

## 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, 1927.

State.	Military District.	Brigade Areas.	Battalion Areas.											
			Number of Areas.	Providing the undermentioned Units—									Artillery Survey.	Anti-aircraft Battery.
				Infantry Battalions.	Light Horse Regiments.	Field Artillery Batteries.	Medium Artillery.		Heavy Artillery.					
							Brigade Head-quarters.	Batteries.	Brigade Head-quarters.	Batteries.				
New South Wales ..	2nd	5	20	21	7	17	1	3	1	4	1	1		
Victoria ..	3rd	5	20	21	6	17	1	3	1	4	1	..		
Queensland ..	1st	2	2	3	4	7	..	..	..	2	..	..		
South Australia ..	4th	1	4	4	4	4	..	..	..	2	..	..		
Western Australia ..	5th	1	2	3	1	3	..	..	..	2	..	..		
Tasmania ..	6th	1	2	3	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	..		
Total ..	..	15	58	60	23	50	2	6	2	12	2	1		

State.	Military District.	Battalion Areas.											
		Providing the undermentioned Units—										Training Areas.	
		Field Engineers.		Fortress Engineers.	Signals.		A.S.C. Companies.	A.A.M.C.		A.A.O.C.			
		Companies.	Troops.		Sections.	Troops.		Field Ambulance.	Field Hygiene Sections.	Company Head-quarters.	Sections.		A.A.V.C. Sections.
New South Wales	2nd	7	3	2	18	4	10	2	3	2	2	4	36
Victoria ..	3rd	7	3	1	18	4	10	7	2	2	2	4	25
Queensland ..	1st	2	1	1	7	1	3	3	1	..	..	1	10
South Australia ..	4th	1	1	..	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	1	7
Western Australia ..	5th	1	..	..	4	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	6
Tasmania ..	6th	1	..	1	3	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	4
Total ..	..	19	8	5	52	10	27	22	10	4	20	10	88

(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 1922 TO 1927.**

(a) District.	1901. (b) 1/3/01.	1913. 30/6/13.	1922. 31/12/22.	1923. 31/12/23.	1925. 1/2/25.	1926. 1/8/26.	1927. 1/8/27.
Hd.-Qrs. (c) ..	..	277	499	58	130	158	191
1st (Q'ld.) ..	4,310	4,625	4,319	4,212	4,263	4,908	5,108
2nd (N.S.W.) ..	9,772	12,105	14,561	15,211	15,420	17,249	17,231
3rd (Vic.) ..	7,011	10,840	11,117	11,825	11,847	14,347	14,152
4th (S. Aus.) ..	2,956	3,228	3,452	3,828	3,772	4,235	4,116
5th (W. Aus.) ..	2,283	1,685	2,018	2,170	2,205	2,399	2,486
6th (Tas.) ..	2,554	1,777	1,190	1,299	1,252	1,338	1,351
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>28,886</b>	<b>34,537</b>	<b>37,156</b>	<b>38,603</b>	<b>38,889</b>	<b>44,634</b>	<b>44,635</b>

(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, 1927, were as follows:—

**ARMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES, ACTIVE LIST,  
1st AUGUST, 1927.(a)**

Light Horse ..	4,001	Ordnance (including Armament Artificers) ..	268
Field Artillery ..	5,755	Survey Section (Engineers) ..	14
Garrison Artillery ..	2,582	R.A.E. (Works Section) ..	19
Field Engineers ..	2,600	Royal Military College (Cadets) ..	75
Signallers ..	1,697	Provost Staff ..	15
Fortress Engineers ..	369	Legal Department ..	36
Infantry ..	22,633	Intelligence Section G.S. ..	13
Army Service Corps ..	1,946	Engineer and Railway Staff Corps ..	59
Army Medical Corps ..	1,529		
Army Veterinary Corps ..	199		
Australian Instructional Corps ..	592		
Staff Corps ..	233	<b>Grand Total ..</b>	<b>44,635</b>

