

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**ARMAMENTS YEAR-BOOK**

**General and Statistical Information**

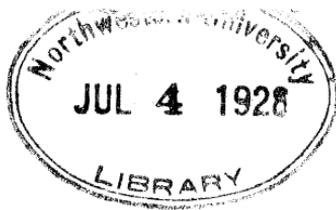
Albania — Argentine — Austria — Belgium — Bolivia — Brazil — British Empire  
(Great Britain and Northern Ireland, British Colonies and Protectorates,  
Australia, Canada, India, Irish Free State, New Zealand, Newfoundland,  
Union of South Africa) — Bulgaria — Chile — China — Colombia —  
Costa Rica — Cuba — Czechoslovakia — Denmark — Dominican  
Republic — Ecuador — Estonia — Finland — France —  
Germany — Greece — Guatemala — Haiti — Honduras —  
Hungary — Italy — Japan — Latvia — Lithuania —  
Luxemburg — Mexico — Netherlands — Nicaragua —  
Norway — Panama — Paraguay — Peru —  
Poland — Portugal — Roumania — Salvador  
— Serbs, Croats & Slovenes (Kingdom of)  
— Spain — Sweden — Switzerland —  
Turkey — Union of Socialist  
Soviet Republics — United  
States of America —  
Uruguay, Venezuela.

Publications of the League of Nations

IX. DISARMAMENT

1928. IX. 1.





## INTRODUCTION

The *Armaments Year-Book* is published in pursuance of the decision taken by the Council of the League of Nations in July 1923 and in conformity with the principles laid down by the Council and the Assembly of the League of Nations<sup>1</sup>.

The present edition, as was the case in the previous edition, has been printed in two founts of type; the most important information being given in large type, while the technical details of the organisation of the different armies are set in small print. The information in small print is intended more particularly for experts who wish to study the details of the organisation and mechanism of the armies of the different countries, while the portions in large type are intended for all who may be interested in the question of disarmament and desire to form a general idea of the armed strength of the nations.

The *Year-Book* contains monographs on 58 countries, both Members and non-Members of the League of Nations. In the case of countries which possess colonies and colonial forces, the monographs give detailed information on the organisation and composition of these forces. The text has been altered so as to take account of all important changes introduced in military legislation and, speaking generally, in the composition and organisation of the armed forces of the different countries.

All the monographs have been revised and, as far as possible, brought up to date and completed, in the light of the most recent documents available. Thus, it has been possible this year to insert detailed monographs, where the three former editions gave only summarised information.

It has not, however, been possible for all the monographs to be drawn up exactly on the same plan. The differences of organisation, the difficulty sometimes found in obtaining essential publications, in some cases difficulties of language, and in regard to many countries the transitional state of military legislation have made it impracticable to adopt identical methods of arrangement throughout.

With a view to enabling readers to obtain a rapid survey of certain aspects of the military situation in different countries, or in all countries together, some graphs and recapitulatory tables, both statistical and other, have been introduced in the present edition.

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<sup>1</sup> For details, see the Introduction to the first edition of the *Year-Book*.

This first attempt has been restricted to giving an idea, by means of graphs and statistical tables, of the situation of the navies of the principal maritime States in 1913, 1919 and 1926 (and, for some countries, in 1927). These graphs, to the number of three for each country under consideration, are given in the monographs at the end of the chapter on the navy. In Annex II (Annex I being reserved, as in the previous edition, for conventions concluded between the different countries with a view to a limitation or reduction of armaments) will be found a number of recapitulatory statistical tables and graphs showing the navies of the whole world in 1913, 1919 and 1926, as well as the navies of the six principal maritime countries for the same years.

This Annex also contains a table of all countries possessing an army and appearing in the *Year-Book*. From this table can be seen at a glance the chief characteristics of the army maintained by each country under consideration (militia army, cadres, or standing army; voluntary or compulsory service; length of service with the colours, total period of liability to service).

It is hoped that this first attempt at graphs and recapitulatory tables may be further developed in subsequent editions.

A general bibliography of the sources will be found at the end of the volume.

## FIRST PART

### ARMY.

In preparing this part, the Secretariat has examined the laws in force relating to the following points:

- A. — The supreme military authority and its organs.
- B. — Territorial military districts.
- C. — Higher units (army corps, infantry divisions, cavalry divisions, etc.).
- D. — Arms and services: Infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineers, aviation<sup>1</sup>, etc.
- E. — Police forces (gendarmes, Customs officers, etc.).
- F. — Supplies required by the various units.
- G. — System of recruiting: basic principle, military obligations (length of service, etc.).
- H. — Budget strength and its distribution among the various arms (in the home country, in territory occupied in consequence of international obligations, in colonies, protectorates, etc.).
- I. — Cadres (recruiting, promotion). Schools.
- J. — Preparatory military instruction.

<sup>1</sup> A special section is devoted to aviation in the case of countries in which it is organised as an independent arm.

## NAVY.

This chapter contains information with regard to the number and tonnage of the various warships by category (battleships, battle cruisers, coast-defence ships and monitors, aircraft-carriers, cruisers and light cruisers, destroyers and torpedo-boats, submarines and miscellaneous craft), together with information concerning the most important characteristics of each vessel or of each class of vessel. In the case of certain countries, a summary of the organisation of the central naval administration has also been given. At the end of each chapter concerning the navy there is a recapitulatory table of the naval units of the countries under consideration giving the number of units of each group of vessels, the total tonnage and the depreciated tonnage, calculated on January 1st, 1927 (or 1928). Some articles also include graphs showing the position with regard to the country's navy in 1913, 1919 and 1926 (or 1927).

