

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, 353,000 ; these latter, with 409,000 at ages between 26 and 35, give 762,000 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 762,000 between the ages 35 and 60.

(iii) *Allotment of Units.* The organization is territorial, and the divisions based upon infantry units. There are 61 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 FEBRUARY, 1926.

Battalion Areas.															Training Areas.
State.	Brigade Areas.	Number of Areas.	Providing the undermentioned Units—												
			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.	Sanitary Sections.	A.A.V.C. Sections.		
N.S. Wales ..	5	20	21	7	17	7	3	18	4	10	8	3	4	35	
Victoria ..	5	20	21	6	17	7	3	18	4	10	7	2	4	27	
Queensland ..	2	8	8	4	7	2	1	9	1	3	3	1	1	11	
S. Aust. ..	1	4	4	4	4	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	7	
W. Aust. ..	1	4	4	1	3	1	..	4	..	1	1	1	..	7	
Tasmania ..	1	3	3	1	2	1	..	3	..	1	1	1	..	4	
Total ..	15	59	61	23	50	19	8	54	10	27	22	9	10	91	

(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. As from 1st July, 1925, Senior Cadet training is confined to one quota instead of four quotas, and training commences on the 1st July of the year in which persons liable reach the age of 17 years. Citizen Force training is confined to three quotas instead of seven quotas, and commences on the 1st July of the year in which persons liable reach the age of 18 years, and continues until the 30th June of the year in which they reach 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. 1/2/26.
Hd.-Qrs.(c) ..	..	277	458	499	58	130	178
1st (Q'd.) ..	4,310	4,625	14,752	4,319	4,212	4,263	4,863
2nd (N.S.W.) ..	9,772	12,105	46,924	14,561	15,211	15,420	17,305
3rd (Vict.) ..	7,011	10,840	41,484	11,117	11,825	11,847	14,638
4th (S. Aus.) ..	2,956	3,228	12,495	3,452	3,828	3,772	4,200
5th (W. Aus.) ..	2,283	1,685	6,540	2,018	2,170	2,205	2,688
6th (Tas.) ..	2,554	1,777	5,307	1,190	1,299	1,252	1,401
Total ..	28,886	34,537	127,960	37,156	38,603	38,889	45,273

(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 February, 1926, were as follows :—

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

Light Horse	3,989	Ordnance (including Armament Artificers)	199
Field Artillery	5,494	Survey Section (Engineers)	14
Garrison Artillery	1,459	R.A.E. (Works Section)	19
Field Engineers	2,293	Royal Military College (Cadets)	61
Signallers	1,654	Provost Staff	14
Fortress Engineers	387	Legal Department	37
Infantry	25,700	Intelligence Section G.S.	12
Army Service Corps	1,399	Engineer and Railway Staff Corps	55
Army Medical Corps	1,464		
Army Veterinary Corps	192		
Australian Instructional Corps	589		
Staff Corps	242	Grand Total	45,273

(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 February, 1926 :—

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

Branch of Service.	Army Headquarters.	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)166	143	636	509	91	128	67	1,740
Citizen soldiers	12	4,720	16,689	14,129	4,109	2,560	1,334	43,533
Unattached list of officers .. ..	..	51	(b)152	34	37	23	23	455
Reserve of officers .. ..	..	1,210	2,747	3,365	884	741	274	9,221
Chaplains	8	57	126	141	40	33	25	430
Total	186	6,181	20,330	18,297	5,158	3,499	1,728	55,379

(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 31st December, 1925, are given hereunder.

UNIVERSAL TRAINING.—CITIZEN FORCES REGISTRATIONS, QUOTAS IN TRAINING (1905, 1906 AND 1907 QUOTAS), AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Military Formations and Districts.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	1905 Quota.	Total.
1st Division (2nd M.D.)	4,343	4,894	4,518	13,755
2nd Division (2nd M.D.)	7,694	7,540	7,321	22,555
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	5,869	5,687	5,751	17,307
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	3,440	3,636	3,720	10,796
4th Division (4th M.D.)	2,705	2,862	2,852	8,419
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	4,236	3,968	4,190	12,394
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	1,085	1,156	1,292	3,533
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	2,186	2,148	2,194	6,528
Total	31,558	31,891	31,838	95,287