(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, 1927:—

**DISTRIBUTION OF LAND FORCES,(a) ACTIVE AND RESERVE LISTS,  
1st AUGUST, 1927.**

Branch of Service.	Army Head-quarters.	1st Military District. (Q'ld.)	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) 181	145	643	504	89	124	62	1,748
Citizen soldiers ..	10	4,963	16,388	13,648	4,027	2,362	1,289	42,887
Unattached List of Officers ..	..	41	113	94	33	42	23	346
Reserve of Officers ..	..	1,073	2,933	2,881	762	568	302	8,519
Chaplains ..	7	50	125	112	35	27	20	376
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>6,272</b>	<b>20,402</b>	<b>17,239</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>53,876</b>

(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 1906, 1907, and 1908 Quotas.* Registrations under these quotas at the 30th June, 1927, are given hereunder.

**UNIVERSAL TRAINING.—CITIZEN FORCES REGISTRATIONS, QUOTAS IN TRAINING (1906, 1907 AND 1908 QUOTAS), AT 30th JUNE, 1927.**

Military Formations and Districts.	1908 Quota.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	Total.
1st Division .. .. .	3,930	4,296	4,783	13,009
2nd Division .. .. .	7,446	7,885	7,691	23,022
3rd Division .. .. .	5,467	5,725	5,707	16,899
4th Division .. .. .	3,152	3,503	3,631	10,286
11th Mixed Brigade .. .. .	4,084	4,264	4,212	12,560
Field Troops, 4th M.D. .. .. .	2,998	2,834	2,950	8,782
Field Troops, 5th M.D. .. .. .	1,759	1,925	1,777	5,461
Field Troops, 6th M.D. .. .. .	1,052	1,101	1,163	3,316
5th District Base .. .. .	39	1	..	40
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>29,927</b>	<b>31,534</b>	<b>31,914</b>	<b>93,375</b>

(3) *Registrations, 1901 to 1905 Quotas.* Figures relating to these quotas have been included in the next table :—

**CITIZEN FORCES.—REGISTRATIONS, QUOTAS NOT IN TRAINING (1901 TO 1905-QUOTAS), AT 30th JUNE, 1927.(a)**

Military Districts.	Total Registrations in Training Areas.					Total.
	Quota, 1901.	Quota, 1902.	Quota, 1903.	Quota, 1904.	Quota, 1905.	
1st .. .. .	4,453	4,260	3,673	4,154	4,163	20,703
2nd .. .. .	9,970	10,451	10,968	12,052	11,962	55,403
3rd .. .. .	7,390	7,248	8,359	9,340	9,354	41,691
4th .. .. .	2,878	2,805	2,874	3,261	2,868	14,686
5th .. .. .	1,244	1,347	1,989	2,095	2,026	8,701
6th .. .. .	1,222	1,181	1,204	1,300	1,294	6,201
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>27,157</b>	<b>27,292</b>	<b>29,067</b>	<b>32,202</b>	<b>31,667</b>	<b>147,385</b>

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

(4) *Exemptions and Missing Trainees.* Particulars for the 1906, 1907, and 1908 quotas are given hereunder :—

**CITIZEN FORCES.—EXEMPTIONS AND MISSING TRAINEES, QUOTAS IN TRAINING (1906, 1907, AND 1908 QUOTAS), 30th JUNE, 1927.**

Military Formations and Districts.	Exemptions.				Missing Trainees. 1908, 1907, and 1906 Quotas.
	1908 Quota.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	Total.	
1st Division .. .. .	1,981	2,593	2,708	7,282	182
2nd Division .. .. .	4,489	5,058	4,924	14,471	408
3rd Division .. .. .	2,765	3,032	2,960	8,757	671
4th Division .. .. .	1,813	2,144	2,238	6,195	332
11th Mixed Brigade .. .. .	2,692	3,059	3,067	8,818	94
Field Troops, 4th M.D. .. .. .	1,761	1,687	1,867	5,315	73
Field Troops, 5th M.D. .. .. .	1,125	1,237	1,222	3,584	14
Field Troops, 6th M.D. .. .. .	695	806	850	2,351	24
5th District Base .. .. .	17	1	..	18	..
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>17,338</b>	<b>19,617</b>	<b>19,836</b>	<b>56,791</b>	<b>1,798</b>