## SECOND PART.

## BUDGET EXPENDITURE ALLOTTED TO NATIONAL DEFENCE.

As regards the part of each monograph devoted to expenditure on national defence, the principles applied are those which have governed the work previously undertaken by the Secretariat in this connection and approved by the Council and the Assembly. It will be observed that there are important differences between the accounting systems adopted in various countries in respect of military and naval expenditure, particularly as regards the following points :

(1) The budgets of some States show the *gross* appropriations — that is, all money expended on account of the Naval and Military Departments ; while others only include *net* appropriations — that is, expenditure after deduction of various receipts, such as proceeds from sale of old material, repayments from other Government Departments, contributions from Colonies or Local Governments, and sometimes even the yield of special taxes. The difference between gross and net appropriations is by no means negligible. It amounted to no less than £15,000,000 in the Army Budget for the United Kingdom for the financial year 1922-1923.

(2) Some States account for military and naval establishments (powder factories, dockyards, etc.) in the budgets of the Army and Navy Departments, while others account for them as if they were undertakings independent of the State.

(3) The respective functions undertaken by the Army and Navy Departments are not the same in various countries.

For example, it is frequently the case that the Navy Department administers certain services of a civil character. On the other hand, there is great variation in the extent to which Civil Services perform functions of a military character.

(4) With regard to expenditure for non-effective services (pension charges, etc.), great differences of method exist. Pensions to persons disabled in the war (so-called war pensions) are generally excluded from the Army and Navy budgets. But with regard to other pensions, some States carry them to the Public Debt ; others charge them to special Ministries of Pensions or to Departments of Finance ; others, again, include them in the appropriations for the Department of War or of the Marine.

(5) In addition to these and other differences which may be called normal, there are exceptional factors in the post-war period which contribute to the lack of uniformity in the budgets ; for instance, the methods employed for the accounting of " war charges " differ fundamentally ; some countries have included in the Army and Navy budgets all demobilisation expenses, cost of repatriation, demobilisation gratuities, and outlay for the civil re-establishment of soldiers, while in other countries the same kind of expenditure is accounted for in civil budgets.

Moreover, the great divergence of practice existing with regard to the distribution of charges on account of colonial defence as between the budget of the home country and that of the colonies is a cause of additional complications. In some cases all the costs are borne by the home country, with or without contributions from the colonies ; in other cases, the defence of the colonies is provided for by the colonial budgets, the home country only granting a contribution.

No attempt has been made in the present work to recast the Defence budgets according to a standard system in order to make them comparable. Such recasting, even were it possible, would, in fact, involve a very minute and protracted study, and would also in many cases necessitate the collection of information not always available in published official sources. It has merely been endeavoured to indicate the system adopted by each individual country. It is therefore essential to note that the figures for defence expenditure presented in these monographs cannot be used for comparisons between the different countries.

The main object pursued in the preparation of these monographs has been to *analyse the budgetary expenditure on National Defence, giving detailed notes on the several accounting systems, the relation between home and colonial defence, etc.*, in order to enable the reader to understand the significance of the figures of each country. It is self-evident that, before a synthetic study can be presented, groundwork analysis of the kind indicated must be undertaken as a preliminary step.

The Commission has further aimed at furnishing material *indicating*

*the development and tendency of defence expenditure in each individual country.* In order to eliminate as far as possible the disturbing factor of fluctuations in currency and prices from one year to another, the total sums expended on National Defence have been reduced to the price level of the first financial year in the period reviewed by references to the index numbers of wholesale prices. Though the wholesale price index has been employed in preference to other available indices, it should be observed that the difference between the changes in wholesale prices and the changes in the prices of those services and commodities which are utilised by the defence departments is of importance in this connection."

### THIRD PART.

#### PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF GOODS OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE.

This part stands in relation to the last paragraph of Article 8 of the Covenant, according to which the exchange of information between all States has to include "the condition of such of their industries as are adaptable to warlike purposes". In view of the tendency of modern warfare to absorb all the industrial activity of the country, it would be difficult to define the limits to be given to this part of the *Year-Book*. Raw materials, manufactured products, existing manufacturing capacity, the quantity of technically specialised labour and the number of persons capable of undertaking work of an administrative, technical or organising character, are all questions which have become of prime importance to-day, from the point of view of preparation for war. It is proposed gradually to expand this part of the *Year-Book*.

#### I. FUEL.

- A. Coal (coal, lignite, coke and briquettes, etc.).
- B. Petroleum (raw petroleum and refined petroleum).

#### II. MINERAL ORES AND METALS.

- A. Mineral Ores : Iron, manganese, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten and pyrites.
- B. Metals : Pig iron, iron and steel, copper, lead, zinc, aluminium, nickel, iron alloys.

#### III. CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

- A. Raw Materials : Nitrate of sodium, salt and sulphur.
- B. Manufactured Products : Sulphate of ammonia, cyanamide of calcium, nitric acid, sulphuric acid, soda and spirit.

## IV. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

- A. Cereals (wheat, barley, etc.).
- B. Potatoes.

## V. LIVE-STOCK.

(Horses, cattle, etc.)

## VI. MEAT.

(Frozen, congealed, etc.)

## VII. VARIOUS PRODUCTS.

- A. Cotton.
  - B. Rubber.
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