(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 31st DECEMBER, 1925.(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), 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Military Formations and Districts.	Exemptions.				Missing Trainees.
	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	1905 Quota.	Total.	1907, 1906, and 1905 Quotas.
1st Division (2nd M.D.)	2,473	2,516	2,470	7,459	242
2nd Division (2nd M.D.)	4,639	4,323	4,332	13,294	581
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	2,793	2,510	2,727	8,030	690
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	2,043	2,095	2,248	6,386	329
4th Division (4th M.D.)	1,450	1,561	1,576	4,587	88
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) ..	2,946	2,756	2,982	8,684	84
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.) ..	747	790	902	2,439	89
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) ..	1,397	1,366	1,521	4,284	18
Total	18,488	17,917	18,758	55,163	2,121

(5) *Trainees Serving with Senior Cadets as Officers.* The number of Citizen Force trainees serving as officers of Senior Cadets at the end of 1925 is given in the next table :—

TRAINEES OF CITIZEN FORCE AGE SERVING AS OFFICERS OF SENIOR CADETS, 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Military Formations and Districts.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	1905 Quota.	Total.
1st Division (2nd M.D.)	2	8	1	11
2nd Division (2nd M.D.)	5	30	10	45
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	7	21	..	28
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	2	8	1	11
4th Division (4th M.D.)	1	8	4	13
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) ..	..	16	1	17
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.) ..	2	3	1	6
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) ..	1	8	1	10
Total	20	102	19	141

(6) *Senior Cadets—Registrations, etc.* Registrations and numbers in training from the 1908 to 1911 quotas at the end of 1925 are shown in the next table :—

**SENIOR CADETS.—REGISTRATIONS AND NUMBER ACTUALLY IN TRAINING,
31st DECEMBER, 1925 (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.) ..	2,663	3,089	3,218	3,933	12,903	2,514
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	5,066	5,701	5,898	7,170	23,835	4,144
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	3,533	4,176	4,363	5,547	17,619	3,616
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	2,226	2,564	2,562	3,055	10,407	1,637
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	1,748	2,099	2,219	2,865	8,931	1,668
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	2,275	2,926	3,106	3,971	12,278	1,838
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	773	942	809	1,048	3,572	424
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	1,400	1,707	1,598	2,034	6,739	1,045
Total	19,684	23,204	23,773	29,623	96,284	16,886

(7) *Senior Cadets—Exemptions and Missing Trainees.* Figures regarding these at the end of 1925 are shown below :—

SENIOR CADETS.—EXEMPTIONS AND MISSING TRAINEES, 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Military Formations and Districts.	Exemptions.					Missing Trainees.
	1911 Quota.	1910 Quota.	1909 Quota.	1908 Quota.	Total.	
1st Division (2nd M.D.) ..	81	183	181	1,383	1,828	36
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	62	107	129	2,938	3,236	103
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	2	13	69	1,799	1,883	135
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	18	42	67	1,345	1,472	74
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	23	61	65	1,176	1,325	22
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	23	63	127	2,103	2,316	37
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	7	21	15	610	653	14
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	4	5	45	984	1,038	5
Total	220	495	698	12,338	13,751	426

(8) *Citizen Forces—Medical Examinations.* The following table shows the results of examinations of the 1907 quota as at the end of 1925 :—

**CITIZEN FORCES.—MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1907 QUOTA, YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1925.**

Military Formations and Districts.	Number of Examinations carried out.	Fit.		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.)	2,825	1,960	69.38	38	1.35	827	29.27
2nd Division (2nd M.D.)	5,087	3,237	63.63	10	0.20	1,840	36.17
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	3,998	2,893	72.36	39	0.98	1,066	26.66
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	1,947	1,344	69.03	12	0.62	591	30.35
4th Division (4th M.D.)	2,109	1,469	69.65	21	1.00	619	29.35
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) ..	2,260	1,332	58.94	58	2.57	870	38.49
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.) ..	482	329	68.26	14	2.90	139	28.84
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) ..	1,194	897	75.12	18	1.51	279	23.37
Total ..	19,902	13,461	67.64	210	1.05	6,231	31.31

(v) *Administration and Instruction.* The staff provided for the administration and training of the various arms consists of 242 officers (Staff Corps), 52 quartermasters, and 537 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, 1926, the staff numbered—military, 21; civil, 10. The cadets in training at the same date numbered 61.

