	1,060	2,000
IN RESERVE—			
<i>Adelaide</i>	Cruiser	5,100	25,000
<i>Albatross</i>	Seaplane Carrier	5,000	12,000
<i>Vampire</i>	Destroyer	1,090	27,000
<i>Voyager</i> .. ..	.. ..	1,100	27,000
FLEET AUXILIARY—			
<i>Kurumba</i>	Fleet Oiler	7,930	2,000

(vi) *Floating Dock.* In 1926 the Commonwealth Government entered into an agreement with the New South Wales Government whereby the latter, in consideration of the payment of a subsidy of £135,000, constructed at Walsh Island, Newcastle, a floating dock capable of lifting 15,000 tons.

(vii) *Naval Forces.* Besides the sea-going forces, there is a R.A.N. Reserve, which is composed of Citizen Naval Forces. The personnel of the sea-going forces, which was originally largely composed of Imperial officers and men, is now 99.6 per cent. Australian. The strength of the naval forces is given hereunder :—

**STRENGTH OF NAVAL FORCES (PERMANENT AND RESERVES),
28th FEBRUARY, 1938.**

Description of Force.	Numbers Borne.		
	In Training.	Officers.	Men.
Royal Australian Navy (Sea-going)	377	3,962
Royal Australian Naval Auxiliary Services	34	151
Cadet Midshipmen undergoing training at R.A.N. College	55	..	..
Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Sea-going)	64	..
Royal Australian Fleet Reserve	391
Royal Australian Naval Reserve	203	3,115
Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve	86	78

§ 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.

The Royal Australian Air Force is administered by a Board consisting of three Air Force members and a Finance member. To this Force is entrusted the air defence of Australia, and the training of personnel for co-operation with the naval and military forces. The present establishment of the Force includes the following units:—(a) Headquarters Royal Australian Air Force, with representation in London; (b) a Flying Training School; (c) two Aircraft Depots; (d) seven service landplane squadrons and one service amphibian squadron.

2. **Establishment.**—The present approved establishment of the Permanent Air Force is 256 officers and 2,222 airmen, and of the Citizen Air Force, 85 officers and 314 airmen. Four aerodromes are under the control of the Air Board; all other aerodromes and air routes have been taken over by the Controller of Civil Aviation.

3. **Air Routes.**—Aerodromes and emergency landing grounds have been prepared between the capital cities and on certain parts of the coast for service and civil purposes. At the 30th April, 1938, 256 Government aerodromes and emergency landing grounds had been prepared and 211 licensed public aerodromes were also available for use.

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

§ 4. Expenditure on Defence.

The following table shows the expenditure on defence in 1901-2 and during each of the last five years. The figures are exclusive of war services and of interest and exchange on loans. Details of the expenditure of the Defence Department and the cost of the war, repatriation and war services are given in Chapter XXVII.—Public Finance.

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (EXCLUDING WAR SERVICES).—AUSTRALIA.

Item.	1901-2.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
	£	£	£	£	£	(a) £
Central Administration	5,594	20,307	21,663	24,891	31,504	31,900
Naval	178,819	1,646,430	1,908,363	2,371,187	2,577,383	3,005,500
Military	732,626	1,236,716	1,328,504	1,810,751	2,232,088	2,359,760
Air Services—						
I.A. Air Force .. .. .	..	409,413	535,938	783,498	1,162,546	1,902,490
Civil Aviation .. .. .	..	133,517	164,439	185,644	425,676	363,900
Munitions Supply Branch .. .. .	..	321,162	415,959	451,093	496,326	762,880
Rifle Clubs and Associations	41,653	31,662	34,781	36,795	55,009	66,070
Principal Supply Officers Committee .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2,912	7,500
Special Appropriations—						
Naval Construction .. .. .	..	Cr. 9,341	513,124	663,852	550,285	136,829
Reconditioning Equipment and Purchase of Aircraft .. .. .	..	365,695	81	1,427	1,427	..
Equipment .. .. .	..	..	364,627	552,406	408,582	1,742,918
Arms, Armament, Aircraft, Munitions, Equipment and Reserves .. .. .	..	..	79,324	132,767	121,404	579,840
Defence Works, Buildings and Sites .. .. .	..	1,933	907	120	..	575,614
Development of Civil Aviation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
	958,692	4,157,494	5,457,800	7,014,432	8,065,142	11,535,201

(a) Estimated.