(5) *Senior Cadets—Registrations, etc.* Registrations and numbers in training from the 1909 to 1913 quotas at 30th June, 1927, are shown in the next table :—

**SENIOR CADETS.—REGISTRATIONS AND NUMBER ACTUALLY IN TRAINING, 30th JUNE, 1927 (1909 TO 1913 QUOTAS).**

Military Formations and Districts.	Total Registrations—Senior Cadets.						Number actually Training—Senior Cadets.
	1913 Quota.	1912 Quota.	1911 Quota.	1910 Quota.	1909 Quota.	Total.	1909 Quota.
1st Division .. ..	3,279	3,381	3,428	3,302	3,276	13,387	2,187
2nd Division .. ..	5,145	5,512	6,338	6,069	6,074	23,993	3,506
3rd Division .. ..	4,567	4,948	4,598	4,813	4,782	19,141	3,092
4th Division .. ..	2,518	2,538	2,671	2,257	2,213	9,679	1,312
Field Troops, 4th M.D. ..	2,294	2,354	2,486	2,295	2,243	9,378	1,268
11th Mixed Brigade .. ..	2,362	3,078	2,891	3,226	3,195	12,390	1,493
Field Troops, 6th M.D. ..	761	955	854	702	591	3,102	290
Field Troops, 5th M.D. ..	1,175	1,332	1,507	1,393	1,345	5,577	681
5th District Base .. ..	52	40	39	43	29	151	23
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>22,153</b>	<b>24,138</b>	<b>24,812</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>23,748</b>	<b>96,798</b>	<b>13,852</b>

(6) *Senior Cadets—Exemptions and Missing Trainees:* Figures regarding these at 30th June, 1927, are shown below :—

**SENIOR CADETS.—EXEMPTIONS AND MISSING TRAINEES, 30th JUNE, 1927.**

Military Formations and Districts.	Exemptions, 30th June, 1927.					Missing Trainees.
	1912 Quota.	1911 Quota.	1910 Quota.	1909 Quota.	Total.	
1st Division .. ..	22	32	885	1,056	1,995	55
2nd Division .. ..	89	134	1,571	2,443	4,237	197
3rd Division .. ..	17	24	1,389	1,565	2,995	203
4th Division .. ..	35	47	708	842	1,632	64
Field Troops, 4th M.D. ..	16	59	818	954	1,847	47
11th Mixed Brigade .. ..	130	172	1,511	1,658	3,471	47
Field Troops, 6th M.D. ..	44	19	265	285	613	29
Field Troops, 5th M.D. ..	2	11	349	652	1,014	12
5th District Base .. ..	..	..	13	6	19	..
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>7,509</b>	<b>9,461</b>	<b>17,823</b>	<b>654</b>

(7) *Citizen Forces—Medical Examinations.* The following table shows the results of examinations of the 1908 quota at 30th June, 1927 :—

**CITIZEN FORCES.—MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1909 QUOTA, HALF-YEAR  
ENDED 30th JUNE, 1927.**

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 ..	2,779	1,975	71·1	26	0·9	778	28·0
2nd Division ..	4,732	3,169	67·0	28	0·6	1,535	32·4
3rd Division ..	4,176	2,867	68·7	51	1·2	1,258	30·1
4th Division ..	1,611	1,206	74·9	13	0·8	392	24·3
Field Troops, 4th M.D.	1,863	1,156	62·1	8	0·4	699	37·5
11th Mixed Brigade ..	2,022	1,470	72·7	20	1·0	532	26·3
Field Troops, 6th M.D.	399	284	71·2	6	1·5	109	27·3
Field Troops, 5th M.D.	872	687	78·8	1	0·1	184	21·1
5th District Base ..	22	22	100·0	..	..	..	..
Total ..	18,476	12,836	69·5	153	0·8	5,487	29·7