(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 55 officers on 1st February, 1926. Fuller details will be found in Official Year Book No. 6, pp. 1070–1.

(viii) *Rifle Clubs.* On the 28th February, 1926, there were 1,105 rifle clubs with a membership of 41,246, and 93 miniature rifle clubs having a membership of 3,337. Members of rifle clubs must fire an annual course of musketry, but do not undergo any systematic drill.

On the 3rd August, 1921, the administration of rifle clubs was transferred from military to civil control, and rifle clubs ceased to form part of the military organization.

§ 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, 1925, the expenditure on construction amounted to £7,171,725.

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 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 early in 1927. The seaplane-carrier (approx. 6,000 tons) is to be 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, 1926, there were 52 cadet midshipmen under training. A boy whose thirteenth birthday falls in the 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 145 officers who have passed through the College are now serving with the Fleet.

(iii) *Training Ship.* H.M.A.S. *Tingira*, moored in Rose Bay, Sydney, was commissioned in April, 1912, to train boys for the personnel of the Royal Australian Navy. The age of entry is 14½ to 16½ years. Only boys of very good character and physique are accepted, after a strict medical examination, and they must engage to serve until they reach the age of 30. The training lasts about one year, and trainees are then drafted to a sea-going warship of the Australian Fleet. Recruiting has been satisfactory, and 250 boys were under training in March, 1926. It is proposed shortly to dispense with the *Tingira* and carry out the training at Osborne House, 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.

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

SHIPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, FEBRUARY, 1926.

Vessel.	Description.	Displacement.	Power.
		Tons.	H. P.
<i>Adelaide</i>	Cruiser	5,500	25,000
<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>O.A.1</i> (building) ..	Submarine .. ..	..	..
<i>O.A.2</i> .. ..	" .. ..	..	..
<i>Parramatta</i>	Destroyer	700	9,000
<i>Stalwart</i>	"	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 FEBRUARY, 1926.

Description of Force.	Numbers Borne.		
	In Training	Officers.	Men.
Royal Australian Navy (Sea-going) .. ..	..	435	4,301
Royal Australian Naval Auxiliary Services .. ..	..	41	174
Cadet Midshipmen undergoing training at R.A.N. College	52	..	..
Boys undergoing training on H.M.A.S. <i>Tingira</i>	231	..	..
Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Sea-going) .. ..	..	56	..
Royal Australian Fleet Reserve .. ..	..	..	100
Royal Australian Naval Reserve .. ..	..	212	6,593
Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve .. ..	..	4	174

§ 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) One Station containing a Flying Training School, a Stores Depot, and one composite squadron; (c) One Station containing one composite squadron and one flight; (d) An Experimental Section.

In deciding all matters of policy the Minister is assisted by a representative Air Council, which includes officers of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, and the Controller of Civil Aviation.

2. **Establishment.**—The present approved establishment of the Permanent Air Force is 88 officers and 628 airmen, and of the Citizen Air Force, 48 officers and 222 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 1925-26.**—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 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Naval.		Military.		Air.		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
1921-22(b) ..	2,375,965	3,212,736	1,925,924	41,726,436	155,082	285,686	45,224,858
1922-23(b) ..	2,124,491	2,575,131	1,481,754	33,351,849	179,337	273,031	36,200,011
1923-24(b) ..	2,084,420	2,279,310	1,545,454	32,922,571	222,657	306,418	35,508,299
1924-25(b) ..	2,016,402	2,200,946	1,551,448	31,342,574	216,544	284,623	33,828,143
1925-26(b) (Estimated) ..	2,200,492	2,498,705	1,594,148	31,547,473	286,441	445,220	34,491,398

(a) During the war years and subsequently, war expenditure and war expenditure on works included in total. (b) Not including War Gratuity (see p. 557).