In addition to the above, £8,429 was expended from Revenue on war services directly under the control of the Defence Department in 1936-37, and the estimated expenditure in 1937-38 was £20,950.

The total cost of war services including interest, sinking fund, war pensions, repatriation, etc., will be found in Chapter XXVII., Part B § 5—Cost of War and Repatriation.

§ 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.

2. **Factories.**—(i) *General.* The Explosives Factories at Maribyrnong, Victoria, which manufacture cordite and high explosives for cartridges and artillery ammunition, aeroplane dopes, nitro-benzine, and special paints, were established in 1911. The staff at 30th June, 1937, numbered 423.

The Clothing Factory at Melbourne, Victoria, which had a staff of 397 employees on 30th June, 1937, commenced output in July, 1912, and since that date has been able to supply the whole of the uniform clothing and head gear 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, 1937, 328 employees. Rifles and machine guns for land and air services are being produced, and provision has been made for the manufacture of pistols.

On the 1st January, 1927, the Defence Department entered into possession by purchase of the works of the Colonial Ammunition Company Limited at Footscray, Victoria. As from the 1st July, 1928, this establishment, known as the Small Arms Ammunition Factory, was amalgamated with the Gun Ammunition Factory, and this group is now known as the Ammunition Factories, where in addition to rifle and pistol ammunition, big gun fuses, detonators, cartridge cases and aircraft bombs are also produced. Brass and other non-ferrous metals required for munitions manufacture are rolled at this factory. The staff at 30th June, 1937, numbered 818.

At the Ordnance Factory, Maribyrnong, Victoria, established in 1924, provision is made for the production of guns, shells, gun carriages and military vehicles. This group includes a well equipped forge and woodworking and electrical shops. The number of employees at 30th June, 1937, was 695.

(ii) *Investment in Factories.* Up to 30th June, 1937, the capital invested in the factories now in operation was approximately as follows:—Small Arms Factory, £858,239; Explosives Factories, £985,690; Clothing Factory, £106,997; Ammunition Factories, £836,817; and Ordnance Factories, £994,475.

3. **Research Laboratory.**—At Maribyrnong, Victoria, a Research Laboratory has been established consisting of seven main sections, i.e., general chemistry, explosives and ammunition, timber, metallurgy, metrology, chemical defence and physics (including optics and electrical). Plant, buildings, fittings and furniture were valued at £142,445 on 30th June, 1937, and the staff at the same date numbered 80.

4. **Inspection Branch.**—The Inspection Branch is charged with the examination of all classes of munitions during manufacture to ensure conformity with approved service designs and requirements. The head-quarters is at Maribyrnong, Victoria, and each Munitions Factory has its complement of examiners. A General Stores Section is responsible for the examination of textiles, clothing and equipment. At Port Wakefield, South Australia, is the extensive Artillery Proof and Recovery Range, where guns and shells are tested by firing. The capital invested as at 30th June, 1937, was £121,411, and the staff at the same date numbered 95.

§ 6. Remount Depot.

Information in regard to the establishment of this branch of activity is contained in earlier 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 earlier issues of the Year Book an account was given of the composition, etc., of the Australian contingents dispatched 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.*

§ 8. War Gratuity.

Reference was made in earlier 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 total amount paid to 30th June, 1937, was £27,510,935, and bonds amounting to £13,888 had not been redeemed.

§ 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 1914–1918, but a limited number of matters dealt with under the original Act were provided for under the War Precautions Act Repeal Act of 1920–1928 or by regulations made thereunder.