(v) *Administration and Instruction.* The staff provided for the administration and training of the various arms consists of 233 officers (Staff Corps), 60 quartermasters, and 540 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, 1928, the staff numbered 34—military, 22; and civil, 12. The cadets in training at the same date numbered 72.

(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 transhipment 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 59 officers on 1st August, 1927. Fuller details will be found in Official Year Book No. 6, pp. 1070-1.

(viii) *Rifle Clubs.* On the 30th June, 1927, there were 1,114 rifle clubs with a membership of 38,253, and 77 miniature rifle clubs having a membership of 2,961. 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, 1927, the expenditure on construction amounted to £10,102,543.

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 cruisers of 10,000 tons (the maximum size at present allowed for new construction under the Washington Naval Treaties), two ocean-going submarines, and a seaplane-carrier. The order for the two cruisers, which have been named *Australia* and *Canberra*, was placed in Scotland. They will be commissioned in 1928, and H.M.A.S. *Australia* will become the Flagship of the Australian Squadron. The two submarines, which were built in England, sailed for Australia on 8th February, 1928. The seaplane-carrier (approx. 6,000 tons), which is being built at Cockatoo Island Dockyard, Sydney, by the Commonwealth Shipping Board, was launched on 23rd February, 1928.

To ensure closer co-operation with the Royal Navy, arrangements have been concluded with the Admiralty for the periodical 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 was refitted in England as a surveying ship, and renamed H.M.A.S. *Moresby*. This vessel has been principally employed with H.M.A.S. *Geranium* in surveying the Great Barrier Reef. The Commonwealth Government has also entered into an agreement with the New South Wales Government whereby the latter, in consideration of the payment of a subsidy of £135,000, will construct at Walsh Island, Newcastle, a floating dock capable of lifting 15,000 tons. This dock will be capable of docking the new 10,000-ton cruisers.

(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 February, 1928, there were 53 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 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 153 officers who have passed through the College are now serving with the Fleet.

(iii) *Training Establishments.* Owing to the heavy cost of maintenance H.M.A.S. *Tingira*, which was commissioned as a training ship, was paid off on 30th June, 1927, and subsequently sold by public tender. 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, 1928.

Vessel.	Description.	Displacement.	Power.
		Tons.	H.P.
<i>Adelaide</i> .. ..	Cruiser .. ..	5,500	25,000
<i>Albatross</i> (a) .. ..	Seaplane Carrier .. ..	6,000	12,000
<i>Anzac</i> .. ..	Flotilla Leader .. ..	1,660	36,000
<i>Australia</i> .. ..	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>Ozley</i> .. ..	Submarine .. ..	1,400	..
<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>Torrens</i> .. ..	" .. ..	700	10,000
<i>Warrego</i> .. ..	" .. ..	700	9,000
<i>Yarra</i> .. ..	" .. ..	700	9,000
<b>FLEET AUXILIARIES—</b>			
<i>Biloela</i> .. ..	Fleet Collier and Oiler .. ..	5,700	2,300
<i>Kurumba</i> .. ..	Fleet Oiler .. ..	3,970	..

(a) Launched 23rd February, 1928.

(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, 1928.