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

2. Comparison with other Countries.—The total expenditure on defence, and the expenditure per inhabitant in various countries according to estimates made immediately prior to the late war, and for the latest available year are as follows :—

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE.—VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Total Expenditure.	Per Inhabitant.	Year.	Total Expenditure (a)	Per Inhabitant.
		£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Great Britain ..	1913-14	77,179,000	33 9	1924-25	115,311,000	53 9
Germany ..	"	97,845,000	30 2	"	23,177,000	7 9
France..	1913	56,738,000	28 7	1925	56,080,000	28 7
Italy ..	1913-14	23,614,000	13 7	1924-25	24,719,000	12 6
Switzerland ..	1913	1,772,000	9 1	1925	3,428,000	17 8
Spain ..	"	9,218,000	9 3	1924-25	14,430,000	13 3
Portugal ..	1913-14	3,041,000	10 3	1925-26	1,830,000	6 1
Norway ..	"	1,204,000	9 11	1924-25	1,476,000	11 2
Sweden ..	1913	4,510,000	16 0	"	8,510,000	28 4
Denmark ..	1913-14	1,625,000	11 5	1925-26	2,516,000	15 5
Holland ..	1913	4,458,000	14 6	1924	8,616,000	24 4
Belgium ..	"	3,260,000	8 7	"	9,192,000	24 0
United States ..	1913-14	64,537,000	14 0	1925-26	128,723,000	24 4
Canada ..	1912-13	1,872,000	5 2	1924-25	2,445,000	5 7
Japan ..	1913-14	12,039,000	3 6	"	24,192,000	8 2
Australia ..	"	4,752,000	19 5	1925-26	7,653,828	25 6
New Zealand ..	"	539,000	9 11	1924-25	681,395	10 3
South Africa (b)	1913-14	1,279,567	19 1	1924-25	1,044,191	12 9

(a) Excluding expenditure in connexion with the late war.

(b) Whites only.

§ 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, 1925, numbered 127.

The Cordite Factory, Maribyrnong, Victoria, which manufactures explosives for cartridges and artillery ammunition, was established in 1911. The staff at 30th June, 1925, numbered 118.

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 at present producing alcohol fuel for the use of Government motor vehicles. Employees at 30th June, 1925, numbered 26.

The Clothing Factory at Melbourne, Victoria, which had a staff of 283 employees on 30th June, 1925, 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, 1925, 369 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, 1925, 201 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, 1925, 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, £529,618; Explosives Factories, £385,784; Clothing Factory, £40,127; 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. 698 to 601.)

2. **Pensions.**—The pensions in force on the 31st December, 1925, numbered 248,599, and the amount expended thereon during the nine months ending 31st March, 1926, was £5,608,093.

3. **Summary of Activities.**—The following is a summary of the work of the Department from 8th April, 1918, to 31st December, 1925 :—

(i) *Employment.* Number of applications, 247,589; number of positions filled, 131,799.

(ii) *Vocational Training.* Number of men completed training, 26,212; number in training, 867.

(iii) *Assistance other than Vocational Training and Employment.* Applications received, 619,549; applications approved, 538,106.

(iv) *Soldiers' Children's Education Scheme.* From the inauguration of the scheme in February, 1921, up to 31st December, 1925, 7,120 applications for assistance had been received. Of these 6,041 had been approved of, which 1,222 recipients of the benefits had completed their training, 88 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, 1925, the expenditure was £384,082.

(v) *Assistance Granted.* The total expenditure incurred during the period 8th April, 1918, to 31st December, 1925, was £14,538,000, of which £8½ millions represented gifts, £1½ millions loan, and over £4 millions general expenditure. Of the total the largest amounts were absorbed by vocational training, with £5 millions, and expenses of providing employment, £2½ millions.

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, 1925.

State.	No. of Settlers.	Advances agreed upon.	Advanced during 1924-25.	Advanced to 30th June, 1925.	Advances outstanding 30.6.25.
	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	Dr. 61,754	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	Dr. 61,754	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 28th February, 1926, may be briefly set out as follows:—29,819 applications involving advances amounting to approximately £19,719,398 had been approved; 14,366 houses had been completed; 128 applicants had been assisted to complete or enlarge dwelling-houses partly owned; 757 houses were in course of construction; and 630 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 12,069 already-existing properties, and had taken over mortgages existing on 1,916 dwelling-houses, but in a number of cases actual settlement and transfer have not taken place. Applications in respect of 47 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.