Description of Force.	Numbers Borne.		
	In Training.	Officers.	Men.
Royal Australian Navy (Sea-going) .. ..	..	454	4,639
Royal Australian Naval Auxiliary Services .. ..	..	42	180
Cadet Midshipmen undergoing training at R.A.N. College .. ..	53	..	..
Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Sea-going) .. ..	..	61	..
Royal Australian Fleet Reserve .. ..	..	..	100
Royal Australian Naval Reserve .. ..	..	234	5,723
Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve .. ..	..	38	20



### § 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 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 110 officers and 860 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 1928-29.**—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 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

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)		
	£	£	£	£			£	£
1901-02 ..	178,819	178,819	777,620	780,260				959,079
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) ..	2,136,113	2,390,500	1,587,550	31,214,000	281,164	425,536	3,742,745	37,772,790
1926-27 (b) ..	2,212,716	2,575,410	1,593,309	31,679,561	434,805	591,355	996,729	35,843,055
1927-28 (b) ..	2,152,217	2,300,568	1,605,429	31,556,419	428,173	544,287	4,215,911	38,617,175
1928-29 (b) (estimated)	2,113,657	2,356,557	1,605,254	33,367,064	464,306	581,306	1,000,000	37,304,927

(a) During the war years and subsequently, war expenditure and war expenditure on works included in total. (b) Not including War Gratuity (see p. 593).

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, 1927, numbered 131.

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, 1927, numbered 5.

The Clothing Factory at Melbourne, Victoria, which had a staff of 249 employees on 30th June, 1927, 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 Post-master-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, 1927, 348 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, but on 1st January, 1927, they were purchased by the Commonwealth Government for the manufacture of rifle and pistol ammunition. The works are known as the Defence Small Arms Ammunition Factory, and the staff at 30th June, 1927, numbered 272.

(ii) *Expenditure on Factories.* The expenditure up to 30th June, 1927, on lands buildings, machinery and plant, factory fittings and furniture in connexion with the factories now in operation was approximately as follows:—Small Arms Factory, £612,076; Explosives Factories, £567,352; Clothing Factory, £40,583; Acetate of Lime Factory, £160,360.

### § 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 30th June, 1927, 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 30th June, 1927, numbered 259,821 and the amount expended thereon during the twelve months ending 30th June, 1927, was £7,477,096.

3. *Summary of Activities.*—The following is a summary of the work of the Department from 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1927:—

(i) *Employment.* Number of applications, 249,659; number of positions filled, 132,316.

(ii) *Vocational Training.* Number of men completed training, 26,473; number in training, 578.

(iii) *Assistance other than Vocational Training and Employment.* Applications received, 680,284; applications approved, 594,575.

(iv) *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.* From the inauguration of the scheme in February, 1921, up to 30th June, 1927, 9,389 applications for assistance had been received. Of these 8,246 had been approved, of which 2,236 recipients of the benefits had completed their training, 4,994 were undergoing training, 54 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 30th June, 1927, the expenditure was £580,177.

(v) *Assistance Granted.* The total expenditure incurred during the period 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1927, was £15,467,567, of which £8,933,228 represented gifts, £1,672,042 loan, and £4,862,297 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 30th June, 1927, there were 1,461 in-patients and 4,982 out-patients receiving medical treatment. The expenditure to this date was £3,749,015.

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, 1927.

State.	No. of Settlers.	Advances agreed upon.	Advanced during 1926-27.	Advanced to 30th June, 1927.	Advances outstanding 30.6.27.
	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, 1927, may be briefly set out as follows:—31,772 applications involving advances amounting to approximately £22,172,583 had been approved; 17,267 houses had been completed; 29 applicants had been assisted to complete or enlarge dwelling-houses partly owned; 761 houses were in course of construction; and 341 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 12,368 already-existing properties, and had taken over mortgages existing on 2,137 dwelling-houses, and 3,346 transfers were approved. In a number of cases, however, actual settlement and transfer had not taken place. Applications in respect of 14 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 and the State Savings Bank of Victoria, which are now carrying out the provisions of the War Service Homes Act in their respective States, the Commonwealth's obligations being to make available to the Government in each State as a loan the funds required for the purpose.